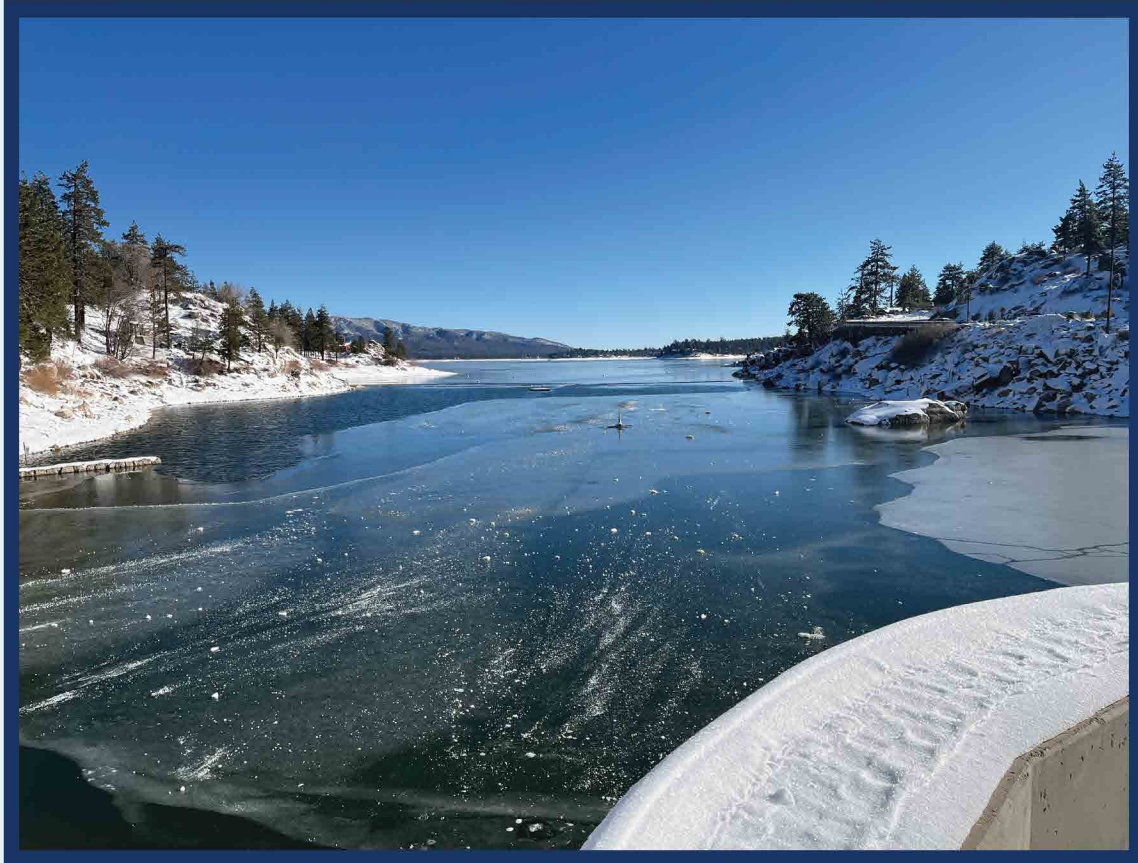


# Lake Views

www.bbmwd.com

The mission of the District is to maintain Big Bear Lake for recreation and wildlife.

Volume 27



## *Your Big Bear Lake Management*

### 2023 Board of Directors

Steve Ludecke

Division 1

Bob Rehfluss

Division 2

Craig Brewster

Division 3

Mark Lee

Division 4

Tom Bradford

Division 5



Mike Stephenson  
General Manager

LAKE FACTS

The BBMWD has been releasing water from the Bear Valley Dam to maintain the trout fishery in Bear Creek since 1995. The amount of water being released from the Dam is dictated by a California State Water Resources Control Board Order and its amendment. The instantaneous amount of water (in cubic feet per second) being released at any time is based upon precipitation to date and time of year. This release amounts to less than 3" of water loss per year.

