



NAVIGATOR

May 2003 EDITION 2



DATES TO REMEMBER

May

- 20 - Condo Association Board of Directors meeting
- 23 - Swimming pool opens
- 24-26 - Memorial Day is observed, marina office closed

June

- 17 - Condo Association annual meeting

July

- Marina office closed on Saturdays
- No scheduled Condo meeting
- 4 - Fireworks display at 10 pm
- 4-6 - Office closed on Holiday weekend

Have a Fun and "Safe" Summer of Boating

We're all looking forward to a safe and enjoyable boating season. Being a responsible boater — aware of all the laws, rules, and local waters, not drinking, having Power Squadron training and making sure you and your passengers are wearing USCG approved life vests — will help assure it will be.

Recent data shows there were 701 lives lost on the water in one year as a result of accidents incurred during recreational boating in the United States.

Alcohol was responsible in 31% of those accidental deaths. A blood alcohol level of 0.10% (for the average person just 1 or 2 beers) means you are 10% more likely than a non-drinker to have an accident that results in fatalities to you, your family, your passengers or other boaters.

Additional factors were excessive speed, improper boat operation, poor vision, faulty equipment, inadequate safety systems and devices, limited and inaccurate local knowledge and

ignorance of the basic rules and laws of the waterway.

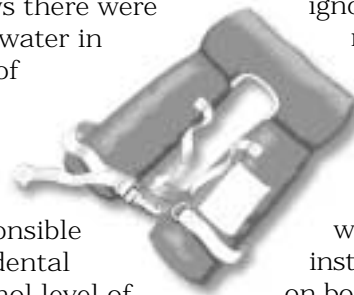
We encourage every boater to be serious about boating safety. This starts with adequate boater instruction and everyone on board wearing a Coast Guard approved life jacket.

Of 519 recreational boating drownings two years ago, it was determined that about 445 of those could have been avoided if the victim had been wearing an approved life jacket.

We're really looking forward to everyone enjoying a happy and safe summer at Belle Maer Harbor. Please — don't drink and operate your boat and be sure both you and your passengers wear USCG approved life vests.

As a final thought, the Coast Guard recommends contacting their local Auxiliary or Power Squadrons to have your boat inspected for free and, if you haven't already done so, take their boating safety classes — they're really worthwhile:

- U.S. Power Squadron 313-393-5574
- Grosse Pte. Power Squadron 313-885-5005
- Warren Power Squadron 586-751-0591
- Birmingham Power Squadron 248-790-1049
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 586-778-3320.



Sunset over Belle Maer Harbor after a safe day of boating with family and friends .

Freeloading Freddy

Freddy has taken to hanging around the office and our people have been feeding him, so if you see a chubby squirrel and have a few extra nuts, toss them his way.

Photo Courtesy Don Strange



Environmentally Sound



Spraying

There can be no spray painting, spraying of fiberglass or any other chemical unless it's done inside one of the designated shops at the marina. This also prohibits the use of the so-called "airless" spray guns.

Power Washing

All power washing must be performed at the hoist by Belle Maer Harbor employees. That way, all environmentally sensitive residue will be properly collected and disposed of by a licensed hauler.

Surfing the Net: A Fast and Easy Way to Get Essential Boating Information



If you haven't checked lately, there has been a proliferation of web sites available to mariners, ranging from what can be described as essential information to recreation to shopping.

Many of these resources are geared specifically for boaters in these local waters. If you surf the web regularly, you're probably already aware of many of these web sites. However, if you don't, you may wish to check out several of these – and add "bookmarks" for your regular reference. One caveat: the list is highly subjective – some of these are entertaining and/or indispensable. Who knows? They may become your new generation of "aids to navigation" this boating season!

Essentials

Perhaps the most essential and useful web sites provide Local Notices to Mariners (that's right: you no longer have to "subscribe" to these; they're updated weekly and summarized monthly):

- U.S. Coast Guard, 9th District: www.navcen.uscg.mil/lnm/d9/
- Canadian Coast Guard: www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/main_e.htm

Weather

As most seasoned mariners know, the NOAA weather broadcasts are great for forecasts, warnings and more. But these web sites will offer you instant reports from "data buoys," interactive weather reports and other vitally important information – whether you're planning a day trip or a voyage for a week or more:

- National Weather Service: www.nws.noaa.gov
- Local weather information: www.accuweather.com
- World wide and local weather information: www.intellicast.com
- Grosse Pte. Yacht Club weather page: www.gpyc.org/weather
- A comprehensive list of weather sites relating to marine issues: www.Marineweather.com

Captain's Table



Cream of Crab Soup

This delicious, hearty soup is very simple to prepare and is excellent as a one-dish meal accompanied by a loaf of fresh bread. Serves 6.

