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NAVIGATOR

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Crowds come out for sunny Saturday at Michigan City In-Water Boat Show

The 30th annual LEMTA-produced Michigan City In-Water Boat Show fared very well last month, despite the slow economy and challenging industry conditions.

Saturday attendance was higher than it has been in the past few years and many buyers showed up on Sunday despite early rain.

Approximately 16,000 people came for the four-day event, which was open Aug. 27 through Aug. 30.

“Attendance-wise, quantity is still important,” said Show Manager Ken Alvey, “but I think we saw an increase in quality this year. Nobody really knew what to expect leading up to the show, but the good number of sales was encouraging and proved the show is a great place to get your product in front of serious buyers.”

Much of the buying activity was found on the Brokerage Pier, where dealers reported they talked to customers from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

“People will come a long way for a deal, and there were deals all over the show,” said Alvey. “We were very happy with the amount of out-of-state visitors and think a lot of boats will be sold through contacts made.”

On opening day, show management presented the Michigan City Port Authority with a ship’s bell honoring the port’s 50th anniversary.

Boat show founder Norm Schultz praised the organization for its hard work and commitment to keep the event strong at a time when other cities are losing their shows.

“The last 30 years have been great and I’m confident we will be here 30 more,” said Schultz.

The show’s second 30 years will start in 2010, when it is scheduled to take place Aug. 26-29.

Help fill the show at Cedar Point!

Booth and water space sales for the North American In-Water Boat Show have increased over the past few weeks, but bulk land space is still available.

If you have boats on trailers you would like in the show, which will be held Sept. 16-20, please call the LEMTA office at (440) 899-5009 and help us fill in the last few areas!

Biggest in-water show on the Great Lakes is set to open next week

This year’s North American In-Water Boat Show will include several new features designed to attract nontraditional boaters and families.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, local contestants will race to finish a pile of Buffalo Wild Wings chicken wings at the WKFM Wing Eating Contest.

The winner will receive a weekend getaway at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio.

The Humane Society of Erie County will hold an adopt-a-pet drive during the week (Sept. 16-18) and the first 50 visitors to test drive a Toyota at the show gate on those days will receive free admission.

The Brokerage Pier, Boats Under \$15,000 Pavilion and Boats \$15,000-25,000 Pavilion have all been brought back to lure potential first-time boaters.

The Demo Dock is stocked with a range of powerboats and Harbor North will again offer free sailboat rides on the Sail Pier.

Cedar Point officials chose to exercise their rights to the show’s concessions and will be handling food operations this year.

The move will not have a large impact on LEMTA’s income, as food service usually broke even in the past.

Due to budget cuts, an exhibitor party will not be held this year.

The show will be held Sept. 16-20 and hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$9; children 12 and younger get in free.

Additional information is available at cedarpointboatshow.com.

HLM hosts Marina Day festivities

Huron Lagoons Marina and Laguna Yacht Club hosted the second annual National Marine Day HLM & LYC Challenge on Aug. 8.

The event began with a parade of floats, which included Dick Durkin's replica of an iron ore ship built over a school bus for the Huron bicentennial celebration.

Despite a steady rain, the crowd of onlookers stayed for the main event, a race of homemade boats in the harbor.

Each participant was only allowed to use a single sheet of quarter-inch plywood, two eight-foot boards, a roll of duct tape and a pound of fasteners to construct his or her boat.

Life jackets had to be worn during the race in case the boats tipped over or sank.

The Firelands Military Vehicle Group and U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps fired cannons on the Mighty Jessie, an operational World War II historic craft, to start the race.

The event was sponsored by the River's Edge Inn, Huron Boat Basin, Ghostly Manor, New China Town, Patriot Auto Sales, Jim's Pizza Box and Huron Pizza House.



A group of homemade boats waits by the start line at Huron Lagoons.

Nominations sought for BoatU.S. access award

BoatU.S. is sponsoring the third annual Recreational Boating Access Award and is accepting nominations until Oct. 1.

The award recognizes individuals or groups that have preserved or improved public waterway access and is intended to raise awareness for a problem across the country.

The city of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, won the award last year for turning a park at the intersection of East Lake Road and Lake Breeze Road into a double-lane, free boat launch area.

Officials hope it will evolve into a small craft harbor with permanent docks and draw future fishing tournaments.

For more information, visit www.boatus.com/gov/accessaward.



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