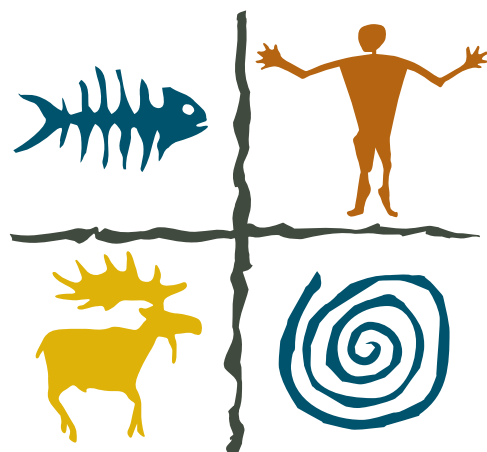


WELCOME ABOARD!



E B E L'S
VOYAGEUR HOUSEBOATS

This manual was created to assist you while on vacation. We hope you find it helpful.

Katy, Justin, and Heather Ebel

EBEL'S VOYAGEUR HOUSEBOATS

WELCOME ABOARD !!!

Whether this is your first houseboat trip, or one of many, all of us at EBEL'S would like to welcome you to Voyageurs National Park.

The facilities and lands in the park are managed, developed and protected through the cooperation of federal, state, private and volunteer organizations.

The US National Park Service is the primary administrator for the area providing environmental oversight, long term preservation planning and seeing that visitors to Voyageurs fully experience and understand the importance of this federally protected area.

The US Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Minnesota DNR also play an important role in maintaining and developing this immense recreation area.

All organizations maintain a presence on the lake and in surrounding lands year round. If you should need assistance at any time on your vacation with us, chances are it will be dedicated individuals from these organizations that will be there to lend a hand.

Voyageurs is a vacation community—relying on the cooperation of boaters and vacationers like yourself to maintain this remote and wonderful destination.

As you can imagine, one of our primary concerns is to conserve this precious resource for the future generation. You will see and hear similar messages many times on your vacation.

Enjoy yourself and have a safe and pleasant vacation, but please pack out whatever you take in. It's up to us all to keep Voyageurs clean and safe—for those that have yet to visit.

Relax and have fun at Voyageurs. We wish you all the best vacation ever! Remember, we're here to help if you need us. ENJOY!



Table of Contents

1. Basic Rules	4
2. Things to Know	5-6
3. Tips for your Trip	7-8
4. Stay Safe	9-12
5. Suggested Items	13
6. Overnight Permits	14-15
7. Buoys	16
8. Towing Tips	17
9. Houseboat Sites	18
10. Parking your Boat	19-21
11. Small Motor Operation	22-23
12. Kettle Falls	24
13. Marine Radio	25-27
14. Refueling	28
15. Emergencies	29
16. What to Expect Upon Arrival	30-31
17. Morning Return	32
18. Pet Policy	33
19. Incidental/Damage Prices	34
20. Glossary	35

Basic Rules

1. It is Ebel's policy that the houseboat charter/lessee be 18 years of age or older and that the operator of each vessel be of 18 years of age or older.
2. It is Ebel's policy that operation of any size or configuration of rental boats after dark is prohibited except in case of medical emergencies.
3. Do not allow more passengers on your houseboat than is the maximum capacity. *The Coast Guard maximum capacity is 12 people on all the rental houseboats.*
4. Do not operate your houseboat over a wake less speed while inside of a harbor or within 150 feet of another vessel, people or shore. *Wakes can cause damage to boats that are moored inside of harbor areas. You will be responsible for damage done by the wake your boat creates.*
5. Do not operate your boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. It is illegal to fish without a license. Minnesota licenses can be obtained at Ebel's.
7. Do not bring firearms, fireworks or chainsaws into Voyageurs.
8. Know the slot limits and fishing regulations. Regulations for Namakan Lake; Kabetogama Lake, including Sullivan Bay and Ash River to Ash River Falls; Crane Lake and Sand Point Lake include; All from 17-28" must be immediately released. One over 28" allowed in possession. Possession limit is four.
9. Do not allow any members of your crew who are under 10 years of age outside the cabin of your houseboat without a life vest. It is against state law and can carry up to a \$1000.00 fine per child.
10. Do not throw waste of ANY kind into the waters of Voyageurs or bury it on shore. *The disposal of trash, garbage, plastics, oil and other items is illegal and prohibited on land or water.*
11. Do not operate your houseboat in an unsafe, reckless, or negligent manner.
12. At no time should you, your boat or its wake endanger any other boat, their occupants or any other people. Remember YOU are responsible for the safe operation of your boat.

Things to Know

National Park Rangers enforce a wide spectrum of federal laws and regulations and a variety of state statutes. Familiarize yourself with park rules.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- **DO NOT DESTROY OR COLLECT NATURAL OR CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE PARK.** This includes cutting live trees and collecting any natural or cultural resources except berries and nuts.
- **DO NOT HARASS WILDLIFE!** Observe wildlife quietly from a distance. Animals need adequate space to feed, nest, and raise young. Do not disturb wildlife, especially nesting birds or adults with young.
- **DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!** Operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited and punishable by law.
- **PUBLIC USE CLOSURES:** Check at visitor centers and boat ramp bulletins for areas closed for protection of visitors or park resources. Closed areas are posted with signs.
- **Hunting** is not allowed in the park.
- **Firearms, fireworks, and archery equipment** are prohibited. **Chain saws** are prohibited.
- **KNOW CANADIAN FISHING AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS** before you cross the border~(807) 274-3655.
- **PETS MUST BE LEASHED AND ATTENDED TO AT ALL TIMES.** They are allowed in developed areas; around visitor centers, boat ramps, and picnic areas; on entrance roads; and at houseboat sites on the four main lakes. *They must be restrained on a leash not more than 6' long and under your control.*

Things to Know

- **PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON PARK TRAILS OR IN THE BACK-COUNTRY.**
- **QUIET TIME** ~ Park wide 10pm to 6am.
- **EXTINGUISH FIRES WHEN LEAVING CAMPSITES.**
- **ANGLERS KNOW THE SLOT!** If you plan to fish in the park get a copy of the Minnesota Fishing Regulations at Ebel's. A fishing license is required to fish. Know the slot limit (size limit) for the lakes where you will be fishing. Park rangers enforce Minnesota state fishing regulations.
- **SWIMMING, DIVING, OR BATHING** is prohibited at docks in developed areas (Kettle Falls).
- **WATER SKIING** is prohibited in navigation channels.
- **DON'T LITTER.** Pack out what you pack in. Litter, no matter how small not only detracts for the natural experience of the area, it can adversely affect wildlife. Cans, bottles, even cigarette butts need to be properly disposed of. As a general rule, never dump anything in the lake. It is the boaters' responsibility to monitor and coach all fellow passengers on this important subject.
- **PEOPLE & PET WASTE DISPOSAL.** With so many visitors to Voyagers, when it comes to *sewage* we must all be careful to observe not only good conservation practices, but the laws as well. Human and pet waste can *only* be disposed of at designated pump outs. NEVER use the beaches and shoreline as a toilet and never dump sewage into the lake, its shoreline or in trash receptacles! Again, with so many visitors, the delicate forest environment responds far too slowly for decomposition of shoreline waste.

Tips for your Trip

Loading your Houseboat

Never load or overload your boat in a manner as to decrease its seaworthiness. Never allow more than the maximum capacity aboard.

Do not carry along any unnecessary weight. Excess weight increases fuel consumption and affects handling.

Distribute the load evenly. Your vessel should be balanced from side to side, as well as from front to back. *Take special care not to overload the front deck or back deck.*

Know the Weather

Weather conditions can change rapidly. If you are on the water and observe a storm approaching, seek shelter in a protected cove away from the wind and waves.

Waves can be very severe when windy conditions exist. Again, seek shelter, BEFORE you are caught in high winds and waves. Lifejackets are advised for all passengers in adverse conditions.

Operating in rough water or against strong headwinds may cause damage and consume a lot of fuel. If there are strong winds or a storm coming, it is best to seek shelter on shore.

Listen to the daily weather forecast, which is available on the Marine Radio daily. All boats are equipped with Marine Radios. The forecast is broadcasted on channel 1 or 5 (not 01 or 05).

Engine Use

Once under way, it is most efficient to cruise at a moderate speed of around 2800 RPM's.

Tips for your Trip

Refrigerator or Freezer

We provide a large cooler on all houseboats. This should be used for drinks and snacks, so that the refrigerator does not need to be opened as often. Try to open the refrigerator door only when necessary.

Remember that the warmest areas of the refrigerator are on the upper door shelves. The coolest areas are under the cooling fins and at the bottom. The refrigerator *will not* cool as efficiently as your household refrigerator.

Having food frozen upon arrival is helpful in keeping the refrigerator running properly.

Try to beach the houseboat so that the refrigerator will be in the shade.

The freezer on the houseboat is not designed for deep or quick freezing.

Do not place warm items in the freezer. Condensation from warm items will adversely affect the operation of the freezer.

The coldest part of the freezer is at the bottom. Ice cubes can be made if placed in direct contact with the bottom of the freezer.

Boat Fires

Charcoal barbecues and deep fat fryers are *prohibited* on board your houseboat. **These may be used on shore *only*!**

The fire extinguishers are located on board your houseboat. Never hesitate to use one even on the smallest fire.

Stay Safe!

IMPORTANT

A children under 10 years of age must wear a lifejacket at all times while the houseboat is moving. Fines can be up to \$1,000.00 per violation.

Know where your lifejackets are stored. Be sure that you and every member of your crew always have a Personal Flotation Device immediately accessible. Children should only be allowed to remove their life vest when in the closed confines of the houseboat cabin.

