BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

Whether it's fishing, swimming or water sports, there are plenty of reasons to boat on area lakes this summer. Whatever the case may be, experts say it is important for boaters to take time to understand the rules and regulations on the water.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources enforces these laws and also offers safety recommendations for boaters.

SDNR First Sgt. Ron Winegard, who covers Oconee and Pickens counties, said there should be a registration card on the boat, and every boat with a motor must be registered if boaters plan on putting it on public water — regardless if the motor is electric or gas-powered. The motor must also be titled if it is five horsepower or greater.

"It's different from a car," Winegard said. "Once you take possession of a boat, you have 30 days to file your paperwork with DNR and 60 days to have it completed in your name — whether you put it on the water or not," he said.

'If you get into the lake to swim, put a lifejacket on.'

Ron Winegard
SCDNR

For the boat itself, he added that every vessel should have wearable lifejackets that zip on the person for adults and children. Winegard said these lifejackets should also be Coast Guard approved, which would be indicated inside of the lifejacket.

According to Winegard, if the boat is 16 feet or longer, the boater is required to have the lifejacket on board. If the boat is shorter than 16 feet, children on board under age 11 must have a lifejacket on.

He said the DNR continues to stress to all people, swimmers and non-swimmers, that if they get into an open body of water, they should wear a lifejacket. According to Winegard, many people who drown are decent swimmers.

"If you get into the lake to swim, put a lifejacket on," he said. "The lake is not a pool. You can't see the bottom — it's not flat and can drop off fast."

Winegard added that riders who use stand up paddleboards must also follow all lifejacket laws and have a sounding device as well.

"One of things we're seeing now is the stand up boards. When they do that … they are considered a boat," he said.



FILE

SCDNR First Sgt. Ron Winegard said those who operate boats under the influence of alcohol will be pulled over and taken in in the same way as those who operate a vehicle on the road under the influence.



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Lake Keowee Marina salesman Carl Morini recommends skiers and tubers do those activities in quiet areas with little wave activity.

In addition to the DNR safety guidelines, many local marinas also offer educational tools for their customers.

Carl Morini, a salesman at Lake Keowee Marina, said the company tries to educate those who rent and buy and boats from the marina based on their experience with boating.

"We recommend first off that they take the boaters safety course offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary," Morini said.

"If they have little experience or no experience, we recommend that they take that, (and) if you're under 16, then you have to take (the class) in order to operate the boat."

Morini said the main thing boaters should keep in mind is being aware. That includes awareness of their surroundings, other boats and knowing the basic "rules of the road."

He said boaters should first have an understanding of lakes and waterways, and remember operating boat on the lake is much like driving a car on the interstate.

"If you're going one direction you're on one side of the interstate. If you're going in another direction, you're on the other side of the interstate,

SEE **BOATS**, PAGE **B2**



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The Seneca High School booster club recently presented a check to Safe Harbor after its annual golf tournament.

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The Seneca High School Bobcat Booster Club donated $1,300 to Safe Harbor following its annual golf outing. SHS Booster Club treasurer Martin Page presented a check to Daniel Maw, board member for Safe Harbor.

"Our local Safe Harbor board wants to thank the SHS booster club and Oconee County schools for their continued support. These funds represent the collaborative spirit of the fight against domestic violence in Oconee County," Maw said.

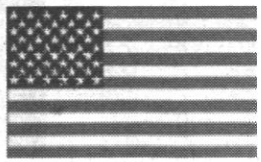
Ten percent of the proceeds from the seventh annual Bobcat Booster Club Core Financial Resources Golf outing were presented to Safe Harbor.

"The Seneca Bobcat Booster Club and Seneca High School are excited about the opportunity to give back to our community with this contribution to Safe Harbor," Page said. "This was deemed as a wonderful opportunity to help women and children in Oconee County. We are thrilled to be associated with the work Safe Harbor is doing."

"We had a wonderful golf outing," SHS athletic director Duke Lee said. "Because of the generosity of the loyal Bobcat supporters, the Bobcat Booster Club is able to donate this to our local Safe Harbor. Seneca High athletics fully support Safe Harbor and those it will benefit."

