



LEMTA volunteers help put families on the water

The 10th annual North Coast Harbor Boating & Fishing Fest was held under clear skies Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14, and allowed hundreds of people to get out onto Lake Erie for free.

Volunteer boat operators took visitors for half-hour cruises along the Cleveland shoreline.

The line for rides was often more than one hour long, but the wait did not seem to dampen the spirits of the visiting families.

“No matter how long they waited,” said Ken Gray, chairman of the host Lake Erie Safe Boating Council, “everyone came off the boats with big smiles on their faces. There’s just something about the open water on a warm day that makes people happy.”

Boats this year included the 65-foot schooner Journey, operated by B-About Sail Ministries, and a 20-person dragon boat canoe from the Flats Oxbow Association.

LEMTA members Ivancic Marine and Riverfront Yacht Services each loaned a powerboat and three East 55th Marina members captained boats as well.

The charter Holiday left the dock each hour to take kids fishing near the break wall.

Organizers estimated 1,400 people were able to cruise the lake and 800 more children went fishing.

On land, kids were able to sit in the driver’s seat in an FLW Outdoors boat simulator and practice casting into a field of magnetic fish.

Capt’n Willie the Great Lakes Pirate provided an entertaining education about the Great Lakes, while life jackets, tackle kits and rods were raffled off by the Woods and Waters Club of Cleveland and live music was supplied by Reflections.

The event was produced entirely by volunteers from LEMTA, the Greater Cleveland Boating Associa-

tion, regional U.S. Power Squadrons, North Coast Black Bass Anglers Association, Greater Cleveland Safety Council, Cleveland Treatment Center, U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary, Samsel Marine Supply and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Local Sea Scouts handled the tough task of cleaning up Sunday night.

Grant money from the ODNR Division of Watercraft, Division of Wildlife, Neighborhood Connections, Greater Cleveland Safety Council, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and National Water Safety Congress paid for all expenses.

The event is tentatively scheduled to be held June 12-13 next year.

Any help would be much appreciated. If you are able to donate a boat and/or captain, please contact Ken Alvey at the LEMTA office and he will be in touch early in 2010.

Reminder: Golf outing/ fishing tournament Aug. 4



Since 1998, the LEMTA Educational Foundation has given away more than \$83,000 in scholarships to local students interested in the marine industry.

Most of the money in the past was raised through a golf outing.

The event was moved to the Catawba Island Club last year to both host a fishing tournament and take advantage of the property’s revamped golf course.

The second annual LEMTA Educational Foundation Golf Outing & Fishing Tournament will be held Aug. 4 at CIC.

All members are encouraged to participate, whether it be by playing golf, assembling a fishing team, donating a boat for the tournament or sponsoring a hole on the course.

If you did not receive registration information via email, please contact the LEMTA office to sign up by July 16.

New food plan for Cedar Point Boat Show

Cedar Point officials this year chose to exercise an option in the North American In-Water Boat Show contract to handle all food services at the 2009 event.

In the past, LEMTA sold space to mobile food vendors and used the money to operate a floating beverage stand, a beer garden with a tap truck and the Party Barge.

"We pretty much broke even on the food side of things after paying for ice, equipment and staffing," said Show Manager Ken Alvey. "Cedar Point wanted to come in and try their hand at concessions, which will free up some of our resources."

The park plans to keep the beer garden and Party Barge and will set up three food stands: one grill cart with hot dogs and bratwursts, a burger and chicken sandwich stand and a location with snacks like popcorn, pretzels, salads, pizza and ice cream.

Plastic 20-ounce bottles will be used in lieu of traditional cups for soft drinks because Cedar Point's Food Services Division has found guests prefer to carry around a sealable container.

The bottles should also decrease spills on boats and docks.

Prices have not been determined yet, but will be comparable to those found inside the park.

SBA loans for military community more popular than ever

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced it granted record numbers of Patriot Express loans in April and May of 2009.

Patriot Express is a streamlined loan based on the agency's Express Program and is available to military community members including veterans, service-disabled veterans, active-duty service members participating in the military's Transition Assistance Program, Reservists and National Guard members, current spouses of any of the above and the widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service, or of a service-connected disability.

The loans feature an enhanced guaranty and interest rate and are offered by the SBA's network of par-

ticipating lenders nationwide.

Loans are available up to \$500,000 and qualify for the SBA's maximum guarantee of up to 90 percent.

After loan applications are approved by the bank, they are submitted to the SBA and most are approved within 24 hours.

The Patriot Express loan can be used for most business purposes, including start-up, expansion, equipment purchases, working capital, inventory or business-occupied real-estate purchases.

Local SBA district offices have listings of Patriot Express lenders in their areas. Details on the initiative can be found at www.sba.gov/patriotexpress.

The "Red Flag Rules" compliance deadline for credit transactions has been extended to Aug. 1, 2009. If you need more information or would like a template form to fill out, please contact the LEMTA office.

Clean Marinas Program honored

In June, Ohio Sea Grant's Clean Marinas Program was granted a superior outreach program award from the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.

During the 2008 season, it collected 335,000 pounds of shrink wrap, 26 percent more than the 265,000 pounds collected in 2007 and considerably more than during the first year in 2006 when 100,000 pounds were collected.

Planned expansion in the coming years will potentially increase participation by introducing two levels of Clean Marina status.

For more information about shrink wrap collection or becoming a designated Clean Marina, please contact Colleen Wellington of the ODNR Office of Coastal Management at (419) 609-4120 or colleen.wellington@dnr.state.oh.us.

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