

Hardwick, Hon. Kevin

From: LAWRENCE CULP
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 3:09 PM
To: Hardwick, Hon. Kevin
Subject: Safety on the Niagara River
Attachments: Poker Run.tif

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I have been concerned for some time now about safety on the Niagara River, putting the general public in danger by boat racing on the river. Every year one or two races are done on the river that are supposedly sanctioned according to their website by the US Coast Guard (but are not). The races I'm talking about are called Poker Runs. These are done once or twice a season. Of course, these races are not sanctioned by anyone. If you go to their website they boast that there are more than 118 boats participating in this race as of 2014 and these boats are known as offshore racers and exceed speeds of 100 MPH. These boats are far bigger, much faster and many more than the true sanctioned race of the Thunder on Niagara. For this race, notices are given to the public and the river is closed down. On the other hand, the Poke Run is known only to those in the know (club), the public is not informed when the race is on, putting whoever is on the water in great jeopardy. I have personally witnessed near misses. If you're on the water, there is no place to go. Of course, if your a kayaker, a canoeist, a scuba diver, you could become hamburger. Under NY State boating law, Section 44 this activity is illegal. It seems that the authorities are turning a blind eye to this and do not realize the extent to which the public is put in danger. My hope is that the Erie County Legislature will take this matter up and can improve the safety on the river before someone is killed.

I have attached a picture of a Poker Run from 2014 of a boat flip over. BTW I understand something like this happened at Isle View Park last year.

To discuss this in further detail, I can be reached by e-mail.

Thank you,

Lawrence Culp
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2014 Offshore Powerboat Gets Airborne at Lake Cumberland Poker Run.

