

## At Belle Maer, We Packed a Lot Of Fun into the Summer of 2011

It took a while to get here, but once the summer of 2011 truly started to feel like summer, Belle Maer boaters seized the special opportunity, came out to the marina—and grabbed summer by the tail.

Water levels were the highest we've seen in some time, and even now remains five inches over our decent levels of last year. That means we didn't have to worry so much about sunken islands suddenly appearing, or shifting sand bars reaching up to grab our props.

The Belle Maer staff was pleased to see business slowly bouncing back. In August, Eric and the staff received a number of inquiries from boaters at other marinas who were tired of baking out in the sun. They had heard about the hundreds of shade trees and the lush landscaping we have here, and jumped on board for the rest of the season—and next season as well.

We noticed, too, that Belle Maer boaters made more frequent trips to the marina, staying on their boats for the entire weekend when possible. During our multitude of calm, sunny and warm days, they flocked out to Poor Man's Beach and beyond to drink in the sunshine (and other beverages) and swim until sunset. Many were seen driving their golf carts and bicycles, walking and jogging around the marina, playing tennis and basketball—and taking a dip in the swimming pool. It's obvious that when you're at Belle Maer, you feel like you're on vacation all the time.

Belle Maer also hosted several favorite events and activities this season that seemed to add even more to an already busy summer. Belle Maer staged its second annual marina "Fun Day" complete with a piñata smash, bounce house, face painting, balloon animals, a fire truck, a police K-9 unit—and a free barbecue and concert with live music to cap it all off. More live music filled the air at other events. Saturday Night at the Movies was back for another season of family favorites.

This year, the Big Bash took on even greater proportions, as Belle Maer staged its 25th Annual Fireworks Celebration. The event was preceded by the now-popular Cardboard Boat Regatta and the 5th Annual Golf Cart Parade (seems like just yesterday we launched that event). Well the entire marina community joined in the fun, and all seemed to have an absolutely delightful time!

Those of us at Belle Maer wish you a very happy and safe "off season" this year, and want to invite you with open arms to another great boating season in 2012. In the mean time, we encourage you to visit us in the marina office and on our park-like grounds over the fall and winter to enjoy some of the natural beauty that Belle Maer offers year-round. It's fascinating to observe the birds and animals, especially in the winter when they tend to outnumber the people in the marina.

So read on and get ready to plan your haul out; we'll look forward to seeing you for the rest of the season, and again in the spring of 2012!

### 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

## Inaugural 'Halloween in September' Set At Belle Maer Saturday, Sept. 24th

Boo—at Belle Maer! As you may have seen in a recent email notice from Eric Foster, our boaters at Belle Maer have come up with a create new idea for an event: Halloween in September, where kids and grandkids can trick or treat from boat to boat.

It's all scheduled Saturday, Sept. 24th, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. To participate, our boaters are asked get their kids and grandkids out in costume that evening to trick or treat throughout the marina. Boaters are encouraged to decorate their boats or slips and have candy to pass out to the young trick or treaters. After 8:30 pm, Bob will show the movie "Casper The Friendly Ghost". Bob will have candy available to pass out to the kids at the movie.

So line up your kids or grandkids and purchase their Halloween costumes early this year so they can have fun twice. Rules are as follows:

- Decorations are welcome on your boat and at your slip
- Halloween costumes are necessary
- Please hand out only sealed candy from the store
- Don't hand children home cooked food or drinks
- Parents, grandparents, family and friends are all welcome
- Don't forget to sign your guests in with security

For more information, registration or to volunteer, please call Ray or Nicole Allor on their cell phones at 248-880-5229 or 248-880-7492. The Allors came up with the suggestion for the event, and the willingness to coordinate the whole thing. And they still need help!

