Lake George Park Commission

2025 Marine Patrol Annual Report

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Report prepared by Lake George Park Commission Director of Law Enforcement Lt. Joe Johns

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 63 years of continuous service in 2025. 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 including 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 44 square miles of patrol area, including 176 miles of shoreline and more than 170 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.

Patrol Operations

The Patrol season began on May 1st and ran through October 31st. Beginning on June 29th, the Marine Patrol operated at full strength, seven days a week until Labor Day. During the summer season six to eight patrol vessels were on duty daily. A total of 7389 hours were logged by officers in 2025.

Equipment Upgrades

The Commission purchased a new Ford F-250 in 2025. This truck serves a dual purpose by being used by the patrol members and the Commission mechanic. Members of the Marine Patrol use the truck for multiple purposes including transporting those placed under arrest, accident investigations, training around the state, attending meetings and court appearances. The Commission mechanic also uses this truck to pull patrol boats out of the water for scheduled maintenance and repairs. This new truck replaces a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban with 195,000 miles.

II. Law Enforcement and Public Safety

The Lake George Park Commission, as always, had public safety as its top priority this year. The Patrol again partnered with the local marinas to improve boater safety, as they continue to show the Commission's mandatory boat safety video to all customers who rent boats.

These 2 new Yamaha Motors were installed on Patrol Boat 106 over the winter.

New Patrol Sector

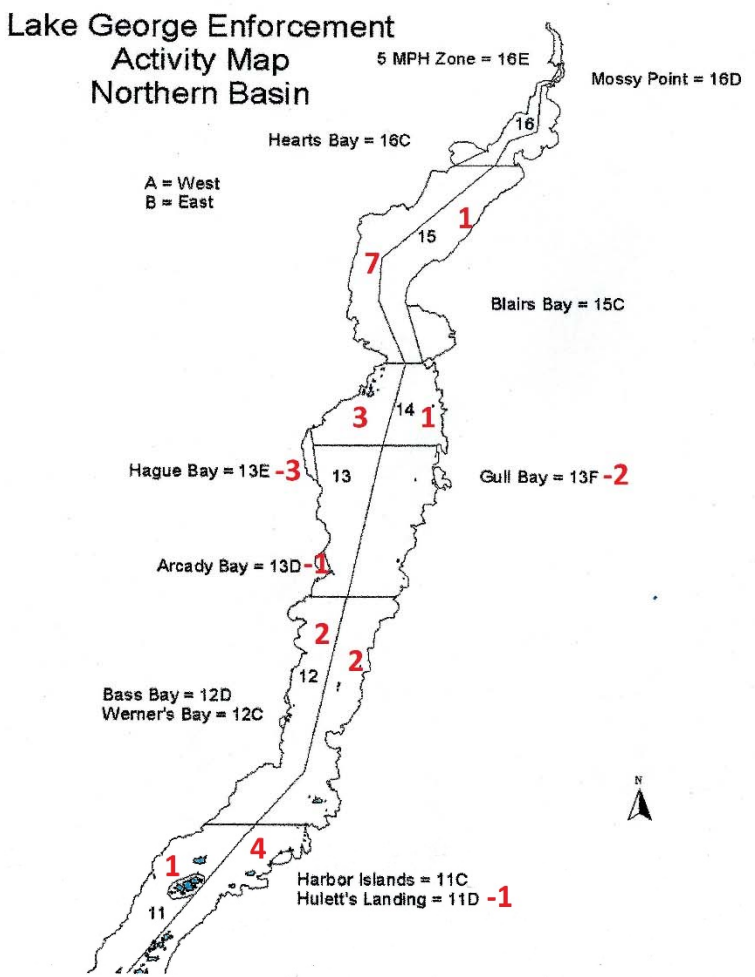
The Lake George Park Commission began a new patrol sector in 2025 to reduce the likelihood of accidents occurring in the Southern Basin of the lake, and reduce the increasing number of conflicts between paddlecraft and tour boats. This new patrol was funded by the Town and Village of Lake George, who recognize this need and the importance of this increased patrol presence. Officers were assigned to the area of Tea Island south to Beach Road for 8 hours a day from Thursday through Sunday each week. Officers made well over 100 assists and saves

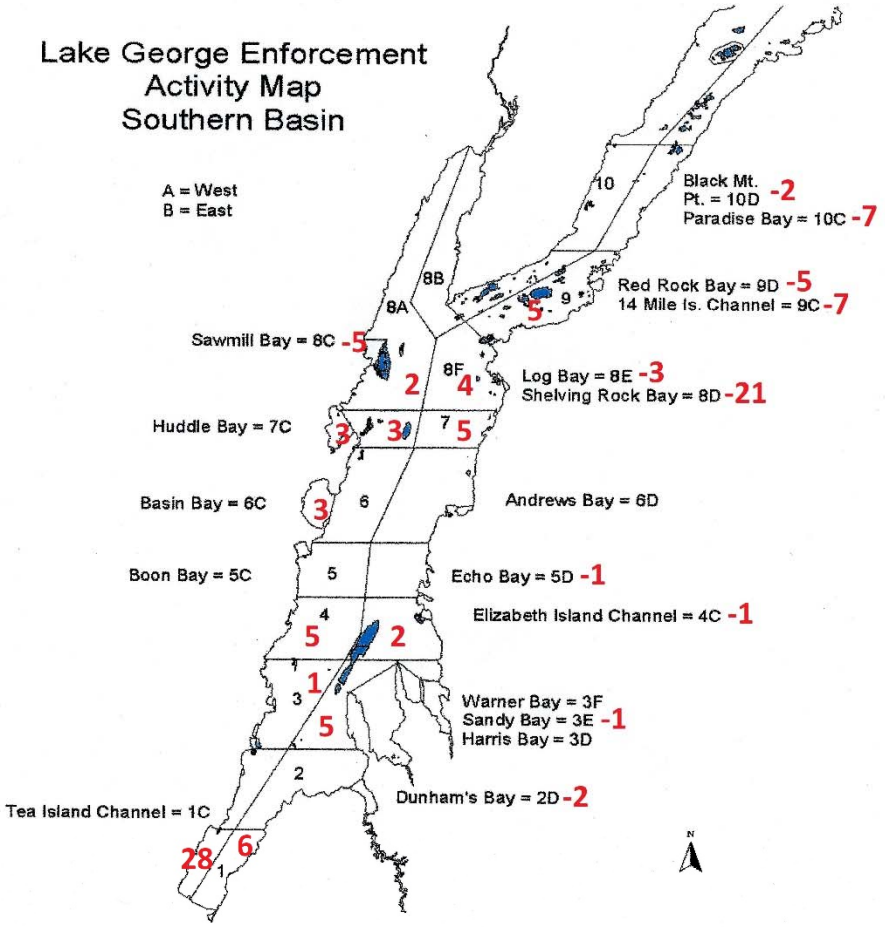
from paddleboards tipping over, getting pulled out by the wind and venturing out in front of the large tour boats. Multiple swimmers in distress were also pulled in by this patrol.

