



PRESS RELEASE

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United States Power Squadrons to demonstrate how to dock a boat without getting in the water

Take a virtual tour at the 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show.

BEAUFORT, NC - How would you like to dock a boat without getting in the water? United States Power Squadrons® plans to show you how at the North Carolina Maritime Museum. You'll have an opportunity to "virtually" maneuver the "Boston Whaler Dauntless 200" on a lake where there are no risks as you approach other boats in meeting, crossing, and overtaking situations.

The United States Power Squadrons® has partnered with the North Carolina Maritime Museum to bring a Boating Skills Virtual Trainer for demonstration and use by the public at the 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show on May 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During the demonstration, visitors will be guided by three LED screens showing an actual Mercury outboard throttle, trim controls, and steering wheel that will allow you to approach and dock your "boat" without fear of damaging anything. There is a working tachometer and speedometer to help manage boat speed. There's also a working compass to guide you around the lake. The screen will show the dock that the virtual boat is approaching for a landing.

Other boating skill environments include, working with spring lines, departing the dock, mooring, emergency stop, and maneuvering in heavy wind, strong current and day/night situations.

In addition to the Annual Wooden Boat Show on May 6, the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron will provide the virtual demonstration on Friday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday May 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



"This is a fun experience for all ages. The three screens give a realistic view as boats and the shoreline pass down the left and right screens. It is not a game, but for serious learners, a wonderful stress-free way to try some maneuvers that won't scar up the family boat," said Past Commander "JB" Bagby, public relations officer.

The training unit is funded by a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard. Supporting partners include Brunswick Marine Corporation, BoatUS Foundation, Mercury Marine, Boston Whaler and the National Safe Boating Council.

To learn the skills necessary to actually get out on the water, the United States Power Squadrons offers boating skills courses and short seminars on a variety of topics. These are taught locally by certified instructors from the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron. To locate these and other courses being taught near you, visit <http://www.usps.org/> and select "Boating Courses and Seminars," then "Find a Boating Course Near You." Select "Boating Courses" and enter your ZIP code. You can also contact Educational Officer Ken Link at 252.726.0630, or by email at seaclef@coastalnet.com.

The 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show has once again received top honors from the Southeast Tourism Society. The organization selected the North Carolina Maritime Museum's Annual Wooden Boat Show as a "Top 20 Event for the Southeast" for May 2017. This is the third year in a row the museum has received the prestigious honor for the Annual Wooden Boat Show.

For a complete schedule of events for the 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show on May 6, visit www.beaufortwoodenboatshow.com.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum is located at 315 Front Street, Beaufort. 252-728-7317. For more information, visit their website at www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com.

Image Caption: Rear Commander Tom Myers (left) receiving instructions from Lisa Henderson, both of the United States Power Squadrons, which manages the simulators sent around the country to local squadrons.

About the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort reflects coastal life and interprets lighthouses and lifesaving stations, the seafood industry, motorboats, and more. Studies in marine life, science, and ecology are available for all ages. The Beaufort museum is the repository for artifacts from Blackbeard's wrecked flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*, among them cannons, grenades, belt buckles and beads. The Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center teaches boatbuilding for all ages.



The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort is open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is open to the public with free admission. Donations are always appreciated.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum system is comprised of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Beaufort and the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport. All three museums are part of the Division of State History Museums in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum is located at 315 Front Street, Beaufort. 252-728-7317. For more information, visit their website at www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. The mission of NCDNCR is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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