



Lake Navigation and Weather Apps — Navionics, Windy and ODNR

Navigation and Weather Navionics, Windy and Ohio lake maps so you launch and land with confidence An Extended Guide · No. 2049

————— An Extended Guide · No. 2049 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

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1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you read only this page, you will still launch smart. Two kinds of apps make a day on the water safer and more fun. A navigation app like Navionics shows you a map of the lake with depth lines, ramps, and the spots where fish gather. A weather app like Windy shows you the wind, the waves, and any storms heading your way. Between them, you know the water below and the sky above. A navigation app shows depth, ramps, and lake structure A weather app shows wind, waves, and approaching storms Download the lake map before you leave home, in case there is no signal Always check the weather before you launch, not after Ohio's ODNR publishes lake maps and rules worth a look GOOD TO KNOW The single most important habit in this whole guide is simple: check the wind and radar before you launch, and download your lake map while you still have Wi-Fi at home. Do those two things and you are most of the way to a safe, happy day. THE BASICS 2. What These Apps Do For You A navigation app is a map built for the water instead of the road. Where a road map shows streets, a lake map shows how deep the water is, where it gets shallow, and where the boat ramps are. A weather app pulls in forecasts and live radar so you can see what the sky is planning before it surprises you. You do not need to be a sea captain to use either one. If you can read a weather forecast on your phone and follow a map, you already have the skills. The rest is just learning which app shows what. TIP Think of it as two questions every trip. What is the water doing below me, and what is the sky doing above me? One app answers each.

WHY MAPS

5. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

3. Why a Lake Map Matters A lake looks like a flat sheet of water from the surface, but underneath it has hills, valleys, channels, and sudden drop-offs. A map of those depths keeps you off the shallow rocks and stumps, and it points you to the places fish like to hold. It turns a big, featureless lake into a place you can read. Shows the shallow spots that can damage a prop Marks channels and deep water for safe travel Points out ramps and no-wake zones Reveals the drop-offs and humps where fish gather WATCH OUT Even a good map does not replace your eyes. Water levels change, and new hazards appear. Use the map to plan, but keep watching the water in front of you. NAVIONICS 4. Navionics Boating, the Basics Navionics Boating is one of the most popular navigation apps for anglers and boaters. You download detailed charts of your lakes, and the app shows your boat's position on them using the phone's GPS. It works on the phone or tablet you already carry, with no special hardware. Detailed lake charts with depth lines Shows your boat's position using the phone's GPS Runs on the phone or tablet you already own Lets you mark spots, measure distances, and plan routes GOOD TO KNOW The same Navionics maps that run on your phone can also load onto many Garmin, Humminbird, and Lowrance fish finders. My boat electronics guide covers pairing the two.

DOWNLOAD FIRST

6. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

5. Downloading Charts Before You Launch This is the habit that saves the day. Download the chart for your lake while you have Wi-Fi at home, so the map lives on your phone. Out on the water you may have no cell signal, and a map that needs the internet to load is no map at all when you need it most.

- 1 Open the app at home on Wi-Fi
- 2 Search for your lake by name
- 3 Tap to download that area's chart to the phone
- 4 Confirm it opens later with the phone in airplane mode, just to be sure GOOD TO KNOW The GPS in your phone works without any cell signal at all. As long as the map is already downloaded, your phone will still show your position in the middle of the lake with no bars. DEPTH LINES 6. Depth Contours and SonarChart The curved lines on a lake map

are depth contours. Each line connects points that are the same depth, so where the lines bunch together the bottom drops off fast, and where they spread apart it is gently sloping. Navionics also offers a finer version called SonarChart, built from real sonar readings, with even more detail. Contour lines connect points of equal depth. Lines close together mean a steep drop-off. Lines far apart mean a gentle, shallow slope. SonarChart adds finer detail from real sonar data. Those tight bunches of lines are exactly where many fish hold. Learning to spot a drop-off on the map is a skill that pays off every time you fish.

SUBSCRIPTION 7. The Navionics Subscription, Honestly Navionics charges a yearly subscription, often around fifty dollars, though you should confirm the current price. The nice part is that if your subscription lapses, the charts you already downloaded keep working; you simply stop getting updates and new features. So you are never locked out of a map you paid for.

