

2017 Marine Patrol Annual Report



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**Lake George
Park Commission**

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I. The Mission of the Marine Patrol

Introduction

Patrolling the waters of Lake George since 1962, the Lake George Park Commission's Marine Patrol successfully completed 55 years of continuous service in 2017. Through the years, the Marine Patrol has built up a solid record of service dedicated to the protection of Lake George and its users.

The primary mission of the Marine Patrol is to promote the safe and enjoyable use of Lake George. The Marine Patrol accomplishes this primarily by protecting and educating the public. The Patrol also plays a key role in protecting the valuable natural resource of Lake George. The Marine Patrol provides a wide array of services to the boating public. These include assisting stranded boaters, emergency response and first aid, fire suppression, search and rescue, removal of hazards, recovery of lost property and boater safety training.

Additionally, the Marine Patrol enforces the New York State Navigation Law, Environmental Conservation Law, Lake George Park Commission Rules and Regulations, and all other laws.

The Patrol has a very large and diverse area to cover. At 32 miles long, Lake George presents these officers with over 50 square miles of patrol area, including 176 miles of shoreline and 245 islands. Lake George exists within many localities; three counties (Warren, Washington, and Essex), eight townships (Lake George, Bolton, Hague, Ticonderoga, Putnam, Dresden, Fort Ann, and Queensbury) and one village (Lake George) all of which touch the lake and have a vested interest in it.

The enforcement programs of the Commission are coordinated by the Director of Law Enforcement, a marine patrol lieutenant. This position allows the Director of Law Enforcement the opportunity to work closely with the patrol on a daily basis while maintaining consistent enforcement of the Commission's regulations throughout the Lake George Basin.

Training



This year's in-service training focused on vessel sound testing. Above, Officer Ray VanAnden shows Officer Logan Marino paperwork procedures while Officer Keith Knoop gets his decibel meter ready to test a boat. FR Smith Marina assisted by providing boats to be tested.

Patrol Operations



The Patrol season began on May 1st and ran through November 1st. Beginning on July 1st, the Marine Patrol operated at full strength, seven days a week until Labor Day. Six to seven patrol vessels were on duty Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

A total of 6397hrs. were logged by officers in 2017.

Equipment Upgrades

In 2017, the Patrol received a 2nd FLIR night vision camera from NYS Parks to use during night patrols. This camera allows officers to look for lost individuals on the shoreline as well as spot vessels on the water without lights on.

The Patrol would like to thank NYS Parks for their continued support of the LGPC Marine Patrol.

II. Law Enforcement and Public Safety

The Lake George Park Commission worked on several things to improve public safety on the lake this year. Throughout the rest of this report you will read about how the LGPC has worked to increase rental boat safety, work with other agencies to put an end to Log Bay Day and make an increased effort to stop impaired operators on the lake.

Partnership with Warren County for an Additional Night Boat

In the spring of 2017, Sheriff York from Warren County proposed pairing one of his officers, Officer Jeff Webster, with a Commission Officer to man an additional night boat on Friday through Sunday nights throughout the summer. This would allow one boat to answer calls while a second boat remains on patrol. It also allows for better coverage on the lake as two boats can cover a bigger area than one. This extra night boat was more successful than could be imagined as can be seen by the 19 total BWI arrests on Lake George this summer.

Log Bay Day

Log Bay Day 2016 was marred by two tragic events and five fights that had to be broken up. Log Bay Day 2017 was much different. Lt. Joe Johns, Executive Director Dave Wick, Commissioner Ken Parker and Chairman Bruce Young met with representatives from the Warren and Washington County Sheriffs' Departments, Warren County District Attorney's office, DEC, Forest Rangers and State Police numerous times from August 2016 through early Summer 2017 to devise a plan so there was not a repeat of the events of 2016. After much discussion the group decided on the following:

1. Log Bay and Shelving Rock Bay would be closed to all boats on Log Bay Day.
2. Commission Boats and Warren County Boats would close the bays from early morning into the evening.
3. NYS Forest Rangers, State Police and Washington County Sheriff's Department would patrol the land along the shore watching for issues inland.
4. At noon additional patrols from the Commission, DEC, NYS Park Police and Essex County Sheriff's Department would come in and patrol around the lake looking for any parties that may have arisen as a result of closing off Log Bay and Shelving Rock Bays.
5. A meeting would be held at Green Island and BWI Patrols would be set up in the Northern End, Mid-lake and the Southern End to stop every boat to look for intoxicated operators.

Results:

1. Media was given an advance media release that the Commission passed a resolution to close down both Log Bay and Shelving Rock Bays for Log Bay Day. The public was advised not to come to these bays and that there would be additional patrols on the lake into the night looking for those operating under the influence as well as other navigation violations.
2. Log Bay and Shelving Rock Bays were closed from early morning until evening by Commission and Warren County Sheriff's Patrol Boats. Very few tried to come to the bays that day.
3. At 3pm a meeting was held at Green Island in Bolton with all participating agencies.

LGPC- 12 Officers- 6 Boats, 2 PWCs

Warren County Sheriff's Dept.- 6- Officers- 3 Boats

NYS DEC- 4 Officers- 2 Boats

NYS Park Police- 6 Officers, 2 Boats, 2 PWCs

Essex County Sheriff's Department- 4 Officers-2 Boats

4. 3 BWI Checkpoints were set up. **206 vessels stopped, 4 violations ticketed and 4 BWI arrests. 1- BWI by LGPC, 1- BWI by NYSDEC, 2-BWIs by NYS Park Police.**



Log Bay Day 2017- Shelving Rock Bay was completely deserted

Log Bay Day 2017 resulted in no fights, no injuries, no accidents, and four impaired operators taken off the water. The officers and public were much safer by Log Bay Day being cancelled. Similar efforts are being planned for future years.

