



PRESS RELEASE

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Legendary boat that inspired *Jaws* returns to NC Maritime Museum's 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show

The longest running boat show in the Southeast set for May 6, 2017.

BEAUFORT, NC -. Over forty years ago, Steven Spielberg's shark saga, *Jaws*, frightened millions of moviegoers out of the water. *Jaws* original summer blockbuster in 1975 set the standard by which all others are measured. It became the highest grossing movie of all time (at the time) until *Star Wars* came to the theaters. The movie was released in June 1975.

Last year, the legendary *Cricket II* made its debut at Beaufort's Annual Wooden Boat show hosted by the North Carolina Maritime Museum. Once again, visitors to the Beaufort waterfront will have the opportunity to see the fishing boat that became the inspiration for the book and movie *Jaws*. On May 6, the *Cricket II* returns to the town docks in Beaufort as part of the 43rd Annual Wooden Boat Show. It is the longest ongoing wooden boat show in the Southeast.

The legendary *Cricket II* is a 1947 Deltaville wooden boat that served its owner and captain Frank Mundus in the waters off Montauk, New York, in setting nine world records for rod and reel catches. It still holds the world record for the largest great white shark catch of 4,500 lbs. in 1964. This boat was featured on the television shows, *Blue Water*, *White Death*, *Wide World of Sports* and others. The boat was built with North Carolina yellow pine.

Later, Frank Mundus became involved with eco-fishing, utilizing Japanese circular fishing hooks that were better for catch, tag and release of the fish. He also was instrumental in helping to test early shark cages for divers and in university research in histamines with tuna.



The *Cricket II* was restored in 2014 after many years as a deep-sea fishing and commercial fishing boat. Its last captain, Captain Joe DiBella, had a new mission in mind for the legendary boat. He spearheaded a 501(c)3 endeavor to take Disabled American Vets and Wounded Warriors fishing. Today, the *Cricket II* is perfect for wheelchairs and fitted with patent-pending electric fishing gear to aid vets. For more information, visit, www.cricket2project.com.

This free event celebrates the art of North Carolina boat building and the sport of boat racing. Dozens of handcrafted wooden boats will be on display and activities will be available for all ages from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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: The Cricket II docked in front of the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center in Beaufort, undated photo

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



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.

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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