Lake Level 12/20/2021 - 16ft 5in Below Full

Lake Level 12/19/2022 - 17ft 3in Below Full

2022 Year Precipitation at the Dam - 29.63in

Average Annual Precipitation at the Dam -  
32.34in

Average Annual Evaporative Loss - 3ft~4ft

Lake Capacity - 73,320 acre feet

Full Lake Surface Area - 2,971 acre feet

Lake Shoreline - 22 miles



## STAY OFF LAKE ICE

Winter is here and this year it's a cold one. The snow from the storm a few weeks back is taking its sweet time melting, and there is ice out on the Lake pretty much all day. An icy lake with a snowy background makes for beautiful pictures but a dangerous situation.

Never walk out onto the lake ice, no matter how thick you think it is. The ice on Big Bear Lake never gets thick enough for a human to walk on safely. If you walk out on the ice, you will fall through, into the frigid water below. If you manage to survive the initial cold-water shock, you have less than 15 minutes for a rescuer to get you out and somewhere warm before hypothermia sets in.

If you are by yourself, your chances of surviving a fall though the ice are basically zero. The initial fall into cold water can cause involuntary inhalation of water, putting you in a worse place. Then, you have less than two minutes before losing dexterity and less than 15 minutes to get out before losing consciousness.

With or without a rescuer, drowning is a distinct possibility after you fall through the ice. Cold-water shock when you first fall in can cause you to inhale water involuntarily. Even if you don't inhale water upon first submersion, you are far from out of danger. It does not matter how strong of a swimmer you are as the cold water will sap your strength and cause your limbs to stiffen, making it significantly more difficult to escape the freezing water.

Aside from the mortal danger associated with walking out on the lake ice, getting caught walking on the ice will result in a \$500 fine as covered by San Bernardino County Code 52.0502.

## WINTER DOCK STORAGE

When the snow starts to fly, you know it's time to double check your dock to make sure it is properly stored for the winter. Dock owners have a few options when it comes to storing their docks for the winter.

1. Hire one of the commercial marinas which has been authorized by the BBMWD to store docks. The marina will handle all the storage requirements for you.
2. Securely anchor your dock offshore in the vicinity of your property. The dock should be no more than 100ft from the waterline or within the centerline of the bay/cove, whichever is closer, while also not interfering with any adjacent property. Make sure that your dock is properly set up with retainer clips to ensure that it does not float away during winter storms or if lake level rises over the course of the winter.
3. Pull your dock out of the water and above the high water line, placing it on the dock license holders property.

# STAY OFF LAKE ICE



**UP TO \$500 FINE**

### PRESENCE ON FROZEN BODY OF WATER PROHIBITED

Except as provided in section 52.0503, when ice or snow is present on all of any part of the surface of any frozen body of water, no person shall walk, run, play, ice skate or otherwise travel upon the surface of Big Bear Lake and Stanfield Marsh, nor shall any person operate a snowmobile, A.T.C., motorcycle, ice boat, automobile or any other vehicle upon said ice in any manner.

