

Maebelle Riverboat by Tom Cartos

Background

The Maebelle has been taking tourists from Steepford to Farhaven and back along the River Hale for over 10 years. The Maebelle is a luxury paddleboat with space for two dozen guests plus crew. The weeklong ride is usually a relaxing affair and in high demand due to the beautiful scenery, but the boat has been out of action for the last few weeks. At certain points along the route, the river narrows significantly forcing the Maebelle to slow down to pass through, and it seems a group of bandits has taken note of these locations.

On its previous voyage the boat was boarded by surprise, the guests robbed and manhandled and the engine scuppered. After being slowly hauled back to port, the damage was fixed, but the usually popular excursion is struggling to sell tickets. Word has spread of the attack, and very few travellers are willing to take the risk.

Captain Bevan, the Maebelle's owner and helmsman, is offering a free ride including food and board to any adventurers willing to protect the ship from further attacks. He also believes the engine was previously damaged by someone already onboard to slow any escape, and that the same person may have been in contact with the bandits to tell them when and where to set up the ambush. It could have been a guest, but more likely a member of his crew. While he is openly advertising the protection job, he will secretly offer a significant bonus for any investigation work that uncovers the inside man or woman.

Grid Information

GRID SIZE – 34x22 (300DPI)

VTT SIZE – 4760x3080 (140DPI)

RECOMMENDED PRINT SIZE – A1/ANSI D

Design Notes

Engine Room

- **01 – Cargo Hold** – As well as the guests, the Maebelle transports goods between the towns along the river and occasionally carries larger items for those travelling on board.
- **02 – Fuel Storage** – The Engine runs on firewood, so the boat has to remain well stocked.
- **03 – Toilets**
- **04 – Dry Store** – Primarily for food

- **05 – Engine** – The engine and furnace are manned at all hours to keep the boat moving. A steady supply of firewood has to be carefully added to keep the paddles running.
- **06 – Paddles**
- **07 – Lifeboats**

Dining Room

- **08 – Dining Room & Bar** – All meals are served here for the guests. The bar is always open, and some of the crew members (and occasionally guests) perform in the evenings.
- **09 – Kitchen**
- **10 – Toilets**
- **11 – Crews Cabins** – Each cabin contains a shared bunk. There are a total of 8 crew on board including Captain Bevan.
- **12 – Crew Bathroom**

Cabins

- **13 – Toilets**
- **14 – Guest Bathrooms**
- **15 – Guest Cabins**
- **16 – Guest Lounge & Lookout** - Aside from the top deck, the lookout has the best upriver view. Guests will often spend time in here taking in the sights during poorer weather.

Cabins

- **17 – Top Deck** – The top deck is where guests spend most of their time while on board, enjoying the scenery, getting to know the other guests and playing games to pass the time.
- **18 – Guest Lounge** – Later in the evening guests will retire here to play cards.
- **19 – Helm** – Captain Bevan steers the boat from here, only being relieved during the night to afford him a few hours of rest.