Marine Patrol Officer Activity Statistics

		2024	2025
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	Courtesy Gas	1	2
	Vessel Tows	16	21
	EMS/First Aid/Rescues	27	70
	Searches	21	36
	Fires	2	2
	Reported Drowning	1	1
	All Other Boater Assists	270	346
	Assists to Other Agencies	27	14
	911 Hang Up Calls	34	64
LAW ENFORCEMENT	Arrests/Citations-Navigation Law	67	76
	Arrests/Citations-All Other	89	84
	Total Arrests/Citations	**156**	**160**
	Partial Breakdown of Citations		
	PWC Citations	61	
	BWI Arrests	1	0
	Vessel Noise Citations	1	4
	Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests	8/1	1/0
	Complaints Addressed	679	897
	Accidents Investigated	9	13
	Incident Reports Filed	12	13
	Regattas Patrolled	12	15
	Warnings Issued	1072	2094
	Vessel Noise Tests	2	4
RECOVERED PROPERTY	Total Property Value	**$328,275**	**$260,250**
PATROL HOURS	Total Patrol Hours	**6838**	**7389**

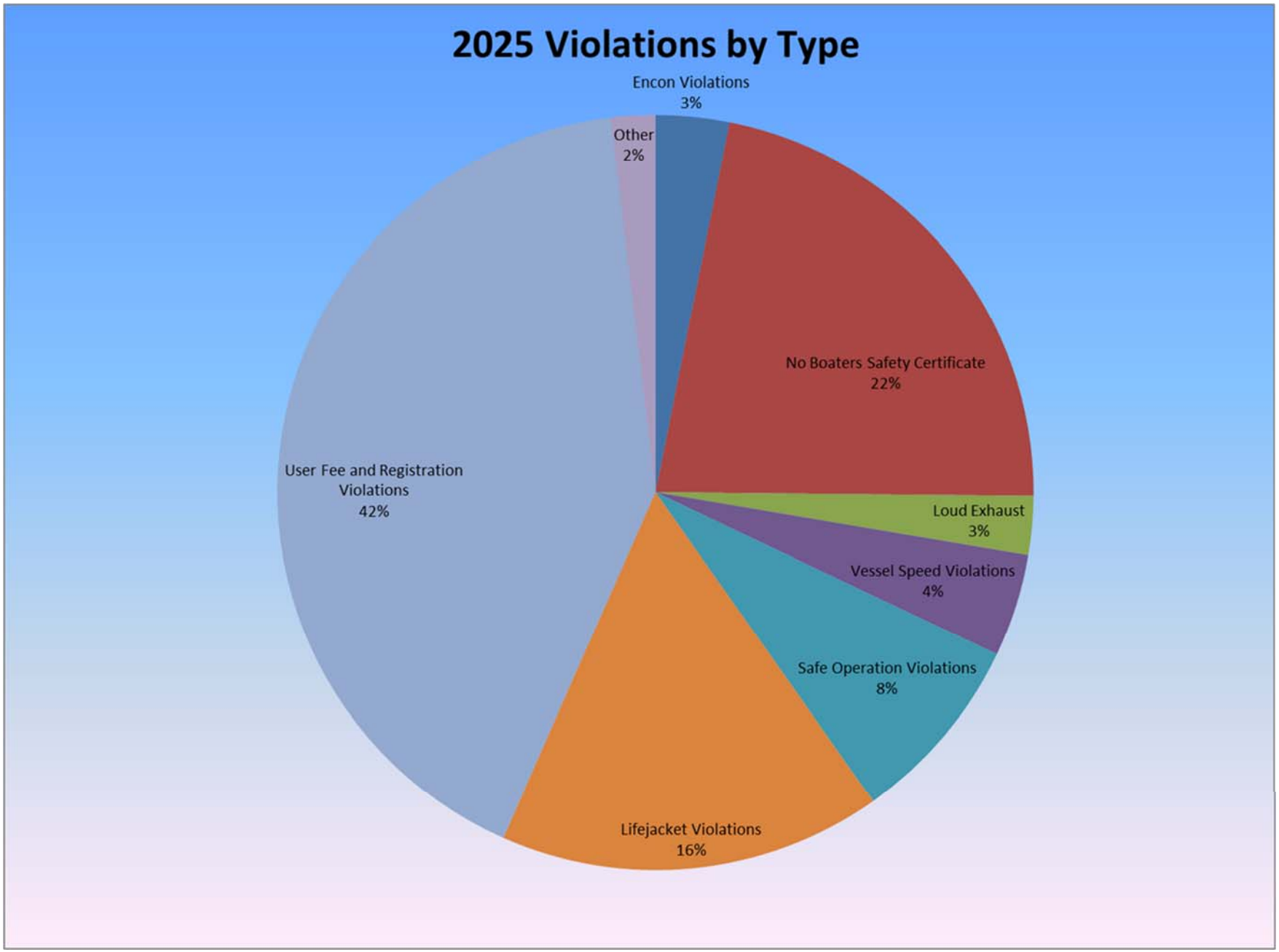
2025 Tickets by Location





Marine Patrol Appearance Ticket Breakdown- 4 Year Trend

VIOLATIONS	2025			2024			2023			2022		
	Total	Vessel	PWC	Total	Vessel	PWC	Total	Vessel	PWC	Total	Vessel	PWC
EQUIPMENT												
No Lake User Fee- LGPC Sticker	**37**	**28**	**9**	39	28	11	44	34	10	44	36	8
Unregistered Vessel- NYS Reg.	**30**	**23**	**7**	37	28	9	27	19	8	36	30	6
Lifejacket Violation	**26**	**24**	**2**	22	17	5	20	16	4	23	22	1
Other Equipment Violations	**0**	**0**	**0**	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
OPERATION												
Vessel Noise Violations	**4**	**3**	**1**	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Speed - Restricted Limit	**6**	**5**	**1**	4	1	3	5	2	3	5	2	3
Exceed Speed Limit	**1**	**0**	**1**	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0
Boating While Intoxicated	**0**	**0**	**0**	1	1	0	2	1	1	5	5	0
Reckless/Unsafe Operation	**4**	**2**	**2**	4	3	1	0	0	0	4	2	2
Skiing/Towing Violations	**5**	**1**	**4**	7	7	0	10	8	2	21	17	4
No Boater Safety Certificate	**36**	**15**	**21**	28	4	24	44	5	39	27	1	26
PWC After Hours	**3**	**0**	**3**	4	0	4	5	0	5	3	0	3
Other Operation Violations	**2**	**2**	**0**	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	1
OTHER												
Water Quality, Littering, etc.	**0**	**0**	**0**	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0
Fishing, State Lands, etc.	**5**	**5**	**0**	2	2	0	5	5	0	3	3	0
Underage Alcohol	**0**	**0**	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct, Assault, etc.	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Others	**1**	**1**	**0**	1	0	1	2	1	1	6	5	0
TOTALS	**160**	**108**	**51**	156	95	61	167	93	74	187	132	54


