



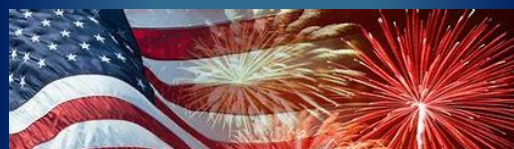
Empress Events



Catered Concert Cruises

June 17th – DJ Fisher
 July 22nd – Aaron McClanahan
 August 19th – Jefferson Fosbender
 September 16th – Katie Brown & Mike Emerson

All @ 6 pm
 -\$45 per person (\$40 for members)
 -Meal to be announced in monthly event email.
 -Call the Boat Club for reservations
 641-648-9517



4th of July Events

2pm Public Cruise \$8
 (No reservations taken for public cruise)

8pm Fireworks Cruise
 with Guest Musician - \$30
 -Call the Boat Club for reservations-
 (No meal will be served)

Public Lunch Cruises!

We will again be offering a once-a-month catered lunch cruise!

June 13th **August 8th**
July 11th **September 12th**

\$25 per person – 11:30am

Please contact the office for the complete menu and reservations! 641-648-9517

The 2023 Cruise Season starts May 29th

Private Cruises

\$10 per person

Available 7 days per week.
 Contact the Director to schedule your Private Cruise!

Minimum of 20 passengers
 Maximum of 50 passengers

Public Cruises

Saturdays and Sundays

@ 2:00 PM

\$8 for adults

\$5 ages 3-12

Free 2 and under

Boat Club Members are Free

Free Catered Members Only Cruises

June 25th @ 5pm
 September 24th @ 5pm

These cruises are free for members only and their guests. Memberships are \$25 per person. Please see enclosed membership form.



From the helm

2022 Highlights

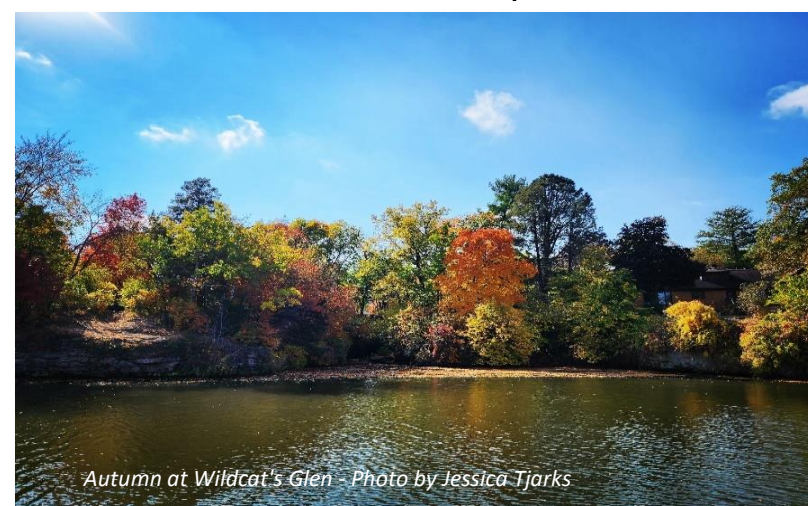
Empress:

- ✓ We were able to bring back catered cruises and concert cruises in 2022!
 - 41 public cruises – 1,136 passengers
 - 4 public catered lunch cruises – 86 passengers
 - 52 private chartered cruises – 1,464 passengers
 - **TOTAL: 97 cruises - 2,686 passengers!!**
- ✓ Partnering with Calkins Nature Area, along with a generous donation from the Church Women United Fund, we were again able to provide free youth environmental and educational cruises for local youth focusing on river ecology, water quality, and nocturnal animals. **We were able to host 6 educational cruises (234 children and their accompanying teachers/guardians), in 2022.**
- ✓ Special Needs, Veterans, and Nursing Home groups continue to enjoy cruises on our handicap accessible Empress River Boat!

Historic Lodge:

- ✓ Our lodge rentals for 2022 jumped up to 68. These events varied between weddings, graduations, business events, class reunions, etc., bringing approximately 3,255 guests!
- ✓ We continue to be in partnership with *Silos and Smokestacks* as a designated heritage site.
- ✓ Continued as a co-host and location site for many of the events for the annual Winter Rec Fest.

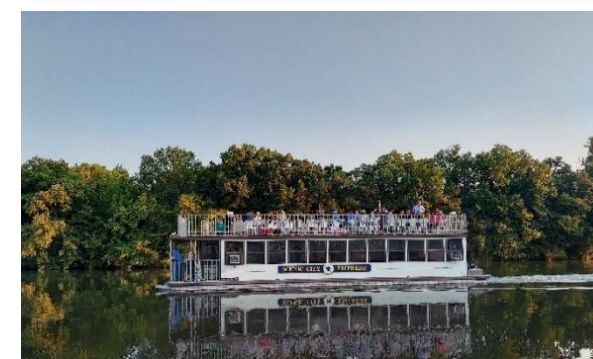
We had a great 2022! Read on to see photos and learn more on how busy we were!



Autumn at Wildcat's Glen - Photo by Jessica Tjarks



Festival of Lights display - Photo by Jessica Tjarks



CALLING ALL CAPTAINS!

The Scenic City Empress Riverboat is looking for additional Captains!

