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# Build a fun, stress-free community of boaters

As you've probably come to learn by now, the boating community is just that – a community. Though we're all out there enjoying the fun in our own ways, by ourselves or with our family and friends, boaters share a common culture.

That's why we chit-chat at the marina or boat ramp, give each other a wave as we cruise by, and stop to lend a helping hand whenever another boater is in need.

Part of being a good community member is ensuring that other boaters are safe, as well as looking out for your own.

## Sober skippers

When you designate a sober skipper for your boat you're not only protecting yourself, you're also protecting all the other boaters out there. You can even go the extra mile and take the Sober Skipper pledge, and get Sober Skipper wristbands (they're free!) for your marina, to get other boaters involved and aware.

## Boaters helping boaters

Remember that like in any good community, as a general rule, boaters are always happy to lend assistance to one another. You should make it a point to offer assistance when you can, and never be afraid to ask other boaters for help.

"Our captains are always happy to talk to people about current conditions, and how to learn what you may not know that you don't know," Sea Tow President Kristen Frohnoefer said. "Many of our members tell us that joining Sea Tow makes them feel like they have a friend on the water. Our captains are out there all the time, they have the local knowledge, and they're willing to share it."

When we community members all maintain a similar attitude, it helps keep everyone on the water that much safer. So if you notice that a sandbar has shifted or a channel is shoaling up, don't hesitate to share that knowledge with others. And if you're wondering how deep that channel really is, never be afraid to ask.

Likewise, if you have friends or family members who just bought a new boat for the very first time, volunteer to show them the ropes as they begin to learn all the



basics of boating and proper seamanship. You might even recommend that as a newbie, they should consider taking either an online or a hands-on training course to help build their confidence.

## Life jackets

Of course, making sure the passengers on the deck of your own boat are safe is your job number-one. And while you already know that life jackets play a key role, you may not realize how important it is to have them properly fitted.

"This is particularly important with kids," says Gail R. Kulp, executive director of the Sea Tow Foundation. "Kids grow fast and parents can buy up-sized clothes and coats, but you can't do that with life jackets."

Kulp notes that the Sea Tow Foundation has a loaner program with

hundreds of locations and maintains a nationwide map of life jacket loaner stations, so you don't necessarily have to buy a new life jacket every season as the kids grow, or when you take out one of their friends. It is critical, however, to make sure that the life jackets they're in are properly fitted.

The bottom line? There's nothing more fun than being on a boat, but the one way we can all make boating even better is by studying up on safety and then cruising with confidence.

So, commit these tips to memory, consider signing up for membership with a boating assistance company, and keep studying up on safety. Before you know it, 2022 might just turn into the best year of boating, ever.

For more information, visit [discoverboating.com](http://discoverboating.com).

## LAKE LIVING Fall 2022

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**above:** Boaters share a common culture and are generally willing to lend a hand when someone is in need.

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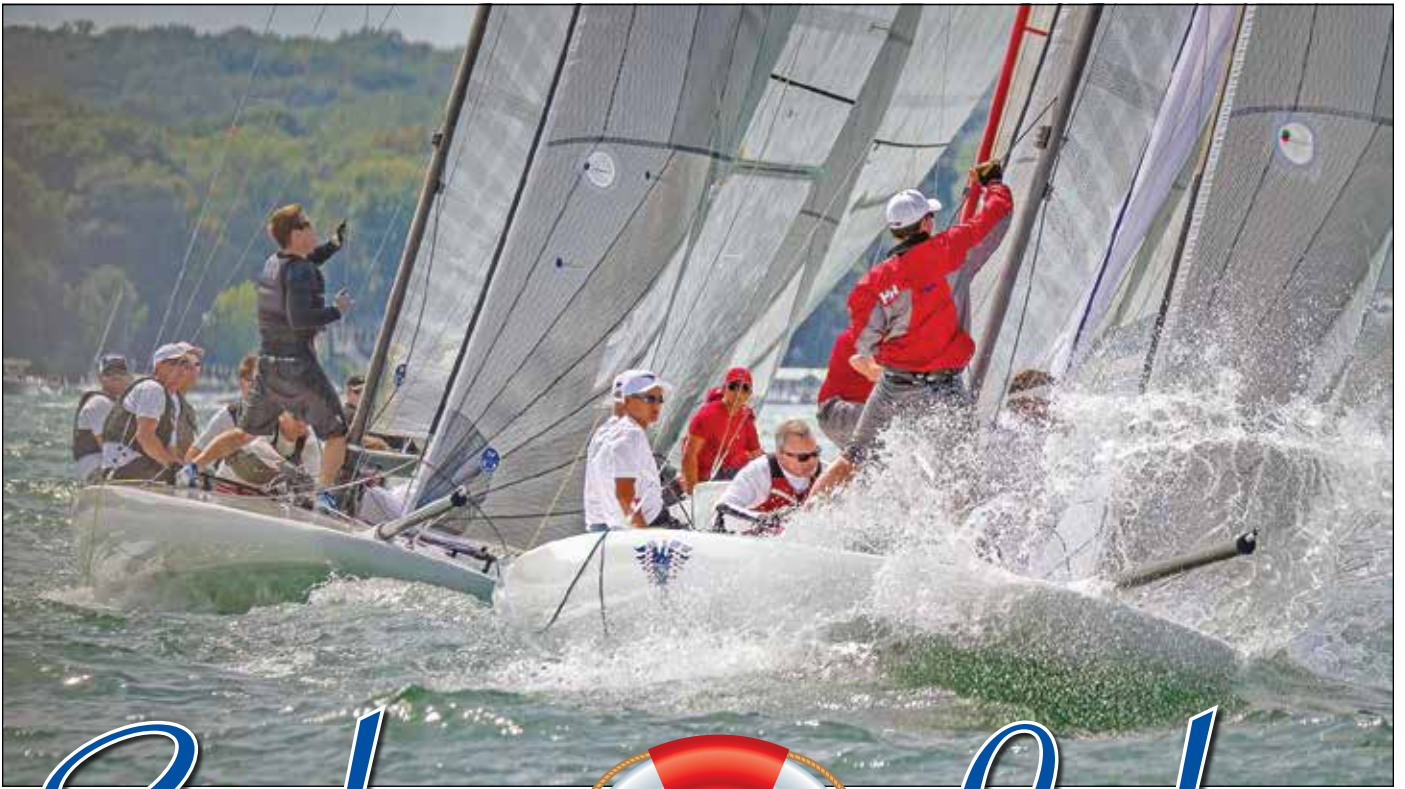
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# Sailing ON THE Lakes

