

Belle Maer 25th Anniversary Fireworks Display Dazzles!

The 4th of July Holiday Weekend at Belle Maer this year was one for the ages. It was only fitting 2011 marked the 25th anniversary of the annual fireworks display because this year it seemed even more special than ever before.

The weather didn't hurt. Although there was a brief storm over the weekend to remind us that Mother Nature is in charge, every day dawned sunny and warm and pretty much ended the same way. The weekend events were jump-started Saturday afternoon with the running of the 3rd Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta. This year, we saw many new entries, new faces (some more familiar, but a year older) and much creativity. One boat, fashioned to look like a shark, didn't exactly swim like one. Another was to be powered by a cardboard paddle wheel with a duct tape belt—but it didn't perform exactly like her designers intended. So, paddles were called into action and kid power prevailed. What fun!

Sunday, July 3rd, was the day designated for the 5th Annual July Golf Cart Parade and, much later, the fireworks display. This year, the patriotic themes ranged from simple to elaborate, with stars and stripes reigning supreme. Many golf carts featured amplified music, others featured amplified riders. Horns blared up and down Belle Maer piers, as kids tossed candy to those lining the parade route. Some surprises were observed, like giant gorillas and stuffed birds adorning the carts to add that touch of zaniness we've all come to expect from this event.

The day was capped off with perhaps the most ambitious of any fireworks display we've seen on the lake. The wind calmed just in time for the start of the display, as hundreds of boats dotted Anchor Bay as a blazing red sunset further added to the anticipation.

The display commenced with a few strategic "booms!" and then things really started booming. Not one but two barges were called into service for the anniversary display; they fired off more rockets and more shells that soared higher with more dazzling and colorful explosions that seemed to go this way and that, then the other way, then crisscross the other way. These fireworks seemed to send us a message in the summer of 2011: on this day we can be proud to be Americans, and oh so pleased to be witnessing all of this wonder here at Belle Maer.

Ron Jones, a long time Belle Maer resident from on E-386, added his accolades in an email to Eric Foster: Thanks for another fabulous holiday weekend. The fireworks were even better than last year, which is hard to do since last year was great also. The addition of recorded and live music before the fireworks provided an outstanding lead into the fireworks. The cardboard boat races and golf cart parade added to the weekend celebrations.



Fireworks photos by Bruce Nierzwick (586) 322-1740.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 5:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm

(Closed on Saturdays during the months of July, August, November & December)

The Marina yard is open 24/7 during the summer season. The gate will be locked and the Marina yard closed throughout the non-daylight hours of the winter season.

Contractors must check in with the Marina office. They are therefore admitted access to the Marina yard only during the hours that the Marina office is open unless they have arranged for advance authorization from the Marina office.

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
Harrison Twp Fire Department: (586) 466-1450

Belle Maer 3rd Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta Highlights Creativity, Competition and the Joys of Getting Wet

The 3rd Annual Cardboard Regatta, held this year on July 2nd, pitted youthful teams and colorful (if not seaworthy) homemade vessels against each other just for the fun of it. This year, the many boats and their participants became stars in their own right, with local TV stations and even the Detroit News on hand to document the frivolity.

The Cardboard Boat Regatta is for kids and teens under 17; it is a "boat race" and features a frenzied sprint down the canal between C-Row and E-Row. Of course, there were a lot of obstacles encountered along the way, including some raucous groups of adults in cockpits of their boats who couldn't seem to resist sprayed kids with water cannons—then turning them on each other.

The Regatta Boats were constructed with cardboard, paper, tape and paint. It would be difficult to place bets on the winners as the most seaworthy-looking boats sometimes sank almost immediately, while others made it all the way to the checkered flags.

