## New sports events add to Festival fun

BY FORREST KARBOWSKI Record-Eagle Staff Writer

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, presented by Just Labs magazine and WTCM radio, will feature dog athletes from across the country pitted against each other to see which will jump the farthest into the bay.

"I think it'll be a big hit with people in the area as well as visitors to the festival," Robert Gattin, general 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 wih 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 amateur 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 MasterCraft Boats, will or two to tip over."

Greenan said that the best places to watch the 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 demonstrations, sponsored by Action Water Sports and

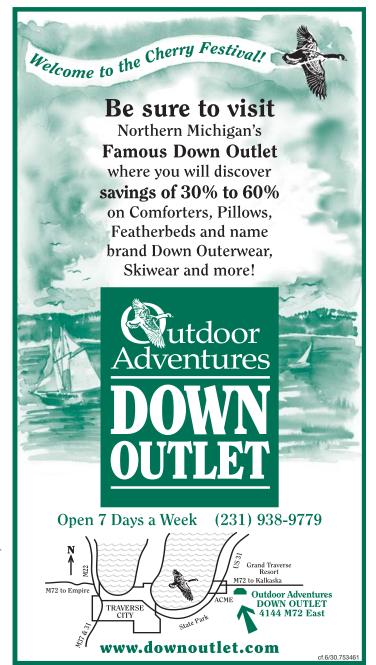
take place July 5-9 at 7 p.m. at Clinch Park Beach. This extreme sport is also new race would be at the Union to the festival, and will feature West Michigan boarders performing tricks for the audience.

> 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 feature dog athletes from across the country compteting 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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