## AREA YACHT CLUBS OFFERS LESSONS AND MORE

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

One of the most beautiful sights on the lakes is that of a sailboat, gliding along the crystal clear water, with its sails blowing in the wind and carrying the vessel on its way. Or perhaps the real thrill is being in a sailboat as it races around the lake.

From large sailboats to one-man vessels, the pleasure of sailing is enjoyed, whether traveling slowly enjoying the scenery or participating in a race.

Where, when, and why did sailboats come to be? There are many stories claiming their origin but mostly it is believed that they were first found in the Persian Gulf area as a means of transporting items from one community to another, more than 4,000 years ago. Soon it became evident that it was faster to move

objects on water rather than traveling on land.

However, the sailboats had a problem, as they could only move in the direction where the wind could push them along. Returning, they had to wait for the wind to change or to row their way home against the wind.

It was many years before they learned that they could change the shape of the sail from the square or rectangular shape first used to the triangular shapes that are used today. And over time new fabrics, and the ability to maneuver the sails to catch the wind gave them more versatility and a better ability to work with the wind.

The changes in the shape and the size of the sails allowed for more control of the wind, making steering the boat easier. Along with the change in sails, newer shapes and sizes of the boats made them easier to handle.

By the 1800s, large, multi-sail vessels were used for commerce and transportation.

Many members of royalty, became enamored with sailboats and soon boats of all sizes, large and small, were being used for pleasure.

Today, while watching the sailboats on

the water of the lakes in southern Wisconsin, there is an appreciation for life on the water near the many Wisconsin lakes. Along the inland lakes of Wisconsin, sailing on these smaller lakes is a favorite water activity so it is not surprising that many of the lakes have a yacht club.

“Sailing is a lifestyle and those who become interested in it young tend to continue to love sailing throughout their life,” said Candace Porter, of the Inland lakes Yachting Association and a member of the Lake Beulah Yacht Club in East Troy. “Because sailing is a family activity, most Yacht Clubs are family friendly. They encourage children to learn to sail and share the activity with their parents.”

Porter went on to explain that often fathers will sail with their daughters or sons. Married or dating couples, brothers or longtime friends will sail as a team. Many who began to sail in their childhood will continue to sail with their old friends well into adulthood.

For many children, one of their favorite memories from their childhood is sailing

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Racing sail boats align as they wait for the signal to begin, while the waves splash playfully against the craft.

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with their fathers. The many days spent with family and friends, enjoying time together on the water or gathering with friends and family at the yacht club.

By the late 1800s, with the lakes of southern Wisconsin becoming the favorite summer vacationing places for those from Chicago and other nearby cities, it was not long until sails were seen on the lakes as visitors enjoyed taking to the water and enjoying sailing.

Soon the establishment of Yacht Clubs on the shores of the lakes followed. Today many of these yacht clubs and their sailing schools continue to provide sailing and instruction to members of the club.

## Lake Geneva Yacht Club

The Lake Geneva Yacht Club has been a fixture on the shore of Geneva Lake since the late 1800s and continues to be the home of yachting for the lake. The club hosted its first race on Aug. 31, 1874, to honor visitor, Lieutenant General Philip H. Sheridan, a Civil War army officer stationed in Chicago. This race was the beginning of the many races that would continue to be held by the club throughout the summer season.

Today the yacht club continues with a full calendar of a variety of fleet races in various classes, Class A, Class C, Class E, Class MC, Melges 24, Melges 24, Class X and the International Optimist Dinghy. They also schedule national championships in various classes and invitational regattas which attract sailors from other areas.

Races are held weekly Tuesday through Sunday and holidays from mid-May through October. The sailing season ends with the annual Sheridan Prize Race in commemoration of the original Sheridan race, the last weekend in August, if the weather permits.