2011 Winners are as follows:

Age 12 and under winners:

1st place – Brianna and Haley (Lock It, Pop It, Polka-dot It)

2nd place – Evan and Owen (Captain America)

3rd place – Kami and Anastasia (Kaboom)

Age 13-17 winners:

1st place - Jennifer (JoGus III)

2nd place – Ashley and Taylor (The Hamsters)

Best of Show - Jennifer (JoGus III)

Titanic Award (for most spectacular sinking) – Rylee and Charlie (Rudy)



Belle Maer 5th Annual Golf Cart Parade: Even More Carts, Even More Zaniness

At the 5th Annual Belle Maer Golf Cart Parade, you might just see anything from patriotic to just plain goofy. Some golf carts blared music, others were content to just honk their horns. Most combined the parade with a sort of impromptu Halloween theme by tossing candy to those lining the parade route. All in all, it was another memorable parade where revelers had one thing in common: the objective was to have a good time!



AquaPalooza 2011 Set to Raft Off At Poor Man's Beach July 24th

AquaPalooza 2011 takes place right off our shores in Poor Man's Beach with one of the biggest in-water parties in the Midwest. This annual Sea Ray rendezvous is hosted by Colony Marine and features live entertainment by Meldrum Brother's Band, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., plus swimming and games for adults and children. Events are scheduled from noon to 5:00 p.m., and you don't have to own a Sea Ray to enjoy the party!



Selfridge Air Show Takes to the Skies August 20-21

The aerial expertise of the latest addition to American's Air Force is slated to lead the 2011 Selfridge Air Show August 20 and 21 in the skies over Belle Maer.

The U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft will take to the air over Selfridge Air National Guard Base, offering visitors a rare glimpse at the \$150 million stealth jet. The demonstration team for the marquee aircraft will provide flying performances during the free air show.

"For the majority of our visitors, I am certain this will represent their first opportunity to see an F-22," said Lt. Col. Sean Campbell, the air show director. "There are less than 150 F-22s in the Air Force inventory, so having the aircraft at Selfridge for our show is a very special treat for our visitors."

The theme of the 2011 air show is "Youth and Technology in Aviation." Displays from the likes of NASA on space exploration and technology will accompany the traditional overview of an array of aircraft and aerial demonstrations, ground equipment and information displays featuring background on various government agencies.

The Selfridge Air Show is hosted by the 127th Wing, a component of the Michigan National Guard stationed at the base that flies the KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling tanker and A-10 Thunderbolt II support attack aircraft.

Gates will be open to the public at 8 a.m. daily and admission is free, but at Belle Maer you'll have a "bird's eye view" of most of the action that weekend.



Dock Side 6 to Perform at Belle Maer July 30

Our favorite Belle Maer musicians, Lori Kusmierz and her brother, Brian Grasso, will be performing here July 30 from 6 to 10 p.m., with their band, Dock Side 6. Lori and Brian entertained us recently on Marina Fun Day with their smaller group, Sibling Rivalry. Join them with their expanded group for some great music and a great time.

Belle Maer 'Saturday Night at The Movies' Continues

Belle Maer will be showing movies every other Saturday for the remainder of the season. The schedule will be as follows:

July 23rd • August 6th • August 20th • September 3rd

Reminder emails will be sent out prior to each of these dates with the name of the movie to be shown. The movie will also be posted on the sandwich board sign as you enter the Marina. In the case of cancellation due to weather, the off Saturday will be used as the makeup date.



Monofilament Recycling Bins Available Through Clean Marina Program

Contact Sea Grant to Place a Recycle Bin at Your Business

The Clean Marina Program is a local sponsor of the BoatU.S. Foundation's "Reel In and Recycle" campaign - working to encourage anglers to recycle their fishing line.

According to Amy Samples at the Michigan Sea Grant, fishing line takes 500-600 years to break down. Humans and wildlife are affected by the adverse effects of line not properly disposed of. Boat propellers may get jammed by large webs of fishing line and aquatic wildlife, including fish, turtles and birds can get tangled in fishing line, leading to strangulation, drowning or starvation. Please contact Amy Samples at asamples@umich.edu to request a bin for a high-traffic fishing spot in your coastal area. You will need to commit to the program for at least two years and identify a responsible party to collect and ship monofilament from the bin.