Vessel Sanitary Inspections

The Commission's regulations prohibit the launching and operating of any vessel on Lake George which is not permanently sealed to prevent the discharge of wastewater into the lake. This regulation is unique to Lake George and many boaters that come here for the first time are unaware of this requirement. The Marine Patrol makes every effort to educate the public about this important regulation. Every year the Marine Patrol with the assistance of the Vessel Inspection Technicians at the launches perform voluntary sanitary inspections and inform boaters on how best to comply with this regulation. Vessels in compliance with the law are given a complimentary decal to display on their vessel. **In 2017, 458 sanitary inspections were completed.**

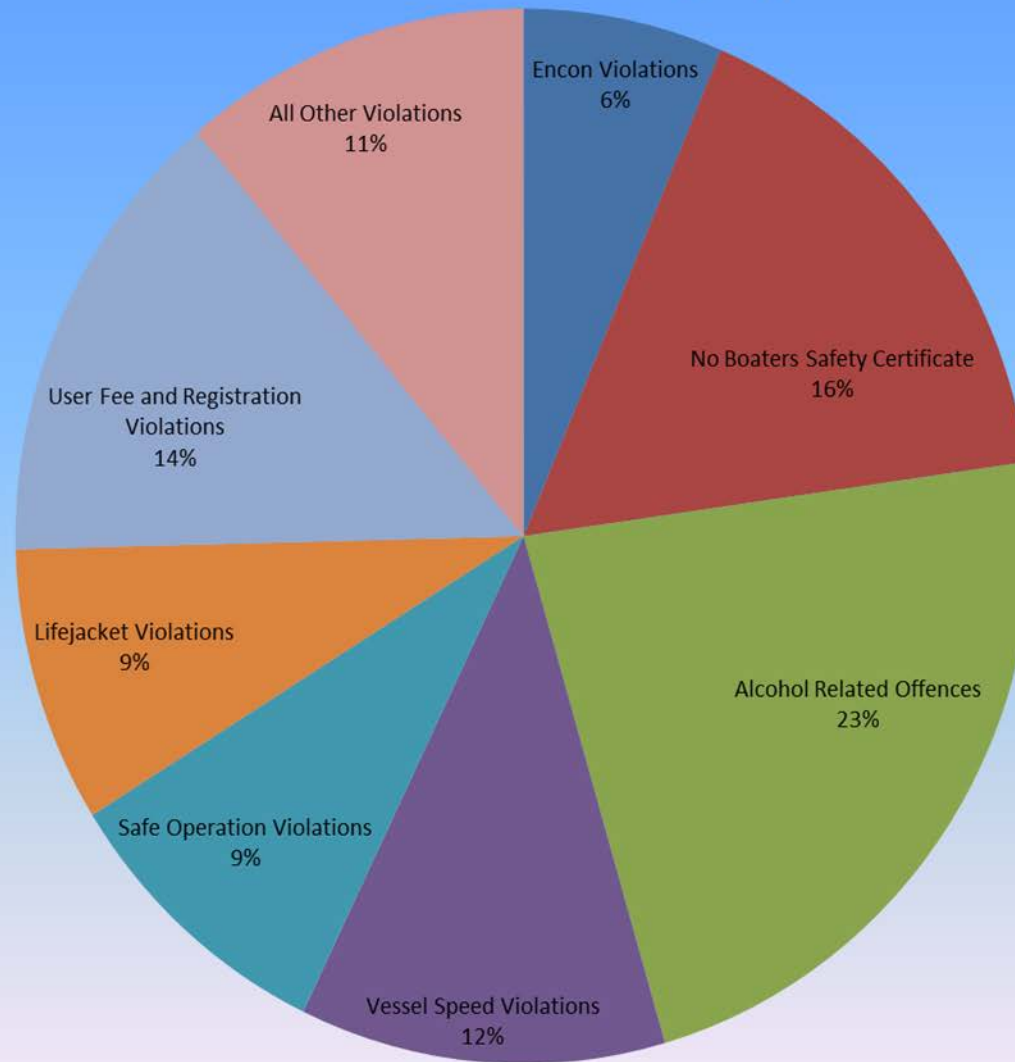
2017 Marine Patrol Officer Activity Statistics

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	Courtesy Gas	5
	Vessel Tows	58
	EMS/First Aid/Rescue Calls	24
	Searches	13
	Fires	7
	Reported Drowning	2
	All Other Boater Assists	129
	Assists to Other Agencies	73
Law Enforcement	Arrests/Citations-Navigation Law	100
	Arrests/Citations-All Other	89
	Vessel Speed Citations (includes "No Wake" zones)	22
	PWC Citations	48
	BWI Arrests (includes TOTs)	13
	Vessel Noise Citations	0
	Total Arrests/Citations	189
	Complaints Addressed	326
	Accidents Investigated	9
	Unusual Incident Reports	33
	Regattas Patrolled	15
	Warnings Issued	647
	Vessel Noise Tests	3
SANITARY INSPECTIONS	Total Sanitary Inspections	458
RECOVERED PROPERTY	Total Property Value	\$11,530
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES	AIS Enforcement Hours	727
	AIS Support Hours	64
	AIS Contacts at Boat Launch Sites	317
	AIS Contacts on Water	57
PATROL HOURS	Total Patrol Hours	6397

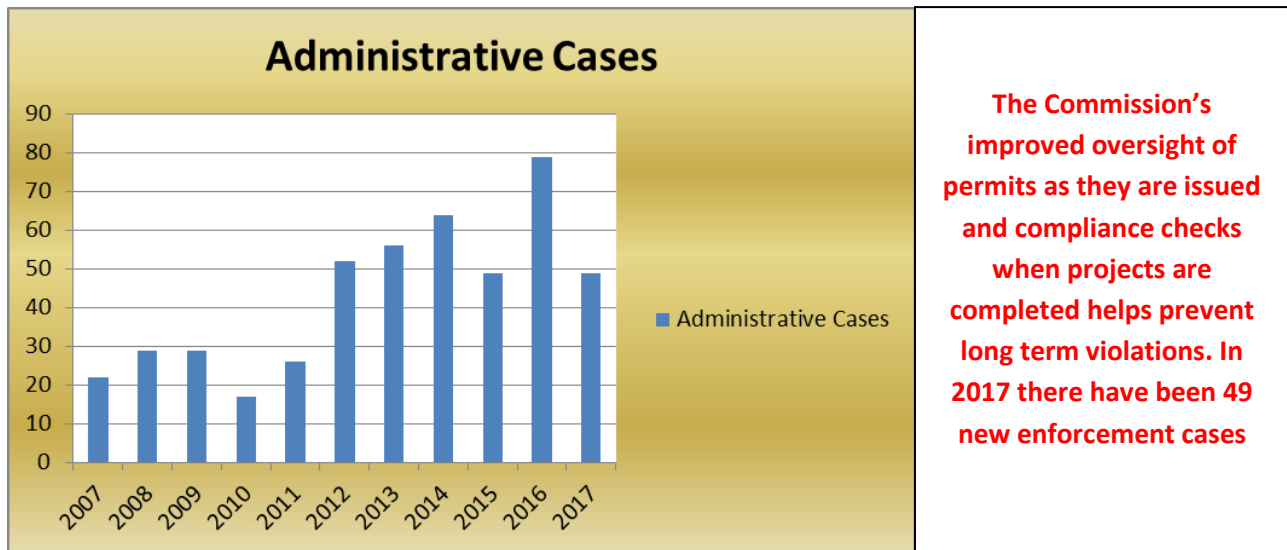
Marine Patrol Appearance Ticket Breakdown – 4 Year Trend