The Lake Geneva Yacht Club is known for producing some of the best sailors in the nation. Originally the club was a small group of boat owners, many of whom used professional helmsmen on their boats, but has become a club with a membership of local sailors who compete impressively at local, regional, national, and even international competition.

The club encourages new sailing members to join.

Leading the list of successful individuals is Harry "Buddy" Melges who has won both

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**top:** The c-scow, Swingtime, awaits in the water for their sendoff on this bright sunny day. **middle:** Known as the "Opti" these smaller one person boats are popular for teaching children to sail. They are also used by individuals looking to enjoy a day on the water alone. **bottom:** Sailboats often sport colorful sails when out on the water.



CANDACE PORTER FOR ILVA *Lake Living*



PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY KMIECIK OF KMIECIK IMPRESSIONS *Lake Living*



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## YACHT CLUBS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

local races and international championships. He was named yachtsman of the year in 1961, 1972, and 1978. In 2011, he was named to the National Sailing Hall of Fame as a member of their first class. His grandson, Harry Melges IV seems to be following right in his grandfather's footsteps as he was named Rolex Yachtsman of the Year for 2021, 60 years after his grandfather first received it and has made his mark in sailing.

The Melges family was only one family of successful sailors that were members of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club and became well known throughout the sailing world.

A successful yacht club provides social and dining activities for members as the members over time become one big family.

A look at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club's social calendar shows that there are a variety of activities that are enjoyed as a family. For more information, visit [lgyc.com](http://lgyc.com).

### *Geneva Lake Sailing School*

Located adjacent to the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, the Geneva Lake Sailing School offers Summer Sailing Camps for children from 4 to 17 years old, who are interested in learning how to sail or to improve their sailing abilities to advanced racing. Those interested in the program must be in good health and able to swim.

Classes are limited in size and the boats used are dependent on the needs of the class for the safety of the participants. The staff will work with the parents to help them find the camp most appropriate for the needs of the child.



**above:** The 2021 ILYA Boat Championship was hosted by the Pewaukee Yacht Club for the second year with 112 members of the fleet competing. **top:** The Lake Geneva Yacht Club, Geneva Lake Sailing School and Buddy Melges Sailing Center feature teaching staff who are members of the racing team as well as returning sailors. The center was built by Briohn Construction Corporation of Brookfield and designed by Mary Cook Associates of Chicago – and also includes other buildings.



The teaching staff are members of the racing team and returning college and high school sailors, many of whom began in these same programs. Classes are also available for adults.

For a fun and exciting summer camp, consider one at the Geneva Lake Sailing School. Go to [www.glss.org](http://www.glss.org) for more information.

### Lake Beulah Yacht Club

Located on east Shore Road in East Troy, the Lake Beulah Yacht Club was founded in 1893 and continues to grow and provide sailing events for members. The club has been active in the sailing world since that time. Over the years, although the design and materials of the boats has changed, the basic concept of one design sailing continues.

A family friendly club with 180 members ranging from 5 to 90 years of age, they include generations of families who sail together. With the wide range of ages in the club it is not surprising to have three generations of sailors from one family still competing or just sailing for pleasure. Lake Beulah Yacht Club is an all volunteer club with members volunteering to provide at least one event each year.

“As we say, you have to sling the hash for one event,” shared Candace Porter, member of the Lake Beulah Yacht Club and the Inland

Lakes Yachting Association.

With each member taking responsibility for organizing one event, they become more like a family and it helps keep costs down.

Even though they are a smaller club, they still have produced award-winning sailors, including two Rolex winners, U.S. Sailors of the year, Stephanie Roble and Annie Hager. Hager is an Olympian.

Maggie Shea and Roble are training for the 2024 Olympics in Paris, and attending trials.

In order for a yacht club to grow, there must always be an influx of new sailors. One way to insure the addition of new members is to encourage sailing schools. The Lake Beulah Yacht Club has a sailing school and encourages both children and adults to participate.

The sailing school offers classes that not only teach the basics of sailing but also the importance of sportsmanship, and respect for the property. The school offers classes from novice to experienced sailors wishing to improve, open to students from 6 years to 70 years of age. While in the sailing school, participants must join the yacht club. The entire family does not need to join only the person taking the sailing lessons must be a member.

### Inland Lakes Yachting Association

Porter said there are nine different yacht clubs just on the I-94 corridor, all involved in

ILYA, and happy to welcome new members to the joy of sailing. This is the summer to consider a new summertime activity. Contact one of the sailing schools to learn about classes for the family and information about becoming a yacht club member.

Overseeing the organization of the various regattas, the Inland Lakes Yachting Association was formed more than 125 years ago and remains the leading organizer and advocate of amateur yacht racing on the inland lakes of the Midwest. They encourage healthy competition for both adults and the youth of the area.

“We focus on sailing education, safety, high end competitive racing, and safe family fun in the water,” Porter said. “With 50 clubs as members throughout the Midwest, there are always many attendees at our regattas. We generally sponsor 8 regattas per year.”

With so many small lakes in the area, sailboats are seen on the lakes almost every day during the summer season from Memorial Day to fall.

This year the ILYA Adult Championship will be at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, Aug. 17 to 21, with various competitions each day. More than 200 boats are expected to participate in the event. Since each boat may contain from one to seven boaters this will be a very busy event.

