

American Tug Makes Local Stop



Michael Schwartz of Schwartz and Co. Yacht Sales was the head of the Great Lakes American Tug Rendezvous that took place in the St. Ignace Marina Friday, August 5, through Sunday, August 7. The Great Lakes American Tug Rendezvous was an opportunity for tug owners to come together and socialize as they explored the beauty of the Straits of Mackinac. American Tug owners came from all over the Midwest to attend the St. Ignace gathering.

... at Playground

Cruising Trawlers To Gather at Marina

By Jacquelynn Lee

The St. Ignace City Marina will be the venue for a rendezvous of pleasure boaters Friday, August 5, through Sunday, August 7, for several days of sightseeing, networking, and sales pitches, being billed as an American Tug Great Lakes Rendezvous, named after a line of

Mailing Address Here

pleasure boats.

Featured will be group tours to Mackinac Island and a beer party called the Straits Beer Bash serving Michigan beer in a tent at the marina Saturday, August 6, open to the public.

Sponsoring the event is Michael Schwartz, owner of Schwartz and Company Yacht Sales of Chicago, who sells boutique yachts around the Great Lakes. He is using the event to promote the American Tug line of cabin trawlers among Great Lakes boaters, both current owners and aspiring owners. The marina, in turn, hopes first-time boaters here for the rendezvous will spread the word about the beauty and activities offered at St. Ignace.

"This is the inaugural year for the event, but we want to do it annually," said Mr. Schwartz, noting the central location of St. Ignace on the upper Great Lakes, its beauty for sailors, and the many activities

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American Tug Rendezvous Will Experience Marina Hospitality

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offered in the Straits of Mackinac area.

"Having our own rendezvous is something we always wanted to do," he added.

The only other American Tug owners group tends to meet on the west coast, such as Washington state, where American Tug was founded in 2001, or in British Columbia.

Mr. Schwartz started a social media group called American Tugs Great Lakes for current and aspiring owners of American Tug to communicate, but "I wanted to have an event that was more inclusive," he said.

"We invited vessels from the Great Lakes region and aspiring owners alike to come to the rendezvous," which is meant to represent and market the American Tug but also as a place where owners can come together as a community.

St. Ignace Marina Director Joe Stearns is looking forward to hav-

ing the group here.

"These events are more than just slips and showers," he said, "these are opportunities for local networking and suppliers to get business."

For the rendezvous, the marina rented out the marina pavilion for a catered cocktail hour, dinner, and live music.

"I am happy to help bring in local suppliers that can provide extra services," Mr. Stearns said. "Selling more than slips, we can help sell experiences."

He said the most effective way to promote the marina is through word of mouth.

"People will talk about their experiences in St. Ignace, and we hope it's a good one," said Mr. Stearns.

"When the city has events at the marina," he said, "the harbor is the entrance to the city. We want people to go to the events, attend the rendezvous, enjoy themselves, come back, and tell their friends of

their experience here."

Both parties are looking forward to the fun filled weekend ahead.

"I want to make it a great experience for them, more than the normal marina capabilities," said Mr. Stearns.

Mr. Schwartz is targeting boaters who use a system of waterways he calls the great loop which encompasses the eastern portion of the United States and part of Canada, starting in Chicago, down the Mississippi, and eventually ending in Mobile, Alabama before circling back.

The Great Lakes is home to many great loopers and, he said, St. Ignace sees a lot of them.

He hopes to attract these boaters to the rendezvous as well as American Tug owners.

The American Tug is a highly functional boat that can get to places that other boats cannot, he said. Combining the agility and capabilities of a fishing trawler with the luxury of a cabin cruiser, it is an efficient vessel that can be used as a cruiser as well as a tug.

St. Ignace, he noted, is close to Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City, and other tourist destinations.

"There is more to do in the area, and the marina was incredibly accommodating," said Mr. Schwartz.

"We are excited to visit beautiful St. Ignace, see what there is to offer, and spend time on Mackinac Island and have a good time with locals," he said. "I sincerely hope people come and mingle during the Straits Brew Bash and ask our boaters questions."

Woman Arraigned in 'Baby Garnet' 1997 Homicide Case

The suspect in the "Baby Garnet" murder case has been extra-

were found in a vault toilet at a Hudson Township campground. The child was named "Baby Gar-