VIOLATIONS	2017			2016			2015			2014		
	Total	Vessel	PWC	Total	Vessel	PWC	Total	Vessel	PWC	Total	Vessel	PWC
EQUIPMENT												
No Lake User Fee	14	12	2	18	17	1	28	21	7	26	14	12
Unregistered Vessel	13	13	0	11	11	0	18	16	2	18	16	2
Lifejacket Violation	16	15	1	23	22	1	24	23	1	18	18	0
Other Equipment Violations	8	8	0	6	6	0	5	5	0	4	4	0
OPERATION												
Vessel Noise Violations	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Speed - Restricted Limit	16	11	5	18	5	13	17	8	9	11	4	7
Exceed Speed Limit	6	3	3	4	1	3	2	0	2	3	3	0
Boating While Intoxicated	13	13	0	2	2	0	6	3	3	3	3	0
Reckless/Unsafe Operation	7	5	2	3	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Skiing/Towing Violations	7	4	3	16	14	2	5	4	1	9	8	1
No Boater Safety Certificate	31	3	28	18	0	18	24	0	24	28	1	27
PWC After Hours	3	0	3	4	0	4	8	0	8	8	0	8
Other Operation Violations	14	13	1	3	3	0	8	4	4	5	4	1
OTHER												
Water Quality, Littering, etc	3	2	0	5	4	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
Fishing, State Lands, etc	12	8	0	11	5	0	18	10	0	10	0	0
Underage Alcohol	17	8	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct, Assault, etc	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Others	7	7	0	8	8	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	189	125	48	171	101	62	171	101	62	147	105	32

2017 Violations by Type



Civil Enforcement Program

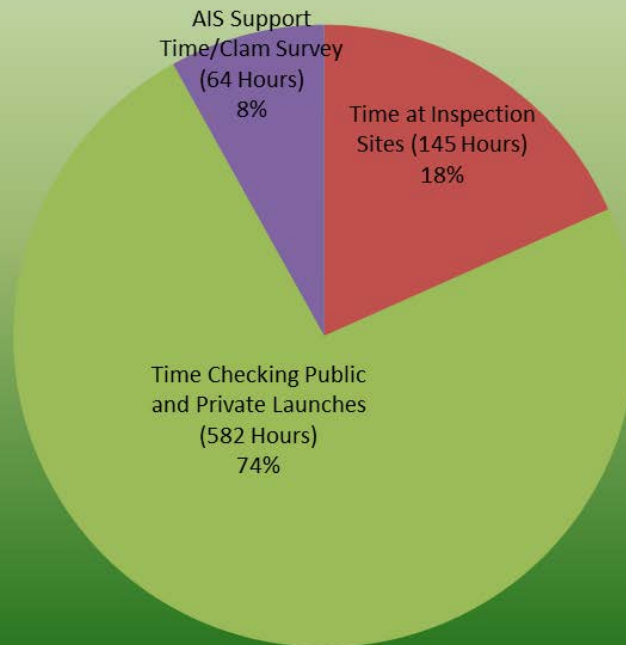


Invasive Species



The Marine Patrol is actively engaged in the education of the boating public and enforcement of existing invasive species regulations. The marine patrol assisted at inspection stations as well as patrolling the unattended launches around the lake. The patrol's goal was to help educate the public about the inspection program as well as ensure that all vessels were properly inspected prior to launching into the waters of Lake George.

Patrol AIS Breakdown
Patrol Spent
791hrs. on AIS Equal to 12.4% of Patrol Hours



The Patrol checked a total of 6510 launches during the season. There was activity present at those launches 317 times.

III. Education

New York State Safe Boating Course Instruction

In 2017 the Marine Patrol taught classes at the Great Upstate Boat Show, The Lake George Association and the Bolton Firehouse. A total of 54 students successfully completed the class. The Commission now has 5 officers who are certified NYS Safe Boating Instructors.



Sgt. Paccione
and Officer
Webster from
Warren
County
conduct a
safety check
on a vessel in
Sawmill Bay.

Boater Safety

Over the winter of 2017, the Lake George Park Commission along with the Lake George Association worked in conjunction with the marinas around the lake on boater safety. The LGPC and the LGA with the help of Yankee Marina put together a six minute video that all individuals who rent boats on Lake George must watch before leaving the dock. This video explains ways for the renter to operate the vessel in a safe manner as well as regulations specific to Lake George. While this video was developed for rental boats, the Commission recommends everyone watch the video as a reminder of how to keep you and your passengers safe as well as the other boaters on the lake. The video can be found on the Commissions website.

In addition to the video, the LGPC and LGA also developed cards that were installed in all rental boats with important information from the video. These cards can be used as a quick reference in case of emergencies or in case the operator forgot something from the video. These cards tell renters about life jackets, tubing rules, BWI, the importance of keeping Lake George clean as well as a host of other safety rules.

Other things developed were check-off sheets for the marinas to use that ensure that all boaters get the same instruction from the dock personnel at checkout. The patrol also went out and trained staff at several marinas about the importance of doing a complete job of fully explaining the proper operation of the boat and location of safety equipment.

Results: Only 8 boating accidents were reported on Lake George in 2017 by the Patrol compared to 18 in 2016 and 17 in 2015. In the 2017 accidents, Only 2 involved rental boats no injuries were reported on any of the 2017 accidents.

Marine Law Enforcement School

Officers from around New York State descend on Lake George for two weeks in the spring and three weeks in the fall to learn about marine law enforcement. New York State Parks and Recreation sponsors classes to train road patrol and other officers the skills they need to patrol

the waters of the state. Sgt. Angelo Paccione and Sgt. Shane Ross from the Lake George Park Commission are also instructors for NYS Parks. During these training weeks on Lake George the two sergeants are assigned to teach other officers from around the state how to best work as a marine patrol officer. By having two instructors on the Commission staff, we are assured that the LG Patrol members are properly trained on the most up to date training methods.

Park Commission vessels were also seen on other bodies of water this year. Patrol boat 102, which was purchased for the Commission in 2014 by NYS Parks, was trailered to The Great Sacandaga Lake in May and the Hudson River in Kingston and Newburgh in June by Sgt. Paccione so he could assist in NYS Parks training. He also transported the Commission's two personal watercraft, also purchased by NYS Parks, to Lake Erie in Buffalo for training there.

