

All is calm, all is bright...

Here's wishing you the best and brightest of the Holiday Seasons. And, may all your hopes and dreams come true in the New Year!

Eric Foster, ,
Managing Partner



Many Improvements to Greet Returning BMH Boaters

Boaters returning to Belle Maer after the long winter will find numerous improvements in the marina. Here are some highlights:

Swimming Pool Improvements – Expansion of the swimming pool has already started (See below). The concrete deck will be increased in size by more than 80 percent;

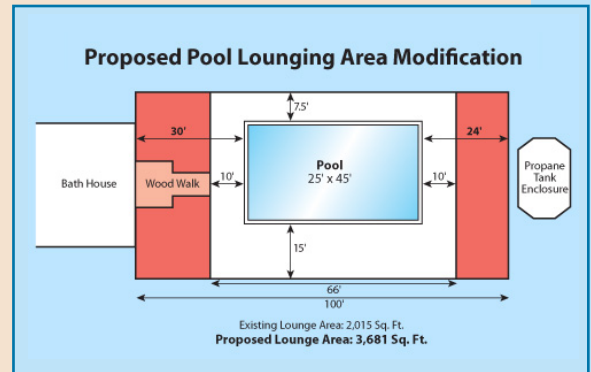
The new deck will start right at the bathhouse entrance, eliminating the small walkway that existed there. When complete, you will walk right from the bathhouse door into the swimming pool area. To make room for the new, expansive deck, four evergreen trees will be moved – two near the bathhouse and two are on the north side of the pool deck. The new deck will extend all the way up to the enclosed area where the propane tank is.

Also, new furniture will be added, including new tables and umbrellas, 24 new chairs and 24 new chaise lounges. All of old tile around the perimeter of the pool will be replaced, and a new pool liner will be installed.

Trees will be replanted, new landscaping added—and new fencing will be installed. With all of these improvements, it will look like Belle Maer has a brand new pool!

Other improvements include:

- **Dredging the channel into the lake** (permits for the dredging of 400 cubic yards are now being submitted). This will take care of a problem area near the entrance to the Belle Maer channel (near the orange floats) due to excessive shoaling into the channel area).
- **Resurfacing the tennis court and the basketball court**, including repairing the cracks, repaving/resealing and installing a new skin with the tennis court and basketball court striping and coloring.
- **Commercial painting** of 4 of the remaining buildings on the marina property to be consistent with the new color scheme.
- **Replacing coin operated washers and dryers** in the bath house building.
- **Shoring up the underpinning on the bridge;** one side was completed last fall (along with repaving the bridge) the other side is being done this year to protect the structural integrity of the bridge.
- **Replacing entire 150' section of the sea wall** at the rack building launch area.
- **Purchasing twelve 40' replacement docks** (cat walks).
- **Replacing a hot water power washer.**



Winter Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30am – 5:00pm

Saturday
10:00am – 4:00pm

The office will be closed on Saturdays during November and December.

Our front gate will be locked throughout the non-daylight hours of the winter. Tenants will be allowed access to the yard from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contractors will only be permitted access during the hours the marina office is open (or with advance authorization from the marina office).

A Few Reminders...

Since it's almost 90 days to "Launch," we wanted to remind you that the application and deposit for your summer well or rack needs to be returned to the Belle Maer office by January 15.

And, although pricing for the 2007 season is being increased slightly, we are offering an opportunity to maintain 2006 pricing if you pay your 2007 contract in full by January 15, 2007.

Also...due to the growing number of customers with second boats or other watercraft such as jet skis or dinghies, we are offering to rent those 30' slips between W3 and W12 at 50 percent off our normal rates in order to store additional watercraft near your well. We will also allow two customers to joint lease a single slip.

We are getting to the point where these extra watercraft stored behind a tenants' boat are sometimes protruding so far out into the canal they are becoming a navigational hazard. We hope this will provide customers with additional watercraft an economical solution to the problem. Please call the office staff if you are interested in exploring this option.

