

# Wisconsin Scale Boating Association

## Scale Boating Etiquette

June 2001

The following guidelines are not meant to stifle activities of model boaters, but rather to maximize the ultimate enjoyment of *all* members of the Wisconsin Scale Boating Association.

### 1. Treatment of New Members.

Since enjoyment of model boating, whether it be building, modifying, improving, or operating is the prime goal of the WSBA it is hoped that long time members will “go out of their way” to make new members feel welcome and willingly share their knowledge of the hobby with newcomers. Most novices have a lot to learn and may feel hesitant to ask for advice. If you have a special area of expertise share it with others. Helping others is what it’s all about.

### 2. Competitive Events.

While the objective of WSBA competition is to win, members should never lose sight of the primary objective of WSBA which is to have fun. Win or lose the general rule of good sportsmanship should always apply.

### 3. The Frequency Board.

A frequency board is customarily present at both competitive events and Fun-Runs. The board provides a visual display of the frequencies of the transmitters controlling every boat on the pond. The procedure is to place on the board a clothespin containing the name of the boat owner/operator at the designated frequency. The pin should be placed on the board ***BEFORE*** turning on the transmitter, ***Under absolutely no circumstances should a transmitter be activated anywhere in the area unless one’s name pin is in place on the frequency board.***

### 4. Time-Sharing on the Pond.

Observe common courtesy in sharing operating time in the pond. If your transmitter operates on a popular frequency remember there are probably several other boaters waiting to launch their craft. On crowded days after one half hour of running members should inquire if others sharing their frequency are waiting to run. Also the name on the frequency pin will identify the person running at that wavelength on the pond enabling any anxious boater to inquire how long it will be before pond time will be available on the frequency currently in use. Club events are held for the enjoyment of dues paying WSBA members, who are entitled to their share of pond time. A member may allow a responsible youngster or a non-member adult to operate on the member’s time at a given frequency. Members should not however allow them to operate a second boat at a second frequency, thereby depriving dues paying members of pond time on that frequency. If youngsters are old enough to responsibly operate a boat, they are probably old enough to hold “junior membership” in the club and be entitled to operate on their own.

### 5. Unscheduled Boating.

If you are planning to boat on an unscheduled day call a few other members and ask them to spread the word about the outing. Ten boaters can have five times as much fun as two.

## **6. Always be willing to do your part.**

Remember WSBA boating events don't just happen. Someone has to plan them and the membership at large has an obligation to help carry out those plans. In scheduled events like Mall shows, regattas, picnics, or festivals, it takes all hands to assure success. Much preparation is required and the clubs officers cannot do it all. Setting up the WSBA pool at an indoor show takes many man-hours of labor, as does emptying and dismantling the pool. Assuring a steady turnout and constant operation during an event requires commitment on the part of all. Donations from some of these events help defray the cost of operation the club and allow for lower annual dues.

## **7. Operation of Fast Boats.**

Members operating boats on which they have spent months, perhaps years, in the construction process and on which they lavish tender loving care are inclined to get more than a little nervous when a speedy plastic model starts rocketing around the pond. While plastic speedboats are certainly welcome in the club (a number of our members started that way) prudence dictated good judgment in the operation of fast boats. The proper procedure is to request running time for speedboats so the owners of those craft can conduct their own private "demolition derby" if that is their desire. After all, speedsters are crowd pleasers.

## **8. Common Courtesy.**

It is important that rules of common courtesy and friendliness be observed at all times. All model boaters will be judged by the actions and attitudes of the fellows wearing the familiar blue caps and shirts with the WSBA insignia. Treat your fellow boaters and visiting spatters in a courteous, friendly manner. Remember that our welcome at county ponds and elsewhere depends upon our attitude, and the publics perception of us. Help WSBA win all the "brownie points" possible.

## **9. Wear WSBA Apparel at Club Events.**

WSBA members are requested to wear club identification at sanctioned events, caps, polo shirts, tee hirts, and/or name badges if they have them. A tent or mall dotted with the blue and white WSBA insignia makes a favorable impression on sponsors and the public.

## **10. Participation in Non-WSBA Sanctioned Events.**

When modelers choose to take part in events or exhibits not sanctioned by the WSBA it is requested that they not wear apparel bearing the WSBA insignia. The club takes its liability responsibility very seriously. There is no liability insurance coverage for non-sanctioned events, and the club wants to avoid exposure, even by inference, at functions not sanctioned by the WSBA.

## **11. Help Update Club Records.**

Members are urged to keep the secretary informed of any change of address, telephone number, or e-mail address so the club roster may be kept current. Newsletters may be delayed in delivery, or not delivered at all if the club has an incorrect or outdated address. Likewise, members may not be notified of spur of the moment outings if the club does not have current phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

## **12. Channel Identification.**

The number of the channel on which a transmitter is operating should be prominently displayed on the transmitter antenna, facilitating identification of a boater operating on a specific channel. Most radios come with a frequency flag from the manufacturer, or can be purchased at the hobby shop where the radio was purchased.

## **13. Identification of Personal Property.**

It is advisable for members to mark personal property such as chairs, toolboxes, transmitters, battery chargers, etc. with their name to establish ownership of found and help avoid misappropriation.

## **14. Medical Information.**

It would be advisable for members with serious medical issues to keep relevant medical information in their tool box while at the park or event. In case of an emergency a medical history and medication list could be vital in treatment by paramedics. Consult with your physician on what information would be of value in an emergency. Also include contact names and numbers for family. To keep the information confidential seal it in an envelope that is clearly marked as your medical information, and notify fellow members of its location so it can be accessed quickly if needed.

These guidelines are not all inclusive. They will be subject to revision and replacement as circumstance dictates. The WSBA is not trying to be Draconian in structuring its operations but does want policies in place and understood so as to minimize any complications or misunderstandings amongst members and in member dealings with the public. If you have suggestions for additions or corrections feel free to voice them to an officer or at a meeting.