2025 Violations by Type
Encon Violations
3%
Other
2%
No Boaters Safety Certificate
22%
User Fee and Registration
Violations
42%
Loud Exhaust
3%
Vessel Speed Violations
4%
Safe Operation Violations
8%
Lifejacket Violations
16%

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 also inspected 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. In 2025, three vessels were caught launching without an inspection.

III. Public Assistance and Education

New York State Safe Boating Course Instruction

<u>Brianna's Law: New York State has passed a law which required everyone who operates a boat to have a safety certificate by January 1, 2025.</u> If you do not yet have a boater's safety certificate, the time has come to get it.

The LGPC Marine Patrol currently has 9 Officers certified to teach boater safety classes in New York. There were 8 classes taught by members of the Patrol this year, with 106 students getting their boaters safety certificate. Classes took place in Lake George, Bolton Landing, Ticonderoga, Corinth and Saratoga Springs. If you have a group interested in hosting a class, feel free to give the Lake George Park Commission a call. Classes will be scheduled in May, June and July in 2026. We are happy to teach additional classes if needed or if you have a group that needs a class.

Officer Kneeshaw teaches a NYS Boater's Safety Class in Bolton

Sound Testing

The Marine Patrol continues to monitor loud boats on the lake. Officer Ray VanAnden leads the effort with other officers to quiet down the lake. Those that are over the state's 90 decibel limit are ticketed and ordered from the lake until repairs are made. This year there were four tickets issued for loud boats.

Recovered Property

The Marine Patrol recovered lost and or stolen property valued at more than $260,000 during the 2025 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. 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.

Sgt. Mitchell found this boat out floating in the lake one morning. He was able to return it to the owner. A lift malfunction caused the boat to float away from the dock.

Officers were called to the Narrows for a PWC that had sunk. It was towed to a shallow location to be bailed out.

V. Real Stories from the Marine Patrol

Unusual Incidents, Accidents and Rescues

Training Day: On Thursday June 12th, the patrol was asked to assist in training put on by the US Army, US Air Force and FBI. The Marine Patrol along with DEC and State Police assisted with the simulated detection of weapons of mass destruction and biohazardous materials. During the training a portable decontamination area was set up on Green Island as well as up to 25 trucks with portable labs and communication capabilities brought in for testing and operation communication. Over 200 personnel participated in the day-long training.

A portable decontamination lab is set up at Green Island for a training put on by the US Army, US Air Force and FBI. Members of the Commission's Marine Patrol, NYSDEC and State Police assisted in the training.

The first part of the training involved DEC support staff collecting garbage from two islands on the lake. During the ride back to Green Island, one bag supposedly broke and spread a mock white powder in the boat and on one of the employees to simulate a biohazard event. The employee was instructed to show certain signs of ill health. That boat called Green Island to report what had happened. Medical staff from the military met the arriving DEC boat and placed the employee in a protective white suit after decontamination. His vital signs were checked and he was transported to a special ambulance brought in by the military. During this time, an actual sealed sample was given to the specialists who test samples to find what an unknown sample actually is. The sample given to the lab technicians is unknown to them at the time they test it. The portable labs in the trucks were used to conduct this testing. In a short amount of time the sample was confirmed as a hazardous material. Portable labs were placed on the two islands where the contaminated bag could have come from. Technicians were sent out in protective gear to search for more hazardous material.

Another exercise being conducted was a search for a boat with radiation onboard. Four LGPC Patrol Boats were sent out with a member of the patrol and 4 members of the military with

radiation detecting equipment. The patrols were instructed to patrol a certain area of the lake and approach any boat they came upon. As they approached, the technicians used their equipment to check if anything in the boat gave off any radiation. One of the patrols passed an island and the detectors went off. Technicians on the boat checked the island and did not find anything. It was theorized that the composition of the rocks that make up the island give off a very low level of radiation that the sensors will detect. After a short time, the boat carrying the radiation (very low level) was found and the operator was brought into custody as part of the exercise.

At the conclusion of the training, the local agencies were told that if any suspicious activity was found on the lake or in the area, the military team was available 24 hrs. a day and could have boots on the ground in Lake George within one hour. More assets would also be activated with a little longer response time. It was explained that this day-long training was as much for the local agencies as the military. The military wants everyone to know what support they are able to provide in case of emergencies.

Unresponsive 3 year old: On Wednesday July 2nd at 4:10 pm, patrols were dispatched for an unresponsive 3yo male who was not breathing. While the location of the call was on shore in Pilot Knob, patrol boats were dispatched to the call as a patrol boat would likely have a much quicker response time. Responding to the scene were MPO Webster, Girard (WCSO), St. John (WCSO), Andersen, Mazzacano and Sgt. Mitchell. Upon arrival, officers were told the child was breathing but not alert. It turns out the child was on a large float in the backyard when he fell and struck his head and became unconscious. CPR was started on the child prior to officers arrival and the child started breathing after that. Officers helped stabilize the boy until EMS arrived. He was transported by ambulance and transferred to a Life Net Helicopter for transport.

On a positive note, the boy was seen in the same backyard with his grandfather several days later and was happy and healthy.

Drowning on July 4th: On Friday July 4th patrols were dispatched to Harris Bay for a report of a missing swimmer. Officers Mazzacano and Campano were first on the scene from Warren County followed by Sgt. Paccione, Sgt. Mitchell, Lt. Johns, MPO Rogan and MPO Dunn. Upon arrival, it was learned that three females went swimming off the back of a pontoon boat. Two of the swimmers got back on the boat and the third was struggling. A male in the boat noticed what was happening and started the boat putting it in reverse to help the struggling swimmer. In the process, the females who had just climbed in the boat were thrown out causing a minor injury to one of them. Once they were pulled in, it was found that the 21yo female, that was struggling in the water, disappeared under the surface.

During the recovery operation, MPO Rogan went to shore and assisted the North Queensbury

Fire Department set up a grid search to find the missing woman. Sgt. Paccione pulled a diver with his patrol boat while the North Queensbury Fire Boat did the same. The body was found a short time later.