In addition to assisting in training officers, NYS Parks also called on Paccione and Ross this past year to assist in a fatal boating accident investigation in Watkins Glen in the Finger Lakes. Both Sergeants are certified accident reconstructionists and had worked on the fatal 2016 accident on Lake George.

The Lake George Park Commission and NYS Parks and Recreation continue to assist each other for the benefit of not only those on Lake George but around the state.



A group of officers from around NY State are shown here in Saw Mill Bay in October 2017 while training at a NYS Parks School.

Recovered Property

The Marine Patrol recovered lost and or stolen property valued at more than \$11,500 during the 2017 season. Every year an assortment of missing vessels, canoes, and PWCs are routinely located by the patrol. In addition, a wide variety of smaller items such as knee boards, water skis, lifejackets, and tubes are recovered by the patrol. Any lake user who loses an item on or around the lake should check with the Patrol to see if the item has been found or turned in. At the end of each season, all recovered property is turned over to the Warren County Sheriff's Department.



Some of the found property from the summer is loaded on a trailer and brought to Warren County Sheriff's Department.

IV. Bi-Annual Boat Count

This year's boat count was conducted by the patrol during the first week of August. During this labor intensive detail, the patrol covers the entire lake counting all the boats they see on the water, at docks and on land close to the water. As can be seen by the results in the chart below, kayaks and paddleboards have become very popular causing the total number of boats on the lake to increase significantly.

Year	Inboards/ Outboards	Outboards	Sailboats	Rowboats/ Canoes/ Kayaks/ Paddleboards	PWC	Airplanes	Total
2017	4648	1671	696	5088	660	1	12651
2015	4529	1606	630	3196	523	0	10484
2013	4717	1517	618	3110	502	2	10466
2011	4880	1464	777	2788	497	2	10398
2010	4991	1394	751	2791	542	2	10471
2009	5149	1147	722	2751	444	1	10214
2008	5015	1413	676	2930	460	1	10495
2007	5010	1346	895	2902	501	0	10654
2006	5163	1400	814	2798	565	1	10741

V. Real Stories from the Marine Patrol

Unusual Incidents, Accidents and Rescues

Underage Possession of Alcohol: On Sunday June 11th at 11:45 am, MPO Ray VanAnden took a call from the Warren County Dispatch of individuals exposing themselves and urinating in the lake in Harris Bay. MPO VanAnden responded to the area and located a vessel that fit the description of the complaint. During his interview with the six occupants, VanAnden noticed alcohol in the vessel and no one in the party over 21 years of age. With further questioning, he found that they were camping on Long Island. VanAnden along with Sgt. Ross, who arrived at the scene to assist, escorted the group back to the group's campsite on Long Island. More alcohol was found at that location. All six individuals were issued tickets for possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years old and the operator of the vessel was issued a ticket for insufficient PFDs. All the alcohol was confiscated by the patrolmen under the protest of at least one individual who stated his father bought that beer for him. Upon MPO VanAnden speaking to the individual's father on the phone, the father quickly denied purchasing the alcohol. Under the direction of DEC Campground personnel, the group was evicted from the campsite. Sgt. Ross and MPO VanAnden escorted the group back to shore where they were met by the grandmother of one of the individuals. She stated they would not be using her boat again. Luckily the patrol located these individuals early enough in the day before they had a chance to consume all of the alcohol and operate the vessel while intoxicated.

Underage Possession of Alcohol: On Tuesday July 4, MPO Scott Andersen and Lt. Joe Johns were asked by the Glen Island Ranger Station to stop by a campsite on Turtle Island to speak to them about noise complaints from the previous night. Upon stopping at the site, officers found a site with camping gear, a lot of empty beer cans but no one around. Officers decided they would stop back later in the evening. About 10:00pm at the completion of the 4th of July fireworks in Bolton that evening, Andersen and Johns stopped back at Turtle Island to speak to the occupants of the site. Upon arrival, officers were met by 4 teens. When asked if they had consumed alcohol 3 of the four said they had. It was confirmed by an Alco-Sensor that the forth had not. The 3 individuals who had consumed alcohol were issued tickets for possession of alcohol on a state campground by someone under the age of 21 and all the alcohol on the site was seized by officers. Based on the time of night and the fact that the individuals were not intoxicated they were not evicted from the island. The group was already scheduled to check-out the next morning.



Patrol
stands by
as a group
tries to
turn a
sailboat
over in
Huletts
landing.

Soap in the Lake and Underage Drinking: At 7:30pm on Sunday July 16th, MPO Kneeshaw and Warren County Sheriff's Officer Webster were passing by Juanita Island when officers noticed 4 individuals on the dock soaping their bodies and hair. The officer headed for the dock to tell the individuals to make sure the soap did not go into the water. As the patrol boat approached, one soaped up person jumped into the lake and the other three retreated up onto land to their campsite. After retrieving the individual from the lake, the officers went up to the site to talk to the other three people. During their interview officers noticed that all four had been drinking. Three of the four were mid to late teens while the fourth was 22 years old. The 22 year old admitted to officers that he had purchased the beer. At about 8:15 pm the father of two of the boys showed up on the island. The younger individuals were turned over to him. All four individuals on the dock were eventually charged. The three teens were charged with possession of alcohol on a state campsite by someone under 21. One was also charged for polluting the waters of the state for jumping in covered in soap. The 22yo was charged with endangering the welfare of a minor and unlawfully dealing with a child for providing the alcohol for the teens. He was arraigned in the Town of Hague Court before being released.

The following morning, Officers Kneeshaw and Marino along with Sgt. Paccione and Lt. Johns were called back to the site by Rangers to assist with an eviction. This group along with the neighboring two campsite were loud all night and the cause of several complaints to Glen Island. Officers assisted the rangers in evicting the occupants of all three sites.



The operator of this vessel apparently did not see the danger buoys.

Rescue: On Wednesday July 26th at 6:45pm, MPO Glen Mitchell was dispatched along with Warren County Patrol 583 to a swimmer in distress near Diamond Island. Upon arrival Mitchell was not able to locate anyone in distress. Dispatchers who still had the caller on the line were able to trace the GPS signal from the phone to an area north of Long Island. Upon arrival Mitchell found a man and woman in the water hanging on to the back of a pontoon boat. The couple's two children were still in the pontoon boat and on the phone with dispatchers. Mitchell and responding officers from Warren County were able to assist getting the individuals into a patrol boat and then over to the pontoon boat they rented. Neither individual was injured or requested EMS.

It seems, the male was attempting to adjust the outboard motor and lost his balance and fell into the water. He was unable to reenter the boat due to the bottom step on the ladder breaking. He began to tire and had trouble staying afloat so his wife put a PFD on and jumped in the water to try to assist him. It became clear to the couple's 11yo daughter that they were in distress and both now unable to reenter the boat so she dialed 911 and likely saved her parents lives by getting help to the scene before it was too late.

