

Expanded hours and space for boat show

*Show and sale runs
April 23 - May 1*

The Northern Michigan Boat Show and Sale comes back to Traverse City with an expanded schedule and a new location.

Previously a winter event, the Show and Sale has been moved from an indoor resort location to the Grand Traverse Civic Center's Howe Arena, allowing for both indoor and outdoor displays. Local dealers will feature a variety of boats in different styles, as well as boat lifts, docks, accessories and ser-

vice information.

Included in the show will be fiberglass, fishing and pontoon boats, according to Liz Carney of Grand Bay Marine, a key dealer in the event. Also, for the first time the Boat Show and Sale will feature electric-powered watercraft, presented by Johnson Outdoors.

"They're an option for people interested in the environment," Carney said, "and could be a solution on lakes that don't allow gas-powered boats."

A portion of the proceeds from each night will be donated to the Goodwill Inn's new homeless shelter pro-



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Bulmann Dock and Lift is one of the participants in the show and Goodwill Inn will receive a portion of the event's proceeds.

ject, which will double the Inn's capacity and provide shelter to homeless youth. Organizers for the capital fundraising project welcome the contribution.

"When people want to partner with us, that's great," said Ruth Blick, a member of the Inn's Capital Campaign Committee. "We appreciate them bringing us into the fold and making a difference in the community."

Extra outdoor space will be a key component this year, attractive to dealer and shopper alike.

"There's much more display area (in the Civic Center) and it's been a good venue for other shows," Carney said.

For starters, exhibitors won't be limited to brochures and smaller models. With two large dock dealers on hand,

the show will offer a chance to see the breadth of their offerings.

"It's one thing to see them stacked up and unassembled," Carney said. "This year, we'll see what dock configurations you could have on your property or waterfront."

Bulmann Dock and Lift of Boyne Falls, is one company showing their wares.

"The way to spot us will be the 25,000 pound boat lift under the red canopy," said company founder Steve Bulmann, who's quick to add that other products are available, too. "People know us for the big boatlifts, but we offer lifts for smaller boats, as well."

The smaller models can handle four and five-thou-

sand pounds and are suitable for the smaller runabouts (Sea Ray or Chaparral, for example) and ski or pontoon boats.

For the most informative visit to the Show and Sale, Bulmann recommends coming prepared.

"You should come with both the dry and loaded weight of the boat, as well as the dimensions," he said.

Doug Beaudrie, owner of Perfect Wheel in Lake Ann, is looking forward to returning to the Boat Show and Sale after a few years away. The event is filled with experienced dealers like Beaudrie — now entering his 25th year in business — an advantage that should be taken by visitors.

"You can learn a lot just by asking questions," he said. "It's a good chance to get information."

For nine consecutive days — including two weekends — boat enthusiasts can see the latest products and ask as many questions as they want.

Weekend hours are:

Saturdays (April 23 & April 30) from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. & Sundays (April 24 & May 1), from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weekday hours will also allow for evening visits after work: Monday – Thursday (April 25–28) from 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Friday (April 29) from noon–9 p.m.

Admission is \$4, and children under age 12 get in free.

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