Tubing Incident: On Saturday July 5th at 2:10 pm, MPO Sutphen received a call of a male in distress on a blue pontoon boat in the area of Crown Island. Upon arrival, MPO Sutphen found a 37 year old male semi-conscious and shaken up. Sutphen, along with 2 forest rangers, stabilized the victim until Bolton Fire Department arrived at the scene to transport the victim to Green Island for evaluation and possible transport to the hospital.

Further investigation of the incident revealed that the victim had been tubing from the boat and fell off. He was pulled into the boat and suffered some sort of an attack, possibly a panic attack. Upon evaluation by EMS at Green Island, the victim was found to be in good health and released from Green Island without transport to the hospital.

Cormorant (Waterbirds) Study:

Cormorants are aquatic birds that spend their lives around lakes, and are known for their diving and fishing skills. They tend to perch on islands for protection, and their droppings can cause significant damage to the trees that they roost on.

To get a better understanding of the population on Lake George, the Commission tasked its Patrol to conduct weekly counts of cormorants on the lake for ten weeks throughout the summer and early fall. Original estimates ranged from 50-70 of these birds annually roosting around the lake, but surveys confirmed that upwards of 170 birds are here at any given time during the summer season.

While there are no actions that can be taken to control these populations due to federal protections, the Commission is working to better understand these populations and the vegetation damage that has occurred on several of the islands on Lake George.

A Second Rescue by MPO Sutphen: Shortly after the call to Crown Island on July 5th, MPO Sutphen was on his scheduled Lake George Village Patrol when he observed a very young child, wearing a PFD, floating in the water near a capsized kayak. Sutphen immediately drove to the child, reached over the side of the patrol boat and pulled him from the water. Once the child was safe in the boat, Sutphen immediately went to the child's father who was struggling, without a

PFD on. Sutphen was able to get the ladder out and assist the father get out of the water. Once everyone was safe, Sutphen tied a line to the overturned kayak and pulled it back to the hotel in the village where they came from. Once Sutphen made sure that his passengers were uninjured, he dropped them off and immediately returned to the busy 5mph zone in the village where there were approximately 100 other kayaks and other paddlecraft operating in a very busy area with significant boat chop.

A patrol boat assigned as part of the designated LG Village Patrol escorts the Minnie-Ha-Ha into dock. The officer makes sure that the kayaks, Paddleboards and other paddlecraft do not try to move in front of the large tour boats.

This is only one of the daily rescues from this new designated Lake George Village Patrol.

5 Swimmers in Distress: On Sunday July 6th at approximately 1:40 pm, MPO LaVallie was assigned to the dedicated Lake George Village Patrol when he observed 5 swimmers in the water some distance from a boat that was adrift in the Southern Basin. LaVallie moved towards those swimmers, as they were waving in distress. Thankfully they were wearing type 2 PFDs. The swim ladder was deployed from the patrol boat and with assistance each of the swimmers were pulled from the water. Each individual was checked to see if they needed medical attention and when each declined, MPO LaVallie transported them back to their boat that was still drifting away from them.

Note: Over the years, the majority of drownings on Lake George occur in this manner. Individuals jump off the boat and go for a swim without having the boat securely anchored. As everyone enjoys their time in the water, the boat will often drift away due to the wind. At that time many begin to struggle trying to get back to the boat. Unfortunately, drownings occur because of this. It is highly recommended that before swimming, securely anchor the boat and consider wearing a PFD. Swimming in the lake is not like swimming in a pool.

Missing Swimmer: On Saturday July 12th at approximately 1:10 pm, MPO LaVallie and Lt. Johns were dispatched for a report of a missing swimmer in the area of Rock Brothers Island in Putnam. Upon arrival officers interviewed the missing swimmer's brother who told officers he and his brother, both experienced swimmers, decided to swim from their rental house to a point on the lake to the north of their starting location. After a while, the complainant said he lost track of his

brother and was able to flag down a passerby to help get him to shore to obtain assistance in the search for his brother.

Shortly after MPO LaVallie and Lt. Johns began the search, MPO LaVallie was flagged down by a female on shore. She reported at approximately 30-minutes prior a male with black swim trunks and reddish hair exited the water onto her property. MPO LaVallie radioed this information to LT. Johns who was at the time speaking to the missing man's parents. The man's mother immediately said, "that's him." Lt. Johns asked the parent to return to shore and get in their car and check the road from the point where the man exited the water and the rental house. The problem with the road search was that the road from the property he exited the lake from led to Glenburnie while the road the rental house was on came from Gull Bay. While the swim was ¼ mile, the distance by road between the 2 houses was 10 miles.

The missing swimmer was able to flag someone down who brought him back to his rental home. He told officers upon his return that he got winded and exited the water so he would not have further problems.

Other officers assisting on scene were Sgt. Paccione, and MPOs Sutphen and Andersen.

Calf Pen Fall: On July 13th, patrols were dispatched to the Calf Pen for a report of a female who had fallen from high up on the rock and was currently unconscious in the water. Warren County Sheriff's Officers Mazzacano, Campano and St.John, LGPC Officers Sutphen, Johns, Paccione, Rogan, LaVallie and Webster all responded to the scene. Upon arrival, two of the patrol boats were manned by two officers allowing MPOs Sutphen and Mazzacano to jump into the lake, with PFDs on, and swim to the victim to help support her until EMS arrived on the Bolton Fire Boat. When Sutphen and Mazzacano reached the victim, they found she was barely conscious after falling from the top of the rocks and bouncing off them on the way down. She was being supported in the water by 3 lifeguards who happened to be in the area and witnessed the fall along with the 18 year old woman's father.

The victim was evaluated by officers and found to have lacerations and a possible break to her arm and a large laceration to her side. Due to the possibility of head and neck injuries, she was stabilized in the water until EMS could join them in the water and apply a neck collar and place her on a floating stretcher. She was then brought back to Green Island and immediately transported to a waiting helicopter in Bolton to be flown to Albany Medical Center for treatment.

The family was camping on Long Island with the parents, daughter and 3 teen sons. The victim's parents were transported from Green Island to their car in Dunhams Bay by the Warren County Sheriff's Department road patrol. They drove to Albany Medical Center to be with their daughter. MPO Webster drove their sons, in their boat back to Long Island. When the victim was stable, the mother stayed at the hospital and the father came back to the lake to be with the boys. MPO

Mazzacano and Sgt. Paccione came back into work and transported the father back to Long Island, at about 10:30pm, so the teen boys would not have to operate the boat at night.

