

Explore Solomons Island



Solomons Island Dragon Boat Festival

By Skylar Broome
Contributing Writer

For fast-paced family fun, Solomons Island Dragon Boat Festival is making a splash on Saturday, Aug. 27 at 50 Alexander St., Solomons. The rapidly growing water sport is being held as a Friday-Saturday weekend event. The Opening Ceremony takes place on Friday, Aug. 26 with a traditional ritual noted as the "Dotting of the Eye." Following that event will also be Blessing of the Boats. Admission is free for both days.

On Saturday, the first race starts at 9 a.m., and from there on it is nonstop action for the rest of the day. Not only is there the opportunity to witness the teams paddle, but there is also an opportunity to explore the island as well as visit a special kid's area to unwind.

The audience's participation is a must – the paddling teams need the votes to win the best in categories such as best team costumes, best team tent decoration, and more. There is also no telling what might be seen along the Riverwalk.

Food is available in a food court specially prepared for the occasion. If the food is not to one's liking, the

restaurants all around the island are available and open to the public. Many restaurants will have event specials.

The Vendor Village will gather the tri-county's most unique artisans and merchants. Spaces for both the marketplace and food vendor area are still being sold – for Saturday only.

The Dragon Boat Festival is a celebration with deep root in history, and this is the first time it has come to Southern Maryland. Be sure not to miss it.

All proceeds benefit the Southern Maryland Community Resources, a group dedicated to providing benefits to individuals with developmental differences within Southern Maryland. Resources are aimed towards those who are 21 and older and thus out the school system. All funds stay local. Donating is not the only way to help, as sponsors and volunteers for this event are still needed.

For more information, visit info@solomonsdragonboatfestival.com.

Photo by Frank Marquart



Southern Maryland Boat Club: Spend Less, Boat More

By Crista Dockray
Staff Writer

Coltons Point Marina has come up with an affordable way for you to cruise on the Potomac and the Chesapeake without ever having to pay the full expense of your own boat.

Set up like a quasi-time share, Coltons Point Marina offers a club membership for an annual fee of \$2,665 and a one-time, lifetime fee of \$1,000 for the club initiation. With these fees paid, you have unlimited, year round access to five different boats and all you have to do is pay for the gas after a voyage. Colton's Point Marina will take care of everything else.

The collection of boats include a Wellcraft 232 Coastal, a Wellcraft 210 Coastal, a Wellcraft 210 Fisherman, a Wellcraft 180 Sportsman, and a Sundance B22 Shallow Draft Skiff.

The five boats range from 18 to 24 feet and \$25,000 to \$75,000 in value. All are equipped with Garmin GPS systems, water sports equipment, fuel-efficient Yamaha motors, insurance packages and more.

After you are done boating, you have access to their ships store and lounge, laundry facility, clean bath facilities, picnic pavilions, kayak rentals, and a playground. You also have access to the snacks and beverages offered in the ships store and lounge, ice bags, and a beer and wine selection. As a member of the boat club you are also invited to their annual slip holder events that include barbeques, crab feasts and more.

Call 301-769-3121 to find out more information or to schedule a free test-ride on any club boat.

crista@countytimes.



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Photos Provided by Mark Rabush

Maryland Aims for a Safe Boating Summer

A safety-conscious public and a concerted effort by Maryland Natural Resources Police kept the Memorial Day weekend free of fatalities and with just four reported boat accidents.

"We did everything in our power to be visible, to interact, to educate," Natural Resources Police Superintendent Colonel Robert K. "Ken" Ziegler Jr. said. "Our officers spoke with nearly 18,000 boaters, anglers and state park visitors. Together, with our reserve officer force, they conducted more than 2,400 free boat inspections across the state."

Boating accidents declined 55 percent this Memorial Day weekend compared to the same period last year and none of the mishaps resulted in life-threatening injuries. Two incidents involved boats capsizing on Chesapeake Bay tributaries, one was a minor tubing accident on Deep Creek Lake and the fourth occurred as a boat docked at Smallwood State Park.

Statewide, officers responded to 620 calls for service, a five percent increase over 2015. They arrested 15 people for impaired boating or impaired driving, compared to seven arrests last year. They wrote a total of 402 tickets and 1,297

warnings for all offenses, increases over last year of four percent and 17 percent respectively.

Officers worked with allied agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and local police and fire marine units, to be a highly visible presence on the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic coastal bays, and rivers and tributaries.

Ziegler said the strategy this year is to get the boating season off to a good start that can be sustained through Labor Day. Last year, 21 people died in boating accidents, a 20-year high. Only three of the victims were wearing life jackets.

"We aren't doing this to rack up tickets or generate revenue," he said. "We are doing this to keep our citizens and visitors safe so that they can continue to enjoy Maryland's lands and waters."

The safety campaign will continue June 24-26, with Operation Dry Water, a nationwide crackdown on alcohol- and drug-impaired boaters. Natural Resources Police will once again partner with other maritime law enforcement agencies to patrol waterways from Deep Creek Lake to the Atlantic Ocean.

From the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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