



# Boat User's Guide

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The WAC maintains a [SmartWave 4200](#), the Grey Ghost, as an asset for club members to use. The use of the boat is both a terrific benefit for club members and a serious responsibility. This guide is intended to provide members the basic information to properly plan, book and use the boat in a safe and efficient manner.

## Booking the boat

Prior to booking the boat, you must have attended an orientation session (e.g., offered at club outings) or gone on at least one trip and received the OK by a certified club member. Contact the club committee by emailing us at the [wakatipuanglersclubnz@gmail.com](mailto:wakatipuanglersclubnz@gmail.com) email address to find a certified club member.

1. Once you're certified, book the boat using our online booking system located on the WAC website at <https://www.wakatipuanglerclubnz.com> . From the home page click on the button labeled "Book the Club Boat".
2. If this is your first time booking the boat, you'll be asked to create an account on the system (the booking engine is run by [eventspronto.co.nz](https://www.eventspronto.co.nz)). Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill out the required information. You may be asked to log in once an account is created. Be sure to save a record of your login credentials for future use. If you forget your password, use the "Forgot Password" link and follow the instructions for creating a new one.
3. Once you have an account on the booking site you'll continue on to the booking page. You can ignore all the drop-down boxes labeled "Region", "Delivery Type", "Date", etc. as they don't apply to our scenario.
4. Scroll down below where you see a set of boxes with the title "Boat Reservation". Each box represents a week of bookings into the future. To select a date, just navigate to the box that represents the week that contains the day you want to book and click on the "Book Now" button.
5. You'll be presented with a page that contains information about booking the boat, your responsibilities and some things to do prior to trailering the boat. On the right

hand side there is a list of days for that week with a link at the top labeled “Book Now”. Click that link to choose your day.

6. On the next screen you enter 1 (one) in the box that asks for quantity. **Only enter 1 as there is only one boat – this quantity does not refer to the number of people on the boat.** Click “Continue” at the bottom of the screen.
7. The next screen is a summary of your booking. Confirm the date and your invoice details. **Be sure to check the box stating that you’ve read and understand the Terms and Conditions.** Click “Continue” at the bottom of the screen.
8. The final screen is a confirmation of your booking with the total amount due. If all is correct click “Complete”. If not, click the “Back” button on your browser and make the necessary corrections. Or click “Cancel” to cancel the booking or to start from scratch.

You’ve now completed your booking. You’ll pay for the booking on the day you take it out, that way if you have to cancel due to weather, there’s no refund necessary. You should receive an invoice by email confirming your booking and giving you details of the amount of the use fee and the bank account where to make your payment. **Don’t forget to pay.** If you need to cancel the reservation, just email [wakatipuanglersclubnz@gmail.com](mailto:wakatipuanglersclubnz@gmail.com) and if a refund is needed it will be provided.

Be sure to read the Before Using the Boat Checklist prior to picking up the boat. A copy is provided on board. It is strongly suggested you read it before hitching the trailer and driving to your put-in destination and launching the boat. There are numerous steps to ensure safety and functionality of the boat.

## Prepping before using the boat

You’ve made your reservation and it’s time to start planning for and using the boat. Before using the boat, ensure that you’ve prepared properly:

1. Check your email and confirm your reservation for the day of your trip.
2. Confirm the location of the boat storage for pickup. It may change from time to time. At the time of this writing the club is seeking a more permanent storage location.
3. Ensure you have at least one passenger, and not more than three (3) passengers. For safety reason, you should avoid using the boat alone, or with more than four people aboard (including yourself).
4. You’ve paid the daily use fee to the club bank account.
5. You’ve scouted the destination for your trip and identified a safe launch and take-out location.

6. You've identified a general plan for where you're going to fish and ensured the time duration leaves plenty of room for daylight upon your return.
7. Tell at least one person that is staying ashore **where** you're going and **when** you'll be back. Consider using the 2-Minute form ([2-Minute Form](#)) as a template.
8. Two days and one day before your trip **confirm the weather** forecast to ensure a safe passage to your intended fishing grounds. If the weather is not suitable or could pose dangerous conditions, cancel your booking by emailing the club at [wakatipuanglersclubnz@gmail.com](mailto:wakatipuanglersclubnz@gmail.com). DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THE BOAT IN KNOWN HEAVY WEATHER CONDITIONS. Use the following sites to check weather and wind conditions **for the location where you plan to use the boat**.
  - a. <https://www.metservice.com/>
  - b. <https://www.windy.com> Don't just look at the wind forecast, also look at the gust forecast.
9. You have proper clothing for the conditions. In autumn, winter and spring, this may include multiple layers, a warm hat (that won't blow off!), gloves and a facemask to help cut the chill when motoring on the boat.
10. Be sure there is at least one amply charged mobile phone aboard as a spare form of communication in case of emergency.

