

Events

Tri-State Recreational Powerboat Show

The 6th Annual Tr-State Recreational Powerboat Show will take place over the long weekend of Friday, March 14 through Sunday, March 16, 2008, at the Rockland Community College Field House, 145 College Road, Suffern, NY 10901. Take NYS Thruway, Exit 14B (Airmont Rd.); follow signs to college FREE PARKING. This is the last major show before boating season and will feature new 2008 models – family boats, fishing boats, party boats and ski boats - from more than 40 leading manufacturers. See and examine 200 boats and meet 30 dealers to discuss them. The Arena offers 100,000 sq. ft. of indoor space! Hours are: Fri. 2-9 p.m.; Sat. 10-8 p.m.; Sun. 10- 6 p.m. Tickets at the door only: Adults, \$8.00; Junior (12-17) \$3.00; Children under 12 FREE when accompanied by a parent. Call 845-343-2772 for more information or visit www.rocklandexpo.com.

Ticket Sales - Closing Notice: Please be advised that show ticket sales will end one hour prior to show's scheduled closing. No public admission allowed after this time in order to secure the event in a timely and safe exiting manner.

Long Island Boat Show at the Nassau Veterans Coliseum

The New York Marine Trade Association (NYMTA) presents the annual Long Island Boat Show at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. This year's show will take place from **February 2-3 and February 6-10, 2008**.

Tickets are reasonably priced at \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$3 for kids 6-12, under 5 are FREE. They are available at the Show gate or can be ordered by phone by calling 516-691-7050. Wednesday - Friday 1/2 price tickets - sold ONLY at the Nassau Coliseum window.

Show hours are: **Saturday 2/2 11:00am - 9:00p.m.; Sunday 2/3 11:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.; Wednesday 2/6 - Friday 2/8 4:00p.m. - 9:00p.m.; Saturday 2/9 11:00 a.m.; Sunday 2/10 11:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.**

The show features everything to see from cruising yachts, sport fishers, performance boats, inflatables, personal watercraft, engines, marine electronics and on the spot boat financing. The Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum is located on Hempstead Turnpike in Uniondale, Long Island.

Norwalk Aquarium February Happenings

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR - Sat., Feb. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Get a rare chance to feed the sharks and rays in this special guided "backstage" tour prior to the Aquarium's opening for the day.

Participants must be at least 10 years old; under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost of \$30 includes Aquarium admission afterward (\$20 for Aquarium members). Advance reservations are required: call 203-852-0700, ext. 2206.

UTTERLY OTTERS - for ages 5 to 7 and 8 to 12 with adult - Sun., Feb. 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, give your heart over to the Aquarium's two river otters! These separate children's program invites youngsters to make "enrichments" that will play right to Bell and Lew's curious otter minds and hungry stomachs. Ages 5 to 7 will make healthy edible treats, while ages 8 to 12 will build safe toys that will challenge and engage the otters.

Advance reservations required. Cost is \$17.50 for individuals, or \$30 for a child/adult pair. (For members: \$15, or \$25 for child/adult pair.) For reservations, call 203-852-0700, ext. 2206.

WINTER VACATION ADVENTURES - for ages 6 to 9 - Feb. 18-22, each day from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

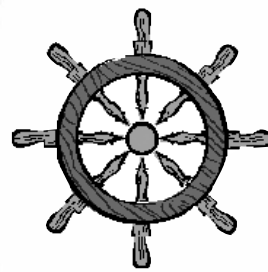
Kids ages 6 to 9 can keep busy over their winter school break with this fun exploration of our natural world.

Sign up for any or all days in the five-day session. There's a different themed topic each day, including "Creepy Crawlies," "Polar World" and "Whale of a Day." See the Aquarium's web site – www.maritimeaquarium.org – for all the daily topics and activities.

Each session meets from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$70 per day, or \$330 for all five days.

Pre-care and after-care is also available for an additional fee.

Advance registration required. Call 203-852-0700, ext. 2206.



BOATING EDUCATION & SAFETY

by Capt. John L. Annino

"Chilling" Fatality Statistics for Cold Water Months

The typical boating season in Connecticut runs from mid-April to November with the greatest boating activity during June, July and August, and in the last 15 years, 78% of all boating accidents occurred during these months. A recent analysis of Connecticut's boating fatality data over the period 1993-2007 found "chilling" statistics regarding the remaining 22% of boating accidents that occurred during the cold-water months of October through May.

- These 22% of accidents accounted for **57%** of all fatalities. 75% of the fatality victims were not wearing life jackets.
- The leading cause of death was drowning without a life-jacket (68%). 46% of fatality victims were in manually propelled vessels where almost all drowned (95%) and were not wearing a life jacket (74%).
- October had the highest number of fatalities of any month of the year.
- One out of six boating accidents occurring in cold water months resulted in a fatality. (Compared to one out of 26 accidents occurring June through September)

The months of October through April have the coldest water temperatures of the year. Boaters who were fatally injured in accidents during these months often went out on days when the weather was considered beautiful for the season; however, unseasonably warm weather does not reduce the dangers of cold-water immersion.

Last year Connecticut

had two (2) fatalities by January 8th. This was unheard of in this State. But on a beautiful 70+ degree day, two people ventured out on the water that was still in the 30's; one on East Twin Lake in the west and the other on Amos Lake in the east. One was in a small open boat the other in a canoe with a small motor. Neither was wearing a life jacket and both accident victims quickly drowned in the frigid waters.

No matter where you boat, please remember to prepare accordingly for the cold water, even if the air temperature is warm. The single most important thing you can do when on or around the water is to **WEAR A LIFE JACKET**.

The Department of Environmental Protection is working to reduce boating fatalities during these months. The DEP recently expanded its regulation for mandatory life jacket wear between October 1 and May 31 to include all manually propelled vessels. Previously, only canoes were subject to the regulation. Additionally, the DEP is distributing a new pamphlet to inform boaters of the dangers of cold-water immersion. The pamphlet covers such topics as preparing for a boat trip, preventing and treating hypothermia, surviving in cold water, and other important information on how cold water affects the body.

To view the pamphlet electronically, visit the Connecticut DEP website at <http://www.ct.gov/dep/boating>.

Capt. Gregory Ulkus contributed to this article.