Micro-Burst: On the afternoon of July 14th, a micro-burst went through the Narrow Island Group. Luckily it was a Monday and there was not a great deal of campers on the islands. Numerous trees were uprooted and snapped off. Many of these trees were close to campsites. MPOs LaVallie, Webster, Kneeshaw, Fregoe, Rogan and Lt. Johns checked each island affected by the storm to see if any campers were injured and the amount of damage to each island. Officers made a list of damage and notified the DEC caretaker at Glen Island. Officers then picked up debris from broken trees that was in the lake so it would not be a navigational hazard.

Trees came down very close to campsites during the microburst on July 14th

Very Observant Officer: On Saturday August 2nd just before 4:00 pm, MPO Knoop was patrolling through Paradise Bay, while on a PWC patrol, when he noticed a tour boat operator in the bay with a group. As Knoop approached the vessel, he noticed that there was no PV, Public Vessel, marking on the boat. Upon interviewing the operator and 16 passengers, the officer issued a ticket for operating a PV without an inspection. Knoop was told that the operator took the wrong boat. Any boat used for commercial work in New York is required to have an annual inspection through NYS Parks and Recreation which this one did not.

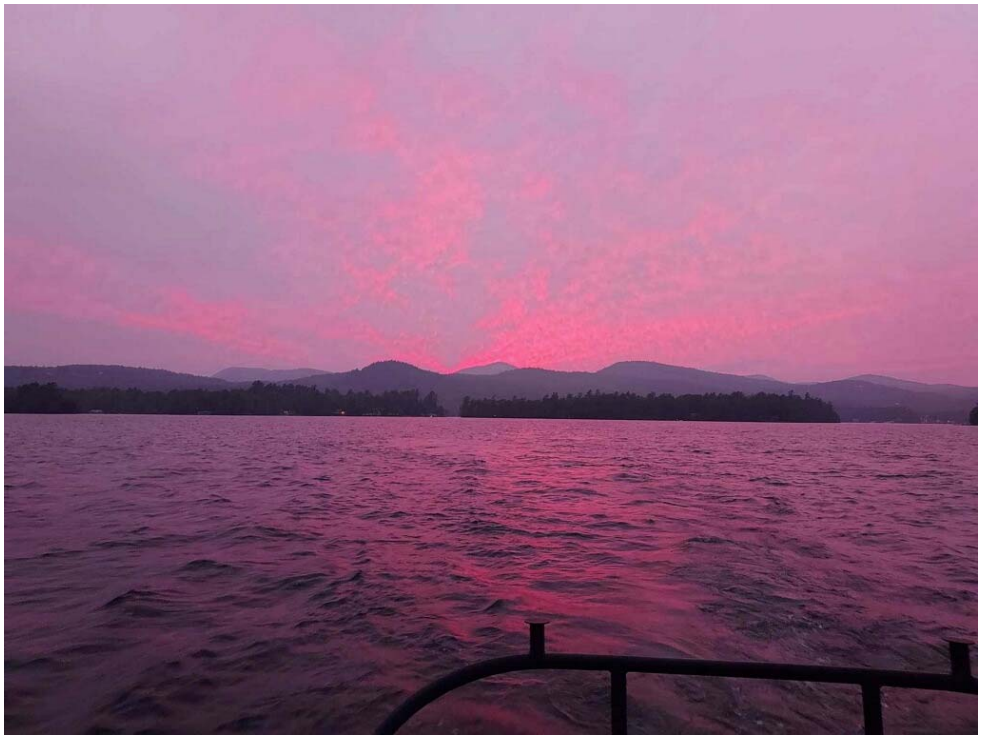
Possible Intoxicated Operator: On Friday August 8th at about 9:00 pm, MPO Andersen and Sgt. Mitchell were dispatched to Million Dollar Beach Boat Launch for a group of intoxicated individuals trying to load a pontoon boat on a trailer. Also dispatched was a patrol car for a possible DWI in case the individuals left the parking lot before a boat patrol could arrive.

The marine patrol arrived to find a pontoon boat on the trailer already. The tow vehicle was still parked on the ramp with an individual behind the wheel and the engine running. Officers had the individuals exit the vehicle. As no one would admit to driving the boat and no witness to tell them who was operating it, officers held the subjects until the road patrol arrived. During this time officers found part of the trailer bunk was broken off and deep scrapes were seen on the port side pontoon. When the road patrol arrived, the subjects were turned over to them for a DWI investigation. Sheriff's Patrol was told by the Commission Officers who was behind the wheel of the tow vehicle and it was running. Sgt. Mitchell and MPO Andersen returned to service after turning over the individuals and a tow truck being called to tow away the vehicle.

Fire on the Shore Behind O'Dell Island: While on Patrol on August 10th, MPO Kneeshaw was dispatched to a heavy smoke condition on the shore behind O'Dell Island. Officer Kneeshaw was able to confirm it was a ground fire and reported the fire to dispatch to send out a fireboat. Both Hague and Huletts Landing fire boats were dispatched. Huletts Landing Fire arrived first and wet down the area extinguishing the fire.

Another First Responder Call: On Friday August 15th at 8:23 pm, MPOs Webster and Andersen were sent to a call at Burgess Island for a report of an individual with multiple bee stings. Upon arrival, the officers determined that the victim had stepped on an underground beehive causing multiple bees to come out of the hive and begin stinging him. Officers radioed in the victim's condition, conscious, breathing normal and no restricted airway. Hague EMS via fire boat arrived about 30 minutes later. Patrol assisted the fireboat to the dock where they loaded up the victim and transported him to a waiting ambulance in Sabbathday Point. Once treated at the hospital in Ticonderoga, he was able to rejoin his camping party for the rest of the weekend.

Patrol Available All Hours of Day or Night: On Sunday August 17th at 3:55 am, Coast Guard New England received a May Day call from a vessel they traced to what thought was in the area of Lamb Shanty Bay on Lake George. No additional information was received other than several May Day calls. The Coast Guard called Warren County Sheriff's Department to investigate this call. As the Sheriff's Department did not have anyone on duty that was qualified for night operations and the time it would take to call someone in and take a boat from Lake George Village to the area of Putnam, Lt. Johns was called. Lt. Johns was able to take the boat docked in Ticonderoga and check the lake down to Lamb Shanty Bay. Upon arriving at Lamb Shanty Bay at 4:45 am, he found a boat anchored in the bay. He knocked on the port side window of the cuddy cabin and woke up the occupant to make sure all was ok. Everything was fine on that vessel so the Lieutenant proceeded south on the lake to the Mother Bunch Islands. Finding nothing, he traveled back up the lake on the west side to see if any boats were in the area. Finding no vessels on the water in distress or at all, the Coast Guard was called back and told the call was unfounded.