For more information, visit [www.ilya.org](http://www.ilya.org).



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# Meals on Keels

## Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers a variety of meal cruises

By **Jason Arndt**

STAFF WRITER

Lake Geneva Cruise Line, a division of Gage Marine, offers breathtaking views of Geneva Lake featuring grand estates lining the shore.

But the boat tours deliver much more, including a Sunday brunch buffet tour, luncheon tour, jazz dinner cruise and supper club cruise, all prepared by Lake Life Catering on one of the cruise line's eight boats in its fleet including The Grand Belle.

Lake Life Catering, also a division of Gage Marine, states on its website that it promises to deliver exceptional food service, beautiful presentation and mouthwatering food.

"On all our boats, you can feel the history and novelty of being aboard a classic boat," Assistant General Manager Ellen Burling said. "From our steam yacht Louise to our paddle boat the Lady of the Lake, all our boats offer a unique experience."



top: A server delivers food to patrons on a luncheon cruise inside a climate-controlled dining area on one Lake Geneva Cruise Line's eight boats. The cruise line offers a variety of dinner cruises on its many boats. above: Lake Geneva Cruise Line customers can experience multiple food offerings all while absorbing views of Geneva Lake.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Lake Living*



All of the boats have bathrooms on board, as well as a full bar.

The Walworth, its U.S. Mailboat, also has televisions showing the mail jumper jumping on and off the boat.

With an array of boats, and meal offerings, some of Lake Geneva Cruise Line's meal cruises and cocktail cruises also offer live entertainment.

After visitors complete their meal or drink they can experience a variety of music talents such as a Frank 2 Frankie Tour.

The Frank 2 Frankie Tour includes lunch and music show.

### MEAL OFFERINGS

Lake Geneva Cruise Line has multiple food items available for the Sunday Brunch Buffet Cruise, including, but not limited to scrambled eggs with toppings, vegetable and cheese egg bake, chicken breakfast sausage, sliced ham, fresh fruit, chicken cordon bleu with sauces and a series of sweets.

The Supper Club Dinner Cruise, meanwhile, includes homemade spreads with crackers and breadsticks, classic wedge salad, bakery rolls and butter, sirloin steak with mushrooms or baked salmon with orange basil butter, baked potato served with sour cream and butter, and a chocolate cream pie for desert.

On the menu for the jazz dinner cruise, Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers a summer berry salad with berry poppyseed vinaigrette, bakery rolls and butter, petite

steak and chicken cordon bleu or salmon fillet with mango topping, smashed Yukon gold potatoes as well as a cheesecake with sauce.

For the vegetarian or person on a gluten-free diet, the cruise line offers accommodations.

The Luncheon Cruise, meanwhile, offers a different menu each day with access online at [www.cruiselakegeneva.com/meal-tour-menus](http://www.cruiselakegeneva.com/meal-tour-menus).

With multiple choices, and picturesque views, Lake Geneva Cruise touts itself as the top boat tours on Lake Geneva.

Many people online have delivered rave reviews, including a person who experienced the jazz cruise, and strongly recommended taking the tour.

"The staff was outstanding. The meal was fantastic and the cruise was smooth. The jazz band was awesome," one person wrote. "Overall a great experience. A great value for dinner and cruise."

A visitor from Kentucky, meanwhile, thoroughly enjoyed her cruise and decided to come back for a second boat tour.

"The history, the beautiful mansions, and the nice boat ride was wonderful," she wrote on TripAdvisor. "This is the second time I've taken this tour in less than a year, as I bragged about it so much to my husband that he wanted to do it."

To tour the full lake, a cruise typically takes two hours, which includes Lake Geneva Cruise Line's Meal Cruises, U.S.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# MEAL CRUISES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Mailboat Tour, and the Full Lake Tour.

Additionally, for people looking for a shorter tour, Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers a Geneva Bay Tour and Ice Cream Social Tour covering about half of Geneva Lake.

Narrated boat tours range in price from \$38 to \$50 while meal cruise trips cost between \$60 to \$80.

## POPULAR SCENES, ATTRACTIONS

Boat tours cruise past historical mansions, some dating back to the late 1800's, which Lake Geneva Cruise touted as breathtaking and unlike many houses typically seen in Southeast Wisconsin.

"The new homes that are also on the lakeshore are no less spectacular and offer a glimpse into a fabulous lake life," Burling said.

Some highlights, according to Burling, include the Wrigley Estate, Blacktoft home, House in the Woods built in 1906 by one of the founders of what is now known as True Value Hardware, Schwinn Estate, Aloha Lodge built in 1900 for the Drake brothers of the Drake Hotel and the Blackstone Hotel and Theatre in Chicago.

Boat tours also include the largest home built in Geneva Lake called the Stone Manor featuring 50 rooms spanning 50,000 square feet.

"Our most popular attractions include the Black Pointe Estate Tour, which



An autumn excursion with the Lake Geneva Cruise Line can a full meal with spectacular views.

COURTESY OF VISIT LAKE GENEVA *Lake Living*

not only tours the lake, but also an 1888 Victorian Summer Cottage built for Chicago Beer Baron Conrad Seipp," Burling said. "Other popular tours are the U.S. Mailboat Tour, which is world-famous as one of the only a few remaining boat delivery routes."

