

PPLA'S ANNUAL BOAT PARADE A SUCCESS

Submitted by

Bob Becker

Before dawn at 6:00 AM a thick and heavy fog blanketed the lake. It was even sweatshirt weather as the temperature had a bite to it. Is this a perfect day for a Boat Parade? That thought rolled through my mind, remembering the snake bit and stormy day we had in July, the original date of our 9th Annual Paw Paw Lake Association Parade. Saturday however, turned gorgeous and at a little after 1:00 pm craft of all kinds and in a variety of creative displays began assembling just off the **Waterfront Restaurant** docks.

Thus began our "9 ½" annual boat parade and it was carried out in picture perfect conditions. **Kip Wright** organized the original parade in July and handed the reins of organization to **Scott Hoadley** for the rain date. A doff of our hats to both Kip and Scott for jobs well done and special thanks to all our generous sponsors!

For a list of winners and the merchants who provided prizes, see our advertisement in this paper. *A perfect finish to a perfect day would be, for all of us in turn, to support our sponsors!*

Twenty craft participated and while not a parade record (33 in 2006), the parade participants were certainly enthusiastic. Then an additional gathering of close to three hundred people mingled during and after the parade at the Waterfront Restaurant for food, libation and to listen to the music of "**Beat 66**". One crew member pointed out this was *certainly* a record for a "rain dated parade" and there is *certainly* no argument here! Word from crews on participating boats was, there were crowds of people lining the lake shore to view, laugh and enjoy the passing parade. Back at the Waterfront Restaurant, **Jim Hoadly** emceed the awards ceremony for the third time.

A reminder, our next Association meeting is this Saturday, September 6, 2008 at the Watervliet Library beginning at 9:00 AM. Please use the First Street (rear) entrance. Topics on the agenda are buffer strips, weed treatment, an aquatic weed survey and sourcing a regional Economic Impact Study, all items recommended by the Spicer Report.

As always coffee and bakery will be available.

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