Beautiful red sky at sunset

<u>All Hands on Deck, Fast Moving Storm, Multiple calls for Help:</u> Also on Sunday August 17th, at about 4:15 pm, the sky turned very dark and the wind picked up tremendously, catching everyone on the lake off guard. Within ten minutes, the temperature dropped almost twenty degrees. Patrols were dispatched to multiple calls simultaneously all over the lake. Some of the calls were as follows:

1. MPO Webster and Sgt. Paccione were called for a report of 2 kayaks overturned, floating in the area of Huletts Landing with no one near them. It was feared that there were people in the water in serious danger. Officers fought dangerous waves of 5 to 6 feet high to make their way to the Huletts Landing area to conduct the search for these kayaks and occupants. At that time, they were not able to find either. The owners of the kayaks did leave a message on the patrol's office phone that they were ok and the kayaks were still missing along with several thousand dollars of fishing tackle. One kayak was found later in the day while the second one was found the next day, both submerged. The fishing tackle was never recovered.
2. During this call, MPO Kneeshaw received a call of a possible flare gun being fired off in the area of the former Indian Kettles in Hague. It was also reported by the complainant that boat debris was washing up on shore in the bay directly south of that location. Kneeshaw headed that way along with MPO Webster and Sgt. Paccione after the search

of the Huletts Landing area was completed. At Rogers Rock Campsite Sgt. Paccione met up with Lt. Johns and the four officers searched the area looking for a boat which could be in distress or sinking. Eventually the officers found a boat submerged at a dock with its seat cushions and other loose items floating out of the boat in the 5 to 6 foot waves. The complainant was interviewed and the items that washed up on their dock were compared to the sinking boat's items, and they appeared to match. NYS Spills was notified of the small sheen of gas by the sunken boat and the officers headed south to assist with more calls for help down that way.

3. At the start of the storm, MPO Rogan along with two officers from the Warren County Sheriff's Office were patrolling on personal watercraft in the south basin. As the weather got worse, the officers were forced to beach the personal watercraft on Million Dollar beach due to the high winds and waves. The 3 officers along with 2 officers from a patrol car assisted about 30 boats out of the water at the Million Dollar Beach Boat Launch. With the wind out of the north, the waves were 3 to 4 feet at the launch making it almost impossible to get the boats on the trailers. All the officers at the launch had to stand in the water and walk the boats onto the trailers for those trying to get out of the storm. This all had to be done fairly quickly as boats were lining up in the rough water to get out of the lake and to safety. After the storm, the trailer for the patrol PWC had to be brought from Green Island to Million Dollar Launch to retrieve the craft as it remained too rough to drive it back to Bolton that evening.
4. Patrols were also dispatched to a call for help from a rental boat in distress in Dark Bay. MPO Dunn and WCSO Officers Mazzacano and Campano fought 5-to-6-foot waves to get to Dark Bay to render assistance. Upon arrival, officers found the boat had made it into a private dock, tied it up and got onto shore. The people wanted help getting back to the marina they rented the boat from. Officers, who could not pull up to the dock because it was full, told the occupants to stay on shore as it was much safer there. They were also told to call the marina to see if they could pick them up by car and have the marina bring the boat back after the storm.
5. While officers were tied up in Dark Bay, Million Dollar Beach and in the Hague area, MPO LaVallie took a call from 911 dispatchers of a rental boat taking on water with 10 people on board, including multiple young children, near Dome Island. At the time of the call, LaVallie was south of Long Island and had to navigate into these huge waves to make it to Dome Island. The waves were at times going over the roof of the patrol boat. Once MPO LaVallie was able to reach the very scared group, he found the boat was taking on water due to the large waves rolling into the bow. LaVallie was able to slowly lead the group from an open area of the lake into the channel between Clay Island and Homer Point that was protected from the wind. He found a residential dock to park the family at and then went and knocked on the door of the house the dock belonged to. MPO LaVallie explained

to the resident what had happened and asked to leave that boat on the dock with the family while he tried to make arrangements to get them back to Silver Bay. The very generous homeowner not only allowed the boat to stay on the dock, but she invited the whole group into her heated sunroom to warm up and dry off. Arrangements were made and their marina arrived by car to transport the family back to their marina and own cars. The marina later transported the boat back up the lake when it was safe.

6. When officers were done in Dark Bay, they headed up the lake to assist MPO LaVallie. On the way north, they heard him call in on the radio that he was secure with his call and MPO Dunn took a call for a boat in distress in Sandy Bay. Dunn proceeded to Sandy Bay to find a boat tied to a mooring in the shallow part of Sandy Bay. The occupants of the boat wanted MPO Dunn to transport them back to the marina in LG Village where they rented the boat from. They were not going to drive their own boat anymore. Dunn told the occupants that it was not safe at that time to transport anyone anywhere. While the bay was rocking their boat pretty bad in Sandy Bay, the open lake was much, much worse. The occupants of the boat were not pleased that they could not be immediately transported back to the marina so they decided to wade through the waist deep water up to the shore and call a taxi to get back on their own. The marina later retrieved the boat.
7. While MPO Dunn was with the group in Sandy Bay, Officers Mazzacano and Campano were dispatched to Long Island for a report of multiple sunken boats. The sunken boats were at docks, mostly on the north side of the island. The callers were currently located in the caretaker's cabin on the island. The Long Island DEC caretaker saw the number of people in distress and invited everyone in and started a fire in the fireplace. When Mazzacano and Campano arrived, they found multiple groups of people in the cabin standing by the fireplace trying to warm up and dry off. The officers checked everyone to make sure medical assistance was not needed. Then, when the winds died down some, the officers made multiple trips from Long Island to Dunhams Bay and Million Dollar Beach Boat Launch to transport the stranded people to their vehicles. The sunken boats were recovered by salvage companies the next morning when the lake calmed down.

Officers often have to prioritize calls based on public safety. All of the above calls on August 17th were serious public safety risks for everyone involved. Enough can't be said for the officers who were placed in extreme danger navigating the lake in treacherous conditions to make it to each of these calls. All officers involved, without regard for their own safety, did their best to investigate each call and make sure everyone was safe. From the officers who responded to the calls on the water to the officers in the water at the boat launch, Countless lives were likely saved because of their dedication to keeping the public safe.

A special thank you to the DEC caretaker on Long Island for inviting everyone in and starting a

fire and the homeowner on Homer Point who invited 10 strangers into her home to warm up after a traumatic experience.

