

# New sports events add to Festival fun

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TRAVERSE CITY—  
Outdoors is where it's at  
for sports during the  
Cherry Festival.

Three all-new events will  
spice up water sports this  
year, adding excitement to  
the beachside activities.

Hosted by Holiday Inn -  
West Bay, the DockDogs  
Big Air Competition, pre-  
sented by Just Labs maga-  
zine and WTCM radio, will  
feature dog athletes from  
across the country pitted  
against each other to see  
which will jump the far-  
thest into the bay.

"I think it'll be a big hit  
with people in the area as  
well as visitors to the festi-  
val," Robert Gattin, gener-  
al manager of the Holiday  
Inn, said.

Although Gattin has a dog  
of his own, he said he will  
enjoy DockDogs from the  
sidelines.

"My yellow lab would  
love to jump in the water,"  
Gattin said. "But she  
couldn't go any farther  
than I could."

The event, which grew to  
popularity on ESPN, runs  
from 10 a.m. to noon and 4-  
6 p.m. July 3-4. DockDogs is  
sponsored by Village  
Press, publishers of "Just  
Labs" magazine.

The long-time Northern  
Michigan tradition of  
canoe racing will finally  
come to the Cherry  
Festival on July 3 with the  
Midtown Center Boardman  
River Canoe Race. The  
Solo Professional's Race  
will follow up on July 4.

The races will consist of  
both professional and ama-  
teur racers from 18 to 78  
years of age, according to  
director Garth Greenan.

"One of the more exciting  
parts is the start of the  
race," Greenan said.

"Thirty boats starting up at  
once throw up big wakes,

and its not unusual for one  
or two to tip over."

Greenan said that the  
best places to watch the  
race would be at the Union  
Street dam, where racers  
will have to navigate  
around a buoy, and Hull  
park, where the racers  
start and finish.

The race will start at 9:30  
a.m. both days.

Wakeboarding demon-  
strations, sponsored by  
Action Water Sports and

MasterCraft Boats, will  
take place July 5-9 at 7 p.m.  
at Clinch Park Beach. This  
extreme sport is also new  
to the festival, and will fea-  
ture West Michigan board-  
ers performing tricks for  
the audience.

Kiteboarding, presented  
by Broneah, returns to the  
festival for its second year.  
The demonstrations will  
be held from 1-7 p.m. July  
5-9 near the West End  
Beach volleyball courts.

Record-Eagle file photo/John L. Russell

Milt Wilcox, the regional  
representative for Dock  
Dogs Big Air Competition,  
plays with his black lab  
Sparky. The event will fea-  
ture dog athletes from  
across the country  
competing to see which  
can jump the farthest into  
the bay. The event takes  
place July 3-4 at the  
Holiday Inn West Bay.



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