Sponsors for the event included McDonald's, Julian Davis Allstate Agency, Loco Marts, Upstate Medical and Core Financial Resources.

DEATH NOTICES



John Dillard Jr.

JULY 15, 2014

WESTMINSTER, S.C. — Mallory John Dillard Jr., 59, of 715 Morton Drive, passed away Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at his residence.

Sandifer Funeral Home

Barbara Joann Stewart

JULY 15, 2014

SALEM, S.C. — Barbara Joann Stewart, 76, of 330 Waynes Drive, passed away Tuesday, July 15, at her residence.

Davenport Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



According to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, boaters should have wearable lifejac board. DNR recommends anyone getting into open water should put on a lifejacket.

FROM PAGE B1

and that's basically the same thing on a body of water," Morini said. "The motorist should maintain the division that he is on the right hand side of the channel or the right hand side of the lake."

Morini said driving outside of this pattern funnels traffic in one direction.

"(It) is akin to going the wrong way on the interstate. People will be going down the lake and going on the wrong side of the lake, so they are encountering boats that are coming head-on at them," he said.

Knowing the rules on the lake, like the distances maintained between docks and other boaters, is one of the biggest tips Morini said boaters should use on the lake. Morini said many of these safety precautions usually come down to common sense.

When it comes to those who are tubing, acting sensibly means avoiding congested areas. He said many times, tubers are tubing in very congested areas or towing small kids in areas with a lot of wave action where boaters cannot see.

"If they fall off that tube, it's very difficult (for other boaters) to see if there's a lot of wave action on the water," Morini said. "Our recommendation is to find an area that is not being used that much to do that kind of activity."

'(Sunset is) when the lights are supposed to be on your boat, and you're supposed to stop skiing and tubing.'

Ron Winegard
SCDNR

He added that tubers should avoid areas like the marina's gas dock, where 15 to 20 boats could be operating at a time. He warned that ropes can become tangled in motors and draw tubes toward running motors.

With running boats, Winegard said it is also important to know how to get on board.

"We recommend — though it's not a law — if you load somebody into the boat, to actually cut the motor off," Winegard said. "What we've seen in the past, they don't cut it off, (and) a kid or somebody is trying to get into the boat and someone hits the throttle and it cuts them up."

Lights have to be on at official sunset, and Winegard advises boaters to check official sunset times from day to day.

"That's when the lights are supposed to be on your boat, and you're supposed to st and tubing," h

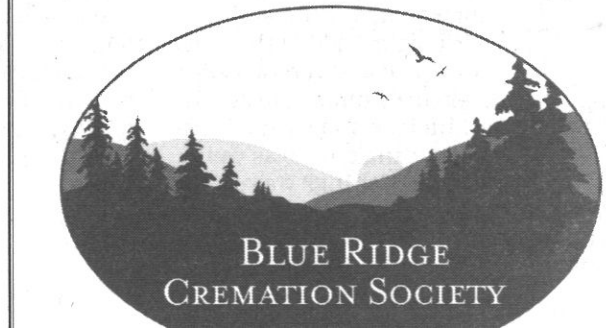
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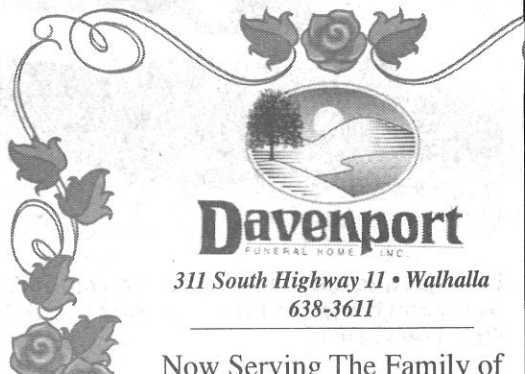
"When we st we're looking tain of the boa "If we feel he's much to drink paired, we put on him and ta

If any accide ing an injury rini said boate immediately c boaters have b like a breakdo can consult La Marina, other or private com offer towing s any other eme recommends v DNR to respon

For addition safety tips, vis NR website at sc.gov/boating html

christina@upstatetoday.c





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