

29th Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival

Friday, September 30th, Saturday, October 1st, & Sunday, October 2nd, 2011

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Registrant Information

For those unfamiliar with the Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival, this year's 29th annual edition continues the tradition of a fun, family-oriented gathering of lovers of small boats. This is a non-commercial event - definitely not a "boat show" (in fact, professional boat shops are discouraged from displaying any signage), but a weekend where folks can sail, row, or paddle their boats and enjoy the Museum and each other's company.

CBMM's general publicity for this event focuses on Saturday, since that is when everyone is here, along with their boats, and most of the activities are going on. For the regular Museum visitor, it is the day to see the MASCF. For those who wish to register for all three days, the on-line registration forms are for you. Please note: many of the weekend's events are restricted to those who register for all three days; if you have a question regarding what is available to you and what isn't, just contact the Museum.

The first "official" event of MASCF is Thursday's gunkholing overnight trip to Wye Island. This involves a several mile sail to the island and the rudimentary camping facilities located there, with a return on Friday morning. The word "rudimentary" needs to be emphasized; this is a fun excursion, but isn't meant for the faint-of-heart. Contact Pete Leshner at the Museum if you have questions. Thursday is also the first "unofficial" day of MASCF, with a number of folks arriving to set up camp and begin messin' about*.

Friday is when most folks arrive, and Friday evening the Museum hosts a BYO-Everything so attendees can get acquainted, or reacquainted, have some food and drink, and maybe even listen to some music. Participants should bring their own fixings for dinner, with the Museum providing some non-alcoholic drinks, some samplers of shucked oysters and steamed crabs (just a taste, not enough for a meal), and a wood-fired grill for everyone's use.

After a continental breakfast provided by the Museum, Saturday gets rolling with boat judging, craft workshops, boat building demos, a myriad of kids' activities, and boat races (sailing, rowing, and paddling). After all the day's activities, the Museum will provide a hearty meal for the

participants, followed by a lecture by one of the leading authorities on small craft, CBMM's own Pete Leshner. And if there is any energy left after that (and no cloud cover), there will be a star-gazing workshop to end the day.

Sunday again begins with the breakfast offering, followed soon after by a "Worship on the Water" service, followed by a scavenger hunt, and then a swap meet (bring anything nautical to swap and/or sell). And, as is the case all through the weekend, putting your boat in the water and going for a sail or row or paddle is always an option.

If you plan to attend for all three days, please read the registration material carefully and fill the forms out completely. It will help us better plan for the event and for your arrival. Thanks, and we hope to see you in October.

*The Museum will have two walk-down launch ramps available dockside for boats that can be lifted off their trailer or car top and carried down the ramp (even if it takes several hands, there are always plenty of folks around to help). If your vessel is too heavy for those ramps, there is a free ramp across the harbor. Docking at the Museum for the participants is without reservations – use a slip that's available and share it when you are out on the water.