

Belle Maer 2009 July 4th Weekend Is Chock Full of Food, Fireworks, Parade, Boat Races

You know when July 4th falls on a Saturday, people will wake up in a great mood, ready to celebrate from morning 'til midnight. That was the scene at Belle Maer this year, when our boating community transformed itself into a "town" of patriotic revelers from dawn and into the wee hours.

Although the weather was a little overcast and sometimes threatened to rain, spirits were bright as the July 4th "official" events kicked off, starting with the 3rd Annual Golf Cart Parade (this year, it was even covered in the Macomb Daily).

This year's parade was bigger than ever, with participants attired in patriotic costumes ranging from stars 'n stripes top hats to army uniforms to (yes) a Hawaiian dancer outfit (looking great on a young man). And the carts themselves were a spectacle, with some pulling trailing displays and others topped with themed decorations. It was a sight to behold as our golf carts maneuvered around the packed marina, waving, playing music and honking their horns.

Among the participants was Ken Klein of W Wharf, who videotaped the parade and posted his video on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS9Kkjqil2M>

As the day progressed, many of our Belle Maer neighbors could be seen hoisting a toast or two and putting some burgers or ribs on the barbecue. Many were seen scooting around the canals in their dinghies and several took their boats out for a ride, an anchor or a swim.

Those who didn't take boats out had a lot of other options, of course. The volleyball court hosted a lot of activity over the entire weekend, as did the basketball courts, the tennis court, the playground—you name it. Fun and frivolity were everywhere you turned on this great summer weekend.

Special Editor's Note: We have a new photo contributor whose work appears in this issue of The Navigator. You're sure to enjoy the quality fireworks and other photos taken this year by Bruce Nierzwick, a professional photographer from Harrison Township. You can contact Bruce at (586) 322-1740.

Throughout all of the activities and events taking place during the day on the 4th of July, the excitement continued to build as evening drew near and the crowd anticipated the 23rd Annual Fireworks Display.

As dusk approached, and the barge anchored well north of our Anchor Bay shoreline, a few loud "booms" grabbed everyone's attention. We knew it wouldn't be long before Barry Beltz and his crew at Great Lakes Fireworks would be putting on their dazzling display, with their awesome pyrotechnic effects.

Barry and his crew ran through more than 1,200 shells for the Belle Maer fireworks, along with a multitude of "barrage cakes" with as many as 1,000 shots each.

We would like to thank everyone for a most entertaining, exciting and safe 4th of July this year, including Barry Beltz, the Belle Maer security team, our yard workers and many others.



Photo by Bruce Nierzwick



1st Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta a Titanic Success

This year, something new and exciting was introduced at Belle Maer Harbor, as part of the 4th of July weekend: the 1st Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta. Sponsored by Belle Maer and the New Wave Boat Club, the exciting race featured boats captained by kids and teens and was held July 5th on the Canal between Calypso Row and Elco Row.

While boats were placed in the water by a small army of volunteers, excitement was building. Would the cardboard boats stay together long enough to make it to the finish line, or would the kids have to swim to the finish line?

It didn't matter, really, as spotters in dozens of dinghies lined the canal, and hundreds of spectators were eagerly taking their positions on their boats and on docks. As the kids started to race, so did the crowd of spectators as they proceeded north on the finger piers hoping to see the finish of the race.

Prizes and ribbons were awarded to all participants, most of whom stayed dry as their makeshift vessels plied the waters of Belle Maer on this beautiful day.

The theme for the 1st Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta was Pirate Day, with Gary Pointkowski, Belle Maer boater and New Wave Boat Club member, serving as the chief pirate.

We'll look forward to next year, when Belle Maer can host its 2nd Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta.



New 'Transient Package' Feature Available On Belle Maer Harbor Website

We have added a new and informative section to the Belle Maer website—a new feature you can access called the Transient Reservations Package. A link for this area will appear from now on and is located on the upper right menu area of the site.

In this site, we have included a special package containing information for reserving transient wells. We have also added the new detailed marina site map — a great reference item not only for transient boaters, but for your guests as well.

We hope you enjoy and use this new feature!

Sock Hop Scheduled Aug. 22nd At Belle Maer Harbor

A 1950s-style "Sock Hop" is planned on Saturday, Aug. 22, as part of the festivities to tie in with the Selfridge Air Show. The Sock Hop will run from 6 to 9 p.m., and a disc jockey will provide entertainment.

The event, cosponsored by Belle Maer and the New Wave Boat Club, will take place in front of the marina pavilion—complete with a dance area in front.

T-shirts will be available for sale (these were originally produced for the Cardboard Boat Regatta). Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated socks in a best sock contest.