Shoring Your Boat at BMH: 'We Go Overboard'

If you have a boat that has been shored by the skilled yard workers at Belle Maer, you need not worry that it will be blown (or knocked over) this winter.

That's because, as Harbormaster Jim Krause says, "we really go overboard" to make sure our customers' boats are secured in their cradles.

"Shoring at Belle Maer is an art our guys are taught," he says. "We want to make absolutely sure your boat doesn't get damaged. Every winter, we hear about boats being blown over at other marinas, because they don't shore boats the way we do. We even go overboard from what manufacturers suggest we do."

Jim recalled that a small tornado went through the marina about 15 years ago; it was powerful enough to take two of the fence posts on the west side of the tennis court and "lay them right down."

"You could follow the path right over to a 35 foot Chris Craft," he says. "The wind had taken the boat off its blocks and moved it several feet — but it was still on its timbers; still shored up."

He added that there have been some instances where a car has hit someone's cradle: "the boat may move, but it is still secured in its strong cradle and doesn't fall over."

Eric Foster, managing partner adds that's why they don't allow trailers, motor homes or large trucks in the marina—especially at this time of year: "We don't want them to clip one of the boats and damage it."



Shoring is an art form at Belle Maer.



Got lumber?

From Boat U.S. Magazine...

Off-Season Safety Upgrades

Fixing broken gear, installing new equipment and generally making your boat ship shape for the next season is what most boaters do over the winter. But there is one thing that should always be at the top of your winter punch list – making safety improvements or upgrades. Here are 10 easy steps you can take over the winter to improve your margin of safety next year:

CO Detector: Newly manufactured boats with enclosed cabin spaces (and gasoline engines) should come with a CO detector, but many older cruisers lack this life saving device. This should also be on your must list if you have a generator. You can buy them for as little as \$75 for a wired, 12 volt version. If you have a battery powered unit, replace the battery each year

Upgrade your life jackets: Everyone has those cheapie horse collar life jackets stowed somewhere. But it's a sin to think that they are an adequate investment in your safety or that of your friends or family. Consider replacing those cheapies with a jacket that you think you'll wear more often, is more comfortable and fits the kind of boating you do (\$20-\$80). Equipping a life jacket with signal mirrors, whistles and signal lights are also very low cost upgrades (about \$33/vest).

More fire extinguishers: If you have a fire in your home, you can easily run out of the house. Not so with a boat. Adding extra extinguishers and mounting them in different areas, especially near cabin egress locations, could help you get out safely and give you a better chance to put out a fire. While they cost a little more, "tri-class" (A-B-C rated) fire extinguishers will handle all three types of fires: solid, liquid or electrical (\$20-\$25 each). Also, adding labels on cabinets or storage lockers that contain fire extinguishers can help everyone on board find them quickly.

VHF Radio: The closest rescuers are often other boaters, and the only way they'll know you're in trouble is if they hear your Mayday call over a VHF radio—not your cell phone. If you have a small boat, a handheld VHF (\$100-\$120) will save you installation headaches, and if you already have a fixed mount VHF, think about upgrading to a DSC capability (\$120-\$160) as the Coast Guard's new DSC-capable, "Rescue-21" system is now up and running in two areas of the country with more regions being added in 2007. Remember, pushing the "Mayday" button on a DSC VHF that is connected to your GPS will allow fellow boaters with DSC VHF radios to pinpoint your location. Another great feature is that anyone aboard can press built-in distress button to summon emergency help.

Add handholds, non-skid: Nearly every boat could use more handholds (\$15-\$75) and a little more non-skid (\$3-\$11) to help keep everyone safely on board.

Add a Fireport: Another inexpensive safety upgrade is to install a small round window to allow you to inspect an engine compartment without inadvertently adding oxygen to a fire. You can also insert a fire extinguisher nozzle into the port to put out the blaze (\$11).

Inventory all safety gear: The "Boaters Toolbox" (boatus.com/foundation/toolbox) also has a "Required Equipment" section to keep you on top of the minimum safety requirements as well as additional recommended equipment. Make sure your gear is serviceable and check the dates on your flares.