One of the sunken boats on Long Island after the August 17th storm

Diving Accident: On Saturday August 23rd at 3:35 pm, patrols were dispatched to a call at Picnic Island for a male with a neck injury. Upon arrival, Sgt. Paccione and MPO Andersen found a 15 yo male out of the water with a towel wrapped around his neck. Apparently, he dove off the back of the boat into very shallow water striking his head on rocks. The boy's mother was a nurse and wrapped a towel around his neck to keep it still until EMS arrived and was able to put a neck collar on him. Officers radioed his condition to headquarters who notified the North Queensbury Fire Boat. North Queensbury EMS put a neck Collar on the boy and put him on a backboard. He was transported to Green Island and placed in a waiting ambulance to be transported to Glens Falls Hospital.

Bee Sting Emergency: Also on Saturday August 23rd, MPO VanAnden had a call to Log Bay. The call was for a female stung by a bee. The female had a bee allergy and needed to get to shore to be treated. Officer VanAnden was able to get the female to EMS who was able to treat and

release her.

Disoriented 84 yo Male: On Monday September 22nd at 2:30 pm, patrols were dispatched to an area south of 3 Brothers Island for an 84 yo male who was disorientated. The male was the operator of the boat and his passenger was nervous about his condition. When MPO Kneeshaw and Sgt. Mitchell arrived, it was obvious that the 84 yo should be evaluated by EMS. MPO Kneeshaw took the individual and his passenger into his patrol boat and transported them to Green Island to be evaluated by Bolton EMS. In the meantime, Sgt. Mitchell towed their boat back to Green Island. After being evaluated by EMS, the individual refused treatment. His son and daughter were called and officers waited with the male and his passenger at the LGPC Green Island Office until they arrived to pick him and his boat up.

Reckless Operation and Mental Health Issues: On Tuesday October 7th at about 1:30 pm, MPO Webster and Lt. Johns were dispatched to a call in Dunhams Bay for a boat operating recklessly and the operator acting strangely. Upon arrival, the subject was gone from the bay. Witnesses were interviewed about the subject's behavior. One of the witnesses knew the subject's name so officers proceeded to the residence in Harris Bay.

Upon arrival, officers found the subject in his front yard. While speaking to him, officers noticed that he was having some sort of mental crisis. Shortly thereafter, Sheriff's Deputy Squires arrive with his patrol car. Apparently, there was a call from his neighbors also reporting him acting strange. All 3 officers were on the scene for over 2 hours on this call. The Warren County Mental Health Crisis Team was called and responded to speak to the man. Eventually he agreed to go to the hospital to be checked out. Deputy Squires transported him.

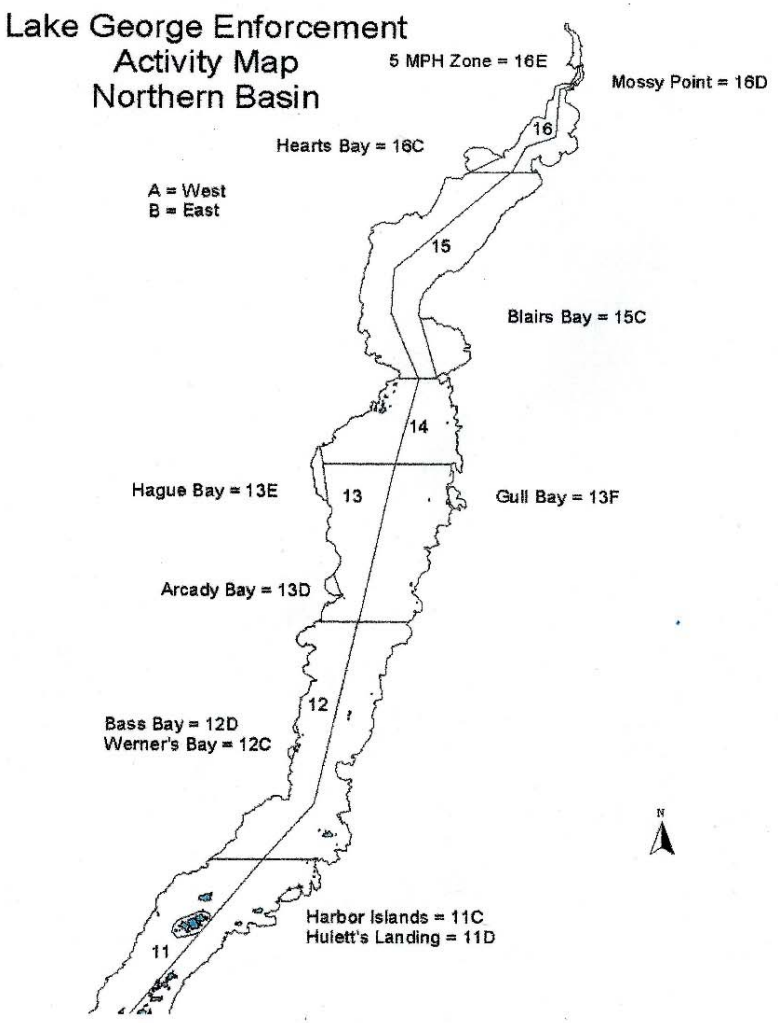
These are just a few of the stories from the patrol during the 2025 season. Due to the ever-changing conditions and job responsibilities, the patrol members must be prepared for whatever comes their way. Our patrol members are always ready to go out 24 hrs. a day when needed.

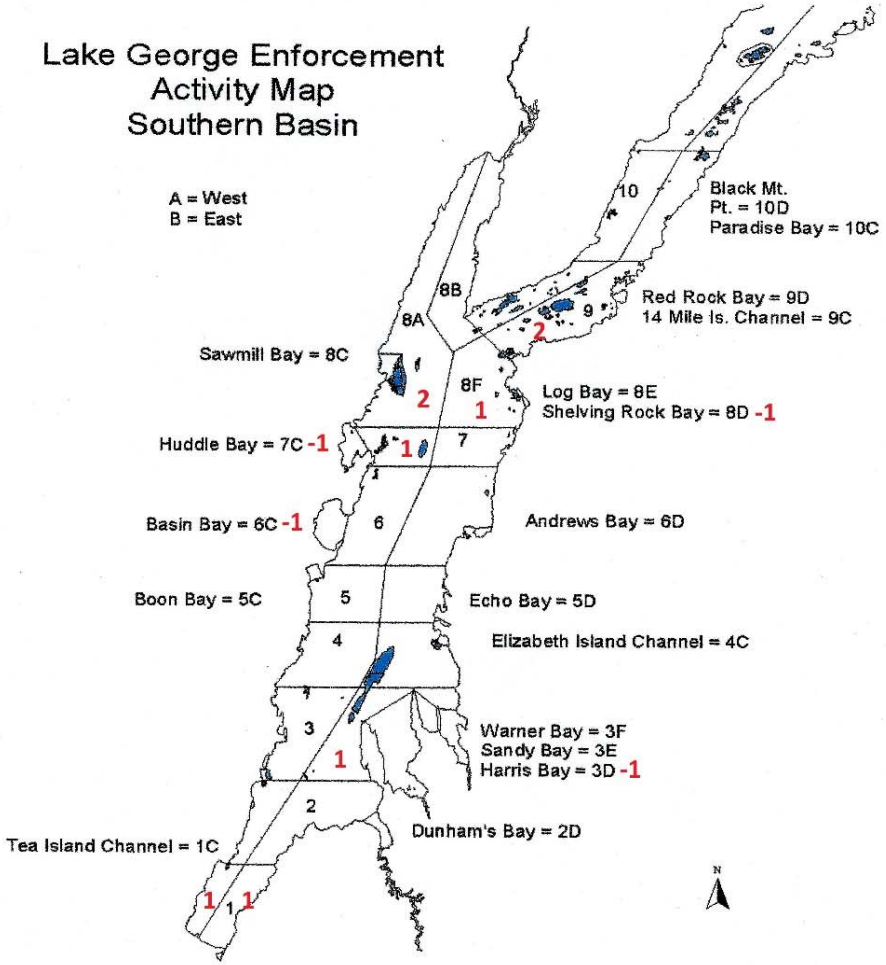
2025 Accidents investigated by the Patrol

