

Shakedown Cruise 2024

Seven Boats and 14 sailors cruised under cloudy skies but calm seas to Clinch Marina June 7 for the 2024 Shakedown Cruise. Friday evening 17 members and guests met for social time, grilling various meats, and enjoying a potluck dinner at the marina.



Saturday morning most of the cruisers went to the Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market, and shopped primarily at the 9 Bean Rows stand. They then enjoyed conversation, coffee, and the tasty pastries in the boater's lounge at Clinch. Coffee was made in the professional model Bunn coffee maker in the boater's lounge. There were no directions for the coffee maker so it took a village to figure out how to use it. The rain showers in the afternoon provided a good excuse for a snooze!

Our outstanding VSC Team was on hand to safety-check the boats. Dan Cline, under the tutelage of Arnie Taddia, completed his 5 practice inspections and is now a certified VSC Examiner! Congratulations to Dan, and a big thank-you to Arnie for his continued service.



The sun came out Saturday evening with perfect timing for socializing, drinks, and dinner at The Little Fleet for 19 water and land cruisers. A special surprise was the arrival of Bill and Pat Rottman. They had walked from their place in Traverse City over to Little Fleet. Everyone was very excited and happy to see them. Of course, there was ice cream at Milk and Honey on the walk back to the marina!

Tom and Janet Stone's Labrador Jewel knows that the box-office window at the State Theater has dog treats. As we were walking to dinner on Saturday, we passed the theater and Jewel made a beeline to the ticket window, jumped up, pushed in the little ticket dispenser door open and looked eagerly at the attendant. She was rewarded with a snack. Two ladies walking by thought that was the cutest thing and asked if she would do it again so that they could take a picture - Jewel was happy to comply!



Small craft warnings were forecast for Sunday by noon, with winds increasing and gusting to 30 mph so all the sailors left by 7:00 o'clock (Pat Kernaghan and Janet Ward left later in the morning - there are some advantages to being a powerboater!). All were safely in home ports before the winds and waves came.

Shakedown Cruise 2024 was a huge success! Clinch Marina proved to be a great meeting place. Thank you to Tom and Janet Stone for organizing the event.

Hope to see more cruisers next year!