

BOAT SHOW TO ROCK ON OPENING NIGHT

Popular Put-in-Bay entertainers Ray Fogg, Westside Steve and Pat Shepard will headline the live musical entertainment for the gala opening night of the 2018 Progressive Mid-America Boat Show in Cleveland's I-X Center.

"It's become as much a tradition on boat show opening night as it is all summer at Put-in-Bay for top name entertainers to gather for a mid-winter party," says show manager Bryan Ralston. "Coupling their unique music while sipping a cup of the Boardwalk's iconic Lobster Bisque is what packs the special Put-in-Bay exhibit area every first night."

Ray Fogg has entertained thousands for more than 20 years at "The Bay" on South Bass Island. In fact, each year Fogg presides over the party for the official opening and closing of the tourist season annually held in the island's famous Round House. He records his unique music for Sweetwater Records.

Westside Steve has been dubbed the Island's Ambassador because of his many TV appearances in which he never fails to promote Put-in-Bay. And he doesn't do it only in Ohio. During the spring and fall, Steve is promoting "the Bay" while he's entertaining on another island, Key West, Florida. There he's likely found at popular Rick's Bar, while during the summer he's usually found making music at the Crescent's Patio Bar.

Pat Shepard will be found at "the Bay" entertaining in Frosty's Bar. With his original songs, he hopes "most of the people have seen or experienced the stuff I am singing about." He holds that a performer can't just play the guitar and sing. "People come to have fun and that's what I bring to the table every night."

"Put-in-Bay Night is always a great kickoff for the show's exhibitors and visitors alike," says Ralston, "because it represents all the excitement of summer boating on Lake Erie. In fact, it draws together boating friends and Island talent for some mid-winter fun. And, the Island's trademark Lobster Bisque, brought in fresh daily from the Boardwalk, sells out every night."

Although there is no way of knowing in advance, the party has often been "crashed" by other entertainers who are synonymous with summers at "the Bay." It can become an even more unique evening with lots of island talent in one place at one time!

This year's boat show runs for four days, Thursday-Sunday, January 18-21. The show will feature more than 400 boats from kayaks to 45-foot-plus motor yachts plus more than 100 equipment and accessory displays, a all-new fishing area dubbed Fish NOW Expo, along with many hands-on activities and attractions.

Show hours for 2018 are: Put-in-Bay Night, Thursday (1/18) 12 Noon – 9 pm; Friday (1/19) Noon to 9 pm; Saturday (1/20) 11 am – 9 pm; Sunday (1/21) 11 am – 6 pm. Admission is \$14 Adults; \$12 Seniors 60+; Children 12 and under free.

For the latest show details, go to: www.clevelandboatshow.com

#####