

Chelaque Boating / Dock Safety and Good Neighbor Guidelines

Summer has arrived at Cherokee Lake and, with it, we will once again experience the impact of boaters who drive their watercraft at high speeds near our docks and swimmers in the water.

Most of these boaters are not Chelaque owners and they seem unaware of the impact they are having to the condition of our docks and to the safety of swimmers in the water.

If you have been on your dock when a boat comes too close at high speeds, you know that this can, literally, rock your world. In addition, even wake boats that are safely away from our docks can impact the safety of swimmers and the condition of the docks. A wake boat that passes safely offshore can impact our docks well after the boat is no longer in sight as the wake / waves continue to transit until the wave hits the shoreline

While we have no control over boats that pull skiers, wake surfers and tubes in the waters surrounding Chelaque, as owners, we do have control over our own actions and can exercise some common courtesies when we are boating around Chelaque. The primary step we can all take is to leave no wake until we are well offshore or out of the cove. We should also stay at least 100 yards from docks on the main lake when cruising. While this seems like a commonsense approach, some Cherokee boaters violate this safe boating principle.

Please be sure you, your guests and renters are advised of and adhere to the following:

Universal Safe Boating Practices

1. Always idle away from and into docks on the main lake and while in coves where docks are located.
2. When pulling a skier, wakeboarder, or tubes, or operating a jet ski / wave runner stay as far away from docks as possible and no closer than 100 feet.
3. Never pull a skier, tube, or wakeboarder in a cove where docks are located.
4. Be aware of your location and if swimmers are in the water as you approach docks.
5. Never pull any skiers, tubes or wakeboarders after sunset and do not operate wave runners or other personal watercraft after sunset (TWRA regulations).
6. Avoid continuously driving in circles near docks as this increases the wake and the related safety risks.

For dock safety we suggest the following to keep your guests safe in the waters surrounding Chelaque:

1. Be sure your dock electrical wiring is approved for use on a floating dock.
2. Regularly inspect the condition of your wiring to ensure the insulating covering is free of any cracks or cuts. Replace any damaged wiring immediately.
3. Regularly check the GFCI for the dock to ensure it will trip if water is detected
4. Make sure all swimmers stay reasonably close to your dock and away from the main lake channel
5. Keep a throwable floating device on your dock that can be used to aid a swimmer in distress
6. Make sure your swimmers are aware of the heavy wake action that can occur while they are in the water.
7. Make sure you and your guests keep an eye on approaching wake waves that can severely rock and sway your dock.

Thank you, and have a safe and fun-filled summer on Cherokee!