While boat tours offer a historical glimpse, according to Lake Geneva Cruise

Line, the Ice Cream Social Tour is a family-friendly option featuring lake views with ice cream sundaes.

*Lake Geneva Cruise Line, accessible online at [cruiselakegeneva.com](http://cruiselakegeneva.com), has a daily tour schedule running through Oct. 31.*

*For more information, including how to make a reservation, call 262-248-6206 or contact [reservations@glcl.net](mailto:reservations@glcl.net).*



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**1802887** - Lakefront estate on 142' of sand frontage on Lauderdale "Gold Coast" situated on manicured 1.28 wooded acres completely fenced and gated. That's just the start to this lakefront dream. The lake greets you as you walk into the 4BD, 4.5 bath main house with open foyer to eat-in Ktch and lakeside dining room, LR with fireplace and slider to screened porch with vaulted ceiling. Master en-suite lakeside with private deck. Family room walk-out to cement patio. Brick fireplace and wet-bar plus 4th BD and Bath. Rare wet boat house with 2 Bd, 1 bath guest cottage above with full ktch, living room and screened porch all vaulted. This gets even better with a 36 x 30 storage garage with 4 finished rooms all vaulted heated and cooled. Plus, another 3.5 heated detached garage. **\$4,499,700**



**MLS 1802887**



**1781758** - Paradise found on 2 acres and 700' of level frontage on Green Lake with rare private island with bridge is just the start. This property offers 2 homes. Main house is a stone 2 story with 6BR, 3BA, large eat-in ktch featuring island, tile floors and lakeside dinette which leads to LR offering majestic lake views, maple floors and stone fireplace. Main floor also features lakeside BR and full bath. Upper level has master BD with shared full bath and private balcony and 2 lakeside BR. Spectacular 2 BR, 1BA stone cottage won't disappoint with vaulted ceilings, slate floors, fireplace, loft and kitchen with breakfast bar and dinette. Property offers multiple piers, stone gazebo, 17 x 29 garage, gated entrance through cobblestone pillars and majority of the property protected by metal fence. **\$2,100,000**

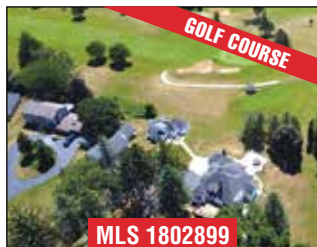


**1779535** - Located on 65' of prime Middle Lake swim frontage with Southern exposure you'll find this 4 BD, 3.5 Bath 3,968 sq ft 2 story with walk-out lower level. The lake welcomes you as soon as you step inside. Fabulous kitchen with large island, granite tops, SS appliances and French staircase to upper level leading to master bedroom en-suite. Upper level also offers 3 large bedrooms and full bath. Lower level family room walk out to cement patio and fire-pit lakeside. Family room offer brick fireplace, game room, additional eat-in kitchen, full bath and large storage area. Multiple decks lakeside leads to boat house and piers. Make your lifetime memories here on Lauderdale Lakes. **\$1,999,900**



**MLS 779535**

**1802899** - Tranquility can be found overlooking peaceful Lake Benedict in this estate like setting featuring main house with separate coach house on Nippersink Golf Course. The best of both worlds. Main house features 7 Bdrm, 5 baths, LR with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, wood floors and extended lake views. Eat in kitchen with sliding glass door to cement patio overlooking 17th Green and 18th Tee, plus dinette area and formal dining room. Two Master en-suit Bdrms with one featuring a fireplace. 20x20 lakeside deck off entrance. Finished lower-level walk-out featuring Family Room, Rec-Room, 2 bdrms, 2 full baths and den. Coach house is 3 bdrm, 2 bath with Master en-suite. 3.5 detached garage plus storage shed. **\$1,200,000**



**MLS 1802899**

**1805399** - Pebble Beach! Lauderdale's premier lake access subdivision offering an incredible lakefront park on Green Lake with sand beach, 22' boat slip, picnic area & sunsets. That's just the start; 3 plus BD, 3 bath, former parade of homes split ranch w/ open floor plan w/ vaulted ceiling, stone gas fireplace, HWF's Eat-in Ktch w/ breakfast bar, dinette w/ slider to deck, SS appliances & skylights. Master BD en-suite with walk-in shower, whirlpool tub and double vanity. Rec-room LL w/ custom wet-bar living area w/ game area and 3 bonus rooms w/ full bath. 3 car attached garage & patio off main level overlooking private backyard. Short walk to Tennis/Pickleball courts and lakefront park offering the best swimming on Lauderdale. Minutes to Kettle Moraine trail head hiking and mountain bike trails. **\$649,900**



**MLS 1805399**

422262





# Wine and dine on the water

## LAKE LAWN OFFERS MONTHLY DINNER-WINE CRUISES

by **Jennifer Eisenbart**

STAFF WRITER

When Lake Lawn Resort was faced with its dining room being closed this summer because of renovations, the resort staff knew it wanted to continue its wine dinners.