Drowning: On Friday July 21st at 6:35pm, MPOs Knoop, Sutphen, Andersen, WCSO Officer Webster, Sgt. Paccione and Lt. Johns were dispatched to a drowning in the area of Prisoner's Island in the Town of Ticonderoga. It appears that a male was paddle-boarding and slumped towards the back of the board and entered the water and quickly disappeared. Upon arrival at the scene, officers assisted in conducting a grid search of the area as well as assist in interviewing witnesses to try to find a better location where the victim was last seen. Officers assisted in the search until nightfall and the search was called off for the night. Darkness and the stirred up shallow bottom made locating the victim difficult.

On Saturday July 22nd at 5:15 am, Lt. Johns and MPO Sutphen returned to the area to attempt

to locate the victim before other boats stirred up the site again. Officers spotted the victim in about seven feet of water about 30 minutes into their search. Warren County Sheriff's Department Divers responded to the scene and pulled the victim out of the water.

Diving Accident: On Saturday July 29th at 9:34 am MPO VanAnden and Sgt. Paccione were dispatched to the southern basin for a male in the water hanging on to a boat. Also dispatched was NYS Police Patrol Boat G720. While enroute, dispatchers were able to determine the call was in the middle of the lake north of Tea Island. Upon arrival, patrol was informed this was a diving accident. The victim had been pulled up to the deck of the pontoon boat they were on. A second diver was a paramedic who was performing CPR. The Patrol handed over its AED to assist in lifesaving measures. Paccione and VanAnden escorted the pontoon boat to the waiting ambulance at the Courthouse Dock. Trooper Galsik pulled a female diver who was still in the water into his boat and transported her to the Courthouse Dock as well. Unfortunately, the victim did not survive. NYS Police conducted the investigation into the cause of the accident.

Swimmer Hit by Boat: At 6:57 pm on Thursday August 10th, MPO Marino was notified that a boat had hit a swimmer in the 5mph zone by Scotty's Resort. Upon interviewing the operator of the boat in question, Marino found that the operator was headed west, directly into the sun when he heard a loud bang. A passenger looked over the side and saw a swimmer and asked him if he was ok. According to the witness, the swimmer swore at him and swam away. Sgt. Paccione and MPO Marino walked the grounds of Scotty's Resort to attempt to look for the swimmer but were unable to find him. Officers interviewed a retired detective from Florida who stated he witnessed the accident and watched the swimmer come ashore sit down and watch a volley ball game and then walk away.

Felony Arrests Vicars Island: On Saturday August 26th at 8:29pm both night patrol boats were dispatched to Vicars Island for a report of two underage males out of control. MPO Sutphen and Warren County Officer Webster arrived at 8:53pm along with Lt. Johns and MPO Andersen in the second boat. As Sutphen was attempting to dock his patrol boat he had to continually tell one of the teens to get



The Patrol assists in a practice dive with Saratoga County Sheriff's Department.

off the dock while the teen was yelling and swearing at officers. Once docked, Officer Webster exited the patrol boat first and walked off the end of the dock and the teen immediately grabbed ahold of Officer Webster's uniform. Webster, Sutphen and Johns immediately restrained the individual and put him in handcuffs while MPO Andersen moved the two young

females that were with the males away from the scene as they were acting up as well. Once the first male was in cuffs and brought to the patrol boat, Officer Sutphen and Officer Andersen held him there while Johns and Webster went looking for the second male. While interviewing the young females, they stated he went to find an outhouse and probably got lost. Johns and Webster searched the island in the dark with negative results. As they were approaching the patrol boats a woman from the next site approached officers and told them the individual they were looking for came over and sat at their picnic table. The officers called the 17yo over to them. He appeared calm at the time and stated he was depressed due to an issue with his girlfriend. Webster performed a Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test on the teen to determine if he was on alcohol or drugs. He showed signs he was on both. Johns then told the teen they needed to go back to his site to figure out what happened that night. At that point the teen informed officers he was going to run. He pushed Lt. Johns out of his way and ran down through the woods. He was apprehended after a short foot chase. After he was handcuffed he was brought back to the patrol boat by both officers. As they approached the boats, the teen was able to trip both officers causing the three of them to fall to the ground. Once up again and on the boat, dispatchers were called and asked to send two patrol cars to Silver Bay for transport to the sheriff's department. At this time the second individual who was brought to the boat was totally out of control and had to be held down on the patrol boat floor by Lt. Johns while Officer Webster held onto the second teen and MPO Sutphen operated the boat. MPO Andersen stayed at the site to await the arrival of the girls' parents who were enroute to pick them up. Once the teens were loaded in the two police cars in Silver Bay, the teen who was out of control attempted to kick out the windows of the car. Sutphen and Webster accompanied the suspects and road patrol officers to the sheriff's department. Lt. Johns returned to Vicars Island with MPO Andersen and spoke to the parents of two of the individuals. Johns and Andersen returned the patrol boats to Green Island in Bolton and preceded to the Warren County Sheriff's Department for arrest processing.

In the end, Officers were tied up with this call from 8:30pm until arrest processing was complete around 2am. During the struggles with the teens all the officers sustained injuries from a sprained wrist to cuts on hands and legs. Both teens were arrested for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and felony assault.

Late Season/Late Evening Lost Hiker: On Friday October 13th at 8:51 pm Officers Andersen and Kneeshaw were called in after hours by the Warren County Sheriff's Department for a lost hiker on Montcalm Point. He started his hike from the lookout on the Hague side of the Tongue Mountain Range and took several wrong turns. If not for the two patrolman, this hiker would have spent a very cold night lost in the woods.



The Morgan enters Paradise Bay

Late Season Injured Hiker: At 3:14 pm on Sunday October 22nd, Sgt. Shane Ross was on routine patrol through Log Bay and Shelving Rock Bay when he was flagged over and told of an injured male sitting on a rock in the water. Sgt. Ross interviewed the victim who had a contusion to his left knee and leg and ankle pain. It appears the man was standing on a rock in the water and slipped and fell hurting his leg. Sgt. Ross was able to get the victim to his boat and transport him out to the arriving Bolton Fire Boat for transport. Even in late October the patrol is being called on for emergencies on the lake.

