

GREAT LAKES PUBLIC HARBOR GUIDE



Michigan Boaters Are Never Far From A Safe Harbor

Michigan — the acknowledged boating capital of the nation — has developed a program of boater safety and convenience along its Great Lakes shoreline that is unparalleled in North America, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

Sailors who venture onto the Great Lakes will find they are seldom more than 15 shoreline miles from any of the 61 protective harbors and public marinas sponsored by the Michigan Waterways Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Add to this total the more than 500 commercial and special service marinas scattered all along the lakes, and Michigan provides its boating enthusiasts with the country's finest water safely and recreational facilities.

"Despite the shorter Great Lakes boating season, Michigan has more than twice as many boats using its waters and marina facilities as they have in the year-round vacationland of Florida," explains Joseph L. Ratke, Auto Club touring manager.

In fact, this state ranks first in the number of registered boats with more than 534,000 — nine per cent of the nation's total. California is a distant second with 458,000 registered boats, or 7.7 per cent of the country's total," Ratke points out.

And with recreational boating sales expected to in-

crease 12 to 20 per cent this year in Michigan compared with 1972, this would hike the sales total in the state to nearly \$400 million for the first time. (This total includes sales for boats, engines, marine accessories, fuel, apparel, repair and maintenance.)

The accompanying Auto Club map pinpoints the location of Waterways Commission-sponsored harbors and details the service provided, which run the gamut of marine repairs and holding tank pump-out to the number of transient wells available.

Lake Michigan heads the harbor parade with 24, followed by Lake Huron with 16 and Lake Superior with 15. The Southeast Michigan area, comprising Lakes Erie and St. Clair plus the St. Clair and Detroit rivers, has six harbors.

"Since boating on the Great Lakes is a joy that will always be remembered, it is significant that Michigan has kept pace with this rapidly growing recreational activity by continually updating its facilities for all types of watercraft," states Ratke.

"Michigan has met and often exceeded the needs of boaters with its harbors program," adds Ratke. "This is important since our state is the outdoor playground of not only local citizens, but for the entire Midwest."

"For it is to Michigan that travelers from Indiana, Il-

linois and Ohio come for summer vacation enjoyment. And much of this enjoyment is supplied by the Great Lakes."

"This network of inland seas is dotted with many tiny islands and ports of call, all just waiting to be explored by adventurous and non-adventurous sailors alike. And since many boaters travel great distances along the lakes, it is important their basic needs are met."

This is certainly the case as the 61 "ports of call" on Auto Club's map provide a complete number of services: Twenty-one ports have nearby U.S. Coast Guard stations, 47 have holding tank pump-out, 27 marine repairs, 52 launching ramps, 41 at least 10 transient wells (only three have none), 55 gasoline and oil, 55 electricity, 56 water, 53 telephone, 52 ice and

supplies and 54 restroom facilities. Ten render all of the listed services.

Sailors may choose from the urban areas of Southeast Michigan, where the emphasis is on day-sailing, racing, boating clubs and waterside restaurants; the sandy beaches and dunes along Lake Michigan; the many variations of Lake Huron; or the virtually unspoiled beauty of Lake Superior.

Each of the Great Lakes offers a different and unique experience so that boaters should never run out of new and exciting things to do," Ratke states. "The state's harbor system has helped bring these experiences within the realm of nearly all sailors."

A relatively new pastime for vacationers is attending popular festivals and tourist attractions by boat because

many of these attractions are located near public harbors.

For example, sailors can take in the Big Mac Bridge, Port Michilimackinac and Mackinac Island simply by boating from Mackinaw City to Mackinac Island. During a stopover at Grand Haven, boaters can see the world's largest musical fountain while Upper Peninsula boaters can dock at Munising to see nearby Pictured Rocks or at Sauble Ste. Marie to see the famed Soo Locks.

For the hundreds of thousands of Michiganians who annually enjoy Great Lakes boating, it comes as no surprise that this state, as the pace in watercraft activity, especially since our Water Wonderland has nearly 3,200 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. This is nearly 800 more miles than the combined ocean coastlines of Florida and California.

Lake Levels Higher

All Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair will be higher for the 1973 boating season than they were last year. High levels are caused primarily by above-normal rain and snow, and below-normal evaporation.

For May, Lakes St. Clair and Erie again set new highs of record. St. Clair has set new records every month

since October 1972 and Erie every month since September '72. Both are expected to continue setting or equaling records through October (Lake St. Clair through November), which is usually the beginning of the severe storm season on the Great Lakes.

Lake Superior is expected

to rise about four inches by the end of June and to peak at the end of August. Lakes Michigan and Huron are expected to rise about one inch by the end of June and peak at the end of July.

Recreational boaters should be especially cautious of the problems high water causes.

Month	JANUARY												FEBRUARY												MARCH												APRIL												MAY												JUNE												JULY												AUGUST												SEPTEMBER												OCTOBER												NOVEMBER												DECEMBER																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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Medicare Hospital Terms Extended

"Under recent changes in the social security law, the hospital insurance part of Medicare will also be extended to people 65 and older who previously didn't qualify for coverage because they haven't worked long enough under social security," said Sam F. Test, manager of the Detroit Northwest Social Security office.

Initially, the premium will be \$30 a month for Medicare hospital insurance protection. The premium may be in-

creased later if hospital costs rise.

"People buying hospital coverage under this protection will also be required to enroll for medical insurance coverage," Test explained.

Starting July 1, the basic monthly premium for the medical insurance part of Medicare is \$6.30, an increase of 50 cents a month over the current rate.

Beginning July 1, persons receiving social security disability payments for two years or more will be eli-

gible for Medicare coverage.

"Disabled people require seven times as much hospital care as other people and three times as much service from doctors," Test said.

Medicare is administered by the Social Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

For more information about the changes in Medicare, contact any social security office. The Detroit-Northwest office is at 17500 Lahser Road.

Safe boating starts with weather check.

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HINES BRIDGE — Work progresses on the freeway bridge that will cross Hines Drive near Haggerty Rd. The popular drive is closed through western Livonia, from Newburgh Rd. to Wilcox in Plymouth. (Observer Photo by Bob Woodring)