The question of “how” was answered by combining the dinners with a cruise on the Lake Lawn Queen, and dinner cruises on Delavan Lake were born.

Once a month, July through October, the Queen leaves for a two-hour dinner cruise. Dates remaining include Sept. 14 and Oct. 19, with the cruises running from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are available on the Lake Lawn website, along with the menu and wine pairings. Cost is \$99 per person, which includes the service charge, four glasses of wine paired with each of the four courses of the meal.

“They love it. It’s something different,” said Robert Anderson, the director of banquets and catering at Lake Lawn. With two hours on the boat, a four-course dinner and four glasses of wine, he added, “you can’t beat that.”

Lake Lawn Chef John Billings

personally handles the menu, pairing the wines with the menu choices. All items are cooked at the resort, then plated and served on the boat.

“This is our first year doing it,” Anderson explained. “Our wine dinners are very popular and do max out.”

Due to the size of the boat, there are 40 tickets available for each cruise. So far, Anderson said, they have sold out the first two cruises.

Anderson said that Lake Lawn works with both of its wine vendors on the cruise, flip-flopping each month between the two. For July, the meal will be paired with wine from the Hess Collection – a winery on the slopes of Mount Veeder in Napa Valley.

Each course is then paired with a glass. One menu this summer included:

- First course – Bell and Evans Chicken, Bacon, Chef’s Own Cured, Lemon, Capers, Butter, Shot Maple Jalapeno Johnny Cake, Leinenkugel Battered Great Lakes Walleye, Red Cabbage, Pickled, Slaw, Titos, caper, Aioli. Paired with the Hess Collection’s Lion Tamer Red Napa Valley (2016).

- Second course – Faroe Salmon,

Smoked Paprika, Evoo, Garlic, Paste, Crusted, Baby Romaine, Faulk Salt, Oat Croutons, Grilled, Sour Apple, Lemon, Curd, Vinaigrette. Paired with the Hess Collection’s Sauvignon Blanc Shirtail Ranches North Coast (2021).

- Third course – Red Stag Loin, Herbed, Garlic, Roasted, Evoo, Seared, Lavender, Cocoa, Bourbon, Butter, Demi, Russet, Champignon, Parsley, Smash, Steeped Wax and Green Haricoverts. Paired with the Hess Select Cabernet Sauvignon Allomi Napa Valley (2019).

- Fourth course – Strawberry Rhubarb Kouign Amann, Grand Marnier, Lemon, Zabaglione, Crème Brulee. Paired with the Hess Collection Chardonnay Panthera Russian River Valley (2018).

With the dining room scheduled to reopen later this year, Anderson doesn’t know if the dinner cruises will remain past this year.

“We’ll reevaluate that, to determine at that time if it’s what we want to do,” Anderson explained.

*To buy a ticket for a cruise or for more information, call Lake Lawn Resort at 262-728-7950, or go to [www.lakelawnresort.com](http://www.lakelawnresort.com).*

Lake Lawn Resort offered monthly dinner and wine cruises aboard the Lake Lawn Queen on Delavan Lake this summer. The meals featured four courses, each paired with an appropriate wine. The September and October cruises are still open for reservations.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Lake Living*



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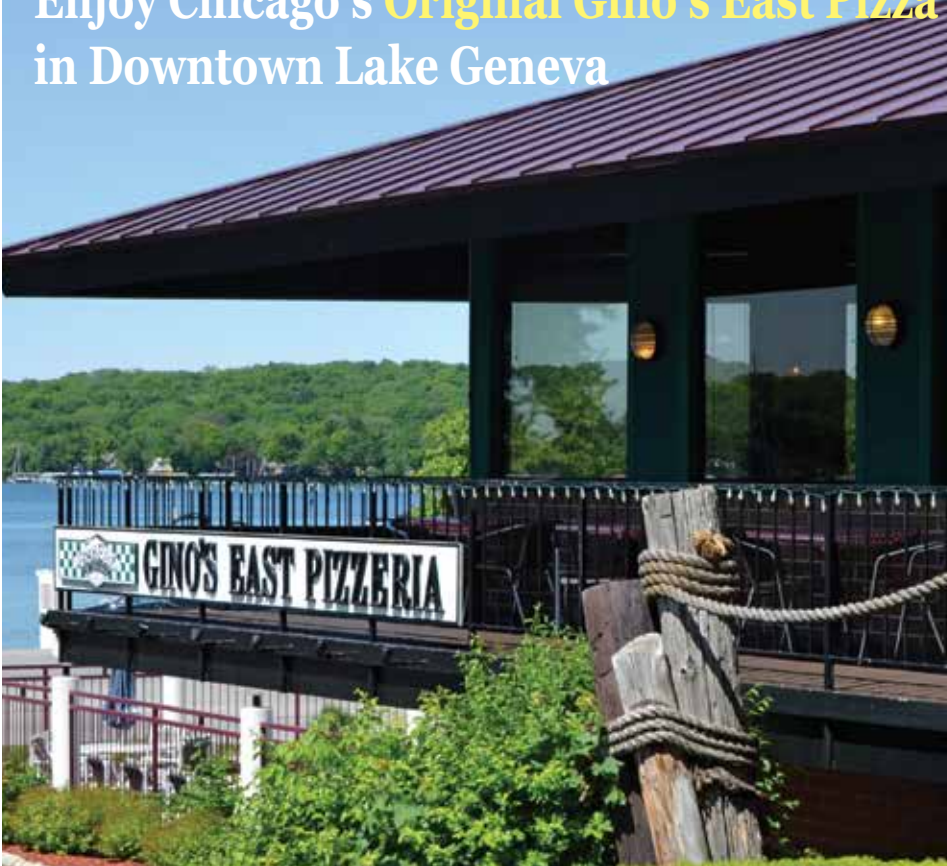
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# Aquanuts win national ski show title