To make it a really full day event, why not take the kids and grandkids to the Boating and Outdoor festival which runs September 22nd to September 25th. See our complete story in this issue or visit [boatingandoutdoorfest.com](http://boatingandoutdoorfest.com)



## Plan Your Next Boat Trip with Discover Boating's New App

*-from The BoatU.S. Membership E-Line*

As boaters, we love to socialize - whether at the dock, on the water or online. Now, thanks to Discover Boating, you can invite friends and family aboard for boating trips using the new Welcome to the Water excursion planner at [Facebook.com/DiscoverBoating](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBoating)

The Welcome to the Water boating excursion planner is available to those who "like" Discover Boating at [Facebook.com/DiscoverBoating](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBoating) "Captains" simply invite their "crew," using their list of Facebook friends to create an invite within the application.

Beyond the standard date and time options, customizable application features include:

- Type of Boating Trip: What are the plans? Will the "crew" be fishing, cruising or dropping anchor to swim?
- Onboard Supplies: What can each guest bring for the trip? Snacks, fishing bait, towels or chip in for gas?
- Where to Meet: "Captains" can utilize Take Me Fishing's Places to Boat & Fish tool to give their guests directions to more than 35,000 places to get on the water.

As added incentive, you will be ranked by the number of people you invite and will be eligible to win weekly nautical prizes, including Sperry Topsiders, \$100 Visa gift cards, NorChill coolers, customized shirts from [BoatNameGear.com](http://BoatNameGear.com) and one-year BoatUS Memberships.

Check out the Welcome to the Water boating excursion planner on [www.Facebook.com/DiscoverBoating](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBoating)

## Advance Planning Makes for A Smooth and Easy Haulout

October is by far the busiest month for the marina office staff and yard crew, as this is the month most of the boats are hauled out during for winter storage. And making matters more exciting, the yard crew is busy cutting and custom fitting all the shoring timbers and cradles needed for shoring your boat. Since the yard crew is hauling out a boat every 45 minutes, we appreciate your cooperation and help to keep things running smoothly and on time. That's why we want you to be well informed and prepared for your haulout.

If you have not done so, please take time now to arrange for your winter haulout services for the 2011-2012 season. Complete and sign the Winter Storage Application and return the white copy to the office, keeping the yellow copy for your files. You may pay for these services at any time prior to haulout. You may phone the marina office to schedule your haulout date after we have received your application in the office.

The fastest and easiest way to schedule is to mail, fax (586-465-6956) or email your application to the marina office (email lbiondo@bellemar.com), then follow up by telephone to arrange your haul-out date. This will avoid a line-up at the marina office. Winter applications may also be downloaded by visiting the "forms" section on our site. There are interactive blank fields which can be completed quickly and easily emailed. Once the formal contract is ready for your signature, we will need you to come in to sign before your boat is hauled out.

Belle Maer is offering heated inside winter storage again this year. The showroom will be used and one of the bays in Building #2. The cost is \$6.95 per square foot including your hoist, shoring and power wash. The available space is very limited and Jim Krause must approve your boat for inside heated storage because of a door height restriction. The marina is also offering winter inside heated storage for PWC's on trailers and golf carts for \$200 subject to space availability. Inside cold storage is also available for \$100 each. Reservations are needed ASAP for these, as space is expected to fill quickly.

We had hoped to have a new heated storage facility (Building 8) ready for this season, but simply could not get all of the details resolved in time. We have the approval from the Township and expect financing so we can make heated indoor storage available for the 2012 winter season.

The office staff will schedule your haulout for Monday through Friday based upon the date and time you request. Please come to the marina office first, a half hour ahead of your scheduled haulout time.

Our crew will be hauling out boats rain or shine. Please keep your appointment—rain or shine!

Belle Maer is not staffed to drive your boat to the hoist. If you cannot take the time to bring your boat to the hoist, you can contract with Sommer's Marine to act as your agent and drive your boat to the hoist.

The Fire Department requires adequate aisle space to be left for fire lanes inside the marina, so we cannot guarantee that any boat owner will have their boat placed in front of their well. Your winter storage location will be determined not only on a first come, first served basis, but also on the size of your boat. That is, if your boat has a length that is longer than your catwalk, it may not fit in the space in front of your well.

