

**2022 Saratoga Lake Boat Census Summary**  
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**On-Lake Boating Annual Census**

SLPID has been actively monitoring the number and type of boats actively using Saratoga Lake since 2016. The 2022 lake wide boat census was conducted on Saratoga Lake on Sunday, July 3, 2022, from 1:15 -2:45 pm in sunny 80-degree weather with a light breeze. The annual boat count is typically conducted on a fair-weather weekend day in July before track season started. 2021 was the exception due to poor weather on July weekends. Table 1, “On-Lake Boat Count Summary by Zone,” shows total numbers of boats by type and activity for the last seven seasons.

For consistent counting purposes, the lake was divided into 7 geographic zones. Boats were counted by category: active (motorized), anchored (motorized), and non-motorized (all types). Boats moored or parked at private or commercial docks were not counted as part of this effort but are reported below as a separate effort.

| <b>TABLE 1 ON-LAKE BOAT COUNT SUMMARY BY ZONE<br/>2016 – 2022</b> |  |                            |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|---|--|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>ZONE</b>   | <b>LOCATION</b>                                  | <b>TOTAL BOATS COUNTED</b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|   |  | <b>2016</b>                | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> |
| 1   | Browns Beach to Snake Hill                       | 24                         | 37          | 29          | 25          | 36          | 25          | 110         |
| 2   | Snake Hill to Maple Shade                        | 73                         | 33          | 25          | 43          | 53          | 22          | 46          |
| 3   | Maple Shade to Cedar Bluffs                      | 16                         | 23          | 7           | 15          | 17          | 17          | 22          |
| 4A/4B   | Cedar Bluffs & Kayaderosseras Creek to 9P Bridge | 46                         | 67          | 66          | 71          | 39          | 75          | 37          |
| 5   | 9P Bridge to SLPID Boundary                      | 6                          | 31          | 22          | 33          | 94          | 21          | 49          |
| 6   | Kayaderosseras Creek to Riley Cove               | 128                        | 112         | 131         | 110         | 181         | 55          | 195         |
| 7   | Riley Cove to Stony Point                        | 49                         | 65          | 62          | 44          | 107         | 255         | 84          |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>342</b>                 | <b>368</b>  | <b>342</b>  | <b>341</b>  | <b>527</b>  | <b>470</b>  | <b>543</b>  |

| <b>TABLE 2 TOTAL BOAT COUNT COMPARISON 2016-2022</b> |             |             |             |             |             |             |                         |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| <b>2016</b>  | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>7 – Year Average</b> |
| 342  | 368         | 338         | 341         | 527         | 258         | 543         | 388                     |

| TABLE 3 ON-LAKE BOAT DISTRIBUTION BY ZONE 2016 - 2022 |  |   |      |      |      |                          |      |      |      |  |      |      |      |
|---|--|---|------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|------|--|------|------|------|
| ZONE  | LOCATION   | Active Motorized Boats<br>(Includes jet skis) |      |      |      | Anchored Motorized Boats |      |      |      | Non-Motorized<br>(Kayaks, Canoes, SUPs, Sailboats) |      |      |      |
|   |  | 2016  | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 | 2016                     | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 | 2016   | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
| 1   | Browns Beach to Snake Hill                         | 12  | 15   | 16   | 71   | 1                        | 13   | 7    | 32   | 11   | 1    | 13   | 7    |
| 2   | Snake Hill to Maple Shade                          | 57  | 12   | 9    | 24   | 0                        | 12   | 43   | 20   | 16   | 1    | 1    | 2    |
| 3   | Maple Shade to Cedar Bluffs                        | 14  | 6    | 9    | 10   | 1                        | 0    | 8    | 12   | 1  | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| 4A & 4B   | Cedar Bluffs and Kayaderosseras Creek to 9P Bridge | 31  | 57   | 27   | 28   | 1                        | 3    | 9    | 3    | 14   | 6    | 3    | 6    |
| 5   | 9P Bridge to SLPID Boundary                        | 5   | 10   | 67   | 45   | 1                        | 8    | 13   | 0    | 0  | 4    | 14   | 4    |
| 6   | Kayaderosseras Creek to Riley Cove                 | 37  | 16   | 39   | 63   | 88                       | 101  | 137  | 124  | 3  | 14   | 5    | 8    |
| 7   | Riley Cove to Stony Point                          | 25  | 33   | 34   | 27   | 14                       | 19   | 58   | 17   | 10   | 10   | 15   | 40   |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | 181   | 149  | 201  | 268  | 106                      | 156  | 275  | 208  | 55   | 37   | 51   | 67   |

### At-Dock and On-Land Boat Counts

In 2000, SLPID began an annual boat count of the number of boats that are inactive and docked in the water or dry-docked at both commercial marinas and residential properties. On weekdays the counts are conducted when boat traffic is light, with most resident boats inactive. The information presented in Table 4 below estimates there were 1,937 “resident motorboats” on Saratoga Lake in 2022. This represents a decrease of 325 motorboats over 2021. Approximately 57% were located at commercial marinas and 43% at private properties. About 421 fewer nonmotorized boats were counted over the count performed in 2021.