The Aquanuts, of Twin Lakes, finished off their 50th anniversary season by winning the 47th Indmar Marine Ski Show National Championship held Aug. 12 to 14 in Loves Park, Illinois.

It is the Aquanuts first National Title since 2015 and the first time since 1984 that the team won both the Wisconsin State Title and the National Title in the same year.

The tournament featured 14 teams and more than 1,500 athletes.

In competitive show skiing, each club has one hour to present a theatrical performance on water skis. Judges score acts by awarding points based on originality, presentation, and execution.

Elaborate costumes and staging intermixed with music and fast action on the water as an announcer leads the audience through the show.

The Aquanuts were the second team to ski Aug. 13 arriving at 6:30 a.m. for safety meetings followed by skiing about three hours later.

Results were not announced to the crowd until Sunday evening around 8 p.m.

The nearly 36-hour wait for results was ‘exhausting’ said co-show directors Justin and Lisa Mushel from Burlington.

“The Aquanuts persevered against not only the 13 other teams but also the elements and conditions,” Justin said.

This was Mushel’s second national title as he was show director back in 2015 with

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



**top:** The Aquanuts ballet line performs before a large crowd July 30 at Lance Park Beach in Twin Lakes. The water ski team won the Indmar Marine Ski Show National Championship in August. **above:** Kailey Koehler works on a swivel ski routine in the Saturday, July 30 Aquanut water ski show in Twin Lakes. **left:** Ethan Shulda finishes off a trick ski during the Saturday, July 30 water ski show in Twin Lakes.

JASON ARNDT Lake Living



Ken Meyer.

A fast current from the north and winds of 15, gusting to over 20 mph, from the south made the show execution not only difficult, but intimidating for even the most experienced skier.

Co-announcer Mark Gurda referenced that the Aquanuts theme this year was Mary Poppins and featured “gusts of winds” as part of their theme.

“Maybe Mary Poppins herself sent us some ‘good luck’ with the conditions,” Gurda said.

Within the team victory was the highest scoring Jump Team act as well as the Most Valuable Male Skier, Cody Coffey.

Coffey, a former Tommy Bartlett Show skier, and multi-time Team USA member is a crowd favorite and performed in more than half the ski acts.

The margin of victory was razor thin as the top three teams were

separated by only a few points.

Team President and Boat Driver Bob Koehler said “that this is one of the rare circumstances where every member of the team, on and off the water, can take pride in knowing that what they did right made the difference in winning.”

Many of the Aquanuts did not get to immediately celebrate, however, since some Team USA members from the squad needed to practice for the World Ski Show Competition.

The World Ski Show Competition will be held Oct. 19 to 23 in Winter Haven, Florida, and will be the first time the United States has served as host country since 2016.

The Aquanut team has six Team USA members.

For more information, including celebration details, visit [aquanutwatershows.com](http://aquanutwatershows.com) or call 866-754-7469.



**right:** Aquanuts show directors Lisa and Justin Mushel showcase the Division 1 national championship trophy following competition in Loves Park, Illinois.

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## 10 tips and gear for first timers

For both freshwater fishing fans and saltwater fishing sharpies, night fishing is a great angling adventure. Many species of fish in both types of waterways feed best after the sun goes down, especially at certain times of year, and there are times when night fishing makes for nonstop action.

If you're intrigued by the idea of fishing in the dark, check out these tips and make sure to bring this gear. We can't promise you that you'll catch fish, but we can promise that your chances of success will be vastly improved if you follow these tips from Discover Boating.

### Night fishing tips

When you go fishing late into the night, the usual basic tips for catching more fish still apply; check out *How to Fish: Fishing Tips for Beginners* to make sure you have the basics down pat. Beyond all the normal items, however, there are a number of additional tips to keep in mind. Here are 10 of the best night fishing tips every angler should know.

Try fishing with bait, and live bait when possible. While it's true that lures can still work at night, when it's dark out most species of fish will depend on senses other than sight more than they will depend on their eyes – just like animals that live on land. Scent, taste, and vibrations are all keys they may home in on. So using live bait that triggers these senses is usually the best bet.

If you do want to try lures, stick with dark colors like black or purple. It may seem counter-intuitive, but these are most visible to

the fish at night because they block light from above and create a silhouette in the dark. Also consider using lures with vibrating blades or rattles, which can stimulate senses other than sight.

**Fish near artificial light.** Artificial illumination created by lights on bridges, docks, or your boat, attracts baitfish and other small critters. Wherever they gather, the predators won't be far behind.

**Fish around the edges of artificial light,** where it fades out into darkness. Often large predators will prowl around in the dark areas close to the light so they can dart in unannounced, to grab unwary baitfish swimming in lighted areas.

