

12TH ANNUAL
METRO BOAT SHOW

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OVERVIEW

Progressive Metro Boat Show set for Sept. 16-19

By MediaNews Group Staff

Whether you are a seasoned boater or completely brand new to boating, the 12th annual Progressive Metro Boat Show is sure not to disappoint.

Coming to Lake St. Clair Metropark Sept. 16-19, the Progressive Metro Boat Show is the largest in-water boat show in the midwest with boats up to 50 ft.+ in length on display and for sale.

This is the first boat show produced by the Michigan Boating Industries Association since early 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic is ongoing, the show will have all recommended public safety protocols in place to ensure a safe experience for all attendees. More information about COVID safety measures can be found at metroboatshow.net.

Michigan is the third largest marine market in the country, and conservative estimates show that more than four million people in Michigan enjoy boating each year, according to the MBIA. As many people discovered boating as a fun and safe outdoor activity to enjoy with family and friends throughout the pandemic, the MBIA expects many Michiganders new to the boating lifestyle will be attending this year. That is why they plan to host free "Welcome to Boating" educational workshops at this year's event, planned for Saturday, Sept. 18. Topics will include everything from boating safety, battery maintenance, shrink wrap recycling, general maintenance and more.

There will also be live music in the Tiki Bar, food trucks, beer tents; arts and crafts activities for kids and more to keep the whole family entertained.

Boats featured at the Metro Boat Show this year include new and previously owned fishing boats, cruisers, yachts, pontoon boats, personal watercraft, ski and wakeboard boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards.

A boat show is the best way to shop and compare hundreds of boats in one place and also learn more about boating and the boating lifestyle, said Nicki Polan, show manager and MBIA executive director in a news release.

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"Being immersed into a marina setting with a picturesque boardwalk lined with beautiful boats along the coast of Lake St. Clair make this show such a joy to attend," Polan said. "The show is a great place to get the first look at the new 2022 model introductions, and for end-of-season deals from quality yacht brokers and dealers. It is also a great place to learn more about boating, and just to have some fun."

The Progressive Metro Boat Show is produced by the Michigan Boating Industries Association and sponsored this year by Progressive Insurance, the Huron Clinton Metroparks and



PHOTO BY DAVID ANGELL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

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Great Lakes Scuttlebutt, the official publication of MBIA Boat Shows.

Show hours are 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 16-17; 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19. Admission is \$10 for adults; children 12 and under are free with an adult. Parking is \$10 or free to those with a Metroparks permit. General park information can be found at metroparks.com or by calling 1-800-47-PARKS. Limited transient boating is available. Contact the Metropark for booking dockage.

For more information about this year's boat show, current promotions and a full schedule of events, visit metroboatshow.net.



PHOTO BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

The Progressive Metro Boat Show features hundreds of boats from 10 to 50 feet in length in the water and on land at the Lake St. Clair Metropark.

INDUSTRY GROWTH

Michigan boating expenditures sail again in 2020, continuing 11-year growth trend

Retail spending in Michigan on new boats, motors, trailers and boating accessories grew another 12% in 2020 — nearing \$1.3 billion in sales and continuing the 11th consecutive year of growth, according to recent data from the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

“It’s no secret that boating is

a favorite pastime for Michiganders, and the numbers show that,” said Michigan Boating Industries Association’s Executive Director Nicki Polan. “The pandemic only magnified the safe and fun experiences boating offers and we welcome thousands of new boaters to the sport. Michigan continues to be the third largest marine mar-

ket in the U.S. and that is very impressive since we’re a four-season state.”

Michigan has nearly one million boats registered, and another 600,000 legally non-registered paddle craft, also ranking number three in the country for registrations. MBIA, the state’s marine trade association, produces

the upcoming Progressive® Metro Boat Show, cruising into Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township, Sept. 16-19.

“The Progressive® Metro Boat Show is a gorgeous venue at the marinas of the Lake St. Clair Metropark,” said Polan. “This year we’re offering ‘Welcome to Boating’ Educational Workshops to

help boaters learn more about the rules of the water, general maintenance, environmental stewardship, and many other topics.”

Visit metroboatshow.net for a full schedule of workshops and more information about the show.