Mark Your Calendar for the Michigan Boating & Outdoor Festival September 22 – 25

The 2nd Annual Michigan Boating and Outdoor Festival is an in-water boat show featuring many other outdoor recreation exhibits catering to the millions of outdoor minded individuals in Michigan and surrounding states. The event takes place at Metro Beach Metropark and includes promotions, contests, demonstrations and much more make this event a must see for everyone.

Hours: Thursday, Friday: 12 noon-8 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Admission: Adults \$9, Children 12 and under free with an adult. Visit boatingandoutdoorfest.com discount tickets.

Show features include Duma! The Waterskiing Dog, music made for boating including country, island, Jimmy Buffet tributes and steel drum sounds, beer tents and a Tiki Bar.

There will be a Kids Zone with lots of fun for the kids with face painting, bounce houses, stilt walkers, lawn games and fishing simulator.

BRP's Ultimate Playground will give pre-registered attendees the opportunity to tryout their new BRP Sea-Doos, ATVs and SSVs as well as their Roadsters. Also planned are radio station remotes and appearances and celebrity appearances.

Special attractions to be announced at www.boatingandoutdoorfest.com.



Water Pressure Restored to Normal Thanks to New Harrison Twp. Water Tank

There's good news for the Belle Maer community of boaters, as well as those who live and work in the surrounding community: water pressure should be back to normal, thanks to the installation of a new water storage tank and controls.

According to Ken Verkest, Harrison Township Supervisor, the Township shut off the connection to the Detroit system at Union Lake and Metro Parkway in order to connect the new water storage tank and controls, which created a drop in water pressure. The new tank is now on line and operational, and should resolve the issue.

"The new tank holds 750,000 gallons and enables us to save over \$250,000 per year in water rates," Verkest explained in an email to Eric Foster. "The tank will be filled every evening between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. and then drained during the peak usage times throughout the day, reducing our 'load' on the DWSD system.

"During the time the Union Lake connection was shut off, we were drawing all of our water from the north connection at Joy Blvd. & I-94," he said. "This would naturally reduce pressure on North River as it would not supply water from the cross-connection across the Clinton River near the mouth of the river."

Verkest said that the entire system is back to normal and there should be no change to the pressure or flow.



Pavilion Perfect Gathering Spot for Your Group or Function

If you would like to host a group or club at Belle Maer, or if you'd like to schedule a function like a shower or birthday party, the marina offers its own pavilion where everyone can get together in comfort.

This sheltered area, 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 invites neighboring boat clubs, groups and marinas to visit for a rendezvous or a weekend.

As you may have observed, the Belle Maer Pavilion has become a popular spot for events and functions, so be sure call the marina office well in advance for reservations.

BMH Rack Storage Customer Expresses Appreciation

Jeff Lido, a Belle Maer rack storage customer, offered his compliments and appreciation for the service he has received this year:

I wanted to reach out to you and convey my appreciation for the high level of service that I have received from your staff. I am a new customer in the "rack" building as of last year and have been preparing my vessel for the season in recent weeks.

Dave who operates the lift has been extremely helpful in accommodating my needs and has gone above and beyond honoring my requests not only this season but last year as well. He is always willing to assist and is professional and courteous. He is efficient when it comes to pulling my boat out and placing it in the water which makes boarding much easier instead of a chore.

Upon returning, he and Dominic work seamlessly to retrieve my boat from the water and even makes sure that my drive is straight and my tabs are up.

I want to congratulate your organization for employing such high quality individuals who make it an easy and convenient way to enjoy boating with my friends and family.

Celebrity Boaters Not Shy About their Passion

-Reprinted from Boat Michigan and Michigan Boating Industries Association

Not a week goes by that we don't see a paparazzi shot of some celebrity showing off on their luxury boat. We are not always sure if they are showing off their boats or their bods, but either way, there is no shortage of gorgeous Hollywood types scantily clad or all dressed in white showing off tans, post baby bodies or their snazzy boating attire while enjoying summer weather upon a fabulous boat of some type or another.

