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NAVIGATOR

A publication of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association

December 2009

Reminder - LEMTA meeting tonight

The December LEMTA general membership meeting will be held Dec. 8 at the Elyria Holiday Inn (1825 Lorain Blvd. in Elyria).

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and include a discussion about the upcoming Mid-America Boat & Fishing Show.

It will be the last meeting of the calendar year.

Boat show program deadline approaching

Advertisements, news submissions and photos for the Mid-America Boat & Fishing Show program will be accepted through Dec. 15.

The program, published by Mid-America Boating, will be distributed to each visitor at the show entrance and be available for free pickup in early January at locations across northern Ohio.

It will also be mailed to regular Mid-America Boating subscribers and include contact information for all exhibitors.

To reserve advertising space or submit news releases, contact Frank Kern at (800) 321-5750 or frank@midamericaboating.com.

Exhibit information needed for Cleveland show

As you prepare for the Mid-America Boat & Fishing Show, please notify the LEMTA office about any new, exciting or debut models you will be exhibiting.

Be aware, also, that product listings (including those for the Pre-owned Pavilion) are due on Dec. 15.

Cleveland breakwall could gain lights

The Cleveland Port Control has authorized its Division of Harbors to apply for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant to place lights and reflectors on the city's outer breakwall on Lake Erie.

Currently, there are no lights or reflectors and many vessels have crashed into the wall over the years.

The grant is offered through ODNR's Emergency Boating and Access Program.

It does not require a funding match from the city and could provide a maximum of \$20,000 for lighting and recreational boating safety measures.

The breakwall upgrades would be part of a larger effort by Port Control (which also operates the city's two airports) to increase safety in the North Coast Harbor area.

If the full \$20,000 is awarded, the city would not have to pay for any part of the project.

Small harbor coalition gaining steam

The cities of Huron, Vermilion and the Vermilion Port Authority are the latest representatives of shallow draft harbors to sign resolutions of support for the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition.

The coalition was originally formed to represent harbors in Michigan, but this year expanded its reach into Ohio and New York.

Its directors plan to secure letters of support from as many port operators as possible before pushing for government funding for dredging.

In 2009, it was able to secure \$45 million for the dredging of Michigan harbors through the federal government, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the stimulus bill.

All coalition activity has been conducted by volunteers, led by Chuck May of Portage Lake, Michigan.

There are currently no fees or membership dues tied into the resolutions of support.

LEMTA has been working with the GLSHC to provide the Army Corps with a summary of dredging work that needs to be done on the Portage River, Cooley Canal, Rocky River, Toussaint River, Vermilion River, West Harbor, and at Put-in-Bay.

If you are affiliated with any of those harbors, please contact the LEMTA office and sign a resolution of support.

LEMTA dealer newest Top 100 member

During a ceremony in November, Boating Industry magazine named Atwood Lake Boats a member of its Top 100 dealers for the first time since introducing the program in 2005.

The pontoon boat dealer, based in Mineral City, Ohio, joins Lakeside Marine and South Shore Marine as LEMTA representatives on the list.

Atwood operates two marinas on its namesake lake and two more at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, Ohio.

During the summer, its staff hosted a Women Making Waves event and a car show.

“I think it’s great,” said South Shore’s Tom Mack. “We always saw them at the boat show, but never knew how much they did until now.”

More than 3,000 dealers from across the country were nominated for the award and 243 applications were reviewed by Boating Industry’s editorial team.

Lakeside and South Shore appeared on the list for the fifth and fourth years in a row, respectively, and each dealership has grown despite the slow economy; Lakeside recently opened a sales office at Yacht Basin Marina in Holland, Michigan, and South Shore took on the Regal Boats line for 2010.

Marina fee ruling favorable

On Nov. 19, after a month of testimony and debate with LEMTA lobbyist Carolyn Towner and Boating Associations of Ohio, the Ohio Public Health Council withdrew its proposal to drastically increase the state’s marina fee.

The fee, which is only required of the 333 marinas on the Ohio River and Lake Erie, could have jumped from \$50 to \$116 next year.

Instead, it will only rise to \$60, per an agreement specifying a gradual increase negotiated by BAO in 1997.

“The withdrawal shows the kind of power we have when we work together,” said LEMTA President Ken Alvey. “Our association’s marinas came on board and helped us a lot. They’ve held up their ends of the bargain since we finalized the gradual increase and it wouldn’t have been fair to change the rules now.”

The Department of Health will be conducting its five-year review of the marina rules in 2010 and will hold its first meeting on the matter Dec. 14, 2009, at the Carriage Barn in Vermilion (51211 N. Ridge Road).

The meeting is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

LEMTA encourages all parties interested in the rules to attend.

For more information about the Ohio Department of Health’s marina regulations, visit <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3701-35.aspx>.

2009 shrink wrap numbers in

The Ohio Clean Marinas Program successfully collected and recycled 360,000 pounds of shrink wrap in 2009, according to its coordinator Colleen Wellington.

The total is 7.5 percent more than the 335,000 collected last year, despite the absence of a fall pick-up.

According to a survey, the program saved participants an average of \$500 in disposal fees.

The 360,000 pounds is considerably more than the 100,000 pounds collected during the program's first year in 2006 and will all be recycled by Mondo Polymer Technologies into highway guardrail spacers.

Mid-America Boat & Fishing Show exhibitors are encouraged to leave their shrink wrap near the bailer in the back of the hall during set-up.

Please be sure to remove all nylon straps, as it costs more per pound to remove strapping than it does to collect the plastic in the first place.

The collection is only one part of the Clean Marinas Program, which now includes 42 certified marinas and 26 pledged ones across the state.

Longtime LEMTA member dies

G. Gordon Group, founder of the Great Lakes Marine Surveyors Company, passed away at the age of 81 on Monday, Nov. 23.

He was a graduate of Brooklyn High School in Cleveland, Bowling Green State University, and the Cleveland Marshall School of Law and was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

Gordon established the Great Lakes Marine Surveyors Co. in Mentor in 1969 and was a member of the Edgewater Yacht Club for 56 years.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marguerite, brother Carl Group (Terry), son Gregory Group (who currently runs the Great Lakes Marine Surveyors Co.), daughter Dr. Marguerite M. Group (Dr. Tom Masaryk), granddaughters Hanna, Madeline, Katharine and Halle Grace.

He is to be interred at Plains Road Cemetery in Willoughby.

Any contributions made in Gordon's memory to the Edgewater Youth Sailing Foundation would be appreciated. The EYSF was established in 2005 as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization by advocates interested in improving the opportunities available to young sailors. Tax deductible contributions should be payable to EYSF and can be sent care of Edgewater Yacht Club, 6700 Memorial Shoreway N.W., Cleveland, OH 44102.

Grant deadlines approaching

- National Water Safety Congress Grass Roots Grant

Application deadline: Dec. 31, 2009

Details at: <http://www.watersafetycongress.org/grassroots.shtml>

- Great Lakes Fisheries Commission Sea Lamprey Research Program

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2010

Details at: <http://www.glfrc.org/research/FRcfp.php>

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- Great Lakes Fisheries Commission Fishery Research Program

Application deadline: Jan. 15, 2010

Details at: <http://www.glfrc.org/research/FRcfp.php>

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- Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Application deadline: Jan. 29, 2010

Details at: <http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01/>

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