GOOD TO KNOW

7. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

A yearly subscription, often around fifty dollars; confirm the current price Downloaded charts keep working even after the subscription lapses Lapsing only means no new updates, not a dead map A fair value if you fish the same lakes often If you only get out a few times a season, you can subscribe for the year you fish most, download everything you need, and let it lapse. The maps you grabbed stay on your phone. GARMIN 8. Garmin ActiveCaptain and Other Options Navionics is not the only choice. Garmin's ActiveCaptain app and its related charts cover the same ground, and if you run Garmin electronics on the boat they tie together neatly. The main idea is the same across all of them: downloadable lake maps, your position on the water, and a way to mark your spots. Garmin ActiveCaptain is a close cousin with similar features It pairs with Garmin fish finders and chartplotters Other apps offer free basic maps with fewer details Pick the one that matches your boat's electronics if you have them There is no single best app here. If you already own a brand of fish finder, the matching app is the natural choice. Otherwise, try one and see if its maps and menus suit you. READING A MAP 9. Reading a Depth Map Reading a depth map gets easy with a little practice. Find your boat, the little arrow on the screen, then look at the water around it. Darker shades usually mean deeper water, lighter shades mean shallow. The numbers scattered on the map are spot depths, and the lines are the contours we talked about. The arrow is your boat, pointing the way you are headed Shading shows deep versus shallow water Scattered numbers are depths at those exact points Contour lines show how the bottom rises and falls

GOOD TO KNOW

8. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

Practice reading the map on a lake you know well first. When the map matches what you already understand about the water, the shading and lines start to click. MARKING SPOTS 10. Marking Spots and Routes Just like a fish finder, these apps let you drop a pin on any good spot and name it, so you can steer back to it another day. You can also lay out a route to follow and measure the distance across a stretch of water. Your pins stay saved in the app from trip to trip.

1 Press and hold on the map where you want a marker

2 Give it a short name you will remember

3 The app saves the exact spot

4 Tap it later to navigate back, or draw a route between several pins GOOD TO KNOW

Your saved spots are tied to your app account, so they can follow you to a new phone.

Sign in with an email and password you keep somewhere safe. ODNR MAPS 11. Ohio

ODNR Lake Maps Ohio's Department of Natural Resources, the ODNR, publishes lake

and reservoir maps and fishing maps on its website, often for free. These are a great

companion to a paid app, especially for our state lakes. Some apps even carry ODNR

depth data inside them. ODNR posts free lake and fishing maps on its website Handy for

Ohio state lakes and reservoirs Some apps include ODNR depth information A good free

starting point before you pay for anything WATCH OUT Print an ODNR map of your

home lake and keep a paper copy in a zip bag on the boat. A paper map never runs out of battery.

RAMPS

9. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

12. Finding Ramps and Launch Points Navigation apps and ODNR maps both mark the boat ramps, which saves you circling a strange lake looking for a place to put in. Knowing where the ramps are also helps you plan your day, so you launch near where you want to fish and do not face a long, bumpy ride back at dusk. Apps mark the public boat ramps on the lake ODNR maps list ramps for state waters Launch near where you plan to fish to save travel Note the ramp location so you can find it on the way back On a big reservoir, picking the right ramp can turn a long run into a short hop. A minute with the map before you tow the boat pays off. BE HONEST 13. Do You Need a Paid App? The most money-saving page in this guide. Here is the honest talk. If you fish one small, familiar lake, a free ODNR map and your eyes may be all you ever need. A paid app earns its keep when you fish bigger water, visit new lakes, or want the detailed depth lines to find fish. Match the spending to how you actually boat. One small, familiar lake: a free ODNR map may be plenty Bigger water or new lakes: a paid app is worth it You want detailed depth lines for fishing: pay for the detail You just need weather: the best weather apps are free WATCH OUT Do not pay for a fancy chart subscription for a pond you know like your backyard. Spend on the apps that solve a real problem for the water you actually run.

