

## **The Big 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash!**

**Monday Evening, August 4th:**

**Pre-Birthday Program: 5-7 PM**

**Birthday Program: 5-7 PM**

**General Description:** Also called the Fun & Flotilla Party because private boats will be welcomed to moor just off shore while all the rest of us landlubbers are invited to sit on the beach for a combined celebration of the extended Point Betsie community: the lighthouse's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Benzonia's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday (it's founding settlers landed nearby to Point Betsie and were greeted by the newly installed lighthouse keeper), the U.S. Coast Guard's 218<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the Nature Conservancy's Zetterberg Preserve at Point Betsie's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. The show will start at 7 PM and last two hours.

**Traffic Control/Parking/Shuttle:** Point Betsie Road will be blocked off to general traffic that afternoon and evening, with parking at either the Crystal Lake Yacht Club or in the empty Wynkoop property on the northwest corner of where Pt B Road and M-22 meet. A shuttle will be available at no charge, or guests can walk Point Betsie Road to the site. The Benzie Sheriff's Department and its auxiliary are on board that night to help with crowd and traffic control.

**Pre-show activities:** Guests may start arriving at 5 PM and spend the next hour and a half getting parked, shuttled or hoofing it to the beach, getting their refreshments, viewing the historic Mackinaw sailboat on display that evening, viewing the lighthouse (no formal tours and the tower will be closed) and the Fog Signal Building where the Art Exhibit is, and getting settled on their beach chairs/blankets. Cake and punch are offered at tables in front of the garage inside the compound. The Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Benzie Museum and the Nature Conservancy are going to have booths with their info, volunteers there to answer questions, etc. The compound will officially close at 6:30 and will not open for general public viewing again. The program on the beach starts sharply at 7 PM.

**Staging on the Beach:** Once a guest walks through the narrow opening onto the beach, there will be a stage to the far right, up against the dune. Roped off aisles indicate walking paths; volunteers assigned to the beach help get folks situated on their own blankets and low beach chairs. Everyone will face the stage, with the lighthouse looming in full view behind it.

**The Show Itself:** Each of the guest-host organizations has their time on the stage. 1) The Coast Guard's slot will feature the Zodiak off shore (contingent on lack of any emergency call.) It will also contain the very patriotic portion of the program with the flag raising. 2) The Benzonia Village portion of the night will feature actors dressed in costume coming from around the north side of the lighthouse and onto the stage for a small reenactment of the first sermon preached in Benzie County. 3) The Nature Conservancy's slot is largely presented by the Zetterberg Family and centers around reading patriarch Steve Zetterberg's words when asked why he and the family donated the land. The theme of environmental preservation is emphasized here. 4) Lastly, the Point Betsie portions of the evening are interspersed amongst these other hosts' presentations, as are songs performed by musicians, Sour Mash.

**The End:** Sunset is at 9:03 that night, and folks should go home after the Friends of Point Betsie's and Mother's Nature's combined grand finale.