Thunderbirds to Return

Selfridge Air Show and Open House Scheduled August 22 and 23

Selfridge Air National Guard Base will host the USAF Thunderbirds and highlight military technology during its next Air Show and Open House scheduled August 22 and 23, bringing together the people, aircraft, and military equipment from across service branches.

Boaters at Belle Maer know the marina is a prime viewing spot for this event. Many of the airborne events can easily be seen from the marina property, but sometimes it's even more exciting to drop a hook just north of the base for a "bird's eye" view.

With a focus on the advancement of military technology, the base will exhibit displays from hybrid-vehicle technology to robotics to training simulators which have improved military operations to their current standards and fostered improvements in warfighter support. NASA has committed several displays to be set up in the field for participants to explore.

"We're very excited to be bringing back the Thunderbirds this year to an event that brings out so many hundreds of people in our community to see what we do right here at Selfridge," said Major Jim Rossi, the 2009 Air Show Director. The last time the Thunderbirds appeared at the base was 2003. "With a usual count of about 150,000 people for the event weekend, we expect this show to bring upwards of 200,000 people or more to the base to see what we do for our country on a daily basis."

The Air Show will showcase personnel and modern and future military aircraft and hardware that are currently contributing towards the global war on terror. Besides the Air Force's premier demonstration team, acts currently committed to the show include all aircraft stationed at Selfridge ANG Base such as the Air Guard's A-10 "Warhogs" and KC-135 "Stratotankers," the Coast Guard's HH-65 "Dolphin" helicopters and the Army National Guard's CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters. Air Show favorites which have also committed include the MIG-17 "Fresco," T-1, F-104 Starfighters, T-6 Texans, B-25 Mitchell, C-47 - Skytrain, MIG-21 "Fishbed," Greg Poe (Fagen Oil) MX-2, Brett Hunter, Gene Soucy and Wingwalker, Mike Wiscus (Lucas Oil) Pitts, Oregon Aero Skydancer and Skywriter, and static displays of a variety of aircraft. Orange County Chopper has also signed on to participate. Aerial acts and static display aircraft and other equipment are still committing to the show and this list continues to grow.

For more information, log onto the Air Show website at www.selfridgeairshow.org.



'Saturday Night at the Movies' Continues this Summer at Marina

Weather permitting, there will be a showing of a movie every Saturday night in the parking area between the new pavilion and the playscape area. Bring your golf carts, chairs, blankets and coolers for a drive-in theatre experience on a large screen—all right here at the marina.

Admission is free.

Pavilion is Great Gathering Spot for Rendezvous, Groups

If you would like to host your group or club at Belle Maer, the marina offers its own pavilion where everyone can gather.

This sheltered area, which is located between the tennis courts and the playscape area, includes ample parking and gathering space for our full time residents as well as transient friends. In addition, Belle Maer has invited neighboring boat clubs, groups and marinas to visit for a rendezvous or a weekend.

Please call the marina office for a more information on the usage and fee policy and reservations.

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Ray's Marine Supply: A New Neighbor in Town

If you are a boater at Belle Maer Harbor, you have no doubt driven by this new establishment dozens of times, on your way to and from the marina. It's a fully-stocked and well-equipped marine store located in the same plaza as D Brothers grocery store and Classic Boat Decks, about a mile west of Conger Bay Drive.

Ray's Marine just opened this year as a partnership between owner Ray Darghali, who also owns the D Brothers store, and Tom Robinson, who owns and operates Classic Boat Decks. The two have talked about setting up a marine supply operation at the location for years, but this season made it a reality.

One of the principle reasons this season seemed best to Tom and Ray was that the Bridgeview Road Bridge would be out, and boaters at Belle Maer and other neighboring marinas would need a good alternative to taking the long detour to purchase equipment and supplies.

So Tom went to work as the chief buyer for Ray's Marine, making sure they had most (if not all) of the bases covered when boaters needed something—from a small stainless steel screw to safety gear to water shoes to charts. And, as important as anything, they wanted to offer a great selection of products at prices that would be competitive with any of the larger marine stores around town (that's why Tom routinely visits his competitors and goes through their flyers). There's another benefit Ray's can offer boaters: Tom is a lifelong boater (who also keeps his boat at Belle Maer), who is usually on hand to offer friendly advice on selecting marine products ranging from the most common to most unusual.

Ray's Marine carries marine supplies, stainless steel hardware, cleaners and waxes, paint supplies, AMS oil, sporting goods, electrical supplies, lines and rope, charts and maps, safety gear and more. They also handle prop repairs. They are located at 31469 North River Road in Harrison Township.

The first year has been so encouraging that Ray and Tom plan to expand the store for the 2010 season, when Ray's Marine will take over the storefront where Classic Boat Decks currently is. Tom will then move his operation to a counter and workspace area in the rear of the new store, where he will continue to custom cut and install marine carpet and decks as he has done for several years.