## Hitching the trailer to your vehicle

Pick up the boat at the current storage location. This may sometimes include a private residence so be courteous when on their property and making preparations. A knock at the door to explain your presence may be a good idea.

1. You will need a 1 7/8 inch-size towing ball on your hitch to fit the boat trailer.
2. Your vehicle must be equipped with a 7-pin flat style electrical connector.
3. Pick up the keys to the boat storage locker at Don Wallace's house 23 McBride in Frankton. There is a lockbox just next to his mailbox. The code is 3474.
4. Drive to the Queenstown Yacht Club where the storage container is located. Map is [here](#).
5. Use the key from Don's house to open the storage container. The rest of the keys are hanging on the inside of the container.
6. Push the trailer out of the storage locker (Do not use your car as it will damage the ramp area).

7. Hitch the trailer to your vehicle. You must have a 1 7/8 inch ball for proper fit.
8. Raise the jockey wheel and lock in place.
9. Attach the safety chain and plug in the lights socket.
10. Check the lights function: turn signals and brake light should all work properly.
11. Check to ensure that the fuel tank is full. If not inform the club and refuel before taking boat out. There should also be a can of spare fuel in the tank shed.
12. Double check that the vent valve on the top of the fuel cap is closed otherwise fuel will spill out during trailering. Also take the spare tank as a precaution against running out of fuel on the water.
13. Check to see that the lockdown strap is secure and tight.
14. Ensure the engine is locked in the up position and is turned to the left. Use the tiller to turn the motor if needed.
15. Leave the cover on the engine during transport.
16. Check to see that all lockers are secure and there are no loose items that can blow off the boat.

## **Trailering the boat**

The best advice when trailering is to take it slow and easy. Remember that NZ law requires that you not exceed 90kph when towing a trailer.

Keep a wide berth when rounding corners.

When you get to your launch location, stop at a safe location and do a walk-through of the launch area to familiarize you with the necessary approach to safely launch the boat.

## **Launching the boat**

Remain in an area away from other boats being launched while you prepare for launching the boat. There are several steps best done while you're on land and the boat is on the trailer. Use the pre-launch checklist provided to ensure that all preparations are complete.

1. Remove the cover from the motor. Stow in your vehicle.

2. Turn the boat battery to On position. The knob on the front should show a green background to indicate the battery is in the On position.
3. Remove the cover from radio and chart plotter and stow them in a locker on the boat.
4. Check that the bilge pump is running by turning it on, and listening for the humming sound.
5. Check inside the chilly bin for a large orange plastic bottle. This should contain the first aid kit, flairs and an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). If any of these are missing let the club know. Periodically check the EPIRB with the self-test button.
6. Use the motor tilt control on the outside of the throttle to lift the motor and unlock the built-in motor lift lock. Once the weight of the motor is off the tilt-lock it easily swivels up and away to allow lowering of the motor once you're in the water.
7. Install the boat plugs at the stern of the boat. There is an external plug and an internal plug that have to be screwed into place. Ensure both are hand-tightened. The internal plug may be in the center locker if not in the motor well near the pump.
8. Open the small breather tab on the cap of the fuel tank to allow air to enter the tank. If not, the tank will eventually create a vacuum and may stop the motor due to fuel starvation.
9. Remove the lockdown strap holding the boat to the trailer and stow in your vehicle.
10. Load your gear into the boat leaving room to allow safe and easy entry and access to the center console.
11. Retrieve and put on life jackets for each passenger. Lifejackets are located in the center locker just behind the console. (Looks and also functions as a chilly bin). Ensure life jackets fit properly and that any children have appropriate sized life jackets.
12. Check to see the launch ramp is empty. Never remove the safety chain connecting the bow of the boat to the trailer prior to having the stern of the boat in the water. Doing so can result in the boat falling off the trailer and onto the ramp.
13. Back the trailer into the water until the stern is well in the water.
14. Remove the winch safety chain from the towing eye at the bow of the boat. Loosen the trailer hook line and remove the hook from the eye at the bow. Have one person hold on to the painter (a rope from the bow of the boat), and then push the boat off

the trailer into the water. Depending on the launch ramp this may require two people to push the boat off the trailer, or reversing the trailer deeper into the water.

15. Leave one person with the boat while the other parks the car and trailer in a safe, out-of-the-way area. Lock your vehicle.
16. Whoever is skipping the boat needs to attach the key lanyard to themselves and then insert the key into the ignition. Failure to use the safety lanyard on the key may result in forfeiting boat privileges.
17. If the water is deep enough, lower the motor until the plate above the propeller is in the water, then turn the key to start the motor. Ensure the motor is in Neutral or it won't start. **DO NOT LOWER THE MOTOR IN SHALLOW WATER.** Use the oar to maneuver the boat into deeper water.
18. While in neutral the other passenger(s) can board the boat. Once safely aboard and seated, you can reverse out of the shore area and be on your way.
19. Prior to departure, check the boat plugs to ensure water is not entering the area in the motor well at the transom.