SWIM SAFE

- Before swimming near your houseboat ~ turn off engines and generator. Allow air to clear. **NEVER RUN THE GENERATOR WHILE SWIMMING!**
- Carbon Monoxide stays low, near the water and can be deadly.
- Propellers may turn even when out of gear and can cause serious injury.
- Do not jump or dive from the upper deck or from any railings.
- Rocks and branches can be hidden beneath the water's surface.
- You should not swim from an unmoored houseboat.
- Never swim in the main channel, bay or any areas with excessive boat traffic.
- Do not swim under houseboat or run on the top decks.
- Do not use boarding ramp or gang plank as a diving board. The unsupported end can bend or break, causing damage or injury.
- Always use a slide feet first.
- It is important that you know the water depth and check for rocks or underwater hazards.

Stay Safe!

EXTRA FUEL

We supply about 25 gallons of premium gas. Storage of personal fuel containers is limited to 4 Coast Guard approved containers of 6 gallons each and must be stored in your tag along boat. **NOTE:** We do not allow storing, transporting or dispensing fuel from containers on the houseboats. This must be done on shore. Be aware of all ignition sources. The Waiver of Liability may not cover damage resulting from the improper storage, transportation or dispensing of fuel.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Drink only from the Fresh Water faucets on board your houseboat.

Do not drink lake water. *Giardia Lamblia* is a tiny protozoan often found in streams and lakes. It can cause diarrhea, cramps, and/or bloating. These symptoms generally require medical treatment.

YOU ARE IN A WILD AREA

Help keep wild animals wild. Please do not feed wild or domestic animals you may encounter along the lake.

TO AVOID TEMPTING THE LOCALS!

Do not leave food in open containers.

Keep all dishes and utensils clean and secure in drawers or cupboards.

Do not leave doors to the houseboat open. Pull in gangplank at night.

By allowing your anchor lines to *droop* in the water slightly, mice should not be able to climb aboard.

Avoid handling rodent remains, nests, food piles or droppings without first putting on rubber gloves.

Stay Safe!

CARBON MONOXIDE WARNING!

Carbon Monoxide (“CO”) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by the combustion of fossil fuels. This occurs in all gasoline engines and propane powered equipment. CO is poisonous.

Never sleep or swim while the generator is running. Do not operate generator overnight.

Signs of exposure include nausea, dizziness, headache and drowsiness. CO poisoning can result in brain damage or death.

Provide adequate ventilation whenever using propane appliances, generators and outboard motors. Houseboats with generators are equipped with CO detectors. Listen to and believe alarms! **DO NOT TAMPER WITH CO DETECTORS!**

Never tie two or more houseboats together. Never tie tag boat on the side of the houseboat. These things may cause CO to enter boats and due to restricted air flow the CO has nowhere to ventilate.

We recommend that you not utilize the rear deck of the houseboat while engines and/or generator are operating as CO fumes may be present.

DESIGNATE A RESPONSIBLE CAPTAIN. The captain of a houseboat must be at least 18 years of age.

IMPORTANT: IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO OPERATE A BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS. If alcohol is being consumed, make sure a responsible driver remains alcohol free. Heat, sun and water glare intensify human reactions to alcohol. Most serious boat-ing accidents are alcohol or drug related. Alcohol and drugs impair judgment, reactions, and alertness.

AVOID DRIVING IN VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK AT NIGHT. Operating your rental boat after sunset is dangerous and is PROHIBITED. All boats must moor each night, the only₁ exception is in the case of a medical emergency.

Stay Safe!

PRACTICE COURTEOUS BOATING

Never operate any vessel in an unsafe, reckless, or negligent manner.

Wake less speed is considered less than 1000 RPM's and does not produce a noticeable wake behind your craft.

You are responsible for any damage or injuries caused by your wake, whether in a marina or in the open lake. Slow down when in a harbor or within 150 feet of another boat, person or shore.

DEALING WITH WAKES AND WAVES

Approach a large wake or wave *slowly*, in gear for maneuverability, and at a 45 degree angle. This will minimize its impact on your houseboat.

It is a good idea to close the front cabin doors when encountering large waves or wakes.

Wind can cause rough water and large waves and swells on the lake. It is a good idea to seek shelter in a protected bay and wait for calmer waters.

Failure to avoid, handle, or navigate through or around large wakes and waves may result in loss of control, physical damage, personal injury, or being thrown overboard.

BOW RIDING

Riding on the houseboat outside of any gates or rails is illegal and hazardous.

Keep all gates closed when the houseboat is in motion. Keep all arms and legs within railings.

Falling off of a moving houseboat may result in serious injury or death from impact, contact with propellers or drowning.

