Notes by Liz Schulenberg 8/6/16

Last night Cole, the young dude who gave us our lesson about the boat, came over with a friend and took Liz, Ed and Ross out to show us some tips for wake surfing and pulling a wake surfer—equally difficult tasks! It was fun to see them surf.

It takes maybe ten minutes (while idling or driving very slow) to fill up the bladders. For wake surfing they recommended filling the front and back port side bladders to 100 and the front starboard at 25and back starboard side to 50. There were five adults in the boat with Ross being the biggest. Adjustments can be made if you have more/ heavier bodies in the boat. Generally you want most of the people on the port side when pulling the surfer.

The driver set the tabs at two. The two experts stood on their boards and skimmed off the back as the boat took off. Ross tried this but finds it easier to start in the water with feet shoulder width apart on the board and arms inside knees. The driver should have the surfer closer to the port side when starting. The driver should steer left briefly before pulling straight. There is a real art to this. Ideal speed was 10. 6, which should be set with the speedset so the driver doesn’t have to watch the speed.

The surfer should stay on the port side. As you get surfing in the sweet spot, the rope will have slack and eventually the surfer can throw the rope to the side. Someone in the boat will need to immediately pull in the rope so it doesn’t hit the surfer. Actually throwing it into the boat might take additional skills.

They recommended that when the surfer falls, the driver temporarily just stop to avoid driving into the big waves and swamping the boat.

Ross and I watched a YouTube video on wakesurfing, which can show you what a “clean wake” looks like. It **IS** possible to have very little white on the wave but can take some fine-tuning of ballasts and people placement.

Again, it takes a long time to empty the ballasts but they need to finish draining before you get the boat on the lift. Don’t forget to use the chamois cloth to wipe up the boat when you bring the boat in.

Cole also recommended we turn the battery off in the back port side cubby. 12:00 is off and 3:00 is on. Turning it off will just increase battery life.