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**10th Annual Crystal Coast Boat Show is May 19, 20 and 21, 2017**

*Premier event to include boats, marine products and services, fishing gear, brokers, cornhole tournament, antique car show, sailing races and new Friday activities focusing on a Boating DIY workshop and a downtown Art Walk*

**Morehead City, NC – March 23, 2017** – The 2017 Crystal Coast Boat Show is celebrating 10 years at the Downtown Morehead City waterfront on May 19, 20 and 21, 2017! Plans to celebrate the 10th anniversary are underway, which includes additional docks for more boats in the water at Jaycee Park to accommodate the expanding show.

Captain Steve Miller, chairman of the Boat Show Committee said, "We have become one of the largest boat shows in the eastern part of the state. Before the end of last year's show, dealers and vendors were signing up for the 2017 show. Each year this boat show continues to attract people in the market for buying the boat of their dreams."

The Crystal Coast Boat Show features both new and used boats, in-water and on land, as well as showcasing a variety of marine products and services, outdoor gear, fishing tackle, brokers and resource conservation groups. This year's show will feature 45 in-water boats and 50 boats on land. Viking Yachts will be debuting their Hull #4 37' Billfish in the water at this year's show. The boat show is free and open to the public on Saturday, May 20th, 9am-5pm and on Sunday, May 21st, 9am -4pm. This year the show will kick off with a new event on Friday, May 19th from 8:30am-4pm.

In partnership with the Carteret Community College, the Crystal Coast Boat Show is expanding to include Education Series on Friday, May 19th. Individuals interested in learning more about boats, maintenance, and enjoying your inshore catch are encouraged to attend morning and afternoon classes hosted by the college's MARTEC, Culinary, and the Marine Propulsion System Programs. A working lunch will be hosted by the Carteret Community College Culinary School. Classes are \$40 each or \$100 to attend all three workshops. All proceeds from Friday's event benefit Carteret

Community College's Culinary, Marine Propulsion and Boatbuilding programs. For tickets or more information, call 252-808-0440.

In partnership with Carolina Artist Gallery, the Crystal Coast Boat Show is expanding to include an Art Walk throughout downtown on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-8pm. A schedule of participants can be picked up at 800 Evans Street, Morehead City before the event.

On Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, The Sunshine Band will kick off the Crystal Coast Boat Show at 10:30am in Jaycee Park. Boats will be displayed in the water and on land from 9am-5pm. From 9am-3pm at Katherine Davis Park, the Morehead City Chapter, Antique Automobile Club of America will hold its 44<sup>th</sup> annual car show featuring vintage vehicles that are no less than 25 years old.

The public is invited to the Float Your Boat art show at Carolina Artist Gallery, located at 800 Evans Street. Prizes are awarded for art in all media depicting nautical themes, antique cars and fishing. Friday and Saturday hours are 11-5 and Sunday during the Boat Show is 1-4. The show remains on display until July 7.

During the boat show on May 21-22, children are invited to participate in a boat-building workshop at Carolina Artist Gallery, 800 Evans Street, with Heber Guthrie of Gloucester, a member of the N.C. Coastal Heritage Association and organizer of a summer camp for kids to build small boats. Children assemble up to 20 small floatable boats on a first-come basis for a fee of \$7.00 on Saturday beginning at 11:00 a.m. and on Sunday afternoon, depending on the response. In addition to the workshop, Guthrie displays a 14-foot model skiff that was built by a Down East school group. Sea Tow will be sponsoring a scavenger hunt for kids with prizes and a tent in Jaycee Park with family entertainment including ring toss, corn hole and a fishing game.

On both Saturday and Sunday, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street beach, Sail Carteret, a non-profit organization, will be holding sailing races and offering free sailboat rides. They'll also have demonstrations and displays from 9am-5pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 9am-4pm on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Katherine Davis Park, the Morehead City After Hours Rotary Club will host a regional Cornhole Tournament starting at 12:30pm. Burgers, hot dogs and beverages will be available for sale. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. To register or for more information, email [afterhoursrotary@gmail.com](mailto:afterhoursrotary@gmail.com).

"We are so excited to present to the community a variety of events throughout the weekend, all celebrating some of the most vital industries to our Morehead City community," said Lisa Rueh, Executive Director with Downtown Morehead City. "This event wouldn't be possible without our wonderful partners and sponsors. This year, we are thrilled to expand our partnership with Carteret Community College to bring boating education and a culinary component to the Crystal Coast Boat Show. We welcome the community to enjoy all of the activities that make the Boat Show a favorite event for locals and visitors to the Crystal Coast."

Downtown Morehead City is the premier year round waterfront destination for both residents and visitors known for its vibrant opportunities to live, work and play. For more information, go to [www.crystalcoastboatshow.com](http://www.crystalcoastboatshow.com) or [www.downtownmoreheadcity.com](http://www.downtownmoreheadcity.com) or call 252-808-0440.

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