Suggested Items

- Sunscreen! The summer sun on the water is strong. Make sure you have plenty of waterproof sunscreen.
- Lotion or moisturizer! Make sure to bring plenty.
- Small First Aid Kit (include some allergy and aspirin tablets).
- Personal Care items (small, trial-size items are perfect for a houseboat trip and Ivory soap floats!)
- Insect repellent and citronella candles. Light candles around front deck to keep away insects.
- Lots of beach towels.
- Everyone should have a hat or a visor and sunglasses, especially the little kids.
- Rafts or Pool Noodles (5' long colored foam tubes)... great for lounging in the water.
- You can never have enough fresh water, soda, or juices. Be sure to stock up! You will want to bring snack foods and fresh fruit and veggies. Quick and simple snacks are Voyageur's favorites.
- Batteries! Make sure you bring along extras in all the sizes you'll need.
- Cards and games can make for a fun afternoon or evening with houseboating friends and family.
- Don't forget to grab that book you've been wanting to read. The beach is a great place for getting away.
- Fishing licenses and tackle. Licenses and a limited supply of tackle are available at Ebel's.
- Beach shoes, water shoes, sandals, and footwear for hiking and exploring.
- All boats are equipped with a AM/FM radio and CD player. So bring along your favorite CD's
- Houseboats with an on-board generator also have DVD players.

Overnight Permits

Overnight Permit Information Houseboat Management in Voyageurs National Park

- Houseboats are required to get a permit for overnight stays from www.recreation.gov
- There is no limit to the number of houseboats allowed in the park at one time
- Reservations will not be site specific, rather for overnight stays
- There will be a \$10 fee per night, for each night in the park, (ex: 5 nights = \$50)
- If you cancel a reservation before you print the permit , you will forfeit the first nights fee, \$10
- Once you print your permit there will be no refunds
- Designated Houseboat sites may be used on first-come, first-served basis.
- There is a limit of two houseboats per each designated site
- Houseboats may stay at an undesignated site as long as they are at least 200 yards away from any developed site, or structure.
- Houseboats may not moor overnight at Park Service docks.
- Houseboats wishing to pitch a tent must go onto www.recreation.gov and reserve a tent site for those in the party who want to do this. However, a **Houseboat may not moor at the tent sites.**
- Houseboats are allowed to stay overnight in the two group campsites, R-74 on Rainy Lake and K-54 on Kabetogama Lake. The group must have a permit for the group site plus a permit for each houseboat. The group campsite limit is at least 14 and no more than 30 people.
- Each party must display a permit at their site on the houseboat.
- Rangers in the field may ask to see your overnight permit. Failure to possess and display a valid overnight permit may result in a citation.

Overnight Permits

Making a Houseboat Reservation on www.recreation.gov

1. Go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777
2. Go to **sign in** or **sign up** in upper right. Either log in or set up account.
3. Click on **Find Places and Activities** at the top of screen.
4. In the **Search** box enter Voyageurs National Park . Click **Search**.
5. Click on the **4th choice, Voyageurs National Park Houseboat permits**
6. **Choose Voyageurs National Park Houseboat Permits, check availability**
7. On the left side of the screen, under Find Permits:
Looking For: select Overnight Houseboat.
Entrance: select lakes you plan to be on either: Kabetogama, Namakan, and Sand Point, KNS or Rainy, RL
Dates enter the date of the first night you want to stay overnight in the park.
Under Length of Stay put in the number of nights you are camping, just the NUMBER ONLY, do not put the word “days” or “nights”. Hit search
8. This will open up a page that has Entrance List highlighted, click on See Details
9. This will show a two week calendar with your dates highlighted in gold.
10. Choose Book permit
11. Select house boat ownership from drop down
12. If the boat is a privately owned houseboat, fill in the required information in the box.
13. Fill in group size, and emergency contact info
14. Read the park information, check box and then click on continue to shopping cart.
15. Confirm the details are correct and then click on check out tab
16. Enter required payment information and click on Complete this purchase.
17. If within 14 days of the trip you will get a “Print tickets and Permits” and you can print your permit.
18. If greater than 14 days before your trip you cannot print your permit, but will be notified when you can print it

Bouys

GREEN

CAN BOUYS ARE GREEN WITH ODD NUMBERS. KEEP THEM TO THE LEFT WHEN GOING UPSTREAM.



RED

NUNS BOUYS ARE RED WITH EVEN NUMBERS. KEEP THEM TO THE RIGHT WHEN GOING UPSTREAM.



The U.S. Coast Guard Buoy System: The Coast Guard numbered red and green buoy system is used to guide boaters and mark hazards. To use this system you need to know the direction of lake flow. Namakan, Sand Point and Crane all flow north or down lake towards Kettle Falls. Kabetogama Lake flows east of down lake to Namakan and Kettle Falls. Remember red buoys to your right while traveling up lake (red right return).

ORANGE STRIPE OR CIRCLE

INFORMATION BOUYS WHICH ADVISE BOATERS OF A WAKELESS AREA.



ORANGE DIAMOND

INDICATES AN UNDERWATER DANGER (SAND BAR, ROCKS, ECT.) NEVER PASS BETWEEN THE SHORELINE AND A DANGER BOUY!