Whether you fish, ski, wakeboard, go fast or just relax, boating fuels these passions. Some people simply boat to bring out the passion including these passionate celebrity couples recently spotted on the water - Angelina Jolie & Brad Pitt, Tom and Katie Cruise, and Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez.

Don't be fooled into thinking boating is a man's passion. There are plenty of women who are the driving factor behind a boat purchase or excursion. Beyonce', Nicole Kidman and Penelope Cruz are three examples of female boating enthusiasts who have all been spotted recently onboard indulgent watercraft. Penelope Cruz goes yachting on her yacht "Distar Princess," a 65-foot motor yacht which she feels is a much more intimate type of cruising, compared to 30-cabin megayachts commonly used by celebrity party people.

Sean "Diddy" Combs and George Clooney on the other hand prefer the 30-cabin version of a party boat, and are often seen on the "R.M. Elegant" – a strikingly beautiful 236-ft super-yacht built by Greece's Lamda Shipyard back in 2005. This amazing craft is Diddy's favorite yacht for cruising around in style and other celebs have partied aboard this luxurious yacht as well.

The "R.M. Elegant" hosted a party for Ocean's 13 cast at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007, but more recently Cindy Crawford and her husband were onboard guests of Clooney.

Movie stars and celebrity boaters show the glitz and glamour of boating but it's the musicians that really know how to communicate the fun, feeling and fascination boating brings every time we hit the water.

Most notably seen boating is Michigan's beloved Kid Rock on his classic mahogany Grand-Craft Chris Craft a reproduction boat made in 2003 in Holland, Mich. His many references to summer boating here in Michigan paint the picture well of the magic boating holds.

Alan Jackson is a self-proclaimed boat nut who admits to having "20 woodies dating from the 1920s to 1960s." His passion is to spend time on the water with his wife Denise and their 3 daughters. He mentions the joys of boating in many songs including "Boats to Build" where he sings "Sails are just like wings. The wind can make them sing. Songs of life, songs of hope. Songs to keep your dreams afloat."

Kenny Chesney believes boats are "vessels of freedom and harbors of healing" according to his famous song titled "Boats." Kenny owns two Sea Rays, a 56- and a 60-footer, and thanks boats for helping him heal and spend quality time with people he loves. His lyrics say, "When the sun is at his back and the wind is in his face – It's just him at the wheel. He wouldn't take a million bucks for the way it makes him feel."

These millionaire boaters and many more know the magic of boating, and lucky for us it doesn't take a million bucks to experience the magic. Four million non-celebrity boaters in Michigan experience it every season. Discover the magic at www.boatmichigan.org.

Small Vessel Reporting System Helps International Boaters Offered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection

The Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS), a voluntary program offered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), helps boaters report their arrival to the U.S. at no charge. The program is designed to expedite entry of legitimate boaters, enabling CBP officers to focus their attention on higher-risk travelers and craft. SVRS is available to: U.S. Citizens, nationals and lawful permanent residents; Canadian citizens; and permanent residents of Canada who are nationals of a Visa Waiver Program country.

Enrolling is quick, easy, and free via the Internet in just three steps:

1. Complete application at www.CBP.gov/SVRS
2. Schedule interview online with CBP officer.
3. Receive boater registration number and password by email.

SVRS participants report their entry to the U.S. quickly too, by calling a dedicated telephone line and responding to the questions. (CBP reserves the right to hold an in-person inspection if needed.) The system is currently available at the U.S./Canada border, in the Southeast at Florida, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

For more information, visit: Enrollment page (not case-sensitive): www.CBP.gov/SVRS or General information: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/boats/svrs.xml

Why Not Have Friends Stay for a Weekend This Summer at Belle Maer Harbor

There's still a lot of boating season left, so why not make plans to have some friends from other marinas join you at Belle Maer for your own weekend rendezvous. After all, Belle Maer has all of the amenities and comforts of home a boater could wish for when traveling to another port. And remember the free Harrison Township Shuttle is available to take them to bars and restaurants, or just to see the sights! And, the Gathering Pavilion makes the perfect social "headquarters" for larger groups to call home while away from home.

