

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES AT BOAT SHOW

When visitors to the Progressive North American Demo Boat Show at Cedar Point get tired of climbing aboard 350 power and sailboats, they'll be able to get hands-on experiences paddling a kayak or docking a powerboat, albeit the latter via a sophisticated simulator.

The Akron Power Squadron will again bring its popular fleet of 10 kayaks to the boat show and invite visitors to participate in their "Hands-on Kayak Experience."

The special interactive exhibit will include daily presentations on basic safe kayaking techniques by Squadron members. This will be followed by the hands-on experience for attendees where they will be free to paddle around a designated in-water area set aside just for them in the boat show.

After kayaking, show goers can change pace by heading over to the United States Power Squadrons' "Boating Skills Virtual Trainer" (BSVT). It's an interactive, hands-on, virtual boating experience, the result of sophisticated water physics computer software.

But the BSVT is no computer game. It has been strategically developed to compliment USPS on-the-water training programs by essentially requiring the same level of competency. Using the simulator allows students to navigate on-water scenarios where they must contemplate and make decisions using critical thinking.

Skippers will take the helm of a simulated Boston Whaler leaving the dock to face various scenarios on a 4-mile-wide lake. To make things more challenging, a USPS instructor can change the wind, current and strength, day or night and other environmental and traffic parameters to test both novice and seasoned skippers.

Patterned after pilot training simulators, the BSVT features three computer screens for a rotating field of vision. Realism is also created by the helmsman's console with steering wheel, Mercury throttles, trim tabs, navigation lights, horn and more. Performance is said to be extremely accurate, especially for subtle boat maneuvers.

The boat show will run for four days, August 24-27, at Cedar Point. More than 10,000 boaters from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania annually attend this event.

Show hours will be: Thursday and Friday (Aug. 24-25) – 12 Noon to 7:30 PM; Saturday (Aug. 26) – 11 AM to 7:30 PM; Sunday (Aug. 27) – 11AM to 6:00 PM

For the latest updates, go to: www.cedarpointboatshow.com