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L.I. News

Free Fishing/Boating For Disabled Children & Vets

Previously paralyzed and a wheelchair occupant, Capt. Cliff "Kip" Johannesen, now walking with canes, is offering his services as a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captain and P.A.D.I. Master Diver to people with disabilities in the Long Island/NYC area. His boat, *Valhalla*, is a 34-footer with a 12-foot-plus beam, is extremely stable and has lots of room for both wheelchairs and passengers. It has a wide transom door and a hardtop enclosure for protection from the elements. *Valhalla* is docked in Lindenhurst, and Capt. Kip volunteers his spare time to take children with disabilities (escorted by a parent or guardian) or disabled veterans on fishing, snorkeling and boating trips in Great South Bay. If you or someone you know has a disability and would be interested in a day out on the bay, please contact Capt. Kip at (631) 957-1838 or e-mail him: Kipsboat@msn.com

West Marine Port Jefferson to Host "Meet the Professionals Day"

On Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., store manager Tom Stidd will welcome professionals working within the marine trades to meet experts in the areas of engines, paint and varnish, maintenance, fiberglass, sail rigging, safety and more. Come have some fun and prepare for the 2007 season at West Marine Store #157, 5000 Nesconset Highway, Port Jefferson, NY. Questions? Call 631-331-9280, fax 631-331-9211, e-mail www.westmarine.com

Great South Bay Power Squadron Installs New Officers

Public Relations Officer Mark Businski informs us that the Squadron installed a new roster of Bridge members, most pictured here, at its "Change of Watch" meeting on February 16, 2007 in Islip. Left to right: Gary LaMarca of West Islip as Administrative Officer, Joseph V. Gagliano of Islandia as Executive Officer, Joseph Milano, Sr. of West Islip as Squadron Commander, Vivian McCourt of Ronkonkoma as Secretary, and Michael Becker of Holbrook as Educational Officer. (Not pictured is Luann Kazanecki of East Islip as Treasurer, and Squadron Past Commander Peter Richichi of Oakdale as Assistant Educational Officer.)



Spring Family Freshwater Fishing Festival

George Gorman of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has announced that the Long Island Region, cooperating with New York Sea Grant, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be conducting the annual Spring Family Freshwater Fishing Festival at Belmont Lake State Park on Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is appropriate for people of all ages. Belmont Lake will be stocked with nearly 2,000 rainbow and brown trout from the DEC hatchery system and these trout will be swimming with the lake's large yellow perch population to afford anglers plenty of action and, in many cases, a wonderful introduction to freshwater fishing. The freshwater fishing license requirement for those 16 and older will be suspended, though licenses will be on sale to those who wish to fish throughout the year. There'll be seminars on fishing techniques and local species identification, and Rich Johnson of *The Fishing Line* magazine will be on hand to answer questions. Corporate contributors to the Festival include I FISH NY, 102.3 WBAB Radio, 106.1 WBLI Radio, Entenmann's, The Fishing Line, Orvis, and The Sports Authority of Westbury. More details at 631-321-3510.

and Events

Staten Island Yacht Sales Supports Unity Games

Frank Bongiorno, President of Staten Island Yacht Sales, has pledged a \$5,000 contribution to the 2007 Unity Games, Inc., an organization founded by Dr. Mark F. Sherman that helps children learn about diversity and relationships at an early age through games. The program supports children aged 13 and 14 within the New York area. According to Mr. Bongiorno, "We are fortunate to have individuals such as Dr. Sherman spearheading these humanitarian efforts in our area," adding "This program helps the children to learn tolerance and teamwork, lessons that will help them to achieve great things in the future." SIYS has five on-water locations in Staten Island, NY, Montauk, NY, Freeport, NY, New Gretna, NJ, and Stevensville, MD. They represent Viking Yachts, Viking Sport Cruisers, Marquis Yachts, Carver Yachts, Cabo Yachts, Silverton and Cruisers Yachts. For more information, please contact Danielle Bongiorno, Marketing Director, 718-984-7676 or e-mail dbongiorno@siyachts.com

Boating Safety Courses

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 1-4 Offering Two "ABC" Courses

Capt. Don Patafio tells us that Flotilla 1-4 will present two all-day "America's Boating Courses" during April 2007. The first one occurs on **Saturday, April 21** at the Islander Boat Center, 185 W. Montauk Highway, Lindenhurst from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The second course happens on **Saturday, April 28, 2007** at MarineMax, 750 Montauk Highway, Copiague, NY from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fee is \$50 per adult, and \$35 for children 14 and over, accompanied by an adult. This curriculum is approved by NASBLA and meets all current Federal and State requirements for powerboat and PWC operation in local state and federal waterways. Pre-registration is not required, but those planning to attend the MarineMax event are urged to call Gina at 631-382-7723 to reserve a seat. More details at (631) 691-4000 (days).

Flotilla 1-7 Offers Boating Safety Courses

Edmund Neale of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 1-7 (Holbrook) informs us that the Flotilla will run a five-session Boating Skills & Safety Course starting Wednesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Seneca Middle School, Main Street, Holbrook, NY. The course is free, but there's a fee of \$50 for the textbook and related materials. Certification for your PWC license is included as is certification toward a boat insurance discount. Contact Brian at outcast327@aol.com.

The NYS Boating Course will be offered to young boaters aged 13-18 at the Sachem Public Library at 7 p.m. starting Monday, April 9 and running for five nights. Call the Library at 588-5024. This course is also offered as a two-day course starting 10 a.m. April 28 and May 5 at the South Country/Bellport Public Library. Contact Bill at auxbillpe@optonline.net. More details from Betty at 854-4974.

Fire Island Lighthouse Events During April

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society has announced an Evening Lighthouse Tour under the Full Flower Moon on **Sunday, April 1, 2007** starting 6 p.m. Fee is \$10 per person. Reservations required. Tel. 631-321-7028

On **Saturday, April 14, 2007**, there will be a photography exhibit opening by the Nature & Wildlife Photographers of Long Island, a group specializing in the nature and scenery of Long Island. Photos will be displayed in the Keeper's Quarters from April 14 through May 7. A portion of the sales proceeds will benefit the Lighthouse. Free workshop to be announced. Tel. 631-321-7028.

On **Saturday, April 21, 2007**, a Historic Area Lighthouse Trek will occur starting 8 a.m. Come for a guided walk around the historic surroundings of Fire Island Lighthouse. Free tee shirt and "light" refreshments. \$10 per person. Reservations required. Tel. 631-321-7028.

On **Sunday, April 22, 2007** meet at the Keeper's Quarters for a guided Birdwalk at 10 a.m. around the Lighthouse tract and an 11 a.m. lecture in the Quarters when you may watch a video highlighting some of the birds seen on the hike. Fee is \$5 per person. Limit is 25 people. Reservations required. Tel. 631-321-7028. All parking is in Field #5 of the Robert Moses State Park. There's limited handicapped parking at the lighthouse with your state handicapped permit.

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