Hunter Rescue in Heavy Rain: On Sunday October 29th at 5:45pm, Sgt. Ross and MPO Kneeshaw were called out afterhours in heavy rain by the Warren County Sheriff's Department for two stranded hunters on the Tongue Mountain shoreline. The hunters went out earlier in the day in a 15' aluminum boat to go hunting. Upon returning to their boat they found it swamped from the heavy rain and high waves. After figuring out they could not bail enough water out to safely make it back to Gull Bay, they dialed 911. After safely securing the small boat on land for the night, Sgt. Ross and MPO Kneeshaw transported the hunters safely back to Gull Bay. The two very wet officers then made their way back to Green Island in Bolton. The lesson to be learned by these hunters is to check the weather forecast before heading out in a small boat on the lake.

Late Season Breakdown: On Saturday November 4th at 4:45 pm, Warren County Dispatch called about a disabled boat south of Bolton. As the Patrol season was over, an officer had to be called in to handle the call. Officer Kneeshaw was available and the closest officer to a patrol boat. Kneeshaw was able to locate the boat before dark and tow it in to Diamond Point. Kneeshaw reported that the operator did not see a danger buoy and struck rocks. Calls like this are why the patrol keeps a boat in the water until just before the lake freezes. We never know when an emergency call may come in.



An early September Day in Log Bay

Boating While Intoxicated

2017 saw a record number of BWI Arrests on Lake George. This section will give a brief description of the 19 BWI arrests.

Saturday June 17th Sawmill Bay- 2 BWI Arrests: At 4:55 pm Lt. Johns received a phone complaint about a possible intoxicated boat operator in Saw Mill Bay in Bolton. As Johns was in Silver Bay, he was able to radio MPO Keith Knoop who was nearing the end of his shift and at the gas dock at Green Island. As Johns was describing the vessel to Knoop, it passed by Knoop exceeding 5mph in the speed zone. Knoop untied from the gas dock and started following the vessel when the driver noticed him and switched places with his brother. The vessel was

stopped and Knoop interviewed the subjects who both appeared to be intoxicated. Lt. Johns arrived on scene and assisted in the field sobriety testing of both operators. The first operator had a **BAC of 0.13%** and his brother who took over driving for him had a **BAC of 0.17 %**. Knoop took both operators into custody, charged them with speeding and BWI, and transported them to Warren County Sheriff's Department where they were processed. Lt. Johns assisted in the processing while Sgt. Paccione arrived and stayed with the rest of the occupants of the vessel until someone was sober enough to operate it.

Saturday June 24th Narrows: Lt. Johns and Officer Jeff Webster from the Warren County Sheriff's Department were on patrol in the area of Paradise Bay as part of the combined LGPC & WCSO night patrol. At 8:47pm they received a radio call from the Ranger Station at Glen Island about a complaint from Big Burnt Island of a boat speeding too close to shore. Once at the complainant's campsite, officers listened to those on the site tell of a "go fast" boat with stripes on it coming close to the docks, causing large waves and bouncing other boats off the docks. They also complained that the occupants were swearing at them when they yelled to slow down. While officers were still interviewing the subjects, the boat in question pulled into the recycle center on Uncas Island directly across from where the patrol boat was located. Johns and Webster proceeded over to speak to the subjects in the boat and immediately noticed the smell of beer. Upon speaking to the operator, officers noticed his glassy eyes and slurred speech. Webster took the operator into custody after failing 3 field sobriety tests. He was charged with BWI due to a **BAC of 0.18%**. He was processed by Officer Webster with the assistance of Lt. Johns at the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

Sunday July 2nd North of Mossy Point Ticonderoga: On Sunday July 2nd MPO Bob Sutphen and Lt. Johns were patrolling the Hague fireworks. After the fireworks, several boats were stopped and ticketed for various violations such as speeding and children not wearing PFDs. While headed back to dock, the officers were north of Mossy Point at 11:55pm when a vessel with its docking lights pulled away from a dock and headed in their direction blinding the officers. The vessel was stopped to inform the operator that driving with docking lights on was illegal. The officers noticed that the operator appeared intoxicated. MPO Sutphen conducted a battery of field sobriety tests which the operator failed. Sutphen arrested the operator for BWI and using lights other than navigation lights. The subject was transported to the Ticonderoga Police Department for processing with the assistance of Lt. Johns. The operator had a **BAC of 0.14%**.

Monday July 3rd South Basin: MPO Greg Dunn was on patrol parked at a dock in the South Basin when he noticed an individual who appeared to be intoxicated approach his boat. Officer Dunn asked the man if he was planning on driving and he stated that he was not and he would never do that. He told the officer that his wife was going to drive. Dunn watched the vessel pull away from the dock with the man's wife driving it. Before the vessel got out of the officer's sight, he noticed that it looked as though the husband switched places with the wife and he was now driving. MPO Dunn confirmed that by looking at the boat through his binoculars. He

proceeded to pull the boat over and ended up arresting the uncooperative subject for BWI. He was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by MPO Dunn. His **BAC was 0.13%.**



MPO Ray VanAnden Stops a boat in Saw Mill Bay

Wednesday July 5th Mossy Point: At around 7:00 pm MPO Sutphen was patrolling near Mossy Point when he noticed a pontoon boat going too fast in the 5mph zone. Sutphen stopped the vessel which had 12 individuals from the New York City area on it and noticed a large amount of empty beer cans. While interviewing the operator, Sutphen noticed he appeared intoxicated. Sutphen performed multiple field sobriety tests on the operator which he failed. The operator was taken into custody and charged with speeding and BWI. Sutphen then found another person on the boat who was sober and able to operate the boat. Sutphen, with the assistance of the Ticonderoga Police Department processed the operator who had a **BAC of 0.15%.**

Friday July 14th Saw Mill Bay: As part of the LGPC & WCSO combined patrol, Sgt. Paccione and Officer Webster were on patrol in Saw Mill Bay at 5:55pm when they noticed a vessel traveling in excess of 5mph. Upon stopping this vessel, the officers concluded that the operator appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were performed and the subject was arrested by Officer Webster for BWI and speeding. He was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department and processed by Webster with the assistance of Paccione. His **BAC was 0.10%.**

Saturday July 15th Bluff Head: While heading north at 8:15pm for a call of a disabled boat in the Hague area, MPO Sutphen and Officer Webster spotted a Hacker Craft with someone riding on the bow. As this is considered reckless operation, the officers stopped the vessel. Officers immediately noticed the operator appeared intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were performed

which the operator failed. He was arrested by Sutphen for BWI and reckless operation after it was found he had a **BAC of 0.18%**. A second operator was found in the boat that was sober and allowed to return the boat to shore. The intoxicated operator was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by Sutphen with the assistance of Webster. Lt. Johns and MPO Andersen, who were also on duty, were dispatched to take care of the disabled boat which the occupants were able to get running before officers arrived.