Towing Tips

TOWING OTHER VESSELS

At least one small boat with motor is required to be taken along on your houseboat vacation with Ebel's. A small boat can enhance your time in Voyageurs National Park. One benefit to having a small boat is having the ability to portage into Rainy Lake at Kettle Falls if you would like. Plus, you are able to travel farther in less time and therefore use less fuel.

Here are a few guidelines to follow to help make towing additional boats easier:

- Do not tie small boats to the side of your houseboat when underway. This can cause extensive damage to both boats to be paid by charterer.
- Use at least 15 feet of towline, tying the line to the rear on the houseboat and the bow eye of the small craft.
- **NEVER** use the bow cleat on the small boat for towing—they are not strong enough. Have a member of your crew attend to the towline when starting or stopping the houseboat.
- Use gentle acceleration to get under way and lone slowing when stopping are required. This way you will have ample time to tend to the towed craft(s).
- Make sure to put the towed craft(s) along side the houseboat when backing up, or tie up to the houseboat after it has already been turned around.
- Make sure if backing up, a crew member is watching tow ropes so they do not get stuck in the props.
- Periodically check the craft in tow.

Houseboat Sites

THE BASICS

- All sites require a permit!
- Obey all site closure signs.
- Recommended maximum group size = 2 Houseboats
- **Fires** Use only dead, downed, or approved firewood, including driftwood, except within developed area and where posted. Cutting live trees or dead standing trees is prohibited. Fires are permitted in metal fire rings. Construct no new rock rings. Campfires must be completely extinguished when you are not at the site.
- **Kettle Falls** Over night sites are available at Kettle Falls away from the main docks.
- **Leaving property unattended in an overnight site for 24 hours or more is illegal.**
- **Know where to go!** Houseboaters may not stay overnight:
 - At day use sites.
 - Within 200 yards of a designated tent, houseboat, or day use site.
 - On private or leased land.
 - Within 1/4 mile of any park-developed area.
 - Within 1/4 mile of any structure.Houseboats use houseboat sites, and tent campers use tent sites.
Day use is not allowed at a houseboat site as there is no toilet.



Parking Your Boat

AT A DOCK

- ***Approach the dock slowly.*** A houseboat is a large, heavy vessel that has a lot of momentum. Begin slowing early and use “reverse” as needed to slow the vessel. Be sure to watch your small boats' tow rope.
- ***Change your direction with small turns of the Steering Wheel.*** The steering acts slowly due to the size and weight of the boat. Also, with the engines located on the stern (back) of the vessel, you'll experience a wider tail swing than the bow. Imagine that there is a pivot point in the center of the boat.
- ***Shift into Neutral—Pause.*** Never shift into gear (forward or reverse) without first pausing at the idle speed. Allow the RPM's to drop in order to avoid gear damage.
- ***Shift into Reverse.*** Shifting into reverse will cause you to slow. The engines act as a braking system.

IMPORTANT:

- Maintain a slow speed in reverse and don't *rev* the engines. This can cause damage to the motor and may kick the engine up out of the water.
- When backing up, turn the wheel in the *opposite* direction that you want the bow to go.
- ***Remember that there are no brakes on a houseboat.*** Make sure to come into a dock very slowly. The momentum can be slowed down by shifting into reverse, but it will not stop it completely!

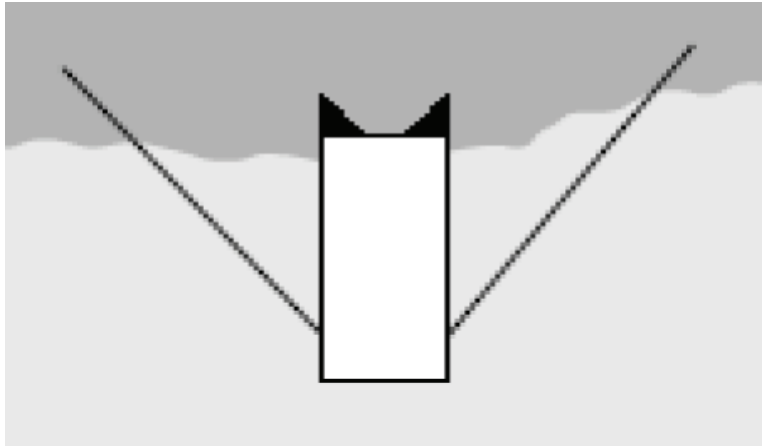
Parking Your Boat



AT A HOUSEBOAT OR UNDEVELOPED SITE

- *Select a site.*
- *Approach the site to that the houseboat is at a 90 degree angle, or perpendicular to the beach.* Make sure to prepare the boat and crew prior to the beaching.
- *Post a watch on the front deck to keep the driver informed about the depth, rocks, ect.* This person should never be outside the railing of the boat and should hold onto something for balance as the boat is being beached.
- Keep the remaining passengers in the cabin to avoid being “bow-heavy” when beaching.
- **DO NOT RAM THE SHORELINE. YOU WILL GET STUCK!!**
- Be sure you have at least 6 feet of water under the stern for engine clearance.
- Once the bow has touched the beach and the boat has stopped, add additional forward power to the engines to secure the houseboat up on the beach at a 90 degree (perpendicular) angle, allowing both pontoons to be secure to the shoreline.
- Leave engines in gear at an idle speed to hold the boat square to the beach until the mooring ropes are set. The captain should remain at the wheel while the engines are running.