WINDY**10. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

14. Windy for Wind and Waves Windy is a free weather app that boaters love. It shows the wind speed and direction as moving lines across a map, along with gusts, waves, and rain. A glance tells you whether the lake will be glassy calm or a rough, whitecapped mess before you ever hitch up the trailer. Free, with an optional paid upgrade for extras Shows wind, gusts, waves, and rain on a moving map A quick way to judge how rough the lake will be Lets you scroll ahead hour by hour GOOD TO KNOW Wind is what makes a small lake rough. A calm forecast can mean a mirror-smooth morning, while a windy one can stack up waves that make a small boat miserable. Windy shows you which you will get. READING WIND 15. Reading a Wind Forecast Wind is measured in miles per hour, and a little goes a long way on the water. A light breeze under ten miles per hour usually means pleasant fishing. Fifteen to twenty starts to build waves that toss a small boat. Above that, most small-boat anglers are happier staying home or sticking to a sheltered cove. Under 10 mph: usually pleasant and easy 10 to 15 mph: a chop builds, manageable for most 15 to 20 mph: rough for a small boat, pick sheltered water Over 20 mph: a tough day; many stay off open water TIP Wind feels stronger on the water than on land, with nothing to block it. If the forecast makes you hesitate on shore, it will feel worse out in the open.

GUSTS

11. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

16. Gusts Versus Steady Wind A forecast often gives two numbers: the steady wind and the gusts. The steady wind is the ongoing breeze; the gusts are the stronger bursts that come and go. Gusts are what catch a small boat off guard, flip a hat overboard, or push the bow around while you are trying to fish a spot. Steady wind is the ongoing, constant breeze. Gusts are the stronger bursts that come and go. Gusts are what surprise a small boat. Watch the gust number, not just the steady wind. If the steady wind looks fine but the gusts are much higher, plan for those bursts. They are the part that turns a calm day bumpy in a hurry.

RADAR

17. Radar Apps for Storms A radar app shows rain and storms as colored blobs moving across a map, so you can watch a storm approach and judge whether it will reach you. Green is light rain, yellow and red are heavier, and the whole picture animates so you can see which way it is traveling and how fast. Shows rain and storms as moving colored areas. Green is light, yellow and red are heavy. The animation shows which way the storm is heading. Lets you judge whether it will reach your lake.

WATCH OUT Radar shows rain, but lightning can strike from the edge of a storm, even from a cloud that is not raining on you yet. Do not wait for the rain to arrive before heading in.

18. NOAA and the National Weather Service The National Weather Service, part of NOAA, is the official source behind most weather forecasts, and it is free. Its forecasts and warnings are the ones to trust for serious weather. Many apps simply repackage this same government data in a prettier form.

GOOD TO KNOW

12. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

The free, official source for forecasts and warnings The most trustworthy word on serious weather Many other apps just repackage this same data Look for its watches and warnings before a big trip When the Weather Service issues a watch or a warning for your county, take it seriously on the water. A storm that is a nuisance on land can be dangerous on an open lake. MORE APPS 19. RadarScope, the Weather Channel and Others Beyond the basics, there are apps built for weather lovers. RadarScope gives a detailed, serious look at storms for those who want it. The Weather Channel app and your phone's built-in weather app cover the everyday forecast fine. You do not need them all; one good radar app and one forecast app are plenty. RadarScope: detailed radar for the weather-minded The Weather Channel app: an easy everyday forecast Your phone's built-in weather app covers the basics One radar app plus one forecast app is enough Pick one radar app you trust and one simple forecast, and learn them well. A pile of weather apps you half-understand is less useful than two you know by heart. PRE-LAUNCH 20. The Pre-Launch Weather Check Before you ever hitch up the trailer, run a quick weather check at home. Look at the wind and gusts, glance at the radar for anything building, and note when any storms might arrive. Five minutes at the kitchen table saves you from a rough, scary afternoon on the water.

- 1 Check the wind and gust speeds for the day
- 2 Look at the radar for storms building nearby
- 3 Note the time any rough weather is expected
- 4 Decide on a backup plan or a sheltered lake if it looks marginal

TIP**13. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

If the morning looks calm but storms are forecast for the afternoon, plan a short morning trip and be off the water before the sky changes. The fish bite better in the calm anyway.

