



Sections

[Local News](#)

News from Port Huron, St. Clair County and Michigan

[Local Sports](#)

Area high school and college sports

[Obituaries](#)

Read today's obituaries from The Times Herald

[Opinion](#)

Editorials, letters, columnists

[Weather](#)

Forecast and latest conditions

[Technology](#)

Your guide to the 'Net, gadgets, games and more.

[Nation/World](#)

Breaking headlines from The Associated Press

[Email this story](#)

Thursday, June 20, 2002

Police plan boat safety crackdown

By DAN HOCKENSMITH

Times Herald

HARRISON TWP. -- Boaters on Lake St. Clair this summer can expect the largest push ever by area law enforcement agencies to prevent drunken driving on the water and on land, officials said.

The St. Clair and Macomb county sheriffs' marine patrols, St. Clair Shores police, U.S. Coast Guard and other members of the Prevention Coalition of Southeast Michigan, a substance-abuse awareness group, had a news conference Wednesday where they urged boaters to stay sober, wear life jackets and carry radios or cellular phones in case of emergencies.

"We are not out there to harass, to hassle people," Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel said. "We are out there to ensure people have a good time."

Officials made particular mention of this weekend's 27th annual Jobbie Nooner boat party on Gull Island, a four-acre nub of land near Harsens Island where thousands of partygoers are expected to drop anchor starting Friday.

Hackel cited the crowds, freely flowing alcohol, a lack of toilets and discarded bottles and cans littering the beach as potential sources of danger to participants.

Lt. William Krul of the St. Clair County Sheriff Department Marine Division said deputies from both counties would be joined by the Clay Township



[Enlarge](#)

SAFETY CRACKDOWN: Lt. William Krul, left, of the St. Clair County Sheriff Department Marine Division, and Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel, discuss beefing up patrols on Lake St. Clair.



[Enlarge](#)

Lynn Duerod

Police Department, Harsens Island Fire Department, the Coast Guard, U.S. Border Patrol and the Ontario Provincial Police in patrolling the event.

Jobbie Nooner organizers, meanwhile, are taking pains to enable emergency workers to land on Gull Island if they're needed, said Rob Kucinski of Algonac, who runs an Internet site devoted to the party.

Plans are for a series of homemade buoys to mark a channel for rescue boats to pass through the hundreds of private vessels that will surround the island, he said.

"We will try to accommodate them," Kucinski said.

He said Jobbie Nooner crowds are expected to top those of 2001, when about 5,000 people partied on the island during the first weekend of summer.

Kucinski said his Web site has received about 3,000 hits daily for the past two weeks from people interested in the event.

The party also has drawn the attention of U.S. Rep David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, a candidate for governor of Michigan who Friday sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gull Island's owner, expressing concern the Jobbie Nooner had grown too large and posed a threat to public safety.

Lynn Duerod, a spokeswoman for the Corps of Engineers' Detroit office, said Corps officials are drafting a response to Bonior.

"I think we all have the same concerns about safety," she said.

m You can call reporter Dan Hockensmith at (810) 989-6275.

[Back to top](#)

[Home](#)

[News](#)

[Communities](#)

[Gettin' Out](#)

[Homes](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Jobs](#)

[cars.com](#)



[Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Place an ad](#)
Copyright ©2002 The Times Herald. All rights reserved.
Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#)
(Terms updated 08/10/01)