For more information, call Ray's Marine at (586) 469-8900.



Hints from the Harbormaster

1. To control odor, it is recommended that all boaters in the marina use a chemical odor deterrent in their holding tanks. This is especially true as the weather turns from warm to hot, and odors tend to be more prevalent. A popular choice is "Odorless," a 68 ounce container which is priced at under \$25.00. Each use only requires 4-5 ounces. Of course, there are many other choices—but please sure to select one, as a great way of keeping friends and making new ones around the marina!

2. If you should encounter electrical problems at your boat, the quickest way to deal with a potential problem is to check two breakers before reporting the issue to the office or guard shack. The first breaker is on the pedestal at your dock. The second is located in the electrical meter box located on your row. Your well number appears above the meter and the breaker is positioned beneath it. If these are both turned on and the problem still persists, please contact the harbor office or security. We will issue a "Service Request" to get the problem resolved quickly if necessary.

3. We have had many reports of glass-top furniture breaking in high winds. We no longer permit tables with glass tops to be brought into the marina (if you currently have such a table, it is permissible, but please use caution and replace it when possible). This policy is being implemented for the safety of all Belle Maer customers; glass table tops can break into dangerous flying shards or tiny glass pieces that present serious hazards and risk of injury.

4. Please remember that all golf carts need to be registered with the marina. You may pick up a registration form from the office; it states the rules and regulations for driving the cart on marina property. After you complete and return the form, your permit will be issued. The permit must be affixed to your cart in order to use it within the marina.

Free Shuttle Service Offered For Summer in Harrison Township

Harrison Township continues to offer a free Shuttle Service to take passengers around Boat Town on weekends.

Shuttle Hours are

Friday 5:00 p.m. to midnight

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to midnight

Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For information on the shuttle service call 1-586-612-4454.

There's a Lot of Summer Left; Plan to Have Your Friends Visit at a Transient Well

This season, why not invite your boating friends from other marinas to stay at Belle Maer for your own weekend get together. For all Belle Maer transient wells, reservations must be made in advance and transient passes will be made available upon their arrival.

Belle Maer transient prices have been set at \$1.50 per linear foot per night. Check out time is 11:00 am on the next day. Anyone wishing to stay past the check out time on the next day will be required to pay for an additional night.

Belle Maer also offers special rates to our boating customers: Rack customers can spend an evening in the water by renting a transient well for \$.75 per linear foot. All of our customers can sponsor an individual friend or family member to spend an evening for \$1.00 per linear foot.

Transient guests must pay in advance. It is preferred that payment be made one week in advance by check. Any payments less than a week in advance must be made by cash or credit card (no checks). The use of the swimming pool and all of the other marina amenities are included in the daily transient fee.

For more information, please view the Transient Reservation Package link on our web site, or call the marina office.

Classified Ad Program Still Available On Belle Maer Web Site

Belle Maer Harbor is continuing its program to offer individuals and businesses marketing opportunities through advertising on the Belle Maer web site.

Classified Ads are posted on the web site, providing each advertiser the exposure we receive with 6,500 monthly hits on the site. Here are the details:

Classified Ad Program (for Individuals):

- We will create a prominent Personal Classified Ad click-on section on our home page (these will no longer be part of the e-newsletter, and will run independent of our e-newsletter postings.
- The ads will be placed as they come into our office and run for a specified time frame. Donna Kempt of the marina office will collect the ad fee.
- Our new charge will be \$20 for two months and \$35 for a four month term. There is no refund if the item sells early.
- Classified Ads in this section should all be personal ads of 35 words or less.
- Photos can be included with your ad for an additional charge.

Banner Ad Program (for Businesses):

- Businesses can purchase Banner Ads which will be run on a calendar year basis. We can accommodate a new banner ad at any time of the year. Animated, custom designed Banner Ads rotate throughout the BMH web site and the e-newsletter, providing optimum exposure to the 6,500 hits the web site receives per month.
- Cost for the Annual Banner Ad is only \$500 for the entire year.

Please call Donna Kempt at the Belle Maer marina office for more information or to run your ad.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

It might be a good idea to print, clip and save these emergency telephone numbers and keep them in a place where they're easy to find. Let family members know where they are so they can get to them quickly in case the need arises:

General Emergencies: 911

Belle Maer Security: (586) 465-4536

Marina Security Dispatch (586) 803-0003

Sheriff's Marine Division: (586) 469-5803

Macomb County Sheriff: (586) 469-5151

Summer Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 5:00pm

Saturday (Closed during July and August)
10:00am – 4:00pm

Contractors will only be permitted access during the hours the marina office is open (or with advance authorization from the marina office).