**Fish under a full moon.** The unusual amount of natural light provided by a full moon allows fish to feed better, and these wild critters are naturally attuned to the cycle of the moon. As it grows their nighttime activity levels naturally grow, too. And when it's full, many species feed like gangbusters.

Don't start when the sun goes down, then give up too quickly. Many species rest after the transition from sunset to full darkness. You'll often experience a burst of action right at sunset, but then find that the fish seem to go dormant for an hour or so. Don't mistake a period of inactivity for an absence of fish and go home, because quite often an area that seemed fruitless shortly after sunset comes alive an hour or two after full darkness sets in.

**Fish all levels of the water column,** but be prepared to deploy baits closer to the surface than you normally might during broad daylight. While it's not true for each and every species, many types of fish tend to feed close to the surface when they're trying to find a meal in the darkness because this is where the most natural light is available.

Consider fishing at anchor, since it simplifies things and lets you focus on the fish.

That's not to say that trolling or drifting isn't effective in the dark. It's just that once you're anchored up you won't have to worry so much about running the boat in the darkness, where or what you might be drifting towards, or what the sea conditions and boat traffic may be like. That way, you can pay full attention to fooling those fish.

Consider choosing your fishing spot based not only on the fish but also on how protected the area is and how much boat traffic it gets. Again, this isn't so much about the fish as it is about you, how comfortable you are being on the water after dark, and how focused you can remain on catching those finned critters.

For the very same reasons, be sure to read our post on *Night Boating Tips*. If you don't feel comfortable and safe in the dark environment, you probably won't catch much nor have a very good time.

### Night fishing gear

Naturally, all the boating gear you need for being on the water after dark is in order. Make sure your running and anchor lights are working properly, that have a flashlight close at hand, and be prepared for the chilly temperatures than can creep in once the sun goes down. Beyond that, however, there are some additional items you'll find particularly helpful when night fishing.

**A fish-attracting underwater night-light** can vastly improve the catch. These are often colored (green fluorescent or LED tube lights you lower into the water are favored by many anglers) and can draw in hordes of sea life from baitfish to squid. In many cases you'll also need a battery to power the light, although some small versions intended for freshwater use are self-contained.

**Headlamps** or other forms of hands-free illumination trumps flashlights for night fishing. They allow you to see what you're doing while you use your fingers for tasks like tying knots and baiting hooks.

**Cast or dip nets** can be very helpful for collecting live baits that perfectly match the hatch after dark. In many different fisheries anglers will set out lights to attract baitfish, and then gather their bait on the spot.

**Choose rods and reels that maximize sensitivity.** Just like the fish, in the darkness you'll need to utilize senses beyond your sight. Fishing with gear that allows you to detect bites via feel rather than vision can be advantageous.

Be sure everyone has a floatation device and a form of illumination, too.

For more information, visit [discoverboating.com](http://discoverboating.com).

Night fishing can be an exciting change of pace, and in many cases, can lead to a far better catch than fishing in broad daylight. So gear up properly and get ready to have an evening angling adventure that's second to none.

STOCK PHOTO *Lake Living*



# LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED FOR STANDUP PADDLEBOARDERS

Standup paddleboarders in Wisconsin are required to have wearable life jackets of the appropriate sizes for each on board, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Those age 12 and younger must wear their life jackets while paddling on federally managed waters.

Wearing a life jacket makes smart safety sense for all paddlers regardless of age or the law of the water.

“The department strongly encourages all to wear their life jackets even though jackets aren’t required to be worn in most areas of Wisconsin,” said Lt. Darren Kuhn, DNR Boating Law Administrator. “Quickly changing weather and water conditions can increase the chances of falling off or getting separated from your paddleboard. Wearing a life jacket makes these situations less likely to end in a tragedy.”

## Lifejacket regulations

U.S. Coast Guard regulations require each paddler age 12 and younger to wear their correct-size life jacket when on federally controlled waters. In Wisconsin, federal waters include Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Mississippi



Be smart before you start and wear a life jacket when paddleboarding.

ISTOCK/FOTOGRAFIA INC. Lake Living

River and the St. Croix River.

While state law only requires the appropriate-size, wearable life jacket be on board with each paddler, the easiest way to carry the life-saving device is to wear it. DNR conservation wardens will check paddlers for the required lifejackets.

“Make safety a part of the fun,” Kuhn said. “It’s easier and better just to wear them.”

An accident can happen without a warning. The majority of people who drown know how to swim but become incapacitated in the water. Learn more finding the right life jacket on the DNR website.

## Paddler safety tips

The DNR offers these safety tips for paddleboarders:

- Stay sober;
- Take a standup paddleboarding safety course through the American Canoe Association;
- Paddle with a pal and let a third party when and where the group is heading;
- Check the weather and know the wind direction;
- Match the outing with skills – steer clear of waterbodies with lots of traffic as waves will make for a bumpy, possible dangerous outing;
- Get a dry bag for energy bars, sunscreen, first aid items, waterproof flashlight, and a waterproof holder for a cell phone;
- Wear a whistle; and
- Wear an ankle leash in the event of falling off.

For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).

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