

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Float Tubes ?

Re: Float Tubes ?

Author: : TimMurphy

Date: : 2013/4/10 20:07:58

URL:

Dear jkilroy,

I'm surprised that Poe Valley won't allow float tubes because I have used my float tubes at a half dozen different State Park Lakes and never had a problem.

If you look at the rules for boating at Poe Valley this is what you will read.

"Boating: electric motors only

There is one launch area and fifteen seasonal (April 1 to October 31) mooring spaces on the 25-acre lake. Rental boats are normally available during the summer.

The boat rental near the swimming beach offers paddleboats and other small watercraft for rent. It is open from Memorial Day to Labor day and some weekends in the spring and fall seasons.

Motorboats must display a current boat registration. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration; launching permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launching permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Complete information on boating rules and regulations in Pennsylvania is available from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Web site."

It's same set of rules for every State Park that allows boats. If you read the PA Fish and Boat Commission rules on float tubes you will read this.

"Float tubes or similar devices are permitted while fishing on Fish & Boat Commission lakes so long as the device contains two air bladder systems. It may not be propelled by a mechanical device. The user must wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device."

I could see a State Park prohibiting float tubes and even fishing within a certain distance of the swimming beach and/or the boat launch, but I can't see them posting a ban on float tubes when they post that they follow the boating rules of the Fish and Boat Commission?

As far as a PFD goes I wear a Bass Pro Shop fishing vest type PFD with storage pockets. As long as it is an approved Type 1,2, or 3 PFD you are good to go.

I don't want to give you bad advice and see you get fined based on my experiences so you might want to email the F&BC about use of float tubes on State Park Lakes. They have answered questions I have sent quickly,

usually within a day.

Regards,

Tim Murphy 😊