30-30 RULE 21. The 30-30 Lightning Rule Here is a simple rule that keeps boaters safe from lightning. If you see a flash and hear the thunder within thirty seconds, the storm is close enough to be dangerous, so get off the water. Then wait a full thirty minutes after the last thunder before you head back out. A boat on open water is one of the most exposed places to be. Count the seconds between the flash and the thunder Thirty seconds or less means the storm is dangerously close Get off the water and seek shelter Wait a full thirty minutes after the last thunder to return **WATCH OUT** Do not gamble with lightning to save a fishing spot. A boat on open water is exposed, and no catch is worth the risk. When in doubt, head in early.

WATCH THE SKY 22. Watching the Sky on the Water Apps are wonderful, but your own eyes on the sky are the oldest tool there is. Towering, dark clouds building to the west, a sudden drop in temperature, or a shift in the wind often mean weather is coming before any app chimes. Keep one eye on the horizon all day. Tall, dark clouds building usually mean a storm A sudden cool breeze can signal an approaching front A shift in wind direction is worth noticing Trust your eyes along with the app On our lakes, weather often rolls in from the west. Keep glancing that way, and you will usually see trouble before it arrives.

MOGADORE

14. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

23. Mogadore Reservoir Mogadore Reservoir is a quiet, pretty water that serves as an Akron water supply, and it is often held to electric motors only. That calm makes it a lovely place to fish slowly and learn to read a depth map. Because the water is protected, always confirm the current motor and access rules with ODNR before you go. A quiet reservoir, often electric-motor-only A calm place to practice reading depth maps Part of the Akron water supply, so rules are protective Confirm the current motor and access rules with ODNR GOOD TO KNOW On a quiet, electric-only lake, you have all the time in the world to idle along and study the depth contours on your app. It is a fine place to learn. WEST BRANCH 24. West Branch and Michael J. Kirwan West Branch, whose reservoir is named Michael J. Kirwan, is a large state park lake with more open water. Bigger water means wind matters more, so the Windy check becomes more important here. A good downloaded chart helps you find your way across a lake large enough to feel open and exposed on a breezy day. A large state park reservoir with open water Wind and waves build more on bigger water A downloaded chart helps you navigate the open stretches Confirm the current horsepower and launch rules with ODNR WATCH OUT On a bigger lake, a wind that is a mild nuisance in a cove becomes a real chop in the open. Check the wind forecast with extra care before heading out across open water.

BERLIN LAKE

15. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

25. Berlin Lake Berlin Lake is a large Army Corps reservoir, big enough that both navigation and weather apps earn their keep. The size means you want a good chart to find ramps and structure, and a careful eye on the wind before you commit to a long run across open water. Confirm the current rules, as reservoir levels and regulations can change. A large Army Corps reservoir with plenty of open water A downloaded chart helps you find ramps and structure Watch the wind before any long open-water run Confirm the current horsepower and launch rules with ODNR On a lake this size, the apps in this guide shine. The chart keeps you oriented and the weather app keeps you safe on water large enough to turn rough in a hurry. CONFIRM RULES 26. Confirming Current Lake Rules Horsepower limits, motor rules, no-wake zones, and access points differ from lake to lake, and they can change from season to season. The safe habit is to confirm the current ODNR or managing-agency rules for your lake before you launch. A quick check on the official website saves you a citation and a ruined day. Horsepower and motor rules vary by lake and can change No-wake zones and access points differ too Check the official ODNR or agency page before you launch When in doubt, call the park office to confirm WATCH OUT Do not assume the rules you remember still match today's. Reservoir levels and regulations shift. A two-minute check of the current official rules is always worth it.