If you have experience with larger pontoon boats, appreciate the beautiful scenic views of our Iowa River, and have a few days/evenings per month available, we would love to have you Captain the Empress on our historic river cruise!

Please contact Jessica or Alison at the Empress Boat Club if you would like to join our crew!
 641-648-9517

Visit our website to learn more...

www.empressboatclub.org

Also, follow us on Facebook for the latest updates...

FB: Scenic City Empress Boat Club

Iowa Firefighter Association

Iowa Falls hosted the 2022 Iowa Firefighter Association Convention. Firefighters and their spouses came to town for trainings, competitions, and relaxation. We were honored to be able to provide our beautiful river views, and a bit of our town's history to these brave men and women. Many thanks to each department for taking time out of their week to spend with us, on the Empress!

IFA Convention will be in Iowa Falls again from September 6th - 10th, 2023! Be sure to keep an eye out for the convention's drill competition schedule so you can go help show support from our community (they are also always fun to watch)!



IFA
Convention
cruises -
Photos by
Jessica Tjarks

Teaming up with Calkins!

Having Calkins Nature Center in our county is such a blessing! They offer so many entertaining learning opportunities for children and adults, some being children's camps and others being family events. During their summer camps, the staff and volunteers from Calkin's will bring the older kids for a fun filled day at the Boat Club, the Riverbend, and Assembly Park!



Photo credit - Jessica Tjarks

Owl Prowl Cruises

Calkins puts on an annual Owl Prowl event. This event usually takes place at the nature center, where guests can follow the trails to learn about, listen for, and hope to see an owl in the trees. In 2022, we were able to collaborate with Davis and Chris, at Calkins, to offer this on the Empress! The first was such a big hit, we offered another! Both cruises were full and so much fun! We are hoping to do this again in 2023!



Photos from Owl Prowl events. Calkins even brought their beautiful skunk to help teach about other nocturnal animals!



End of Summer Family Event

What better way to end the summer than with kayaking, grilled food, music, and games? The Boat Club yard was the site for an end of summer event for the whole family! Special thanks to Calkins for providing a few kayaks, a safety lesson, and some of the yard games!



Special thanks to Ron & Kate Hornung for helping to feed our guests; and Pam & Alan Winter for helping transport kayakers!



Photos from Nick and Jessica Tjarks

Meal provided by local Fareway, Hy-Vee, and Wal-Mart stores.

Winter Rec Fest

The winter of 2022-23 was one for the books! We had perfect conditions to be outside recreating from mid-December to mid-February! The land rink was up and ready for winter break, with the river ice soon to follow. This year we began to offer free learn to skate lessons with Parker Manning. It was a huge hit and thank you to Parker and his crew for helping our community learn to skate!

Our Winter Rec Fest weekend began on Thursday, January 26th, with a successful ping pong tournament at ECC with the bragging rights going to Merv Vierkandt. Next, we all got excited with the news of a wonderful snowstorm heading our way promising to bring 8-10 inches of that glorious white fun to make our weekend a success. Saturday started with some family skating and chili cook off (yum)!



Chili Cook Off - Photo by Alison Campbell

After bellies were full of chili (sponsored by the Times Citizen), the ice skaters flocked to the frozen river. As the snow came down many people felt encouraged to try fat bikes and started to wander off on adventures trying out snowshoes and cross county skis during the equipment demo. A few also ventured up to Edgewood to enjoy some tasty treats. At the Boat Club, the fires were roaring while folks roasted marshmallows and sipped on hot chocolate - with huge smiles. It was a beautiful sight for all. For the organizers, it's all worth it for moments like those. Inside,

folks packed the historic lodge with tunes from Ali and Rachele and story hour with book give away from the Barlow Memorial Library. Iowa Falls State bank employees dished out ice skates to many adventure seekers throughout the day until we shut down the rink in preparation for fireworks. People began lining riverbend in vehicles and cozying around the many fires along the river as the snowflakes fell around them. If there were ever a record for kids making snow angels on a frozen river during fireworks, we blew it out of the water. Denny Barrick and his firefighting crew put on a wonderful show of fire in the snowy sky as the night concluded. Sunday rounded out the weekend with a few brave souls braving the cold weather to ice skate some more.



Open Skating - Photo by Jessica Tjarks

After 4 years of canceling this event, it was the perfect weather to remind us all why we love the winter and why we love putting on this event. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped organize and helped get the Boat Club and ice rinks ready for fun. This event depends 100% on volunteers like you! Until next year!

- Written by Alison Campbell (Assistant Director of Boat Club and Winter Rec Fest Board Member)



Learn to Skate - Photo by Alison Campbell



Rec Fest Fireworks - Photo by Jessica Tjarks

Special Words From our Director

As some have heard, our director is currently on her journey through cancer treatments

"Thank you so much to everyone that has come in person or sent their well wishes, for every prayer, for every home cooked meal, for any and all donations, for every message and check in, and every offer of help - none of this goes unnoticed and is all so very appreciated. It will take a lifetime to pay forward the love we feel.

You've all helped make surgery recovery a breeze, so my hopes are high that the rest of this journey will pass quickly also.

From my family to yours, thank you for everything! I can't wait to see everyone soon!"
- Jessica Tjarks

