

EXPECT VARIETY AT AUGUST CEDAR POINT BOAT SHOW

Dance to steel drum music; take the helm of a boat under sail; stay upright paddling around in a kayak; enjoy a demo ride in a wide variety of runabouts and cruisers; learn the hottest new Walleye fishing techniques; or just kick back on the “Party Barge.”

All those features and more are being planned for the 2018 Progressive North American Demo Boat Show, August 23-26, to Cedar Point Marina.

Marking its 46th year as the Great Lakes’ largest in-water boat show, the floating docks have been expanded this year to accommodate a larger fleet of boats as dealers from Ohio and Michigan have committed to show off a variety of new 2018 models just hitting the market.

“People come first to see the boats and equipment - we get that,” says show manager Bryan Ralston. “But we want this show to be the well-rounded enjoyable event it has always been. So we’re building on the entertainment, demo rides, Discover Sailing cruises, interactive learning opportunities, and more.”

For example, the centrally-located floating “Party Barge” will rock with steel drum music by the popular Found Sounds Steel Pan Duo performing stage shows twice daily (Friday – Sunday). If the rhythm makes one feel like sailing away, a visitor can do it at the “Discover Sailing Dock” where Harbor North offers daily opportunities for newcomers to get a hands-on sailing experience out on Sandusky Bay. They’ll have a licensed captain for a tutor. This sailing experience is offered daily.

On the other hand, the “Kayak Experience” will offer show goers basic instruction and, then, literally allow them to take off paddling themselves around the lagoon. This special hands-on exhibit will be offered by the Akron, Ohio, team of the United States Power Squadron, dubbed “America’s Boating Clubs.” Meanwhile, it will be hands-on, too, at the Sandusky Power Squadron’s display featuring their high-tech “Boating Skills Virtual Trainer.” It’s not some computer game but a serious simulator patterned after ones used in pilot training. It will challenge visitors to navigate on-the-water scenarios of wind and waves that the instructor can suddenly change to simulate real boat handling situations.

Perhaps the most unique feature of this show is that dozens of boats will be available for demo rides. There are about 20 major fall in-water boat shows held around the country, but none of the others allow demos. While all shows include new, used and brokerage boats, only the show at Cedar Point is set up to allow the demonstration of many new or hand-picked pre-owned models.

To accommodate more demo boats, Ralston has modified the show’s floating dock plan to include space for an expected 40 demo boats this year, a marked increase over a year ago.

More than 12,000 boaters from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania annually attend this event. Show hours will be: Thursday and Friday (Aug. 23-24) – 12 Noon to 7:30 PM; Saturday (Aug. 25) – 11 AM to 7:30 PM; Sunday (Aug. 26) – 11AM to 6:00 PM

For ticket promotions and the latest show updates, go to: www.cedarpointboatshow.com

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