Date	Time	Location	Officer	Injuries	Description of Accident
7/4/2025	12:45 pm	Shelving Rock Bay	Sgt. Mitchell	Yes	A vessel was attempting to anchor in the bay when it struck a second vessel that was already anchored. An individual on the anchored vessel attempted to stop the vessel from hitting his and hurt several toes when he put his foot out to hold off the boat. No medical attention required.
7/4/2025	2:51 pm	Basin Bay	MPO Rogan	No	Two boats were anchored when the anchor line let loose on one boat causing it to hit the second boat.
7/5/2025	12:00 pm	Rogers Park, Bolton	MPO Andersen	No	A Hackercraft was damaged while docked at the town park. Unknown boat hit it and left the scene.
7/9/2025	1:30 pm	Fork Island	MPO Kneeshaw	Yes	A 72 y.o. female was riding in the bow of a boat when the boat hit a large wake from another boat passing by. The woman immediately complained of back pain and fainted when reaching the campsite. Bolton EMS transported the female to Glens Falls Hospital.
7/16/25	11:20 am	Dome Island area	MPO Andersen	Yes	A group of individuals stopped their vessel in the area of Dome Island. The group was jumping off the boat when one occupant struck his leg on either the splash plate or prop causing a severe laceration to the left leg. Patrol and EMS met the group at a local marina for transport to the hospital and accident report.
7/25/25	4:00 pm	Happy Family Islands. Harris Bay	MPO Andersen	No	While traveling slowly through the 5 mph zone, a pontoon boat with seven occupants ran aground on a shoal near the island group causing damage to the boat and leaving it stuck. The patrol contacted the marina the group left from, and they responded to free the boat from the rocks.
7/29/25	12:00 pm	Narrows Island Group	MPO Mazzacano	Yes	While traveling through the Narrows Island Group, a vessel hit a wake from another boat causing a 73 y.o. female sitting in the bow to bounce off her seat, landing on her back on the deck. She was transported to Glens Falls Hospital.

7/29/25	5:35 pm	Rogers Park Bolton	MPO Rogan	No	A rental boat was parked at the town dock when a private vessel attempting to maneuver struck the rental boat causing damage to both vessels.
8/9/25	1:30 pm	Million Dollar Beach Launch	MPO VanAnden	No	A PWC attempting to come into the launch area struck an unoccupied boat parked at the dock. Minor damage was caused to the boat at the dock.
8/9/25	3:45 pm	Bolton Bay	MPO VanAnden	No	Hit and Run- While docked at a restaurant, a vessel was struck near the swim platform causing damage.
8/10/25	4:10 pm	The area of 14 Mile Island	Sgt. Paccione	Yes	While wakeboarding, a 31 y.o. female fell and hit her head on the wakeboard. She was transported to Glens Falls Hospital and received 10 stiches.
8/21/25	8:30 pm	Diamond Island	MPO Andersen & Sgt Mitchell	No	While traveling in the dark in a southernly direction, the operator failed to observe the danger buoys and ran aground on a rock shoal. Patrol responded, found no injuries and transported the occupants back to their residence. The 32’ boat was removed by a salvage company the next morning.
8/25/25	2:30 pm	South Basin	Sgt. Mitchell	No	Vessel 1 was leaving dock with a tube in tow when it struck a PWC that was unoccupied on a mooring. Damage was observed on both vessels.

Accidents by Location





BWIs

In 2025, the patrol continued to focus on removing intoxicated operators from the lake. While the patrol did not have any BWI arrests in 2025, Officers were on the lookout for impaired operators both day and night. The patrol was very pleased to see that the boats they stopped, where drinking was taking place, all had a designated operator.

Officer Rogan transports members of the army and the weapons of mass destruction team out for training in June.

VI. 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 Town and Village of Lake George for allowing the Commission to install a dock for patrol boats on Lower Amherst Street and fund the new Lake George Village Patrol.

The Warren County Sheriff's Department works closely with the patrol throughout the summer. They also provide multiple training opportunities for the patrol including annual range certification.

New York State Troopers work closely with the Marine Patrol all summer and provide critical support. The State Police also do weekend patrols.

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Law Enforcement assists in providing support when needed.

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.

Returning this year were:

Lieutenant Joe Johns (25th year)

Sergeant Angelo Paccione (18th year)

Sergeant Glenn Mitchell (18th year)

MPO Scott Andersen (33rd year)

MPO Bob Sutphen (22nd year)

MPO Ray VanAnden (20th year)

MPO Skip Kneeshaw (14th year)

MPO Greg Dunn (13th year)

MPO Keith Knoop (9th year)

MPO Gary Mazzacano (8th year)

MPO Mike Rogan (7th year)

MPO Jeff Webster (7th year)

MPO Ryan Fregoe (3rd year)

MPO Mike LaVallie (1st year)

To Contact the Patrol

EMERGENCIES

MARINE RADIO CHANNEL 16	Request “Marine Patrol”
LG MARINE PATROL DISPATCH (Warren County Sheriff’s Department)	518-743-2500 or 911

NON EMERGENCIES

LG MARINE PATROL HEADQUARTERS (Monday – Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm)	518-668-9347

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.

Lake George Park Commission

75 Fort George Road, PO Box 749

Lake George, New York 12845

Phone: 518-668-9347

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