



Lake George Park Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Park Commission Seeks Public Input on Lake George Parasails

The Lake George Park Commission will be taking public input on parasail operations on Lake George at its August 27th monthly meeting. The meeting will be held at 10am at the Lake George Town Hall on Old Post Road in the Village of Lake George.

The Park Commission has parasail operations on Lake George since the agency's creation in 1988. There are currently two active parasail operators on the lake, each with the authority to fly three parasails concurrently. The Commission has determined that a review of these operations is in the best interest of Lake George and its many users. As part of this process the Commission is seeking the input from both the industry and the general public regarding these operations.

Information regarding the Commission's parasail regulations can be found on its website at www.lgpc.ny.gov. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend the August meeting. Comments will also be taken via email at info@lgpc.state.ny.us.



Lake George Parasail Regulations and Permit Conditions

Section 646-1.5 General Provisions Applicable to Special Permits.

- a. Prior to the issuance of any special permit pursuant to the provisions of this Subpart, the Commission may require submission of information necessary to determine whether the proposed activity will result in overcrowding, congestion, safety hazards or impair the water quality or other environmental resources of the Park. This may include, but not be limited to, specifications on the craft, its power, maneuverability, craft speed, equipment, noise output, lighting, wake, proposed operation including points of departure and landing, course, speed of operation and hours of operation.
- b. The Commission may require the submission of alternative design, equipment or methods of operation to mitigate specific impacts identified by the Commission.

646-1.4(c) Parasails.

1. No person shall use or operate a parasail on the waters of Lake George without first having obtained a special permit from the Commission. Special permits issued pursuant to this Section are not transferrable. Discontinuation of the use or operation of any parasail for a period of one (1) year or more shall result in expiration of the special permit.
2. Whenever a parasailing operation and the facility where the parasailing operation is berthed and maintained are held in common ownership with the facilities of a Class A marina, the special permit required herein will be merged with approvals pursuant to Section 646-1.2 of this Title and only one application to the Commission shall be required.
3. Existing Parasail and Parasail Operations. The owner of any parasail or the owner of any parasail business in continuous operation prior to the effective date of these regulations and registered with the Commission pursuant to Subpart 646-2 of this Title shall, upon timely filing of application and payment of any application fees, be granted a special permit subject to the requirements set forth in Sections 646-1.2 and 646-1.5 of this Title.
4. All parasail operators shall conform with the following provisions:
 - a. Each parasail operator shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) take-off and landing craft and three (3) parasails in the air at any one time.
 - b. Spectators shall not be permitted on the take-off and landing craft.
 - c. Take-off and landing craft with parasails in flight shall maintain a minimum distance between the craft of one-half mile. If such distance separation is not provided by the respective parasail operators, then the Commission may prescribe zones of operation and schedules for the use of such zones as part of any special permit. Such zones and schedules shall be designed to afford competing business equal access to more desirable operating areas.
 - d. Parasails shall be operated only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. or sunset whichever is earlier.
 - e. Parasails shall not be in flight within five hundred (500) feet of shore.
5. Staff.

- a. Each operator shall maintain a crew of at least two (2), including a pilot and an observer on the tow craft at all times during operation. The observer on the tow craft must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. The observer must maintain visual contact with the parasail at all times while the parasail is in the air.
 - b. Drivers. All drivers of tow craft must pass the New York State written pilot-engineer examination. In addition, with the exception of pilots engaged, participating or employed in parasail operation upon the waters of Lake George prior to July 1, 1990, all pilots must log a minimum of fifty (50) hours actual driving time accompanied by a qualified and experienced pilot. A pilot is qualified and experienced if the pilot has logged at least two hundred (200) hours of actual driving time or operated a tow craft for two (2) full seasons on Lake George.
 - c. Raft Crew Members. There shall be a crew of at least two (2), including the driver on the raft at all times. With the exception of raft crew members engaged, participating or employed in parasailing activities upon the waters of Lake George prior to July 1, 1990 all raft crew members must log a minimum of ten (10) hours actual working time on Lake George with a qualified and experienced crew member present on the raft. A crew member is qualified and experienced if the crew member has one hundred (100) hours of actual crew time or has participated in a crew at least one (1) full season on Lake George.
 - d. The owner or operator must maintain written records that the above requirements have been complied with. The records are subject to inspection by the Commission upon reasonable notice.
6. Equipment.
- a. Any parasail which contains a rip, hole, damaged line, or damaged or inoperable hardware must be immediately withdrawn from service until repaired.
 - b. All harnesses must be kept in good and working condition and be free from any damage.
 - c. All parasails, accompanying apparatus and equipment shall be inspected by the owner or operator prior to use, on a daily basis. Written records of the inspections shall be maintained by the owner or operator and made available to the Commission for review upon reasonable notice.
 - d. The owner or operator shall maintain written records of the size, make and condition of the parasail and the date of purchase of the parasail. The records are subject to inspection by the Commission upon reasonable notice.
 - e. Rafts shall be equipped with radios which are capable of receiving and transmitting on marine channel 16.
 - f. A United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device shall be provided for each person on the raft. All persons engaged in parasailing shall wear a United States Coast Guard approved Type III personal flotation device.
7. Accidents. Accidents involving parasails shall be reported in writing by the owner or operator to the Commission within forty-eight (48) hours after such accident.

Special Permit Conditions for Parasail Operations

23. The permittee shall implement and maintain all equipment and operation modifications as listed below.

- a. All parasail tow vessels that have not been specifically designed for commercial parasail operations shall be at least 24 feet in length, of a "Deep Vee" design, minimum displacement of 3,500 lbs, with a minimum of 30 inches of freeboard at the operator's station when loaded. Respondent shall ensure that all manufacturers' restrictions, recommendations and/or guidelines related to said vessels and their operation are followed. Respondent is also

responsible for seeing that all other equipment required for safe parasail operations is used as the manufacturer intended.

- b. All parasail vessels must have on board a marine VHF radio that is capable of communicating with Respondent's shore side establishment and receiving weather information. All parasail vessels shall actively monitor marine channel16. Respondent's shore side establishment shall actively monitor the local weather via the National Weather Service. Operators must check the weather forecast each time prior to leaving the dock and every half-hour during operation.
- c. No parasail vessel shall operate if there is a severe weather "warning" issued by the National Weather Service for the next hour of operation. Operations shall remain suspended until the severe weather "warning" is lifted or expires. No parasail vessel shall operate in seas in excess of 3 feet. No parasail vessel shall operate when wind is in excess of 20 mph in the area of operation. No parasail vessel shall operate if lightning is visible from the area of operation. No parasail vessel shall operate if heavy fog is present in the area of operation. No parasail vessel shall operate if thunder is audible in the area of operation.
- d. Respondent's parasail operation including all vessels utilized in said operation shall be covered by a bond or policy of insurance through an insurance company licensed and authorized by the New York State Department of Insurance, in the aggregate amount of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence for claims of bodily injury or death of any person arising out of the parasail operation. The bond or insurance policy shall remain in full force and effect whenever any vessel utilized in the parasail operation is underway. On an annual basis and no later than June 1st of each year, the Respondent shall file proof of the bond or insurance policy with the Commission. In addition, proof of the bond or insurance policy shall be produced upon the request of any representative of any governmental agency having regulatory authority over commercial parasail operations or vessels on Lake George.

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