- 1 lb. crabmeat
- 1/4 tsp. celery salt
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 1 c. boiling water
- dash pepper
- 1/4 c. chopped onion
- 1 qt. milk
- 1 c. butter
- chopped parsley
- 3 tbsp. flour

Dissolve bouillon cube in water. Cook onion in butter until tender, blend in flour and seasonings. Add milk and bouillon gradually; cook until thick, stirring constantly. Add crabmeat, heat. Garnish with parsley.

Water Levels, Education and More

- Water Levels, Lake St. Clair Home Page and more from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: www.lre.usace.army.mil
- Water Levels, water temperatures, weather and more: www.coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov
- National Data Buoy Center: www.ndbc.noaa.gov/
- NOAA tide and bouy information: www.nws.fsu.edu/bouy

Boating Safety

- Coast Guard safe boating: www.uscgboating.org
- Boating safety, courses, tips and more: www.boatsafe.com

Continued on pg. 4

Condominium Corner

Financial Highlights

(As of February 28, 2003)

Cash on Hand

157,448.60

Accounts Receivable

35,816.63

Other Current Accounts

11,512.41

Replacement Reserve

92,816.92

Total Assets

297,594.56

Accounts Payable

1,422.00

Deferred Association Dues

64,764.88

Appropriated Reserves

92,816.92

Working Capital Deposits

32,846.10

Association Surplus

-7,723.62

Current Year Surplus

113,468.28

Total Liabilities & Equity

297,594.56

Did You Know ?

To be "Pooped" was to be swamped by a high, following sea. Shipbuilders developed the "poop deck" on larger sailing vessels to help avoid this danger.



Directors Sought

Our next meeting is May 20th at 7:30 at the Mariners Boat Club. The main item on the agenda will be the slate running for the Board of Directors at the annual meeting to be held June 17th.

We will be electing four directors for a two-year term each. Anyone willing to run should attend the May 20th meeting or call the marina office at 586-465-4534.

After this meeting we will be mailing out the proxy ballots. Although nominations will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting, nominees listed on the ballot have a decided advantage. So please call today if you are willing to serve your association.

Some Early Season Reminders

- Please review the environmental rules and keep in compliance. These measures are being dictated by state and federal law. Do your part to protect our waterways! Remember that the marina office has Bio-Soks for sale and vacuum sanders available for rent for your convenience. The marina also provides a disposal service by the hoist for used engine oil.

- No boat or other object (such as a jet ski or an inflatable) may extend more than eight feet beyond the end piling. This is a provision of the condominium by-laws and must be observed by all co-owners.

- Please help management out by reporting any problems that you encounter. Suggestions/service requests are available twenty-four hours a day in the marina office foyer. If there is a problem or you have a suggestion, please let us know by completing one of these forms. Don't assume we are already aware of a problem.

If the problem needs immediate attention and the marina office is closed, contact the guard either by phone (586-465-4536) or at the booth.

April 15th Meeting

These were the items on the agenda that were discussed:

1. Delinquencies as of April 15, 2003, were 41 units totaling \$27,859.30.
2. The check register from 10/15/02 - 4/14/03 was reviewed and approved.
3. The check signers on the Huntington Bank checking and savings accounts were changed and approved.
4. The contract for weed control with Aquatic Management Services, Inc. has been executed by the marina; first treatment will be during May.
5. The Board reviewed correspondence from the owner of Unit 249 regarding the allocation percentage for common expenses shared by the marina and the condo. This item was already questioned by this owner on October 29, 2001. The Association attorney has already reviewed this issue and reported to the Board in a special meeting held on May 21, 2002. The Board President was instructed to be sure that the Association attorney directly answers the owner's inquiry if he has not already done so.
6. Mobile Marine Net made a presentation regarding their high speed wireless internet service, which can be used right from your boat. For more information you can go to www.MobileMarineNet.com, call 586-940-0429 or visit the marina gas dock operated by Duffy's Landing where the system is installed and operating.

Condo Meetings

Condo meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Mariners Boat Club on North River Road.

May 20, 2003

June 17, 2003

August 19, 2003

September 16, 2003

October 21, 2003

Launch Checklist

- Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure they're working properly.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.
- Review your boating insurance coverage and update if necessary.
- Make sure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger.

