



96th ANNUAL CHARLEVOIX VENETIAN FESTIVAL BOAT PARADE SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

THEME: HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY USA!

Like to have fun? Like to be creative? Want free dockage for Venetian weekend? Then consider becoming a participant in the 96th annual Venetian Festival Boat Parade. The Venetian Boat Parade is the longest running tradition of the Charlevoix Venetian Festival. The event attracts thousands of spectators every year as boats of all shapes and sizes, adorned with hundreds of lights, music and animation, parade around Round Lake beginning roughly around 10:00 p.m. This year's theme is, "Happy 250th Birthday USA!" You can decorate for our theme or come up with one of your own. The objective is to have fun and represent the spirit of the Venetian Festival. This is a family event, and along with the fireworks extravaganza that follows, is the crescendo of the Charlevoix Venetian Festival. The application for the Boat Parade is located on our website and can be filled out and submitted to the Festival office by one of the avenues in the footer of this document.

The number of boats in the parade is limited to 14, so make sure to get your application in early! Previous participants will be given seniority consideration based on previous quality of entry. New to this year: boat length is generally limited to 60'. Lights from the Harbor Master's office with a \$10 per-strand deposit are available, but on a first come, first serve basis and will initially be limited to 15 strands per vessel. We will be circling Round Lake in a clockwise direction, so decorate the port side of your boat.

Boats will be judged in the following categories: Best of Fleet, Best Power Boat, Best Sailboat, Best Illuminated, and Best Creativity. Everyone gets a burgee. We are also encouraging all boats in the marina, even if not in the parade, to get in the Venetian spirit and decorate your boat dockside. There will be a People's Choice Award for the best dockside decorated boat.

There will be a mandatory Skipper's meeting, Saturday, 7/25/2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the City Marina Harbor Master's Office. **Any Vessel that is not represented at the Skipper's Meeting will not participate in the parade. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

It's our boaters that make this event, so please join us for this exciting Venetian tradition. It's a great way to be a part of the Venetian Festival and have fun in the process. Just be careful not to go "overboard" with enthusiasm. For more information, please contact John Szczepanski at: john@kmcrimp.com.

BOAT PARADE RULES & INFORMATION

1. All boats must be seaworthy and comply with all federal, state and Coast Guard Regulations. Safety is our first priority and all vessels are to be operated in a safe and courteous manner.
2. All boats must be equipped with a VHF radio with a working channel 14.
3. One crew member must be designated as a radio operator. This communications operator should be located so to be able to communicate verbally with the vessel's captain so that communication



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between the committee boat, and other participants, or safety officials can be handled in a quick and efficient manner.

4. All boats must be equipped and decorated with electric lights. Minimum light footages is 4 times the LOA of the vessel. We will be circling Round Lake in a clockwise direction, so decorate the PORT side of your boat.
 5. Boats must have sufficient electrical generating power to operate the lights decorating their boats.
 6. Boats whose electrical system is not functioning at the start of the parade, may be asked to withdraw from the parade.
 7. All Captains **MUST** attend the **MANDATORY** Skipper's meeting Saturday, July 25th at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Charlevoix Harbor Master's Office.
 8. Boats will congregate in Lake Charlevoix at 9:30 p.m. in numerical order. Roll call will be at 9:45 p.m. Boats will enter Round Lake at approximately 10:00 p.m. and proceed to circle in a clockwise direction.
 9. Captains will do their best to maintain a steady 4 m.p.h. Speed.
 10. The United States Coast Guard has requested that boats **DO NOT** return to their docks until after the fireworks. Boats should continue to circle Round Lake unless/until officials direct otherwise. When the last boat has circled, the fireworks will begin and all boat parade participants are expected to hold their boats stationary until after the fireworks. Boats will be directed to avoid the downwind area of the fairway. Fireworks will last approximately 10 minutes. Upon conclusion of the fireworks, when given the all clear, you may return to your dock.
 11. Failure to obey these Rules & Regulations may violate law enforcement directive and may prohibit you from participating in future Venetian Boat Parades.
 12. This is a family event and all entries **MUST** be within the limits of good taste.
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