Parking Your Boat

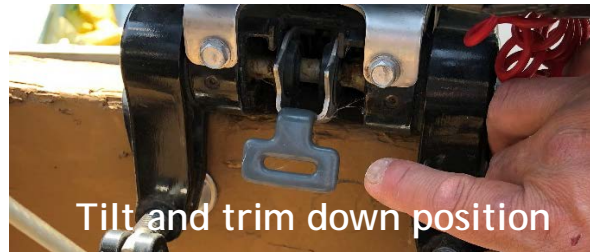


GETTING OFF THE BEACH

- ***Start the engines.*** The captain can use the motors to hold the boat square to the beach until the mooring ropes have been pulled in.
- ***Untie the knot from the mooring post/tree.*** Be certain that the mooring ropes do not get into the turning propellers. Pull all lines back onto the boat and stow them, so they can't fall into the water while underway.
- ***Put the engines into reverse.*** Keep the RPM's low when in reverse. Revving the engines while in reverse can cause damage. *Do not exceed 4000 RPM's while in reverse.*
- ***Turn the wheel from side to side.*** If the boat does not back freely from the beach, turn the wheel from side to side. This will cause the stern to *swing* back and forth. Let the swing go for 10-15 feet on either side. This way, you will *wiggle* the heavy pontoons off the beach. You may also ask the crew to stand on the back deck, which will also lighten the bow where the boat is stuck.
- ***Be careful not to submerge the engine or engines with excessive weight on the back deck.***

Small Motor Operation

1. Tilt the motor down before use.

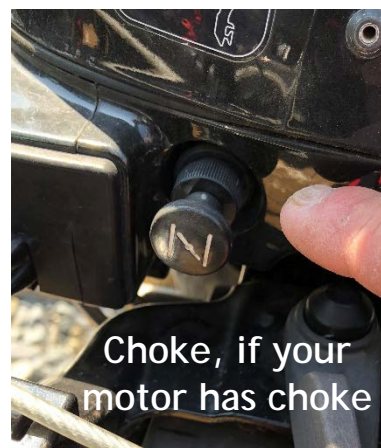


2. Ensure that all appropriate levers are in the neutral position or that the arrows are lined up.



3. Prime the fuel bulb and make sure the tank vent is open.

4. If equipped with choke, and the motor is cold, pull out choke lever. Do not use more than 2-3 pulls or if motor is fired and running.



Small Motor Operation

5. Pull motor over slowly, if it does not pull freely, it is *not in neutral* or the lockout is engaged. *Do not force!*
Note: The lockout could be engaged due to trying to start the motor in gear. This could cause damage.
6. Pull motor until it starts. Excessive pulling of engine could result in flooding.
7. Tilt motor up when finished.



Kettle Falls Area



This is the area that houseboat mooring sites are located. The main docks at Kettle Falls are OFF LIMITS to houseboats.

Marine Radio

Your houseboat has come equipped with a VHF Marine Band Radio. It is located on the helm.



On/Off

Your radio has been wired directly to your house batteries. Turn the volume knob in a clockwise direction to turn on the radio, and counter-clockwise to turn it off.

Hailing Ebel's Base

- Turn the radio on and to Channel 09
- Depress button on side of handheld microphone to talk, release when finished. Key the mic for 3-5 seconds before talking as there is a delay.
- Listen for response and depress button again when answering. (This follows the same concept as walkie-talkies.)

Adjusting Your Radio

- Make sure the radio is on the *correct* channel, **09**, not 9.
- Turn the volume up, then turn the squelch knob counterclockwise until you hear no static. Next turn it clockwise only to the point where you no longer hear any static.
- Make sure the radio is on the hi setting, not low, if equipped

Marine Radio

Channel 09

- Use channel 09 for hailing Ebel's base.
- Please note there are areas that the base can hear you, but you cannot hear the base. Please follow instructions below.
- If you are having technical problems the information that we will need is as follows:
 1. Your boat number/name
 2. Your exact location.
 3. Description of the problem.
- If you need assistance we will attempt to help you troubleshoot a problem over the radio. If we are not successful, we will dispatch a technician out to help you.
- For safety, our technicians can only be dispatched if they can fix the problem and return to our docks before dark. If we receive your call late in the day, we will gladly respond first thing the next morning.
- Also if you are in need of bait, ice, pop, etc., you can call and let us know. If we are out on the lake and in your area we can drop off items. If we are not on the lake or in your area, and we have to make a special trip to your boat there *will be an additional charge*.
- **Channel 09 is designated for Ebel's and needs to stay open for any houseboats that are in need of assistance.**
- Please keep children off of the marine radio
- When talking from boat to boat go to another channel (most use 19) to keep 09 open for base communications.

