

MEDIA ADVISORY

Rhode Island Marine Trades Association Opens Providence Boat Show on February 2nd with VIP Ribbon Cutting, Industry Panel & Award Presentation

January 31, 2018 – A **VIP Ribbon Cutting** on February 2nd at the Rhode Island Convention Center will mark the official opening of the Providence Boat Show presented by Washington Trust. One of the largest indoor boat shows in New England, the Providence show runs February 2-4 and will showcase boats for every pocketbook along with free seminars and special attractions. The Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA), which owns the Providence show, will also host an **Industry Panel & Award Presentation** on the show's opening morning. Please see below for more information on covering the show's opening events.

RIMTA INDUSTRY PANEL & AWARD PRESENTATION

February 2, 2018 / 10 – 11:30 am / Rhode Island Convention Center Rotunda Room

In addition to being a three-day expo for boating enthusiasts, the Providence Boat Show is also an opportunity for marine trades professionals to highlight critical issues that impact their business sector.

Industry professionals will join RIMTA for breakfast to help present the John H. Chafee Boater of the Year Award to Sail Newport Program Director Kim Hapgood. The Boater of the Year Award is an annual accolade that recognizes an individual who has contributed to the success of the recreational boating industry in Rhode Island or championed the cause of bringing recreational boating to the public.

Hapgood has worked at a grassroots level for over 20 years to grow the sport and directs Sail Newport's award-winning youth and adult sailing-education programs. At Sail Newport she has trained and managed sailing instructors, developed course curriculum, and played a central role in developing a unique experiential-educational program for local public schools. As one of only a handful of certified US Sailing Master Trainers in the country, she is frequently sought after to present and run workshops at national sailing symposiums.

The breakfast also includes a panel of industry members from New England who have been instrumental in hurricane-recovery efforts in Florida and the Caribbean after devastation from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. After these storms devastated

several island communities that rely heavily on boating business, these individuals quickly mobilized their business contacts and skills to help the recovery effort. Panelists will discuss the origins and current status of their projects and will include:

Dan Harding, Power & Motoryacht magazine (moderator)

Rufus Van Gruisen, Cay Electronics

Clem Napolitano, Jamestown Boat Yard

Shaun Ruge, Navionics

Veronica Brown, Newport Shipyard

VIP RIBBON CUTTING TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE BOAT SHOW

February 2, 2018 / 11:45 am -12 noon / Rhode Island Convention Center Show Entrance

In keeping with the Providence Boat Show taking place over Super Bowl weekend, former New England Patriots defensive lineman and two-time Super Bowl Champion Jarvis Green will join a line-up of VIPS to officially open the show. Green will be joined at the 15-minute ribbon-cutting ceremony by Ned Handy, CEO of presenting sponsor Washington Trust; Stefan Pryor, Rhode Island Secretary of Commerce; and David Rosenberg of the show's producer Marketing & Events. Jarvis Green will make appearances throughout the show, cooking up his Oceans 97 Shrimp in sea-to-table demonstrations and signing autographs.

PROVIDENCE BOAT SHOW OPENS!

February 2, 2018 / 12 noon / Rhode Island Convention Center

The Providence Boat Show officially opens at 12 noon on February 2. The three-day expo includes a fleet of power, sail and paddle craft from some 140 exhibitors from throughout New England. Free seminars--which give boaters of all levels the information and inspiration needed to get on the water this season--join a roster of special attractions including sea-to-table cooking demonstrations, the Miss Geico 50-foot offshore racing catamaran that travels in excess of 200 mph, an ArtSEA Gallery with work by local artists inspired by the sea, an indoor pool with fun for all ages with remote-control boats, and other attractions.

Show hours are Friday, February 2 (12 noon – 9 pm), Saturday, February 3 (10 am – 9 pm) and Sunday, February 4 (10 am – 3 pm). An online ticket office and more information can be found at www.providenceboatshow.com

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Cynthia Goss, RIMTA

[203-430-4145](tel:203-430-4145) (newsletter@rimta.org)

Barby MacGowan, MediaPro International
[401-225-0249](tel:401-225-0249) (barby.macgowan@mediapronewport.com)

NOTE TO MEDIA: The Industry Breakfast is a ticketed event; working press who plan to report on the breakfast should contact Cynthia Goss at RIMTA.