Story courtesy of the Michigan Boating Industries Association



PHOTO BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

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ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy fun for the whole family at this year's Boat Show, fall festival



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MICHIGAN BOATING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Create your own nautical décor at the Paint A Paddle Station at the Progressive Metro Boat Show on Saturday and Sunday.

It's not just the boats and beautiful atmosphere that draw people to St. Clair Metropark for the Progressive Metro Boat Show each year. The 12th annual event, set for Sept. 16-19, will have plenty of fun activities and entertainment in store for the whole family to enjoy.

Part boat show part fall festival, this year's event will offer seasonal food and drinks, live entertainment, activities for kids, lawn games and more. The North Bar and the Tiki Bar inside the festival will feature Michigan craft beers, hard cider, and your favorite brews on tap as well as wines, coolers, soda and water.

Live music

Live entertainment will be provided at the Tiki Bar throughout the weekend, including:

- Thursday 3-7 p.m. — Caribbean Blue Duo
- Friday 3-7 p.m. — Ron Devon
- Saturday 1-7 p.m. — Caribbean Blue Duo
- Sunday 12-6 p.m. — The Island Guys

Paint A Paddle Crafts

Create your own nautical décor at the Paint A Paddle Station on Saturday and Sunday. Use a pre-created pattern or your own imagination to create a one-of-a-kind paddle. The cost is \$5 per paddle, while supplies last.

Food Truck Schedule

- Just in Time Concessions (Thurs.-Sun)



PHOTO BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

There is fun to be had by the whole family at this year's Progressive Metro Boat Show at St. Clair Metropark.

- Variety of your favorite concessions
 - Flavors Food Truck — bbq, tacos, burgers, tenders, salads
 - Sugar Rush — Desserts
 - Vigorous Juice and Food (Thurs.-Sat.)
- Healthy juices, salads and sandwiches
 - Pete's Down-N-Out Tacos (Thurs.-Sat.)
- Tacos
 - Like Family Catering (Fri.-Sun) —

Philly and Chicken Cheesesteaks, sausages

Broadcast Center Schedule

101 WRIF will be broadcasting live from the Boat Show from 3 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16, with 94.7 WCSX set to broadcast live from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17.

For more information about the entertainment and activities planned for this

year's boat show visit metroboatshow.net.

Kids' Zone

The Kids' Zone will feature a take-away boat craft, face painting, water fun and more.

Information courtesy of the Michigan Boating Industries Association



Top: A boat show is the best way to shop and compare hundreds of boats in one place and also learn more about boating and the boating lifestyle.

Left: The Progressive Metro Boat Show is a fun activity for all, whether or not you plan to purchase a boat in the future.

Photos by David Angell — For MediaNews Group

DISCOVER BOATING

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME BOAT BUYERS

Boating is a rewarding hobby that can be great for people from all walks of life. Many people buy a boat because they already have a passion for fishing and want their own vessel to take out on the water. Others may buy a boat because they like the challenge posed by sailing, a demanding yet rewarding hobby.

According to Grow Boating, a marine industry organization that aims to generate awareness and interest in boating, retail sales of new boats, marine engines and marine accessories in the United States totaled \$20.1 billion in 2017. That marked a 9.5% increase from the year prior, highlighting the growing popularity of boating. In fact, Grow Boating notes that 141.6 million Americans went boating in 2016. The fun of boating compels many people to buy their own boats. For first-timers, buying a boat can be both exciting and confusing. Prospective buyers must decide on everything from the type of vessel they want to the size of the boat to where to store it when they're not out on the water. Such decisions can make the process of buying a boat somewhat intimidating.

However, the following tips might facilitate the process of buying a boat for the first time.

- **Assess your skills.** An honest assessment of your skills will help you determine if the time is right to buy a boat. There's no shame in waiting to buy a boat until you become more comfortable navigating it. Boating schools can be great resources for novices, teaching them the ins and outs of boating. The United States Coast Guard notes that boating safety courses are offered throughout the country for all types of recreational boaters.

- **Ask around.** Boaters tend to be passionate about boating, and many are willing to offer advice to novices about boats that may suit their needs. Local marinas can be great resources for first-time boat buyers. Visit a local marina and seek advice from current boat owners. Some may share their own travails and triumphs from their first boat-buying experience, and those stories can serve as a guide as you begin your own journey to boat ownership.