The 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).

Please remember that no winterizing is allowed inside any of Belle Maer's storage buildings. Also, excessive and improperly stored equipment and belongings cause safety and navigational hazards in front of your wells.

While no one looks forward to the end of the boating season, some advance planning and cooperation will help us work together to get your boat hauled out and stored safely on level pavement—and minimize any inconvenience to you.

### Rack Building Hours & Winterization Schedule

Forklift in & out operations at the rack building are now 8:15 am to 6:00 pm each day until September 30. Any customers wishing to use their boats evenings need only call 586-465-7416 (or Bob Mieszanek at 586-484-1346 if there is no answer at the rack building) before 6:00 pm and ask that their boat be launched. Your boat will be returned to the rack the next morning.

Forklift operations will end after Sunday, Oct. 2nd, with the exception of moves to the side racks for winterization. If you would still like to use your boat Oct. 2 - 15, please call the office and request that your boat be launched on Oct. 2nd and schedule your side rack for October 15th. Your boat will be left in the water in front of the rack building until it is moved to the side rack for winterization. Side rack operations will continue on a scheduled basis for winterization only through Oct. 15; please schedule your winterization at least 24 hours in advance, as there are only eight outside racks.

For safety reasons, you must comply with the following winter restrictions:

- All batteries must be removed.
- Do not overfill your gas tanks. Allow room for expansion.
- Duct tape a garbage bag around your outdrives after winterization to prevent dripping of antifreeze onto other boats in the rack.

There will be no access to boats from Oct. 16, 2011 to April 15, 2012 and the marina is not responsible for any damages to boats not winterized prior to Oct. 16th.

## Boating & Outdoor Festival Arrives at Metro Beach Sept. 22-25

Whether you're in the market for a runabout, a cruiser, or a day filled of family fun, the Boating & Outdoor Festival at Metro Beach Metropark Sept. 22-25, has what you're looking for.

With a marina full of boats of all types and sizes, accompanied by on-land displays this Festival is the perfect place for one-stop shopping. A boat show is the only place to make a buying decision where customers can compare boat options (price/brand/models) side-by-side AND board the boat! Other products for sale include ATVs, kayaks, snow mobiles, personal watercraft, motorcycles, kite boards & paddle boards, sunrooms and hot tubs.

"Buyers are sure to find some end-of-season deals at the Festival," said Show Manager John Ropp. "It's still an excellent time to purchase a boat, with low interest rates and great deals offered by our exhibitors." On-site financing is available. Accessories and other recreational products will also be available to purchase. "Buying a boat at the Boating and Outdoor Festival is the perfect time to catch some late summer boating and in time for beautiful fall cruising around the Great Lakes – or any of Michigan's 11,037 inland lakes," Ropp said.

The Boating & Outdoor Festival is much more than a boat show. Families can spend the day; this Festival is full of fun for all ages. Features include: incredible performances by Duma the waterskiing dog, appearances by Nickelodeon's Dora the Explorer, live music at the Tiki Bar and many more promotions and contests at the Broadcast Center with street teams from DOUG FM, CSX, WRIF and The Ticket. Kids can enjoy the Kids Zone with bounce houses, face painting, fishing games and much more.

Specialty areas will include outdoor recreation, fishing village, waterfront living, fine art and vacation destinations. Each area features vendors with information and products and services to purchase. For a list of Festival exhibitors, visit [boatingandoutdoorfest.com](http://boatingandoutdoorfest.com).

The BRP Ultimate Playground will share the grounds with the Festival at Metro Beach's South Marina. An off-road course will be created for the Can-Am ATV's and Side-by-Sides. Sea Doo boats and personal watercraft will be accessible from Docks off of Metro Beach and the Can-Am Roadsters will have a demo area in the main parking lot. A link is available on [boatingandoutdoorfest.com](http://boatingandoutdoorfest.com) for interested individuals to pre-register (required) for demo rides.