Thursday July 20th South Basin: While on patrol in the south basin, MPO Logan Marino received a call from dispatch of a possible minor injury on a rental boat. When Marino finally caught up to the boat, he found the injury did not need anything more than first aid. He did however find that the operator appeared intoxicated. Sgt. Paccione arrived and assisted Marino in conducting field sobriety tests. After he failed several tests he was arrested for BWI having a **BAC level of 0.08%**. He was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by Marino with the assistance of Paccione.



Warren
County
Sheriff
Officers
Gary
Mazzacano
and Ron
Campano
patrol Lake
George on
their
weekend
shift.

9 BWIs in the next 5 days!

Friday July 28th Narrows: While on a Friday night patrol in the Narrows, Sgt. Paccione and Officer Webster from Warren County noticed a vessel operating without a stern light. After the stop, officers noticed the operator appeared intoxicated and conducted field sobriety tests. Upon failing these tests, the operator was arrested by Sgt. Paccione for BWI and not having proper lights. He was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by Paccione with the assistance of Webster. His **BAC was 0.15%**.

Saturday July 29th Saw Mill Bay: MPO Sutphen and Officer Webster were on the joint night patrol at 6:53pm when they noticed a vessel speeding in Saw Mill Bay. When they stopped the vessel officers asked if he had been drinking that night. He admitted that he had. After failing

several field sobriety tests, Webster took him into custody. He was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by Webster with the assistance of Sutphen. He had a final **BAC of 0.07%**.

Saturday July 29th Near Elizabeth Island: When MPO Sutphen and Webster returned from processing their first BWI, they still had time in their shift. The two officers headed out onto the lake and spotted a pontoon boat without a stern light on at 10:25pm. That operator was alone in his boat and stated he had a few drinks while at dinner that evening. Further testing showed he was intoxicated. He was arrested by Sutphen for BWI and not having the proper lights. Because he was alone, Sutphen and Webster called the second night boat manned by Lt. Johns and MPO Andersen. The individual in custody requested that the officers transport his boat to his boathouse and tie it up there. The individual in custody was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by Sutphen with the assistance of Webster. They each had a BWI arrest that night. This suspect had a **BAC of 0.11%**.



Sgt.
Paccione
gets ready to
launch LGPC
Patrol Boat
102 in
Newburgh,
NY as part of
NYS Parks
training

Officer Andersen transported the individual's pontoon boat back to his dock followed by Johns. Once inside the boathouse it was secured to the dock. It was noticed that the dock had a center pier in it that was ordered to be taken out the year before. A further check on the enforcement case showed the decking was removed to close out a former law enforcement administrative case but the decking was installed again. This resulted in another administrative case being opened and a fine of \$1000 being issued by the Commission. The fine was paid; repairs made and the dock will be checked on again in future years to make sure it is not changed back.

While Johns and Andersen were waiting for Sutphen and Webster to complete the processing for the second BWI, They were called to Green Island at 11:15pm to transport Bolton EMS to Huckleberry Island for a teen that had slipped and hit his head and was dizzy. For several weeks over the summer, the Marine Patrol was on standby to assist Bolton Fire and EMS with transports because their fireboat was down for repairs. The patrol working late that night helped get EMS to the island quickly.

Sunday July 30th Saw Mill Bay: While on the joint LGPC & WCSO patrol, MPO Kneeshaw and Officer Webster were patrolling through Saw Mill Bay at 10:09pm. As they were passing the Town of Bolton docks they noticed someone about to back out of the dock and yelled to them to watch out as they were passing by. The operator of that boat said he saw them but still put the boat in gear and backed out hitting the patrol boat. Luckily there were no injuries or damage to either boat. When the officers pulled in to talk to the individual who stuck the patrol vessel, they noticed he had been drinking. After conducting field sobriety tests, Kneeshaw arrested the operator for BWI. He was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by Kneeshaw with the assistance of Webster. His **BAC was 0.08%.**

Monday July 31st Log Bay Day:

Even though Log Bay and Shelving Rock Bay were closed for the day, part of the plan was to have BWI Checkpoints set up to check for impaired vessel operators. Checkpoints were set up in Ticonderoga, Saw Mill Bay in Bolton and near Long Island in the southern part of the lake. The results of these checkpoints were the following 4 arrests:

Saw Mill Bay Checkpoint at 7:24pm: While participating as part of the checkpoint in Saw Mill Bay, MPOs Sutphen and Marino stopped a vessel and interviewed the operator. He was found to be drinking and subsequently arrested by Sutphen for BWAI after being found to have a **BAC of 0.07%.**

Saw Mill Bay Checkpoint: Also making an arrest in Saw Mill Bay was one of the New York State Park Police.

Long Island Area Checkpoint: The NYS DEC Police made a BWI Arrest at the checkpoint in the southern end of the lake while participating in the checkpoint in that area.

Long Island Area Checkpoint: A second patrol from the New York State Park Police also made a BWI arrest at the checkpoint in the southern end of the lake.

Friday August 11th Hague: At 10:14pm while MPO Sutphen was headed north on the lake someone shone a high-powered spotlight in his direction. Officer Sutphen pulled up to the vessel that had the spotlight and found three boats rafted together. In those three boats were 15 individuals all under the age of 21. Also in those three boats were 79 full beers and 2 bottles of liquor. That does not count the beers that were empty already. Officer Sutphen called for assistance as he had a large number of individuals who had been drinking and all of them underage. MPO Andersen responded from Green Island while Sgt. Paccione and Officer Webster responded in a Warren County Sheriff's car from Lake George Village. While Sutphen was questioning and getting the names of everyone in the boats, the operator on the boat furthest from him untied and tried to drive away. Officer Sutphen told him to stay there which he did for a short time and then untied and began to leave at which point Sutphen stopped him

and put the operator in his boat. While everyone was gathering up all the beer, Sutphen conducted field sobriety tests on the operator of the vessel that attempted to leave the scene. He was found to be intoxicated and not cooperative. When MPO Andersen arrived, Sutphen transferred the intoxicated youth to Andersen to be transported to Hague Beach to meet Paccione and Webster. Sutphen then took away all the beer and made sure there was a sober driver for each boat. While towing the boat belonging to the person in custody, he led the other



This boat
sunk in Gull
Bay in early
November.

boats to Hague Beach. Once there, parents of all individuals in all the boats were called and told they had to come pick up their child. MPO Andersen stood by at the Hague Beach to await the parents arrival while Webster, Paccione and Sutphen transported the operator to the Chestertown station for processing. His BAC turned out to be **0.08%**. Had it not been for MPO Sutphen's vessel stop there could likely have been a tragedy on the lake that night. 79 beers and 2 bottles of liquor being consumed by these youths would have presented a very dangerous situation for them and anyone else on the lake that night.