PHONE DRY

16. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

27. Keeping the Phone Charged and Dry All of this runs on your phone, so keeping it alive and dry is part of the job. A waterproof case or pouch, a floating lanyard, and a 12-volt charger at the helm keep the phone safe from spray and from a dead battery halfway through the day. A drowned phone means no map and no weather. A waterproof case or floating pouch guards against splashes A floating lanyard saves a dropped phone from sinking A 12-volt charger keeps the battery up all day A sturdy mount keeps the phone in view and out of the water My guide on keeping your phone charged and dry on the water covers the cases, mounts, and power banks in detail. It is the natural companion to this one. MOUNTS 28. Phone Mounts at the Helm A sturdy mount holds your phone where you can glance at the map and weather without taking it in your hand. A RAM-style marine mount clamps to the boat and grips the phone firmly even in chop. Keep it angled out of the direct sun so you can actually read the screen. A mount keeps the map in view, hands free A RAM-style marine mount holds firm in rough water Angle it out of direct glare so you can read it Route the charging cord so it will not snag WATCH OUT Mount the phone where a quick glance down shows you the map, the same way you glance at a car's dashboard. You should never have to fumble for it while running the boat.

OFFLINE MAPS**17. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

29. Offline Maps When There Is No Signal Many lakes sit out of reach of a strong cell signal, so the apps need to work offline. Navigation apps let you download charts ahead of time, and they do. Weather apps, though, need a signal to update, so you check those before you launch and understand they may not refresh out on the water. Download navigation charts at home for offline use The phone's GPS works with no signal at all Weather apps need a signal to update Check the weather before you leave the dock GOOD TO KNOW The GPS chip in your phone talks to satellites, not cell towers, so your position on a downloaded map works even with zero bars. That is why downloading the chart ahead of time matters so much. GPS NO SIGNAL 30. GPS Without Cell Service It surprises people, but your phone's location feature does not need the internet. The GPS receiver inside listens to satellites overhead, the same ones a car navigation uses. As long as your map is already saved on the phone, you can be in the middle of a lake with no bars and still see exactly where you are. GPS listens to satellites, not cell towers It works with no internet and no bars You just need the map already downloaded It is the same technology a car navigation uses This is the whole reason to download charts at home. The position-finding always works; it is the map underneath it that needs to be saved ahead of time.

BATTERY AND DATA**18. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

31. Battery and Data on a Long Day Running the GPS and the screen all day drains a phone battery faster than usual. Keep a charger at the helm or a power bank in the dry bag. If you worry about using up your data plan, downloaded maps use none at all once they are saved, so the only thing watching the weather costs you is a little data when you refresh it. GPS and a bright screen drain the battery faster. Keep a 12-volt charger or power bank aboard. Downloaded maps use no data once saved. Dim the screen a little to stretch the battery. **TIP** Turn the screen brightness down and let it sleep between glances. Your phone can run navigation all day if you are not staring at a full-bright screen every minute.

NIGHT USE 32. Night and Low-Light Use If you are out at dawn, dusk, or after dark, a bright phone screen can wreck your night vision and make it hard to see the water. Most navigation apps have a night or dark mode that dims the display and uses softer colors. Turn it on so you can still see the shoreline and other boats around you. A bright screen ruins your night vision. Turn on the app's night or dark mode. Keep the screen as dim as you can still read. Keep watching the real water, not just the screen. **WATCH OUT** Running a boat after dark is harder than it looks, and a glowing screen makes it worse. Go slow, use your running lights, and let your eyes adjust to the dark.

SHARE LOCATION

19. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

33. Sharing Your Location With Someone Ashore Before you launch, it is wise to tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Your phone can share your live location with a family member, so they can see where you are if plans change. On a lake with signal, this is a simple, free bit of safety. Tell someone your plan and your return time before you go Share your live location with a family member from the phone It works wherever you have a signal A simple, free layer of safety My satellite messenger guide covers staying reachable where there is no signal at all. On a lake with coverage, your phone's location sharing does the job for free. PLAN AHEAD 34. Planning a Trip the Night Before A little planning the evening before makes the morning smooth. Download or update your lake chart, check the forecast for the day ahead, pick your ramp, and charge the phone overnight. Then you can hitch up and go in the morning without fuss, with everything already on the phone.

- 1 Download or update the lake chart on home Wi-Fi
 - 2 Check tomorrow's wind, waves, and storm chances
 - 3 Pick the ramp nearest where you want to fish
 - 4 Charge the phone and any power bank overnight
- GOOD TO KNOW The night before is when there is always Wi-Fi and a wall outlet. Doing the downloading and charging then means the morning is just coffee and the boat ramp. WITH ELECTRONICS 35. Pairing Apps With Your Boat Electronics If your boat has a fish finder with GPS, the phone apps and the boat's screen work as a team. Many Navionics and Garmin charts load onto the fish finder itself, and the apps can back up and plan while you are off the boat. You end up with the same maps in your hand and at the helm.