| <b>TABLE 4 AT-DOCK &amp; ON-LAND BOAT COUNT SUMMARY 2020-2022</b> |                   |              |              |                |              |             |              |              |              |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | <b>Commercial</b> |              |              | <b>Private</b> |              |             | <b>Total</b> |              |              |
|   | <b>2020</b>       | <b>2021</b>  | <b>2022</b>  | <b>2020</b>    | <b>2021</b>  | <b>2022</b> | <b>2020</b>  | <b>2021</b>  | <b>2022</b>  |
| <b>Motorized</b>  | <b>1,014</b>      | <b>1,126</b> | <b>1,113</b> | <b>912</b>     | <b>1,136</b> | <b>824</b>  | <b>1,926</b> | <b>2,262</b> | <b>1,937</b> |
| Motorboats  | 985               | 1,072        | 1,077        | 686            | 759          | 643         | 1,671        | 1,831        | 1,720        |
| Jet Skis  | 29                | 54           | 36           | 226            | 377          | 181         | 255          | 431          | 217          |
| <b>Non-Motorized</b>  | <b>356</b>        | <b>679</b>   | <b>448</b>   | <b>533</b>     | <b>654</b>   | <b>460</b>  | <b>889</b>   | <b>1,333</b> | <b>924</b>   |
| Kayaks  | 130               | 345          | 173          | 272            | 380          | 300         | 402          | 725          | 473          |
| Canoes  | 20                | 61           | 10           | 56             | 49           | 17          | 76           | 110          | 27           |
| Sailboats   | 122               | 150          | 121          | 27             | 37           | 14          | 149          | 187          | 135          |
| SUPs etc.   | 84                | 123          | 144          | 178            | 188          | 129         | 262          | 311          | 273          |

| <b>TABLE 5 AT-DOCK &amp; ON-LAND BOAT COUNT SUMMARY BY MUNICIPALITY 2022</b> |                   |                |              |
|--|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
|  | <b>Commercial</b> | <b>Private</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>TOWN OF SARATOGA</b>  |                   |                |              |
| <b>Motorized</b>   | <b>502</b>        | <b>260</b>     | <b>762</b>   |
| Motorboats   | 484               | 172            | 656          |
| Jet Skis   | 18                | 88             | 106          |
| <b>Non-Motorized</b>   | <b>169</b>        | <b>134</b>     | <b>303</b>   |
| <b>TOWN OF STILLWATER</b>  |                   |                |              |
| <b>Motorized</b>   | <b>144</b>        | <b>251</b>     | <b>395</b>   |
| Motorboats   | 135               | 191            | 326          |
| Jet Skis   | 9                 | 60             | 69           |
| <b>Non-Motorized</b>   | <b>33</b>         | <b>187</b>     | <b>220</b>   |
| <b>TOWN OF MALTA</b>   |                   |                |              |
| <b>Motorized</b>   | <b>132</b>        | <b>267</b>     | <b>399</b>   |
| Motorboats   | 131               | 242            | 373          |
| Jet Skis   | 1                 | 25             | 26           |
| <b>Non-Motorized</b>   | <b>141</b>        | <b>144</b>     | <b>285</b>   |
| <b>CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS</b>  |                   |                |              |
| <b>Motorized</b>   | <b>335</b>        | <b>46</b>      | <b>381</b>   |
| Motorboats   | 327               | 38             | 365          |
| Jet Skis   | 8                 | 8              | 16           |
| <b>Non-Motorized</b>   | <b>71</b>         | <b>45</b>      | <b>116</b>   |

## Findings

- The 2022 boat census yielded a total of 543 boats active on the lake between 1:15 and 2:45pm. This represents an increase of 73 boats over 2021 and is the highest number of boats counted over the 7-year period of the boat census.
- Since 2016, the total number of boats counted on Saratoga Lake ranged from a low of 342 in 2019 to a high of 543 in 2022. The average number of boats over the seven-year period of 2016-2022 was 388 boats.
- The peak number of boats occurs on good weather weekends before the track opens. Lower numbers in 2021 was largely due to the count being conducted in August due to poor weather on July weekends.
- It is most likely the higher boat count in the last few years is due to the pandemic.
- There was a total of 42 jet skis on the lake representing the highest number since 2016.
- The 2022 count includes approximately 124 boats moored at Manning's Cove/Sandy Bay and 17 moored at Stony Point.
- The most significant finding relates to two specific areas of the lake - the Sandy Bay area where boats individually moor and raft together, and the area of the 9P Bridge.
- The majority of the motorboats are kept at Point Breeze Marina, South Shore Marina, Lee's Campground, and Brown's Beach Marina. Most of the kayaks are rentals at The Kayak Shak. As expected, most sailboats are kept at Saratoga Lake Sailing Club.
- Congestion in the vicinity of the 9P Bridge is common during times of high boat activity on weekends. It is not unusual to have several boats in a holding pattern on the north side of the bridge with boats trying to launch and leave both the State Boat Launch and the Saratoga Marina launch. This situation is made more complex with a large increase in SUPs and kayaks in the Fish Creek approach on the north and south side of the bridge. The area near and under the bridge is narrow and extremely limited and made more problematic by other motorized and non-motorized trying to pass under the bridge.
- The at dock/on shore boat count yielded a count of 1,937 motorized boats and 924 non-motorized boats. The distribution of motorized boats is highest in the Town of Saratoga (39%). The other three communities have a nearly even distribution of the remaining boats counted on land and at docks (Malta 399; Stillwater 395; Saratoga Springs 381).