

CATAWBA ISLAND BOAT SHOW READY TO GO

"A beautiful show!" It's the oft-heard description voiced by many visitors when the exclusive Catawba Island Club opens its grounds to the public for the 2017 edition of the Progressive Insurance Catawba Island Boat Show, Friday – Sunday, April 28-30.

Now in its 13th year, more than 100 show boats are slated to take over the CIC marina with nearly all displayed in-the-water. It's also the only time each year the general public can access CIC's beautiful private marina grounds.

It's also the first time visitors will get to see many of the newest 2017 models actually displayed dockside. Another big benefit is that dealers are able to show off new models and larger boats they've received from manufacturers since the Cleveland Show last January. Indeed, most major boat brands will be represented in the fleet.

"The success of the CIC show has become known as the kick-off event for the boating season in northern Ohio," says Bryan Ralston, president of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association. "There's no charge for admission or parking, the setting is beautiful and the atmosphere is strictly casual."

Perhaps the best feature of the CIC show is the dealers' ability to sea trial virtually every boat. That's unlike most other in-water shows where many of the boats are pinned in and can't get be run. The boats displayed will range widely in size and design from 10-foot inflatables to 60-foot-plus motor yachts. While most boats will be new, the show also boasts a selection of hand-picked pre-owned models.

A distinctly festive atmosphere has become a trademark of the show, too. For example, on the entertainment deck overlooking the show, popular singer-songwriter Steve Brownell will headline daily live music.

Brownell's music will make for a perfect setting on Saturday to participate in a special wine-tasting event featuring the creations of the Fireland's Winery. Concurrently, a craft beer lovers will party on Saturday will feature the brews from the Great Lakes Brewery. On Sunday, the Catawba Brewing Company will present their version of locally-brewed craft beers to show visitors.

CIC is located on the northwest side of the Catawba peninsula, off Northwest Catawba Road.

Show hours will be: Friday, 12 Noon to 6 PM; Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday, 11AM to 5 PM. Admission and parking are free. For details, visit:

www.catawbaislandboatshow.com