



Progressive Insurance Norwalk Boat Show Opens Thursday, September 20 with Boat Sales on the Rise and Groundbreaking Announcement of Statewide Education & Career Initiative from Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA)

43rd Annual Boat Show Features Opportunity to Shop & Compare 300 New Boats, plus Fun for the Whole Family with Kids Touch-a-Boat Tour, Hands-on Boating Classes & more

WHAT: The 2018 [Progressive® Insurance Norwalk Boat Show™](#), the Northeast's premier in-water boating event, docks at Norwalk Cove Marina September 20-23, offering water lovers an all-access pass to discover why life is better with a boat. With hundreds of boats from luxury yachts and center console sportfishers to watersports boats and affordable family cruisers, the Show is best place to compare and buy boats in a beautiful waterfront setting.

As the boating industry continues its drive to strengthen career development and training among the next generation, CMTA will announce a bold **NEW** statewide education initiative in a 9:45am press conference on opening day, Thursday, September 20. Kathleen Burns, Executive Director of the Connecticut Marine Trades Association and Jon Pritko, VP of Northeast Shows for the National Marine Manufacturers Association, will speak at the press conference and officially open the 2018 Progressive® Insurance Norwalk Boat Show™ with friends across boating, government and local business.

WHEN: **Thursday, September 20**
9:30am: Media be-there time for press conference
9:45am: Press Conference begins
10:00am: Show opens with hours continuing Thursday-Saturday 10:00a.m. – 7:00p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Norwalk Cove Marina, [48 Calf Pasture Beach Road, East Norwalk, CT](#)
Opening Day Press Conference to take place at the Show Entrance

INTERVIEW OPPS:

Kathleen Burns, Executive Director of the Connecticut Marine Trades Association
Randy Jennings, President of CMTA Foundation & Manager at Beacon Point Marine Shelton
Jon Pritko, VP of Northeast Shows for the National Marine Manufacturers Association

BOAT SHOW HIGHLIGHTS:

- **NEW! Shop, Save & Win Big on “Super Thursday”** – Elevate savings, shopping and boat show fun to superstar levels at our annual “Super Thursday” on Thursday, September 20. Super Thursday specials include even deeper savings on the best in boating, plus food & drink specials, discounted tickets and exclusive giveaways!
- **Chart-a-Career in Boating** – On Friday, September 21, experts across Marine Engineering and Technology, Marina Management, Boat Manufacturing and more will welcome the next generation to career talks and Q&A sessions as they explore a career in the boating industry.
- **NEW! Expanded Touch-a-Boat Tour** gives kids the opportunity to talk with captains of real rescue and fireboats, snap a pic at the helm, and learn the ropes of life on the high seas. Kids who complete all stops on the tour will receive a prize. During the show, kids will also be able to build their very own toy boat, take a free boat ride & much more!
- **NEW! Hands-On Boating Courses presented by Boat US** – New boaters and those looking to gain more confidence on the water will learn basic boat handling skills with a U.S. Coast Guard-certified captain in beautiful Norwalk Cove. Three-hour courses offer hands-on instruction and an

enjoyable way to boost your boating skills. All levels are welcome, with special Intro to Boating course, Women Making Waves class, and the Junior Captain program allowing kids ages 13 through 19 to learn how to operate a boat in a safe controlled environment. Pre-registration required at BoatShowNorwalk.com

- **NEW! FREE Water Taxi transport to the Show!** New this year, the Show will offer complimentary water taxi service provided by Port Jeff Launch. Radio VHF Channel 68 on the approach to Norwalk Harbor (to the right of Peach Island) to be directed to an anchor point. Free Water Taxi runs 9:30am - 7:30pm Thursday through Saturday, 9:30am - 5:30pm on Sunday.
- Tour the “**Queen of the Show**” – the [Prestige 680 Fly](#) is a 68-foot luxury motor yacht featuring a spacious interior design, 360-degree panoramic views and a hydraulic swim step. The breathtaking flybridge hosts an expansive sun pad and is a great place to relax and enjoy the view. With a POD joystick system and IPS 1200 engine, she is designed for enjoyable and comfortable cruising.
- **Progressive® Boat Club:** Attendees can take the helm at Progressive’s NEW Oculus Rift virtual reality experience and race a boat. Plus, those looking to improve their nautical know-how will find an array of hands-on boating courses and a docking pool with remote control model boats.
- **Try It Cove** invites attendees to get their feet wet and try the latest in paddlesports, including kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle board demos among hundreds of boats at the Show.
- **Fred’s Shed DIY Seminars:** Think “Tool Time” for boaters where attendees can enjoy free hands-on clinics on boat maintenance, repair and upgrade techniques in a garage-like setting.
- **Boat hop and shop magnificent motor yachts, tricked out runabouts, serious center consoles and watersports boats galore with nearly 300 different vessels** to inspire unforgettable weekends on the water. With a full selection of boats for every budget and lifestyle, including boats that can be financed for less than \$250 a month, there is no better place to shop and compare boats side by side.
- **Upgrade tech and water toys** with tents full of the latest marine electronics, accessories and gear. Shop thousands of the latest and greatest GPS and radar systems, fishing equipment, design finishes, all-weather apparel, water sports gear and more from top outfitters and brands
- Plus enjoy **Free Boat Rides, Live Music in the Water Club Lounge** and nautical fun for the whole family

CONNECTICUT BOATING BY THE NUMBERS

- **Connecticut Boating Sales totaled \$170.7 million** in 2017 including powerboats, engines, trailers and aftermarket accessories.
- There were **92,058 Connecticut boat registrations** in 2017.
- There are **7,313 boating industry jobs** in the state of Connecticut (direct and indirect).
- **Boating businesses in Norwalk and the surrounding areas saw an increase of 10.4%** in the number of powerboat units sold from 2016 to 2017.
- The recently-enacted Connecticut state budget reduces the state sales tax on the sale of new boats, motors, and trailers from 6.35 percent to 2.99 percent, which is expected to drive increased interest in purchasing at the Show.

TICKETS: \$15 for adults; children 12 and under get in FREE when accompanied by a paid adult
Save \$2 on advance tickets online when you purchase by September 19

INFO: For more information, visit BoatShowNorwalk.com. Plus follow the latest and join in the excitement of the Show on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). [#NorwalkBoatShow](#)

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