## Running the boat

While under way there are several things to be aware of, so as to take best advantage of the boat's capabilities and everyone's comfort.

1. Important: Designate a skipper. The skipper is in charge of the boat, and all passengers must understand and agree to that before departing. **The skipper must remain drug and alcohol-free until the boat is returned securely back to its storage location. This is a no-tolerance club policy that must be adhered to. Failure to do so will result in loss of boat privileges. All passengers must remain within legal blood-alcohol limits while using the boat.**
2. Turn on the radio, if not already on, and keep it on channel 16 (emergency channel).
3. Use the chart plotter to see your location, depth and fish finding. This guide is not intended to provide instructions for that instrument.
4. In general, do not exceed 4500 RPM as shown on the tachometer on the console. This is ample speed to get on a plane in smooth water and will be more economical on fuel and prolong engine life. The skipper should not hesitate to ask passengers to move their position on the boat to help trim the boat and keep it level while underway.

5. When using the throttle ensure all passengers are seated or securely holding on. The throttle on the SmartWave can be a bit touchy and the sudden acceleration can cause a passenger to lose their balance and potentially fall overboard if they are not positioned securely.
6. To get the boat on an efficient plane (skimming over the surface of water as a result of lift produced by hydrodynamics) use plenty of throttle at the beginning then back off as the boat achieves a plane. You'll find that adjusting the trim of the motor will allow you to find the most efficient boat speed.
7. If the bow of the boat is bucking up and down, but the water is relatively smooth, use the motor trim to lower the bow until it is running smoothly.
8. When beaching the boat, approach very slowly. Cut the motor and raise the prop prior to shallow water. You can use the momentum of the boat to beach it. At that point someone should enter the water or shore and secure the bowline. Ensure that the bowline or anchor is attached to the bow cleat and is firmly attached to something on shore. As a precaution, you may want to consider setting an anchor off the stern as well if there are waves that can cause the boat to get pushed sideways toward the shore. The anchor in the bow is a small lightweight one for light duties only. A heavier anchor, chain and rope is kept in the rear storage box for instances where the boat will not be attended while anchored.

## Putting the boat on the trailer and returning to storage

At the end of your trip it is time to return to the launch location where you've left your vehicle and trailer. Here are the steps to return the boat onto the trailer for transport home.

1. Bring the boat to shore so that passengers can disembark and the driver can retrieve the car and trailer. At least one person should stay with the boat and keep it secure until ready to load on the trailer. The same procedure as beaching the boat applies here. Approach the launch area slowly, put the motor in neutral, cut power to the motor and raise the prop to avoid hitting bottom with the motor.
2. Once the trailer is backed into the water, guide the bow of the boat onto the trailer rails that support the boat. Hook the trailer winch to the eye on the bow. Use the winch to crank the boat onto the trailer. **Do not attempt to drive the boat onto the trailer. This can result in damage to both the boat and the trailer.**
3. Attach the safety chain from the trailer winch to the eye on the bow.
4. Pull the boat out of the water and stop while it's still on an incline. Use this moment to remove both hull plugs at the stern of the boat to drain any water in the bilge or motor well. You may want to lower the motor and drain the motor as well.

5. Continue up the ramp to a safe parking area to complete the remainder of the preparations for towing.
6. Make sure the engine is turned to the left and the lift support is engaged. Lower the motor using the trimmer so it is resting on the tilt lock lever. Remove the key and replace in the locker.
7. Turn the battery off. Replace the plastic covers on the radio and chart plotter.
8. Put all life jackets in their appropriate lockers.
9. Close the vent on the fuel tank cap.
10. Replace the engine cover.
11. Remove all personal gear from the boat.
12. If possible now (can be done later at storage facility if available), wash down the boat to remove dirt and grit that may have been brought on board. Remove all trash from the boat.
13. Secure the tie-down strap across the back of the boat and onto the trailer.
14. Lower the radio antenna.
15. Check that there are no items that can fly out of the boat while trailering.
16. Drive the boat & trailer to the petrol station and refill the boat fuel tank with 91-grade fuel.
17. Return the boat & trailer to yacht club.
18. Drain the water from the motor if you didn't do it at the launch site. Turn the boat battery on, raise the motor slightly, release the tilt lock lever, then lower the motor and let the water drain out. Once drained, raise the motor, lower the tilt lock lever, and rest the motor on the lever. Turn off the battery!
19. **Do not try to back the boat into the storage container with your vehicle.** It is too narrow a fit and damage to the boat and/or trailer may result. Back up to the container and then lower the jockey wheel and unhitch the trailer. Push the boat in manually.
20. Ensure the keys to the boat and the tank shed are hanging in their place inside the container.
21. Close the container doors and replace the lock.



22. Return the storage container keys to Don's house.

Congratulations you have successfully used the club boat and hopefully had a great day of fishing!