SMALL BOATS**20. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Navionics and Garmin charts load onto many fish finders. The app plans and backs up from your easy chair. The same maps appear in your hand and at the helm. The boat's GPS and the phone agree on where you are. My boat electronics guide covers fish finders and chartplotters in detail. The apps in this guide are the friendly, portable half of that same picture.

36. Small Boats and Kayaks You do not need a big boat for any of this. On a kayak or a small jon boat, your phone in a waterproof mount is your whole navigation and weather setup. Download the chart, mount the phone where you can see it, and you have the same map a big boat carries, just lighter and simpler. A phone in a waterproof mount is a full setup for a kayak. Download the chart ahead, same as any boat. A power bank keeps it alive on a long paddle. Keep it simple and light on a small craft.

TIP My kayak and small-boat tech guide covers the mounts, pouches, and safety gear that keep a phone useful and dry on a paddle craft.

UPDATE CHARTS

37. Updating Charts Each Season Lake maps improve over time as more sonar data comes in, and the apps add features. Each spring, open the app at home, check for updates to your charts, and download the newest version. It takes a few minutes on Wi-Fi and keeps your maps as accurate as they can be.

- 1 Open the app at home on Wi-Fi before the season
- 2 Check whether your charts have an update
- 3 Download the newest version of your lakes
- 4 Confirm they still open with the phone offline

GOOD TO KNOW**21. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Spring, when you are getting the boat ready anyway, is the natural time to refresh your charts. Tie it to the rest of your season prep so you do not forget.

PROBLEMS

38. Common App Problems Most app trouble on the water comes down to a map that was not downloaded, a phone that lost its location fix, or a dead battery. All three are easy to prevent with a little home prep. If the app acts up, these are the first things to check before you blame the app itself.

- 1 Map blank: confirm you downloaded the chart at home

- 2 No boat position: give the GPS a minute with a clear view of the sky
- 3 App crashing: close it fully and reopen it
- 4 Dying fast: dim the screen and plug in the charger WATCH OUT Almost every on-the-water app problem traces back to something skipped at home. Download the chart and charge the phone the night before, and most trouble never happens. LOGINS 39. Keeping Your Logins Safe Your saved spots, routes, and subscriptions live in an app account tied to an email and password. Keep that login somewhere safe so your years of marked fishing spots can follow you to a new phone. Losing the password can mean losing the spots, which is a small heartbreak worth avoiding. Your saved spots live in an app account Keep the email and password somewhere safe A password keeper makes this painless Then your spots follow you to a new phone My family password guide shows how to set up a simple password keeper so you never lose a login again. It protects your fishing spots as surely as your bank account.

REPORTS

22. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

40. Fishing Reports and Lake Conditions Beyond maps and weather, ODNR and many apps post lake conditions and fishing reports: water levels, clarity, and what is biting. A quick read before you go helps you decide where to fish and what to expect. It is free information that makes a trip more likely to end with fish in the cooler. ODNR posts lake conditions and fishing reports Check water level and clarity before you go Reports hint at what is biting and where Free information that helps you plan GOOD TO KNOW A glance at the lake conditions can save a wasted trip. If the water is high and muddy after a big rain, you will know to wait for it to settle or try a clearer lake. TEACH OTHERS 41. Teaching a Spouse or Friend to Use It It is wise for more than one person aboard to know how to read the map and call up the weather. If you are ever not able to run the boat, a spouse or friend who knows the apps can get everyone home safely. Spend a calm afternoon walking them through the basics. More than one person should know the apps It matters if you cannot run the boat yourself Walk them through finding position and the ramps Practice on a calm day, not in a crisis TIP Teach the simplest version first: how to see where the boat is and how to find the way back to the ramp. That alone can save a scary situation. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your Launch-Day Checklist Here is the short version to keep on the phone or taped in the truck. Run through it before every launch and you will be ready for both the water and the sky. Downloaded the lake chart at home while on Wi-Fi

