

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

Eugene J. Conway

Sheriff



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Contact: Sergeant Jon Seeber (315) 435-3033 DR#

Sheriff's Navigation Unit make several BWI Arrests Over the Holiday Weekend

The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Navigation Unit issued several tickets and charged five vessel operators with boating while intoxicated over the holiday weekend.

On **July 1st**, deputies assigned to the Navigation Unit stopped a 55-year-old male from Baldwinsville, who was operating a jet ski on the Seneca River in excess of the 10 mph/no wake zone. While deputies were performing an inspection on the jet ski, they detected the smell of alcohol coming from the operator's breath. After failing standard field sobriety tests and registering a BAC of more than .08 times the legal limit, the male was taken into custody. He was charged with boating while intoxicated and operating a vessel with a BAC of



.08% or higher. He was released to a sober third party with tickets returnable for a later date to the Town of Lysander Court.

On **July 2nd**, Deputies stopped a 1989 Raven boat for speeding on the Seneca River. The operator was identified as a 49-year-old male from Hannibal. While deputies were performing an inspection on the boat, they detected the smell of alcohol coming from the operator's breath. After failing standard field sobriety tests and registering a BAC of more than .08 times the legal limit, the male was taken into custody. He was charged with boating while intoxicated, operating a vessel with a BAC of .08% or higher and was issued several tickets for equipment violations. The operator was released to a sober third party with tickets returnable for a later date in the Town of Lysander Court.

On **July 3rd**, while deputies were patrolling the Oneida River, they observed a 2000 Sea Ray boat operating in excess of the 10 mph/no wake zone. Deputies stopped the boat and identified the operator as a 50-year-old male from Central Square. While interviewing the operator and performing a safety inspection, deputies detected the smell of alcohol coming from the operator's breath. After failing standard field sobriety tests and registering a BAC of more than .08 times the legal limit, the operator was subsequently arrested. The operator was released to a sober third party with tickets returnable for a later date in the Town of Cicero Court.

On **July 4th**, while patrolling the Skaneateles Lake, deputies stopped the operator of a 2021 Sea Doo personal watercraft for wake jumping and for having an unsecured life jacket on. The operator was identified as a 21-year-old female from Camillus who was also determined to be operating the watercraft under the influence of alcohol. She was subsequently charged with boating while intoxicated, operating a vessel with a BAC of .08% or higher and was issued tickets for equipment violations. She was released to a sober third party with tickets returnable for a later date in the Town of Skaneateles Court.

That same day, deputies also arrested a 21-year-old male from Homer for operating a 2008 Sea Doo while under the influence of alcohol. After failing standard field sobriety tests and registering a BAC of more than .08 times the legal limit, the operator was charged with boating while intoxicated and operating a vessel with a BAC of .08% or higher. The operator was also charged with operating a personal watercraft without a safety certificate and was issued several tickets for equipment violations. He was released to a sober third party with tickets returnable for a later date in the Town of Skaneateles Court.

Additionally, deputies conducted 83 vessel stops, issued 72 tickets and 141 warning tickets.

The Navigation Unit will continue to patrol and conduct safety inspections on the various waterways throughout Onondaga County and will be on alert for those violating boating under the influence laws as alcohol use remains the leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths.

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