- **Be patient.** Boats are significant investments, so it serves prospective owners well to be patient and exercise due diligence before making a purchase. Do your homework on the type of boat that best suits your needs, skill level and budget.

- **Do your homework in regard to fees.** The cost of owning a boat is more than just the sticker price and the cost of fuel.



PHOTOS BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Michigan is the third largest marine market in the country.

WHAT MAKES A BOAT SHOW A GREAT PLACE TO BUY A BOAT?

A boat show is a great place to compare shop, determine the boat that's right for you and learn about the product. Most dealers have on-site financing to help you complete your purchase right at the show and get your order placed in time to take delivery before spring launch.

A boat show is the one place where you can:

- Compare a wide variety of boats
- Talk to experts, dealers and manufacturers
- Take advantage of special deals and incentives

Much like you would before buying an automobile, get a quote on boating insurance before making a purchase, being as



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specific as possible in regard to the boat's make, model and age when asking for an estimate. In addition, get quotes on docking and mooring fees.

When buying a boat, people envision taking their boats out as much as possible. That's only possible for boat owners who fully grasp the full cost of boat ownership and how to finance all of the ancil-

lary expenses of owning a boat. The decision to buy a boat requires careful consideration of a host of factors to ensure boaters find the right boat and get the most of their time on the water.

Information courtesy of Metro Creative Connection and the Michigan Boating Industries Association



PHOTO BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

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COVID-19 SAFETY



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHIGAN BOATING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Several steps are being taken to help mitigate the risk of spreading or contracting COVID-19 at this year's boat show, according to the Michigan Boating Industries Association.

MBIA: Well-being of event attendees, staff is no. 1 priority

Based on guidance from the CDC and Macomb County Health Department, individuals who are fully vaccinated will not be required to wear a face mask while anywhere at the boat show. Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to wear a mask. Whenever possible all persons are encouraged to stay at least 3 to 6 feet apart from others who are not from your household. All attendees, exhibitors, and staff will be expected to STAY HOME if they are ill or exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 or other contagious illness.

In order to increase safety and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, show staff and exhibitors will increase cleaning protocols and may limit the number of individuals on a vessel or in a given space of the show.

Additionally, tickets will only be available for purchase online to decrease traffic at the box office and

ticket window.

COVID-19 Warning

As you know, An inherent risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 exists in a public place where people are present such as this show. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. Senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By attending the Progressive Metro Boat Show you voluntarily assume all risk related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree to indemnify us for all claims and expenses due to illness or injury resulting from your attendance at the show.

Be kind to your neighbor and let's help each other healthy!

Courtesy of the Michigan Boating Industries Association

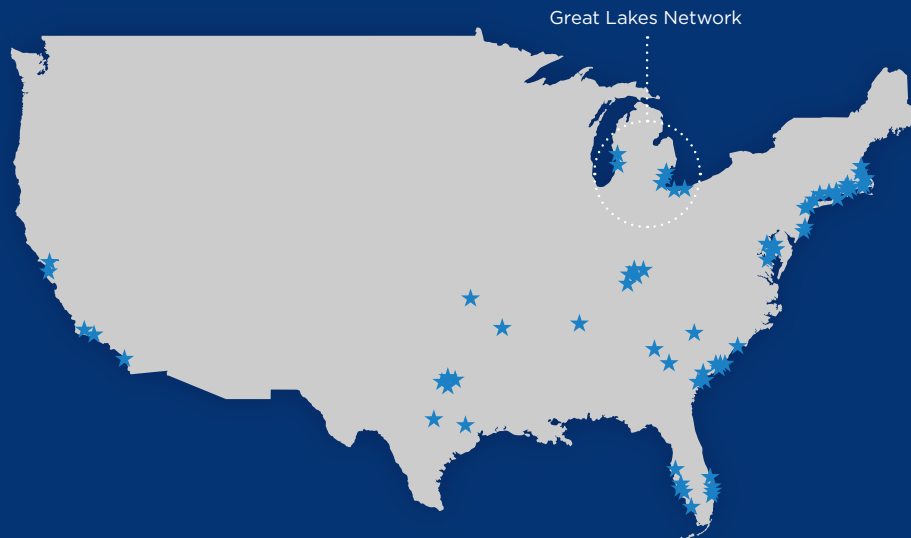


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