

PUT-IN-BAY NIGHT TO OPEN SHOW

It will be a cup of the Boardwalk's iconic Lobster Bisque and some Lake Erie Islands trademark musical talent that will rock the opening night (Thursday) of the Progressive Mid-America Boat Show at the I-X Center.

Music makers Ray Fogg, Westside Steve Simmons, and Alex Bevan will headline the evening and fill the Put-In-Bay section of the show with songs and banter that make them among the most popular entertainers enjoyed by thousands of boaters who head for the island each summer.

Another boat show tradition is the kettles of freshly made Lobster Bisque brought in daily from the Boardwalk. Literally hundreds of cups sell out every night of the boat show.

Ray Fogg records for Sweetwater Records and has entertained crowds at "The Bay" for over 20 years. He presides over the official opening and closing of the season in the island's famous Round House Bar which was originally built in Toledo, disassembled, taken to "The Bay" and reassembled.

Westside Steve has been dubbed the "Put-In-Bay Ambassador" because of his many TV appearances in which he never fails to promote the Island. During the spring and fall, Steve is usually on another island, Key West, Florida. But he's always promoting Put-In-Bay there, too. In Key West, he's a regular at the popular Rick's Bar, while during the summer he's making music at the Crescent's Patio Bar.

Watch out for the party crashers! While no one knows in advance, other popular entertainers have been known to drop in unannounced and offer some songs. Last year, Alex Bevin, guitar in hand, joined the winter reunion on stage. When all that musical talent starts rockin' the house, it always seems like no one wants to go home!

The Put-In-Bay section of the boat show, which also features other displays from the Island, will definitely be where visitors will be singing along and reminiscing about summer days spent on the crown jewel of the Lake Erie Islands.

Show Hours this year are: **Put-In-Bay Night is Thursday (1/12) Noon – 9 pm**; Friday (1/13) Noon to 9 pm; Saturday (1/14) 10 am – 9 pm; Sunday (1/15) 11 am – 6 pm; and Monday (Martin Luther King Holiday), 11 am – 5 pm