**S.B. COUNTY CODE 52.0502**

Have a safe winter, enjoy the snow, and most importantly,

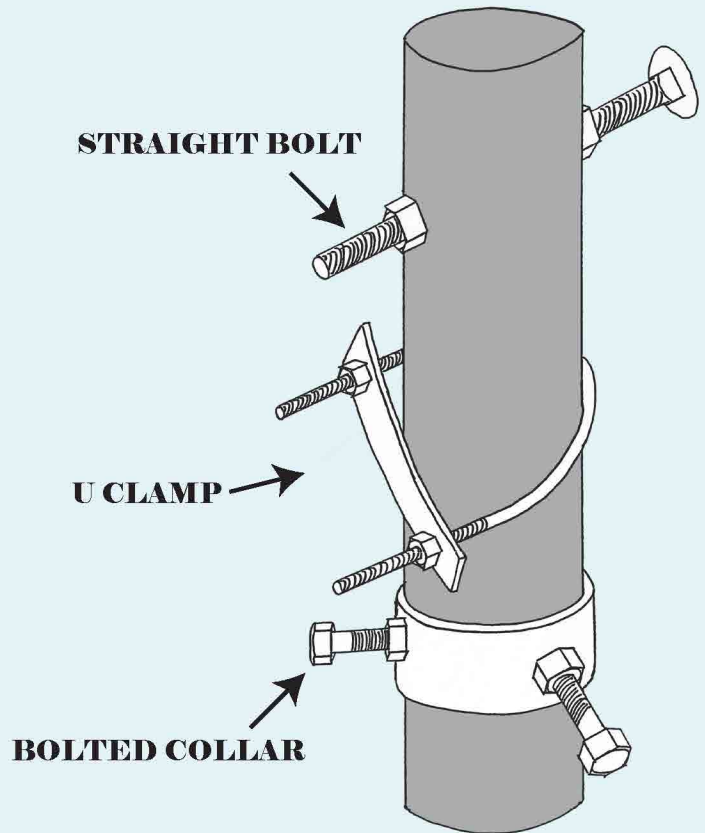
**STAY OFF THE LAKE ICE!**



## DOCK MAINTENANCE

Preparing to store your dock for winter provides you an excellent opportunity to inspect it for wear and damage. Three things to check for as you inspect your dock are:

1. Rotting, warping, or other signs of wear and tear on the deck. If any of the boards are looking banana shaped, holey, or crumbly, it is probably time to replace them. Ideally, this would be done before the winter, as the pressure from winter snow and ice can cause the dock to break apart and even sink.
2. Make sure to remove any dock accessories at the end of the season. Winter storms can cause these items to break free of your dock and become trash on the Lake. Accessories left on your dock during the winter can also contribute to dock failure by adding additional weight on top of any naturally occurring snow and ice.
3. Come springtime, check your dock thoroughly for any winter related damage. Make sure the deck is in order and replace any damaged boards. Ensure that cleats are still firmly attached to your dock and any mooring lines left out over winter are still usable.



## BASIC GUIDELINES FOR WINTERIZING YOUR BOAT\*



1. Always remove the drain plug and position the bow higher than the stern. This will allow water that gets into the boat during the winter to drain out the back.
2. Drain all water out of the cooling system. Change the oil and replace filters. Add antifreeze to any closed loop cooling systems. Remove the battery and store it in a dry place.
3. Make sure any and all through hull fittings and drains are free of obstructions. Any trapped water can freeze and expand, damaging your boat.
4. Top off the fuel tank and add a fuel stabilizer. Run the motor for a few seconds to make sure the stabilized fuel is in all parts of the engine.

5. Cover your boat for the winter. Shrink wrap or a heavy-duty cover will go a long way to preserving your vessel.

\*Please note that these are general guidelines for the winterization process. The specifics of your vessel may not be covered by this article and additional information may be required.



# **NEW FACES ON THE BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Big Bear Municipal Water District Board of Directors has some new faces in 2023. Director Ludecke, Director Brewster, and Director Eminger all called 2022 their final year on the MWD Board of Directors.

Steve Ludecke was elected to represent District I in the November 2022 local elections.

### *Bio*

Director Steve Ludecke has been a resident of the Big Bear Valley for nearly 45 years. He grew up in the valley and is the owner and operator of Ludecke's Electrical Service. He looks forward to serving his community on the MWD board.

Craig Brewster was elected to represent District III in the November 2022 local elections.

### *Bio*

Director Craig Brewster grew up in the valley, living here over 40 years. He is the owner of the Robinhood Resort and looks forward to giving back to his community.

Mark Lee was appointed by the Board of Directors to represent District IV on October 20th, 2022.

### *Bio*

Director Mark Lee has been a local contractor since 2010 and has enjoyed boating and fishing on Big Bear Lake. He became interested in the position when he decided it was time to give back to the community that has given him so much.

## **DAM GATES PROJECT**

In September of 2022, the Big Bear Municipal Water District had the 14 inch and the 24 inch gates replaced. The old gates were originally installed in 1988 and developed bad leaks over time.

The leaking water made calculating water releases to preserve the trout fishery in Bear Creek difficult as it would change with the seasons and as silt built up behind the gates. The new gates are fully installed, and not a drop of water leaks from them.

Both gates and their hardware are made of stainless steel to prevent issues caused by corrosion. The actuators have state-of-the-art technology allowing them to be operated remotely and have a heat tape wrap to prevent freezing.



Typically, the 14" and 24" gates are closed. However, they can be opened in case of a storm event to help keep the Lake from overtopping the Bear Valley Dam.

Old Gates (left)



New Gates (right)