Marine Radio

Channel 16

- Use Channel 16 for hailing and Emergencies only!! Never use this channel for routine conversations.
- In case of an emergency hail the National Park Service on this channel.

Weather

- Channel 1 or 5 on your marine radio is the weather channel.
- This channel is updated periodically by the National Weather Service.
- Be sure to check this channel regularly during your trip to keep apprised of the changing weather conditions here at Voyageurs National Park.

General Information

- Do Not use the VHF antenna as a flag pole or hang anything from the antenna.
- *Marine radios transmit line-of-sight. If you are back in a rock ledge shoreline, you may have to ask assistance from another boater (with a radio relay) to help contact us if you cannot get through directly.*
- Profanity over the public airways is a federal crime.
- *Reminder:* Your Marine Radio is not a toy and should be operated only by a responsible adult.
- A VHF marine radio is not the same as a Citizen's Band Radio. CB lingo and 10-codes are not used.

Refueling

- Failure to follow refueling procedures may result in fire or explosion.
- Refueling at any other resort/marina than Ebel's is strictly prohibited due to various ignition points: pilot lights on stove, oven, and hot water heater, and various other hazards.
- All houseboats have large fuel tanks which should get you as far as you need to go. If you do happen to run out of both tanks, *contact the base* and we will bring gas out to you.
- Once you reach the fuel dock and the end of your trip, turn off all engines and generator (if so equipped).
- **Do not** smoke at any time near a fuel dock.

Emergencies

Your houseboat has been equipped with a VHF Marine Band Radio. Use this radio to contact the National Park Service on Channel 16 or Ebel's on Channel 09.

You are required to report any damage, personal injury or death immediately to Ebel's.

You may also be required by law to report some incidents to the National Park Service. Some reporting criteria are:

- Loss of life
- Injury requiring more than first aid
- Damage to a boat exceeding \$500.00
- Complete loss of the houseboat or powerboat
- Disappearance of a person under circumstances that indicate injury or death

You are obligated by law to render assistance to any individual in danger, provided it can be done safely.

What to Expect Upon Arrival

Ebel's has put this list of handy reminders for you to follow to make a fantastic trip.

Please read carefully and share with your group.

CHECK-IN TIME IS 1:00-3:00 PM

LATE ARRIVALS (AFTER 5:00 PM) MUST OVERNIGHT AT OUR DOCK

Please have ALL your paperwork done and signed prior to check in, this includes your passenger manifest, charter agreement and overnight permit. Decisions regarding the optional insurance waiver must be made.

Payment must be made at this time. Plan on arriving together!

You will be assigned a houseboat number. Please remember it!

BOARDING

A staff member will be assigned to help you load your houseboat. They will get you any ice, bait, firewood, etc. and help you park your vehicle. Please wait for them to do so.

We will run a "tab" for items ordered and you can pay at the end of your trip along with any fuel you have used.

INSTRUCTIONS

An Ebel's staff member will instruct you on the operation of your houseboat. Please pay attention. This step is critical in making a successful trip! Use of houseboat equipment, navigational maps, mooring procedures, charging procedures and operation of small boat & motor use will be covered. Our staff member will accompany you for about 2 miles to help you become familiar with driving a houseboat. They will return in their own boat and you are then on your own!

DURING YOUR STAY

Sites

You must stay at houseboat sites or undeveloped sites further than 200 yards from a designated tent site. Houseboats are not allowed at tent sites and tents are not allowed at houseboat sites. Know your site name, number, and location on the navigational maps provided.

Radio Operation

Know your houseboat number! This is used to identify you on the lake by radio. When calling by radio on 09, start with your "boat number to base". Remember that there are areas that the base can hear you, but you cannot hear the base. Please state your houseboat number, reason for calling, and your location. We cannot help you if we don't know where you are! Try asking for a relay from another houseboat. **Please use the radio to contact us**, we always have one on our side!

Radio hours are 7 AM - 6 PM. Radio is monitored after hours for emergencies only.

What to Expect Upon Arrival

Battery Charging

Always charge your houseboat batteries according to the instructions given to you and the placard on the houseboat. Dead battery service calls are \$100.00. **DO NOT TOUCH OUR BATTERIES!!!!**

Navigation

Navigation on the lakes can be tricky, however, IF you pay attention to the instructions given, your trip will be hassle free. Rock pulls are \$200.00 plus any damages done to the houseboat or its equipment.

Fresh Water

Fresh water pumps are located at the kitchen and bathroom sinks. Please do force these, be gentle. Replacement of hand pumps are \$50.00. We provide approximately 40 gallons of fresh water. It is recommended to bring some with.

