

2ND ANNUAL SUMMAH SPLASH-IN

SEAPLANE WATER PARADE

PILOT BRIEFING • JULY 25, 2026 • ON-WATER TAXI ONLY



CRITICAL CONSTRAINT This is an on-water parade only. No takeoff, formation flight, high-speed taxi or step taxi is authorized as part of the event.

Purpose & Command Intent

Present a safe, orderly seaplane parade for shoreline spectators while protecting passengers, participants and other lake users. A single-file formation at idle-to-slow taxi speed. Appearance never takes priority over safety, aircraft control, spacing or right-of-way.

1. **PIC authority** — Each pilot remains solely responsible for the safe operation of their aircraft and may slow, stop, turn away or withdraw at any time.
2. **Stop authority** — Any participant who identifies an immediate hazard may call “STOP PARADE.”
3. **Conservative execution** — Close spacing is not required. Maintain enough open water to stop or maneuver without relying on the aircraft ahead.

Event Quick Facts

Event date	Saturday, July 25, 2026
Waterbody / venue	Long Pond, Belgrade Lakes
Pilot brief / staging time	10:30 AM Pilot Brief / 10:45 AM Staging
Parade start / planned	11:00 AM
Route / direction of travel	North to South - See Parade Route Map
Primary radio frequency	123.45
Emergency shoreline contact	Kirt Furbush 207-649-8025

Roles & Responsibilities

Role	Assigned to	Primary responsibility
Event Director / Parade Lead	Bel-Air Seaplane Service	Conducts final brief; sets go/no-go, route, pace and termination; makes lead calls.
Participating PICs	Each aircraft commander	Retain full authority; maintain spacing; slow, stop, turn away or withdraw when needed.
Shoreline Safety Coordinator	Rob Arellanes	Keeps people and non-participating watercraft clear; relays shoreline hazards.
Safety Boat	Jason Gerald	Stands by outside the parade lane; enters only when directed or for an emergency.

Operating Procedures

4. **Attend the mandatory brief** — Confirm route, direction, order, staging position, exit plan, radio frequency, visual signals and current lake hazards.
5. **Prepare independently** — Complete the aircraft and passenger brief appropriate to your operation. Secure loose items; verify doors, restraints, flotation equipment and normal water-taxi configuration.
6. **Start and stage only when clear** — Use propeller-area discipline and shoreline spotters as assigned. Enter the parade line in the briefed order; do not crowd the aircraft ahead.
7. **Taxi in single file** — Follow designated Lead Aircraft at idle-to-slow taxi speed. No overtaking, cutting inside the route, abrupt power changes, high-speed taxi or step taxi.
8. **Maintain an active water scan** — Continuously monitor boats, wakes, paddlecraft, swimmers, wind, visibility and shoreline congestion. Yield or maneuver early.
9. **Complete and exit in sequence** — Do not pass the lead or break toward shore until directed or required for immediate safety. Taxi to the briefed exit/docking area and report clear if requested.

Core Safety Procedures

10. **Propeller safety** — Treat every shoreline, dock and float as an active propeller-hazard area. No engine start or power application until people and equipment are clear.
11. **Other lake users** — Give wide berth to boats, kayaks, paddleboards, swimmers and spectators. Expect unpredictable movement and wakes.
12. **Spacing** — Maintain positive separation and a clear escape path. Allow extra room in wind, wake, reduced visibility or confined water.
13. **Passengers** — Keep passengers seated and restrained as appropriate; brief normal egress, emergency egress, flotation equipment and no distractions during taxi.
14. **Route discipline** — Remain inside the briefed parade lane only while it is clear. Never sacrifice safety, right-of-way or obstacle clearance to stay in formation.

RADIO DISCIPLINE The selected frequency is not a private parade channel. Keep transmissions brief, monitor for normal traffic, and use plain language. Do not use “takeoff” or “departure” calls for this water-only event.

Suggested Radio Calls

Use	Suggested plain-language call
Radio check	“Parade aircraft, Bel-Air Lead, radio check. Acknowledge in parade order with call sign.”
Begin taxi	“Parade aircraft, Bel-Air Lead. Taxiing from staging in single file, idle to slow taxi. Hold assigned spacing.”
Hazard / stop	“Parade aircraft, Lead. STOP PARADE—idle and hold position or maneuver for immediate safety.”
Pilot unable	“[Call sign], unable / stopping / exiting parade to [direction or location].”
Resume	“Parade aircraft, Lead. Hazard clear. Resume in sequence at slow taxi.”
Complete	“Parade aircraft, Lead. Parade complete. Exit in sequence to North.”

Call signs and acknowledgement order: [CONFIRM AIRCRAFT ORDER BEFORE ISSUE]

Contingency Plan

Condition	Required action
Boat, kayak, paddleboard or swimmer enters route	Lead calls STOP PARADE. All PICs slow/stop or maneuver as required; yield and resume only when the route is confirmed clear.
Parade spacing breaks down	Do not accelerate, overtake or cut inside to close the gap. Maintain control; Lead slows or stops the parade to reset.
Radio failure / missed call	Do not press closer to maintain appearance. Follow the briefed visual signal and exit/hold plan: [CONFIRM SIGNAL AND LOCATION].
Mechanical problem	Affected PIC announces the problem if able, moves clear when safe, and shuts down only as conditions permit. Support boat responds when requested. Recommend 90 degrees off parade line away from shore if able, drop anchor if necessary, request assistance as required.
Wind, wake, visibility or water conditions deteriorate	Increase spacing and reduce speed. Lead may shorten, reroute or terminate. Any PIC may withdraw at any time.
Emergency or immediate hazard	Any pilot may transmit "STOP PARADE." Protect life first; Lead coordinates shoreline response and 911 through Kirt Furbush.

Go / No-Go Review

Parade Lead may delay, shorten, reroute or cancel the event. Each PIC retains independent authority to decline or withdraw. The final brief must set any event-specific limits for wind, visibility, waves/wakes, thunderstorms, congestion and support-boat availability.

Weather / water limits	12 knots
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Pilot Release Checklist

- ☐ I attended the final pilot briefing and understand this is an on-water taxi parade only.
- ☐ I know my parade order, call sign, staging point, route, exit point and assigned frequency.
- ☐ I understand STOP PARADE authority, lost-communication procedures and the emergency contact plan.
- ☐ My aircraft, passengers and flotation equipment are prepared for the planned on-water operation.
- ☐ I will maintain PIC authority, conservative spacing and right-of-way over parade appearance.

Pilot Acknowledgement

Pilot name / mobile:	Aircraft type / registration:
Call sign / parade position:	Passenger count:
Signature:	Date / time: