

Water Frolic offers calmer fest option

By LEEANN KAHLOR
Sentinel staff writer

The only free festival on Milwaukee's lakefront Sunday, the 41st annual South Shore Water Frolic, seemed more like a big family gathering than its boisterous neighbor to the north.

People from all over Milwaukee and a few out-of-state visitors gathered at Milwaukee's South Shore Park in Bay View Saturday and Sunday.

"This festival is much more outdoorsy and airy with the open park," Carolyn Nowak said as she fed her 6-month-old son, David, in the shade of a tree overlooking the South Shore Yacht Club.

"It's easier to bring a baby, because you can escape when you're ready. That's not an easy task at Summerfest."

The frolic is sponsored by the Inter-Organization Council of Bay View Inc.

Dave Reszel, the frolic's publicity chairman, said he expected a total of about 230,000 people to attend this year's frolic.

He said about 10 million people had attended the frolic in its 41 years.

"The biggest attraction would have to be our fireworks," he said. "The shoreline here forms a natural amphitheater for them, so they're brighter and louder."

He said more than 100,000 viewers were expected to attend the fireworks Sunday night.

The weekend festivities also included a parade Saturday attended by about 70,000 people, music and a beauty pageant.



MARK ZALESKI / Sentinel photographer

Mariebeth Uvas performs a Hawaiian dance during the talent segment of the Miss South Shore Water Frolic pageant at South Shore Park in Bay View. Laura Bessemer won the title Sunday.

Rocker Petty takes time getting to highway speed

By DAVE TIENEN
Sentinel critic

Granted, he'd come from someplace hot (Florida) to someplace hotter (Summerfest), but it still took Tom Petty almost 90 minutes to work up a full-tilt boogie Sunday night at the Marcus Amphitheater.

At 8:40, Petty was lying across a piano, looking semi-terminal. At 8:41, he was ripping into the opening chords of the Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" and the amphitheater finally started to jump.

From there, it was into the Georgia Satellites' "Keep Your Hands to Yourself," and the temperature on the lakefront climbed another 5 degrees.

Until then, the show had been dominated by mid-tempo tunes like "Yer So Bad" and "Free Fallin'." Those are decent songs. "Free Fallin'" in particular displayed some of Petty's gift for imagery with its tale of the jilted good girl who loves Jesus, America and Elvis.

Incidentally, one of the few real driving wheels in the first half of the show was dedicated to the King, a fine and faithful remake of "Milk Cow Boogie."

Petty never will make anyone's list of the 200 most theatrical rockers, but he compensates with songwriting finesse and obvious concern about the big issues.

However, those were not necessarily virtues that set the party on fire. When Petty was introducing "I Won't Back Down" with an earnest soliloquy on the environment, some guy in the 30th row kept yelling, "Rock 'n' roll!"

There were a couple of moments when the crowd almost took over the show. Once Petty let the Heartbreakers linger over the introduction to

"Breakdown" and the crowd started to pick up the lyrics. They were halfway through the song before Petty joined in.

Opening with a short set was Paul Cebar and some select Milwaukeeans. Conscripted at the last moment, Cebar seemed to be handling the pressure well. He thanked the crowd for coming out to "Zeldler Festival Park" and then said, "We've been roped into this, and we're having a good time."

Winslow's parodies keep crowd laughing

By TAMMY SURPRENANT
Sentinel correspondent

Although Michael Winslow performed at Summerfest's Comedy Cabaret Sunday night, he could have been playing on the Rock Stage, since most of his act parodied some of rock's favorite sons.

Winslow, best known for his sound effects and crazy antics in the "Police Academy" movies, did a short stint involving sound effects — a dog singing rap, a tennis game, dripping water, a racing Porsche and, of course, a police siren.

The effect was authentic, although it was hard to understand him when he pulled away from the microphone and talked to the audience. But that didn't stop the laughter.

The highlight of Winslow's act was his stroll down a musical memory lane. He sang and played the guitar to Edie Brickell, The Cars and The Clash.

Winslow donned wigs to imitate Robert Plant and Jimi Hendrix. The long gold mane went on when he described how Plant's famed scream came into existence: slamming a car



MARK ZALESKI / Sentinel photographer

Tom Petty performs Sunday at Summerfest at the Marcus Amphitheater at Maier Festival Park.

door on his hand. The bushy Afro was for Hendrix. A glazed stare and guitar licks followed, leaving the audience screaming for more.

100 get taste of life aboard battleship

By TANNETTE JOHNSON
Sentinel staff writer

hostile situation," said Navy Master Chief Mike Dryden.

teachers, counselors, members of the media and people from various other