

FISHING BOATS STAR IN AKRON SHOW

Whether you're into angling for Bass, Walleye, Muskie or simply anything that will bite, the new Akron Boat & Water Sports Show will boast plenty of fishing boat models from major brands when it fills the John S. Knight Center, March 3-5.

"We know more than 70 percent of all boats are used for fishing at least some of the time," says Bryan Ralston, show manager, "so show visitors will see virtually every major brand ranging from Jon boats to center consoles."

For example, one of Ohio's largest fishing boat dealers, Vic's Sports Center (Kent), named the #1 Ranger Boats Dealer in the U.S. in 2015 & 2016, will showcase models from Ranger, StarCraft, and Starweld. Interestingly, Ranger is known worldwide for conventional-hulled fishing models but has just introduced the Ranger Renata 233F Fishing Pontoon that will be at the show. Moreover, Vic's exhibit will be manned by tournament-tested pros ready to offer tips on bass and walleye fishing.

But expert advice will take center stage in many other displays of fishing boats throughout the show. Among them, Clemons Boats (Sandusky) that will feature NauticStar's new Coastal 211 Center console and Boston Whaler models including the 170 Dauntless and 150 Super Sport. Clemons will also display Cobalt.

Boat Masters Marine (Akron & Lake Milton) will feature a wide variety of Alumacraft angling models, along with the popular Robalo brand; Portage Lake Marine (Akron) will display Polar Kraft; Buckeye Sports Center (Penninsula) will show Lund; and Ravenna Marine (Ravenna) will include a variety of Crestliner fishing models.

Several larger boats will be displayed by South Shore Marine (Huron) for anglers who mostly ply Lake Erie. They include A Grady White 27 Dual Console and the new Pursuit 26 Center Console.

When show visitors need a break from climbing aboard the wide-range of boats on display, they'll be able to sit down, enjoy some live steel band music and "beach party" food and refreshments.

"We want to create a beach party atmosphere," says Ralston. "With the boating season rapidly approaching, we think the March dates for the show are perfect for creating a summer feeling in the Knight Center."

It's also notable that the show dates are critical for boat buyers to be certain that they can order a new boat and get it delivered by the boating season. Any later order may not be met by spring because many manufacturers, especially pontoon builders, are saying their programmed 2017 production is nearly exhausted.

Show hours will be: Opening Friday (3/3) 12 Noon to 9:00 pm; Saturday (3/4) 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday (3/5) 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Admission: \$5.00 Adults; Children 12 & under Free.

For the latest show schedules, go to www.akronboatshow.com