Surfing the Net Continued from pg. 2

Marine Supplies

- Lakeland Boating Magazine's web site – everything for the mariner: www.lakelandboating.com
- Bennett Marine Video (videos on boat handling, navigation, electronics, racing and more): www.bennettmarine.com
- Ship Shape TV's Web Site (products and services for the do-it-yourselfer): www.shipshapetv.com
- Speedvision TV's Web Site (includes programming for marine enthusiasts): www.speedtv.com
- Boat/US www.boat-us.com
- West Marine www.westmarine.com
- Mike's Marine www.mikesmarine.com

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Most listings show multiple exterior and interior photos, too: www.yachtworld.com

Editors note: The internet is a constantly changing medium and is being updated continually. These web sites were obtained from many sources and even though we attempted to verify them all, we cannot be responsible for their accuracy.

Did You Know?

Strand is the Dutch word for beach, so when a ship had run aground or was beached the Dutch sailor's term "stranded" came into use.

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Fair Weather Reading

Here is a book you might enjoy. You can find it and others at www.borders.com.



Desperate Voyage

by John Caldwell

In May 1946, John Caldwell, stranded in Panama after the war, set out single-handed on a 9,000-mile journey aboard the 29-foot Pagan to rejoin his wife in Sydney, Australia

An astounding tale of courage and adventure....an engaging, well-written story that combines elements of romance with incredible adventure, farce and foolhardiness. If ever there was an argument for the benefits of training, this book cements it. Riveting stuff.

— Sailing Today

One of my favourite books. The most remarkable thing about this story is that it's true! John Caldwell became an adventurer by accident. He just wanted to get across the Pacific Ocean to his new wife, and tried to do it the easy way, by ship. Unfortunately there were no ships going his way, so he bought his own - a small wooden yacht. His (mis)adventures start as soon as he sets foot on his boat and don't end until he almost dies in his attempt to reach his destination. Caldwell's courage in facing challenge was born out of naivete - he only had a vague notion of what he was taking on. This makes his achievements all the more extraordinary because his lack of experience only left him with a kind of animal resourcefulness to get him through. He blunders from hilarious escapade to life-threatening drama and back again in an amazing journey that packs more adventure into a few months than most of us get (or want) in a lifetime. His sense of humour and down-to-earth style make this book a delightful read. Desperate Voyage undoubtedly has appeal to yachties like myself. But I've lent it to several friends including some landlubbers, and all have thoroughly enjoyed it.

— Cameron- Tasmania, Australia

Reminder: The Coast Guard wants only emergencies to be broadcast on VHF marine channel 16. It strongly suggests use of channel 9 for radio checks.

Memos from the Management

The Season Begins

The month of May traditionally marks the first busy month of boating in Michigan.

This means that Belle Maer Harbor operations start up for the season as well.

To help you get things ship-shape, a laundry room with coin-operated washers and dryers are available in the pool bathhouse. The laundry room is located off the common hallway to the pool.

The tennis and basketball courts are currently open so you can get an early start on brushing up on your tennis game, or your kids can use up some of their energy with a game of hoops.

The pool will be opening May 23, just in time for the big



Memorial Day weekend. This means anyone wishing to use our pool should obtain a pool membership by contacting us at the office.

A Few Reminders

Because we cannot do an effective job of cleaning while people are using the bathhouse, please honor the posted hours for their cleaning. You will always have one facility open since we do not clean both bathhouses at the same time. With your cooperation we'll get our job done and you'll continue to enjoy a clean bathhouse.

Our marina channel is posted as "NO WAKE." For safety reasons you

must operate your watercraft at an idle speed here. Not doing so can result in a ticket. Please report the MC number of any offenders to the sheriff's marine division at 586-469-5803.

If you have a security problem during the weekend when the marina office is closed, please call the guard at the marina entrance at 586-465-4536 or his dispatcher at 586-803-0003. You can also go directly to the guard booth with the problem.

To help in keeping our marina beautiful, please move picnic tables and other things off the lawn so as to expedite grass cutting and landscape work on Wednesdays.

To make walking around the marina safer and easier, your dock box should be located against the water's edge of the sidewalk. This will keep the walk open and safe.

Enjoy a safe, fun summer.



Harbormaster's Hints

Please help us out by removing all miscellaneous items from the winter storage buildings.

Our buildings are not to be used for storage during the summer. They are for vehicle parking only.

Any items not clearly marked with the owner's name and/or the owner's well number will be disposed of within thirty days from June 1st. Owners will be asked to remove their marked items.



Classifieds

To place an ad in our classified section for either items "FOR SALE" or "WANTED," call the Belle Maer Marina office at 586-465-4534. Ads cost \$10 each (prepaid) and are limited to 25 words or less. We will also include at no extra charge any lost or found items you report.

FOR SALE OR LEASE — 45 x 20 Joss 167
Call Jerry 248-541-2048

FOR SALE — 1994 50' Searay Sundancer.
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Our web sight includes an on-line version of the newsletter as well as other information. Check it out.



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