

Great Lake Fun expected at ACBS Annual Meeting, International Boat Show

BY KATIE MATTESON

The Antique & Classic Boat Society will hold its 42nd Annual Meeting and 15th International Boat Show right here in Racine, Wisconsin on Wednesday, Sept. 6 through Saturday, Sept. 9.

Reefpoint Marina will host the 100 boats and the 350 ACBS members from across the country who are expected to attend. The Annual Meeting and related meetings will take place at Festival Hall, Racine Civic Center.

The public is invited to attend the boat show on Friday, Sept. 8 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 9 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. The boat show will be held on Docks E1, E2 and E3 and vendors selling

food and other items will be set up in the parking lot.

Traffic on the Christopher Columbus Causeway to the marina will be limited, so the public is advised to park in one of the nearby downtown parking garages.

ACBS executive director Dan Gyoerkoe said the show is expected to attract thousands of visitors who want to see the boats from 1895-2016 from 15 feet to 33 feet in length. He said a large percentage of the boats are wooden, built with mahogany, but there will also be other materials like fiberglass and aluminum.

Gyoerkoe explained "the Antique and Classic Boat Society is a membership organization that

is dedicated to bringing together people with a love of antique and classic boats and boating. Our mission is to promote the love and enjoyment of all aspects of classic boating. In furtherance of that goal, ACBS also provides scholarships to worthy students seeking careers in the field of antique marine restoration and preservation. ACBS also acts as a central governing body for the classic boating hobby and our chapters."

The Glacier Lake Chapter of ACBS planned the week of activities for the boaters, starting on Sunday, Sept. 3 with a stop in Green Bay. The next day, Monday, Sept. 4, the group cruises to Oshkosh, visits Madison on Tuesday, Sept. 5 before heading to Racine for the rest of the week.

Under the slogan, "Great Lake Fun Happens Here," the event program informs the visitors to the event site in Racine that they "are within walking distance of unique shops, galleries, night-spots and memorable restaurants." They are also assured

that "this 921-slip marina is within a safe, deep harbor protected by an improved break wall. Its outstanding pier system includes two permanent piers with floating dock. ACBS mem-



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bers, family and friends will be treated to superior customer service from every member of the marina staff."

Nearby attractions and businesses are rolling out the red carpet for the guests.

The Racine Heritage Museum has extended a special invitation for the boating enthusiasts to visit its Waterways

exhibit, which explores Racine's early history as a thriving Great Lakes commercial port, harbor development, lighthouses and offers an in-depth look at the rich maritime history of the area. It features original drawings by Fred Martin, a renowned boat designer who worked for the Racine Boat Company during the 1890s and The Hey Day, a 16-

foot power launch built by the Racine Boat Company is 1912, restored by Racine resident Bruce Renquist and featured in "The Babe," a 1992 film about baseball icon Babe Ruth. Its engine was made by the Straubel Company and restored by John Sherwin.

In conjunction with the First Fridays program and the ACBS gathering the following week, the museum is adding a commercial fishing story to the Waterways exhibit. That addition will feature items salvaged from the Palmer fishing tug, which Randy Vassh saved for the museum.

The Racine Art Museum will feature "Collection Focus: Renie Breskin Adams," "Shie and Accord: Recent Acquisitions," Variations on a Theme: Vessels from RAM's Collection" and "Karen Johnson Boyd: From the Vault."

In anticipation of the ACBS Annual Meeting and Interna-

tional Boat Show, Downtown Racine Corp. chose boats for the 2017 public art project. Since June, more than two dozen Chris Craft-style power boats and sailboat statues are carrying the theme, "Don't Miss the Boat." Each statue is colorfully (and often whimsically) decorated by a local artist. Designs include pirate rats, a Viking ship and an underwater fantasy.

On Saturday, Sept. 9, the public will have an opportunity to purchase one of the decorated boats during an auction at Paul P. Harris Rotary Park. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the auction will begin at 11 a.m. There will also be live music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. All proceeds will benefit DRC.

Real Racine has prepared goodie bags to welcome the visitors to these and other local attractions and businesses. For more information, contact Real Racine at (262) 884-6400 or realracine.com.



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Welcome!
Antique & Classic Boat Society

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