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Sunday, September 8, 2002

Police report 'well-behaved' Jobbie Nooner 2

By LISA AICHLMAYR

Times Herald

GULL ISLAND -- Police reported a calm crowd for the second Jobbie Nooner party of the summer.

Officials had warned the annual boat party on Gull Island at the southern tip of St. Clair County could be a thing of the past if revelers did not adhere to restrictions, including keeping a 50-foot-wide lane and a helicopter landing site for emergency access.

"They left the emergency lane open where they could get the crafts through," said Lt. Jim DeLacy of the St. Clair County Sheriff Department. He said about 7,000 people were at the party.

By 10 p.m., police had arrested two boaters for drunken driving, said Sgt. David Wright of the Sheriff Department's marine division. He said both had claimed to be having diabetic attacks. They were transported to River District Hospital in East China Township for treatment.

"The crowd today was very well-behaved," he said.

Also by 10 p.m., the party had seen one accident. Wright said a large boat near the South Channel had run into a smaller boat, smashing the passenger side windows. The three people inside the smaller boat had minor injuries.

Wright said the driver of the large boat initially fled but later contacted the department's dispatch center to turn himself in.

In the 27th annual Jobbie Nooner party, on June 21,

police made 11 arrests, mostly for drunken driving.

Since then, local law enforcement and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- which oversees the four-mile, federally owned island -- threatened to shut the party down if revelers didn't obey local and state laws.

Participating agencies were the St. Clair and Macomb counties sheriff departments, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Department of Natural Resources, Clay Township police and Harsens Island firefighters.

- *You can call reporter Lisa Aichlmayr at (810) 989-6276.*

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