Sponsors for the festival include BRP, Jack Links Jerky Tour, Don Gooley Cadillac, Fishbone's Restaurant, and Labatt Beer.

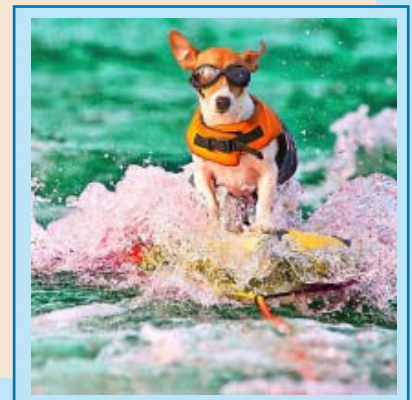
For more information and full list of up-to-date show promotions, visit [www.BoatingandOutdoorFest.com](http://www.BoatingandOutdoorFest.com)

The Boating & Outdoor Recreation Festival is produced by the Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA). The festival, located at Metro Beach Metropark, in Harrison Twp., will be held September 22-25.

Hours: Thurs., Fri.: Noon – 8:00 pm, Sat.: 11:00 am– 8:00 pm and Sun.: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Admission: \$9 for adults, children 12 and under free with an adult.

Discount tickets available on [www.boatingandoutdoorfest.com](http://www.boatingandoutdoorfest.com) A Metroparks vehicle entry permit is required to enter any Metropark which is only \$25 annually for regular admission, \$15 annually for seniors, or \$5 daily.



## BMH Rack Storage Customer Offers Kudos to Dave, Dominic

Jeff Lido, an apparently satisfied Belle Maer Rack Storage customer, sent an email to Eric Foster recently to express his appreciation for two of the most capable and professional guys who work there. He writes:

*Mr. Foster,*

*I hope this note finds you well. 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.*

*Sincerely,  
Jeff Lido*

## Belle Maer Family Featured in Sea Ray Living Magazine

Jason and Nicole Jankowski, their son Gavin and their Golden Retrievers Cooper and Ruger all had their 15 minutes of fame this summer when they were profiled in the summer issue of Sea Ray Living Magazine.

The Jankowskis have been a Belle Maer family for several years, and happily dock their 270 Sea Ray Sundancer at J184. Not surprisingly, they are pictured with their vessel in a series of superb professional photos in the magazine spread. But the article was devoted as much to their vehicle, a Saab 9-4X, as their boat. Maybe that's because Nicole is an advertising and marketing manager for Saab, and loves their car as much as their boat!

The article is definitely worth a look, and we compliment the Jankowskis for having one of the most attractive family-pet-boat-car combinations at Belle Maer. [Click here to link to the article.](#)

## Please Keep Your Dog on a Leash in Marina

At Belle Maer, we work hard to maintain a friendly pet environment. Our park like setting, and even our new pet waste dispensers, add to the ease and convenience of walking your dog around the marina. However, there have been some incidences reported lately of dog owners letting their dogs run free (sometimes with a loose leash attached) while they are out and about. Some of these dogs have behaved aggressively toward boaters, guests or other dogs. We would like to remind you that when your dog is not on your boat, please keep them on a leash. Belle Maer Harbor rules clearly state:

For everyone's health, safety and comfort, dogs must be kept on a leash at all times that the dog is off of your boat. In addition, dogs also may not be left unattended and or restrained to any Marina/Condominium property such as trees, pedestals, pilings, etc. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after their dog. Pet Stations with plastic bags have been installed throughout the Marina for your convenience. None of our boaters should have to tolerate stepping in dog droppings or deal with a dog not on a leash approaching them or their pets, regardless of how small, cute or well behaved you believe your dog to be!

## We want you to know...

### **Water Shut-Off is Saturday, October 22nd**

- Water to all boat wells will be turned off on that day.
- Freezing weather may force shut-off sooner.
- Please prepare for your haulout accordingly.