Install a bilge alarm: While wet ankles may be a good indicator that you're taking on water in a small boat, it's not always easy to determine that in a large boat. An audio alarm wired to a float switch positioned three to four inches above your normal bilge water levels can buy you more time (\$50).

Wood Bungs: Attaching the right sized wooden bung (tapered wooden plug) with a lanyard to each of your thru-hulls can stop a leak quickly and you won't waste precious time looking for them (\$11).

Continuing "Ed:" If you have never taken a basic boating course from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadron there is no better time than the winter. You can find classes near you by going to the Boat U.S. Foundation's "CourseLine" at BoatUS.com/courseline. More classes are offered in the winter so now is the time to sign up. If you'd rather stay inside by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate, you can take the Boat U.S. Foundation's free online boating safety course (boatus.org/onlinecourse). Don't worry if your time is limited. You can start, stop and pick up where you left off at any time. The Foundation's free online "Toolbox" (boatus.com/foundation/toolbox) also has a great, interactive "Rules of the Road" section.

Boating Education Can Enhance Safety and Fun on the Water

With five local United States Power Squadrons serving our area, why not plan to take a course to improve your boating IQ for the upcoming '07 season?

Classes usually form in January and/or February, and range from beginning classes to advanced grades. USPS courses are described below in excerpts from the national web site, and links to our local Squadrons appear below:

Boat Smart

Boat Smart is a course for all boaters including personal watercraft operators, hunters or fishermen operating an outboard utility boat, canoe and kayak paddlers, skippers of a family cruiser, and sailing enthusiasts. All boaters must follow the same nautical rules, regulations, and courtesies of the sea. The course includes three main sections:

Getting Started: boat terms and types, boat handling, anchoring, water sport safety, personal watercraft

What's Needed: equipment, regulations, law enforcement

Rules To Live By: aids to navigation, navigation rules, adverse conditions, marine radio

As boating is often a family activity, the course is of value to all members of a boating family. USPS encourages families to attend as groups.

Qualified, enthusiastic, and experienced USPS instructors provide instruction as a civic service. There is never a charge for instruction; the only costs are those for materials, plus overhead costs such as classroom rental, shipping and handling, sales tax, etc.

While the content of this student manual serves as the basis for this course, it will also serve as a reference book in basic boating long after the course work is completed. The course meets the educational standards of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and features a proctored examination as required by many states and insurance companies. The course will provide instruction and examination for laws and regulations of state and local authorities in the area where the course is taught.

USPS believes that the more educated a boater becomes, the more likely that boater will be a safe boater. Boat Smart is the beginning of a boating education.

The Squadron Boating Course

Learn the fundamentals of safe boat handling and operation, and basic piloting in one comprehensive classroom course. As an additional feature, this newly revised course includes a digital chart training CD and instructional material on modern navigation techniques as well.

This course meets state specific and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) requirements for certification. And completion of the course is accepted by most insurance companies. Since 1914, individual squadrons of USPS have provided courses as a service to the boating public to over 3 million boaters.

You will learn the basics of what you need to safely and comfortably go on the water with your boat. This newly revised comprehensive course includes lessons on seamanship, boat handling, boat types, rules of the road, navigation aids, regulations, adverse conditions, marine VHF radio, knots, trailering and introductory piloting. The course includes an extensive course book, training charts, and basic navigation tools. As a special feature it also includes an introduction to digital charting on CD-ROM in an appendix, and an overview of electronic navigation. Maptech's Chart Navigator Training CD includes software and digital charts to gain familiarity with this exciting new technology.

Many of today's recreational boaters utilize GPS receivers and perform electronic, waypoint navigation. Waypoint navigation using a handheld GPS is somewhat different from traditional dead reckoning. With a GPS you have good information about where you are in terms of latitude and longitude, but the GPS doesn't tell you what is around you or beneath your boat. Using waypoints, you have precise information about the bearing and distance from your current location to the waypoints, but the GPS doesn't know what may be in the way. The use of charts is explained in this course as the essential step to provide key information required for a safe passage.