GOOD TO KNOW

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Checked the wind, gusts, and storm chances before leaving Picked the ramp nearest where I want to fish Confirmed the current motor and horsepower rules with ODNR Phone in a waterproof case with a charger aboard Told someone my plan and return time Know the 30-30 lightning rule and will head in early A second person aboard knows how to find the way back Tape this list in the tow vehicle. A thirty-second run-through before you launch keeps you off the rocks and ahead of the weather. WHEN TO CALL 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me Anyone can download an app, but getting it set up so it truly helps is another matter. If you want help choosing between the navigation apps, downloading your lakes so they work with no signal, setting up a sturdy phone mount at the helm, or learning to read the wind and radar with confidence, that is exactly what I am here for. I will sit beside you and get it all working before your next trip, and I will give you the honest answer about which app is worth paying for and which is not. TIP I can help you set up your navigation and weather apps, download your home lakes for offline use, mount your phone where you can see it, and walk you through reading the wind and the 30-30 rule. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It is the short answer to the questions boaters ask most about navigation and weather apps. Download your lake chart at home on Wi-Fi; the phone's GPS then works with no signal Navionics, Garmin ActiveCaptain, and free ODNR maps all work, so pick what fits your boat Check the wind, gusts, and radar before you launch, never after Under 10 mph wind is easy; over 20 mph is a tough day for a small boat

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Use the 30-30 lightning rule: thunder within 30 seconds, get off; wait 30 minutes after the last Keep the phone in a waterproof case with a charger and a sturdy mount Confirm the current motor and horsepower rules for Mogadore, West Branch, and Berlin with ODNR Make sure a second person aboard knows how to find the way back to the ramp Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP

25. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

Your Visit — and My Promise In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included. Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo). GOOD TO KNOW My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated. Call or text (330) 200-8042 · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Which Apps Do You Need?

Match the apps to where and how you boat.

Free Start

Free ODNR lake maps
A free weather app like
Windy
Fine for one familiar
lake

Paid Charts

Navionics or Garmin
charts
Detailed depth lines for
fishing
Worth it on bigger or
new water

Weather Pair

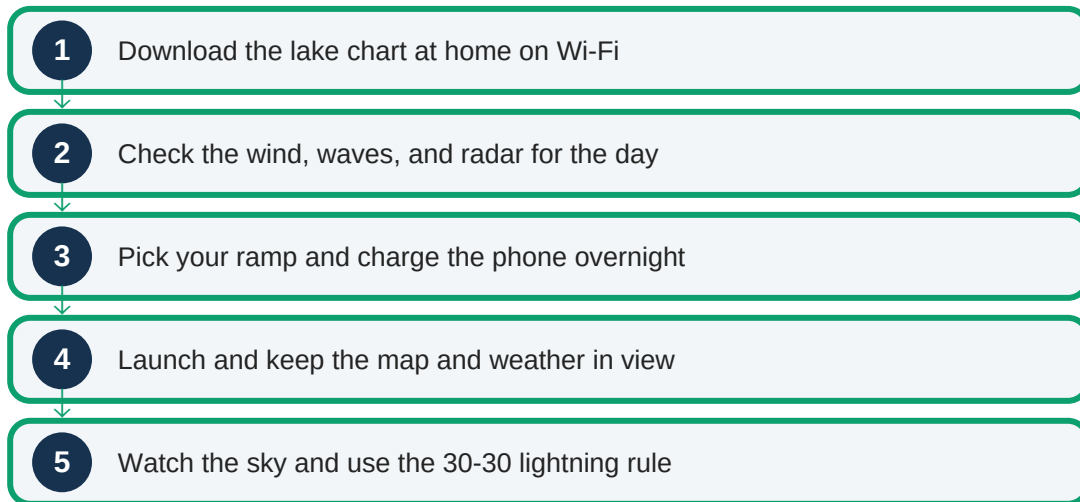
Windy for wind and waves
A radar app for storms
Free and worth having
always

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Kitchen Table to the Lake

A little prep the night before, a safe day after.



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

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