### **Harbormaster's Winterization, Storage Hints**

- Boats stored on land for winter storage must have the batteries and electric shore power cords disconnected while the boats are left unattended.
- Anchors that extend past the bow pulpit must be removed.
- All outside contractors must have proof of insurance filed with the Marina office and the Condo Owner or Tenant must call the Marina office to authorize entry.
- Please do not dispose of motor oil or any other lubricating, cooling or fluid substances on the Marina grounds or in Marina dumpsters or waters. Used engine oil and oil filters must be removed from the Marina or taken to the oil pick-up location at the Marina service building next to the hoist area.
- Also, please not dispose of old batteries in the Marina dumpsters. Please remove them from the Marina or drop them off at the Marina oil pick-up location at the Marina service building next to the hoist area.
- The use of ethylene glycol-based antifreeze for winterization is strictly prohibited. You must use a non-toxic antifreeze. Please make provision to collect any antifreeze runoff from your exhaust ports while winterizing. Even non-toxic antifreeze will kill the grass. You are responsible for any damage to the Marina grounds.
- Everyone using new or re-used shrink wrap must pay the environmental surcharge. The users as a group must bear the costs of proper handling and cleanup of this material. Plastic is hazardous when introduced into the water as it can cause harm to marine life and cause mechanical damage to boat engines.
- Do not completely fill your boat's fuel tanks to allow for expansion as the weather warms. To be safe, after you top off your tanks, take your boat out for a quick ride around the bay to burn off the excess. Remember that you are responsible for any damage caused by expanding fuel leaking from your boat.
- Rack storage customers are reminded to duct tape a garbage bag around their outdrives once boats are winterized to prevent leakage of antifreeze on boats stored on the racks below.
- As a general rule, we do not allow trailers to enter the Marina. We ask that all boats being brought in for winter storage on a trailer be parked in the front lot and our yard crew will tow the boat into the Marina. Any special arrangements to enter the Marina with a trailer should be made in advance with the Marina office.

Thank you for your cooperation during the busy haul-out season!

## Sponsor a New Boater at Belle Maer Next Season And Enjoy Savings of \$250 on Your Well

Belle Maer is continuing to offer a sponsorship credit to current customers for each new boater they sponsor who leases a Belle Maer Harbor rental well for the 2012 season. The BMH sponsoring boater will receive a \$250 credit, and the new boater will receive a first season 20 percent discount up to a maximum of \$500 credit. The program will be offered to new boaters renting racks in the in and out storage building, but excludes lease of condominium wells which are not owned by Belle Maer Harbor.

We are sure that most of you friends who keep their boats in other marinas. Why not make a phone call and suggest they look at all of the amenities and natural beauty of Belle Maer Harbor before they make their 2012 slip deposit? After you have called your friend and asked them to consider Belle Maer, simply call our office at (586) 465-4534 or email Eric Foster at [ecfoster@bellemaer.com](mailto:ecfoster@bellemaer.com) and register their name as your contact. We would like to send them a brochure and information packet if you would kindly supply us with a mailing address and phone number.

With higher gas prices and fewer boating trips, Belle Maer Harbor offers resort-style amenities you can enjoy all season long, giving you an even better value for your boating dollar. And after the very hot summer we've had, don't forget to point out that Belle Maer is the only marina with hundreds of shade trees that make staying at the boat well even more pleasant. Please take this opportunity to recruit your boating friends to join you at the best marina on Lake St. Clair while reducing your 2012 marina dockage costs!

## 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 Belle Maer Harbor logo with an eagle. To the right is a 'WELCOME' banner. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, About Belle Maer, Marina Amenities, Marina Services, Forms, Transient 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 features several advertisements: '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 dock image; and 'CAPTAIN'S LOG Dates to Remember Click Here!'. On the right side, there are logos for 'CLEAN MARINA MICHIGAN', 'Belle Maer Harbor Navigator' with a 'New Issue Online NOW - Click Here!' link, and social media icons for YouTube and Facebook.