Learning to boat the right way is important and the increased knowledge will enhance your safety on the water and your enjoyment of the sport. The Squadron Boating Course usually can be completed in six or seven two-hour classroom sessions. The course is meant to be of interest to the entire family; children are welcome. We encourage your family to attend as a group.

Those completing these courses meet a basic qualification for membership in the U.S. Power Squadrons. Members enjoy a host of more advanced courses in Seamanship, Coastal and Inland Navigation, Offshore Navigation, Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance, Sail, Cruise Planning, Weather, and others.

Chart Smart

Chart Smart is specifically designed with the recreational boater in mind. It is a seminar for all USPS Boat Smart course or America's Boating Course (ABC) graduates who are interested in information on compasses, charts, and plotting courses. Chart Smart builds upon the knowledge gained in Boat Smart or America's Boating Course by covering advanced subjects typically introduced in the The Squadron Boating Course:

- Mariner's Compass
- Conventional Nautical Charts
- Plotting a Course
- Distance, Speed, Time
- Determining Position
- Digital Charts and GPS Waypoint Navigation

The purpose of Chart Smart is to teach the techniques to determine position-on-the-water when you are within the sight of, or the near proximity of, land. Thus, recreational boaters who spend time on large lakes, rivers, and reservoirs will benefit from knowing these essential techniques. This seminar is designed to give the student an introduction to the subject known as "Piloting". Hands-on experience will be achieved in reading nautical charts and plotting courses, both central to determining position-on-the-water and navigating safely. Calculating a dead reckoning position depends upon straight forward distance, speed and time calculations and being able to convert true courses to compass courses, and vice versa.

Many of today's recreational boaters utilize GPS receivers and perform electronic, waypoint navigation. Waypoint navigation using a handheld GPS is somewhat different from traditional dead reckoning. With a GPS you have good information about where you are in terms of latitude and longitude, but the GPS doesn't tell you what is around you or beneath your boat. Using waypoints, you have precise information about the bearing and distance from your current location to the waypoints, but the GPS doesn't know what may be in the way. The use of charts is explained in this seminar as the essential step to provide key information required for a safe passage. And, the student manual is accompanied by an addendum and a CD that introduces digital charts, GPS waypoint navigation and route planning. Maptech's Chart Navigator Training CD includes software and digital charts to gain familiarity with this exciting new technology.

Qualified, enthusiastic, and experienced USPS instructors provide instruction as a civic service. There is never a charge for instruction; the only costs are those for materials, plus overhead costs such as classroom rental, shipping and handling, sales tax, etc.

While the content of this student manual serves as the basis for this program, it will also serve as a reference book in basic boating long after the class work is completed. USPS believes that the more educated a boater becomes, the more likely that boater will be a safe boater. Chart Smart is a continuation of boating education, and hopefully will encourage students to join USPS to follow this brief and basic introductory program with additional boating education such as the courses offered to members of the United States Power Squadrons. Your instructor can give you information about these advanced courses.

Advanced Grades Courses

Seamanship (S)

Building on the basics taught in the public boating course, Seamanship is the recommended first course for new members, both power boaters and sailors. Students learn practical marlinespike, navigation rules, hull design and performance, responsibilities of the skipper, boat care, operating a boat under normal and abnormal conditions, what to do in various emergencies and weather conditions, nautical customs and common courtesies on the water. This course provides a needed introduction to the USPS Educational Program and a strong foundation for members going on to other Advanced Grades courses and/or Cruise Planning or Sail.

Piloting (P)

Piloting is the first of the navigational classes focusing on techniques for piloting a boat in coastal and inland conditions. The course emphasizes planning and checking along with the use of GPS for determining position, and introduces digital charting along with traditional charting, compass and dead reckoning skills. Plotting, labeling, use of the compass, aids to navigation and a host of related topics are included in this all-new approach to coastal and inland piloting.

The awardee is called a Pilot as well.