Saturday August 26th Shelving Rock Bay: At 4:45pm MPO Sutphen, Officer Webster and Lt. Johns were sitting in front of Shelving Rock Bay. As a pontoon boat was exiting the bay, MPO Sutphen noticed someone step over the front rail and start urinating in the lake. The officers proceeded to initiate a vessel stop. Once the vessel was stopped, officers noticed a large number of empty cans on the deck of the boat. When the operator was asked if he had been drinking he answered with an honest "well yeah". While his friend was issued a ticket for urinating in the lake, the operator was given field sobriety tests which he did not pass. He was arrested for BWI. No other sober operator was on the boat so officers called the next closest boat, MPO Knoop. When he arrived he was asked to bring this group back to the hotel they

were staying at in their pontoon boat while Lt. Johns followed in the patrol boat. The operator in custody was transported to Warren County Sheriff's Department for processing by MPO Sutphen and Officer Webster. His BAC turned out to be a **0.11%**. Before officers could get the group back to their hotel, Lt. Johns had to break away to take an emergency call. There was a sinking boat with people in the water in Dunham's Bay. MPO Knoop finished the transport and waited for another patrol to pick him up before coming and assisting with the sunken boat.

With 19 BWIs on Lake George this year, Law Enforcement hopes the public gets the message that operating under the influence of alcohol and drugs is dangerous and will not be tolerated. Similar efforts will be made in 2018 to rid the lake of impaired operators. The LGPC and Warren County Sheriff's Department plan to have the joint night patrol in 2018.



Taking a
break
before
trying to
upright
his
sailboat.

These are just a few of the stories from the patrol during the 2017 season. Due to the ever changing conditions and job responsibilities, the patrol members must be prepared for whatever comes their way.

VI. Patrol Awards

Life Saving Award

Presented to Officers Mitchell and Kneeshaw

On July 25th 2016 (Log Bay Day) at approximately 6:00pm, Marine Patrol Officers Glen Mitchell and Skip Kneeshaw were patrolling Shelving Rock Bay on personal watercraft when they observed two individuals enter the water from the roof of a pontoon boat. The first individual did a forward flip while the other dove off the roof. The individual who dove from the roof resurfaced in a face down position with his arms dangling from his sides. MPO Mitchell immediately went to the victim's aid. Fearing a head and neck injury, MPO Mitchell and a bystander supported the victim in the water and gently held his face above the water so he could breathe. MPO Kneeshaw immediately summoned assistance from other MPOs in patrol boats and returned to the victim and assisted Mitchell in supporting the victim with his face out of the water. Upon arrival of MPO Scott Andersen and ECO Matt Favaeu, the dive door was removed from LGPC boat 106 and the victim was slid gingerly face down through the side of the vessel. The victim was transported to the shoreline in Shelving Rock Bay where Fort Ann EMS collared and back-boarded the victim rolled him over and a contingent of MPO's, ECOs, Forest Rangers, State Troopers and others moved the victim hand to hand up a steep embankment to waiting transportation.

If not for Mitchell's and Kneeshaw's quick and decisive actions throughout this entire incident, the victim would surely have died.



Commissioner Parker reads a resolution at the July monthly meeting to award MPOs Mitchell and Kneeshaw the Life-Saving Medal.

VII. Retirements



MPO Bill VanNess retired after the 2016 season. After retiring from the Warren County Sheriff's Department Bill joined the Patrol in 2002. Bill spent 15 summers patrolling the waters of Lake George. Bill will be missed in the Southern Basin of the lake. We are glad to see that Bill still enjoys the lake on his personal boat!

VIII. Acknowledgements

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has always provided the Marine Patrol with valuable training opportunities in addition to equipment and cost reimbursement through federal boater safety programs.

The Village of Lake George continues to support the Patrol with donations, and the Town of Lake George donated a dock for Patrol use during the 2017 season.

The Warren County Sheriff Deputies and New York State Troopers work closely with the Marine Patrol all summer and provide critical support.

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Law Enforcement assists in providing support for special details and larger events such as Log Bay Day.

NYS Park Police and The Essex County Sheriff's Department for their assistance with BWI checkpoints on Log Bay Day

The Department of Environmental Conservation's staff at the Green Island Maintenance Facility does an excellent job servicing and maintaining all the Marine Patrol vessels every year.

Enough can't be said about the professionalism and dedication of Lake George Park Commission's Marine Patrol Officers. The Marine Patrol has been charged with a great responsibility. They provide assistance, education and quality enforcement to all of the lake's visitors. This is a responsibility that these exceptional men take very seriously, and it shows. Year after year, positive comments regarding the Marine Patrol are both common and well deserved. They are the most visible ambassadors of the Lake George Park Commission and are directly responsible for the continued success of the Marine Patrol program.



Sgt. Paccione
and Officer
Webster from
Warren County
Sheriff's Dept.
check a kayaker
for a PFD in
Sawmill Bay in
Bolton.

2017 Patrol Roster

Returning this year were:

Lieutenant Joe Johns (17th year)

Sergeant Angelo Paccione (10th year)

Sergeant Shane Ross (6th year)

MPO Scott Andersen (25th year)

MPO Bob Sutphen (14th year)

MPO Ray VanAnden (12th year)

MPO Glen Mitchell (10th year)

MPO Gregg Dunn (10th year)

MPO Skip Kneeshaw (6th Year)

MPO Chris Barrett (2nd year)

MPO Bill St. John (2nd Year)

In 2017 we welcomed two new members to the patrol:

MPO Keith Knoop

MPO Logan Marino

Lake George Park Commission

75 Fort George Road, PO Box 749

Lake George, New York 12845

Phone: 518-668-9347

Fax: 518-668-5001

www.lgpc.state.ny.us

TO CONTACT THE MARINE PATROL

EMERGENCIES

MARINE RADIO CHANNEL 16

Request "Marine Patrol"

LG MARINE PATROL DISPATCH

518-743-2500

(Warren County Sheriff's Department)

or 911

NON EMERGENCIES

LG MARINE PATROL HEADQUARTERS

518-668-9347

(Monday – Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm)

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

TO REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

800-TIPP DEC

LAKE GEORGE CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

800-456-CAMP

NYSDEC – Warrensburg Office

518-623-1200

Marine Patrol statistics have been accumulated and categorized to provide a snapshot of the activities going on around Lake George. They provide crucial data on areas of special concern and help determine future patrol needs.