

BOAT SHOW INCLUDES KIDS' ENTERTAINMENT

The Progressive Mid-America Boat Show has always been about family boating, so it's a no-brainer that the show which will run January 18-21 will include activities and entertainment for the kids.

Kids Fishing 411 Seminar: New this year, Ohio's best-known outdoor author and radio personality, Dan Armitage, will bring his popular Kids Fishing 411 Seminar to the boat show. He's passionate about sharing fishing with kids of all ages. He'll show kids hands-on how to rig and use a simple cane pole, get the kids to handle live bait like worms and minnows, and keep them fully involved by flashing his World's Largest Bobber and the World's Biggest Fishing Hook! He ends each show by taking a child up on the Berkley Fish Tank, demonstrates how to properly fit a personal floatation device, and catch and release largemouth bass in the 5000-gallon glass-sided aquarium. His weekly radio show, "Buckeye Sportsman with Dan Armitage," is heard every Saturday on 24 Ohio stations. He will present his Kids Fishing 411 at the boat show two days only: Thursday, (January 18) and Sunday, (January 21). For times see the show schedules at www.clevelandboatshow.com and click on "FishNOWExpo."

Arrrrgh! It's a pirate's life for all the youngsters when the Capn' Willie, the Great Lakes Pirate, takes to the stage for his edu-tainment show. Featuring music, stories and hands-on fun, kids and parents alike may find themselves caught up in the Capn' Willie marching line! Shiver-me-timbers, his shows are slated for: Thursday, 3:00pm, and 7:00 pm; Friday, 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:00 pm; Saturday, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm and 7:30 pm; Sunday, 12:30pm, 2:30 pm and 4:30pm.

Hands-on Activities: The "Boating Experience" section of the show will boast a variety of hands-on activities for kids in many public service displays, ranging from building a little wooden sailboat to learning knot tying. Kid's get a "passport", visit all the exhibits, get their passport stamped, and receive a free pass to sail through the roof aboard the I-X Center's iconic ferris wheel.

Meet A Mermaid! There's no such thing, you say? There is at the boat show and it's one of several great family photo ops. Fish tail and all, the Boat Show Mermaid has been in more pictures taken at the show by visitors than any other feature. (Mermaid on hand Saturday and Sunday only.)

More Photo Ops: Meet and take pictures with "Coastie" the talking Coast Guard Auxiliary boat that cruises around the show talking to kids (and adults, for that matter) about always being safe on the water. And, Capn' Willie the Great Lakes Pirate loves to pose with the whole family!

Boat Show hours this year are: Show Hours: Thursday – Friday (Jan. 18-19) 12 Noon to 9PM; Saturday (Jan. 20) 11AM to 9PM; Sunday (Jan. 21) 11AM to 6PM. Admission: \$14 Adults, \$12 Seniors, Kids 12 & under free.

#####