Weber Gas Grills

We are proud to have Weber gas grills on all of our houseboats. Please remember to PUSH and then TURN the knobs to avoid stripping them. Replacements are \$20.00 each.

Bug Spray

Avoid spraying windows, screens and light fixtures with bug spray as the spray melts the plastic. We do not supply fly swatters as screens get broken and ceilings get full of dead bugs. Please clean up after yourself! Replacement of these items start at \$25.00 each.

Hot Tub

If your houseboat has a hot tub please remember how to operate it. This is covered in the instruction process. Generators heat the hot tub when running. Hot tub covers are very expensive so please tie them down at night and when traveling. Please so not use them for anything other than covering the hot tub and do not sit on them. Replacement cost is \$499.00 each.

Small Boat and Motor

If you have rented a small motor from us you will have been instructed on how to moor it while at the houseboat site. Always tie to shore with the engine up! Always bail the small boat out after rain to ensure no damage. A bailer is supplied.

Supply "Lake" Run

We try our best to make a "lake run" on Wednesdays. This service is free and included pick up of garbage. You can call in advance to order items that you may need such as ice, bait and firewood. We cover Lake Kabetogama and Namakan Lake only. If you are located in Sand Point or Crane Lake you can go by small boat to an area resort for any supplies needed.

If you experience any problem while on your vacation you must let us know so that we can help or fix things for you. Often times, we can walk you through a fix over the radio. Unnecessary services calls are \$200.00 each.

Return on Final Morning 9-10am

Be sure to radio from designated spot on maps to alert us that you are returning. Have your belongings packed and ready to unload. Have all linens and towels (if provided, in one area). Have all dishes done and put away and garbage bagged. We may only have a short time on the fuel dock as other houseboats are also returning.

If anything on your houseboat is broken or doesn't work please let a staff member know as many times the houseboat is going out with another group on the same day.

Your final fuel bill will be ready for your payment in the office. Please return ALL maps to office.

Have a safe and pleasant ride home and thank you for choosing Ebel's as your houseboat vacation. We hope to see you back soon!

Pet Policy

Ebel's is pet friendly and currently charge \$50 per pet with a maximum of two per houseboat. We do ask that you take responsibility for the cleanliness of the houseboat regarding your pet.

1. Please do not allow your pet on the **furniture and beds!**
2. Please do not leave your pet unattended in the houseboat.
3. Clean your pet's paws when entering the houseboat from the beach.
4. Immediately report any damage that your pet may have caused.
5. Follow the National Park pet policy as stated in the publication "RENDEZVOUS".

Heavy shedding pets are the housekeeper's worst enemy. Please clean up after your pets! **Ebel's reserves the right to charge a minimum fee in the amount of \$250.00 for houseboats that require extra cleaning due to pets.** This includes the replacement of blankets and shampooing of the carpet. Please be respectful of the guests that follow you! We hope that you and your pet have a wonderful vacation!



Incidental/Damage Prices

rock/beach pulls \$150.00 plus service fuel

shifting/neutral safety switch position \$100.00 plus service fuel

battery changing due to lack of charging \$100.00 plus service fuel

composite prop blades \$25.00 per blade

composite prop hub/blade \$100.00

Suzuki aluminum prop \$185.00

window replacement starting at \$45.00 per window

side ropes \$50.00 for 100 ft.

late fee - after 10 am \$100.00 per hour

cleaning fee \$250.00

blankets \$20.00

pillows \$8.00

rugs \$10.00

maps \$10.00 each

coolers \$100.00

life jackets \$15.00

boat cushions \$25.00

anchors \$25.00

screens \$25.00-\$100.00

light covers/lens \$15.00 each

BBQ knobs \$15.00 each

gang plank \$75.00

Glossary

Anchorage: a suitable place in which a boat may anchor

Bow: forward part of the boat

Channel 1 or 5: weather channels (*do not confuse channels 01 for 1 or 05 for 5*)

Channel 09: Ebel's Base Channel

Channel 12: Kettle Falls Base Channel

Channel 16: a hailing and emergency channel on the marine radio

Cleat: fitting on a boat or dock on which to secure a line

Galley: kitchen

Day Use Site: picnics and daytime activities but no overnight stays

Houseboat Site: overnight use for self-contained houseboat; most are designed for 2 boats

Mooring Post: wooden posts or metal rings in ground used for tying mooring ropes to

Mooring Ropes: 100' solid, braided nylon ropes located on each side of houseboat

PFD: Personal Floatation Device

Port: left, either the left side of the boat, facing forward, or the direction left

Starboard: right, either the right side of the boat, or the direction right

Stern: back part of the boat

Tent Site: overnight use with tents

Tachometer: an instrument that indicates an engine's revolutions per minute; aboard a boat, the tachometer is often monitored as often as a speedometer

Wake Zone: a slow speed that creates no wake behind the boat