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 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.

For all Belle Maer transient wells, reservations must be paid in advance and transient passes will be made available upon their arrival. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card. Reservations being made less than 10 business days in advance must be paid in cash or by credit card (no checks). No cancellation refunds once the reservation and payment has been processed. The use of the swimming pool and all of the other marina amenities are included in the daily transient fee.

For more information, please call the Marina Office.

Complimentary Shuttle Service Serves Riders in Harrison Township

Now in its fifth season, Harrison Township offers a free Shuttle Service that will take passengers in and around Boat Town on weekends. This schedule and map with contact information will come in handy if you want to get out and around town.

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.



Reminders from the Harbormaster

- If you experience electrical problems at your boat (which can happen during hot weather when a majority of boaters have their A/C running at the same time), please be sure to check two breakers before reporting the problem to security. 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 exists, please contact the harbor office or security. We will issue a Service Request to get the problem resolved.
- Especially during the hottest part of the summer, it is recommended that all boaters in the marina use a chemical odor deterrent in their holding tanks. 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 courtesy to your friends and boating neighbors.
- Please remember that the marina no longer permits tables with glass tops to be brought into the marina. 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.
- Please remember that golf carts must be registered with the marina. You may pick up a registration form from the office, which 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.

Advertising Programs Available On Belle Maer Harbor Web Site

Belle Maer Harbor offers a flexible and effective advertising program on its website, allowing individuals and businesses the opportunity to reach our busy community of boaters and guests.

Classified Ads are posted on the website, 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.

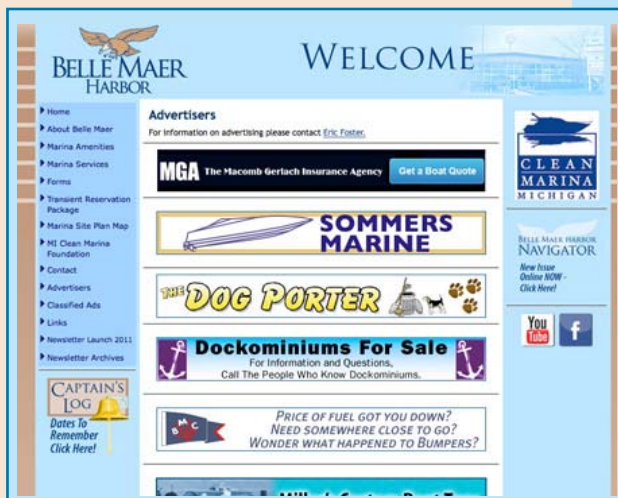
Photos can be included with your ad for an additional charge.

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.



The screenshot shows the Belle Maer Harbor website home page. At the top left is the logo with an eagle and the text "BELLE MAER HARBOR". To the right is a "WELCOME" banner. A navigation menu on the left lists: Home, About Belle Maer, Marina Amenities, Marina Services, Forms, Transparent Reservation Package, Marina Site Plan Map, MI Clean Marina Foundation, Contact, Advertisers, Classified Ads, Links, Newsletter Launch 2011, and Newsletter Archives. The main content area is titled "Advertisers" and contains several ad banners: "MGA The Macomb Gerlach Insurance Agency" with a "Get a Boat Quote" button; "SOMMERS MARINE" with a boat image; "THE DOG PORTER" with a dog image; "Dockominiums For Sale" with a house image and text "For Information and Questions, Call The People Who Know Dockominiums."; and "CAPTAIN'S LOG Dates to Remember Click Here!". On the right side, there are logos for "CLEAN MARINA MICHIGAN", "BELLE MAER HARBOR NAVIGATOR New Issue Online NOW! Click Here!", and social media icons for YouTube and Facebook.