Advanced Piloting (AP)

Advanced Piloting is the final part of the inland and coastal navigation series. This material continues to build on the base developed in Piloting, and includes practical use of additional electronic navigation systems and other advanced techniques for finding position. Among topics covered are: finding position using bearings and angles, collision avoidance using GPS and RADAR, what to do when the electronics fail, tides, currents and wind and their effect on piloting, and electronic navigation with GPS, chart plotters, RADAR, autopilots, etc. Application of course lectures takes place through practical in-class and at-home exercises.

Junior Navigation (JN)

Junior Navigation is the first of a two-part program of study in offshore (open coast) navigation. It is designed as a practical, how-to course, leaving the theoretical and more advanced techniques for the subsequent Navigation Course. Subject matter includes: basic concepts of celestial navigation; how to use the mariner's sextant to take sights of the sun, moon, planets and stars; the importance and techniques of accurate time determination; use of the Nautical Almanac; how to reduce sights to establish lines of position (LOPs); and the use of special charts, plotting sheets and other navigational data for offshore positioning and passage planning.

Navigation (N)

This is the second part of the study of offshore navigation. It further develops the student's understanding of celestial theory. The student is introduced to additional sight reduction techniques and develops greater skill and precision in sight taking, positioning and the orderly methods of carrying on the day's work of a navigator at sea. Of particular interest and importance is the study of offshore navigation using minimal data and/or equipment, such as when on a disabled vessel or lifeboat.

Anchor Bay USPS: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/anchorbay/>

Detroit USPS: <http://www.detroitpowersquadron.org/>

Birmingham USPS: <http://www.birminghampowersquadron.org/>

Grosse Pointe USPS: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/grossepointe/>

Mt. Clemens USPS: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/clemens/>

Belle Maer Classified Ads

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - A botanical and herbal based, hypoallergenic skin/healthcare, cosmetic and aromatherapy company is looking for motivated people who want to work from home part-time to earn money for the holidays — and beyond. These Swiss formulated, American made products are exploding into the marketplace and now is the time to get involved and reap the benefits!

Learn more about these phenomenal products and get a free brochure and product sample today. Call Mary Simmons (N29) today at (734) 709-2332 for more information on owning your own business.



FOR SALE – 35' BOAT WELL. Lexington, #L-14. 35' x 14'. Please call (586) 604-5590.



Huntington Bank Wants to Finance Your Next Boat

Huntington Bank is offering boaters at Belle Maer Harbor a great opportunity on boat loans. With 1/2 percent off on any boat loan, Huntington Bank is working hard to help get boaters on the water, according to JuliAnne Fisher at the Bridgeview branch on South River Road.

"We are a local bank with national resources," she says. "We know we are in the middle of a very large boating population and want to be there with a great offer that shows we have interest in individuals and businesses that thrive on the water.

"In addition to providing banking services, we want to be a partner in any financing needs boaters may have," she says.

For more information or an application, call JuliAnne at (586) 466-6559.

Belle Maer Offering \$500 Sponsorship If You Bring In Boating Friend

A reminder that Belle Maer is offering a \$500 credit to our current customers for each new boater they sponsor who leases a Belle Maer Harbor rental well for the 2007 season. (This offer excludes the lease of condominium wells which are not owned by Belle Maer Harbor or the lease of in and out rack storage.)

The \$500 credit can be taken in full by the sponsor, or the credit can be split between the sponsor and the new boater if the sponsor so instructs our office.

We know you all have boating friends who keep their boats at other marinas. Why not make a phone call and suggest they check out Belle Maer Harbor before they make their 2007 slip deposit? After you have called your friend and asked them to consider Belle Maer Harbor, simply call our office at (586) 465-4534 or email Eric Foster at ecfoster@bellemaer.com and register their name as your contact.

We would also very much like to mail out a brochure and informational packet if you would kindly supply us with a mailing address and phone number.

At Belle Maer, we sincerely appreciate your patronage, and hope this program will enlist you in a mutually rewarding effort that will reward you for bringing your friends closer for the summer. So why not take this opportunity to recruit your boating friends to join you at the best marina on Lake St. Clair while reducing your '07 dockage costs at the same time?