

NEWS RELEASE

2018 Progressive Akron Boat and Water Sports Show

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IT'S ALL HIGH TECH AT AKRON SHOW

Perched on a barstool, surrounded by blue mood lights and sipping refreshments may sound like a fancy outdoor café, but it can actually happen in the middle of a lake aboard the latest pontoon boat designs that will be in the fleet of boats at the 2018 Progressive Akron Boat & Water Sports Show.

Whether you're interested in the latest fishing boats, family runabouts, tow boats or pontoons, the dozens of boats being displayed in the show by northeast Ohio dealers will feature the latest technology that's proving to be hot buttons for today's boaters.

None are hotter sellers or exemplify more the exciting high tech designs in today's boats than the good old pontoon boats. Warning: If you're picturing something like your grandfather's old slow-mo floating platform, be prepared for a shock!

Today's pontoons and newest tritoons (a third float chamber) do more than just putter along. With high horsepower outboards on the stern, they're now towing water skiers, knee boarders and tubers around the lake all day long. But it's the amenities topside that will really leave you wide-eyed.

Today's seating boasts plush, soft-leather, color-coordinated couches that would go great in a family room back home. Larger models can also feature functional granite-topped wet bars, mood-setting illumination, motorized mooring covers and even built-in grills that would leave old grandpa shaking his head!

The show will boast everything from \$15,000 basic pontoon models to the ultra-fancy ones carrying a price tag of than \$50,000. Ohio's largest pontoon dealers slated to exhibit in the boat show will including Charles Mill Marina (showing Starcraft, Apex, Quest, Sunchaser); Atwood Lake Boats (Harris, AquaPatio); Boat Masters (Bennington); and Ravenna Marine (Manitou), among other dealers.

That's not to say the Akron show will only feature pontoons. There will be plenty of boats designed for kick-back family comfort, from sleek runabouts and the latest bow riders to the newest tow boat designs and fishing machines from bass models to center consoles. Plus there will be accessory and equipment displays, fishing and boating seminars, live musical entertainment and hands-on challenges like taking the helm of the United States Power Squadron's high tech Boat Handling Simulator.

The boat show will be held in Akron's downtown John S. Knight Center Friday – Sunday, March 2-4. Show hours will be: Opening Friday (3/2) 12 Noon to 9:00 pm; Saturday (3/3) 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday (3/4) 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Admission: \$5.00 Adults; Children 12 & under Free. There is also free parking after 6pm Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday at several adjacent City Garages.

For the latest show information, go to: www.akronboatshow.com