



NEWS RELEASE

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ANNAPOLIS HOSTS VOLVO OCEAN RACE STOPOVER

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND – After a four-year hiatus, Volvo Ocean Race boats will return to Annapolis on Thursday, May 4, in a spectacular *Parade of Sail* from Baltimore that is expected to conclude at City Dock between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m., just in time for the May 4-7 Maryland Maritime Heritage Festival (MMHF).

National sailing legend Gary Jobson will serve as master of ceremonies as city and county elected officials and business leaders officially welcome the crews to Maryland's capital city during a 5:00 p.m. dockside ceremony that kicks off a three-day celebration of maritime heritage with the Volvo Ocean Race skippers and crews at the forefront of the action.

Free admission to the rain or shine MMHF at City Dock and Susan B. Campbell Park gives event goers an up close look at the Volvo 70s on display at City Dock

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from 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, through Sunday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. when the boats depart City Dock to begin leg six of the nine-leg race slated to wrap up in Gothenburg, Sweden on June 15. MMHF hours are Thursday, May 4, 3:00-7:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, May 5-6, 10:00-7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, May 7, 10:00-5:00 p.m.

As in past years, the MMHF includes dozens of colorful exhibits celebrating life and culture on the waterfront and promoting environmental awareness.

Highlights of the event include live daily concerts featuring the United States Naval Academy Band, Them Eastport Oyster Boys, local talents, Stereopool, and others. The National Sailing Hall of Fame announced in December will open under tent at City Dock in time for this year's MMHF festivities.

Friday, May 5, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. is Education Day at the MMHF. Grade School and middle school Marylanders will learn about the work of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. On Friday evening, the Eastport Yacht Club (EYC) and the Severn Sailing Association (SSA) will host the 2006 *Annapolis Salute to the Sailors of the Volvo Ocean Race* celebration. Considered to be the premier sailing party in the country, the 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. event is expected to attract some 6,000 sailing enthusiasts to the combined grounds of the EYC at

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317 First Street in Annapolis and the SSA.

The celebration honoring the fleet of Volvo Open 70 racers and their shore crews will showcase the musical talents of Them Eastport Oyster Boys, The Remnants, Matt McConville, Dean Rosenthal, NonFiction, Ben's Bones, and Naked Blue.

Advance tickets are \$25 per person and, if still available, \$35 onsite. Tickets may be purchased online at www.eastportyc.org or onsite at Fawcett Boat Supply at 110 Compromise Street, near City Dock and at 1811 Virginia Street near Chinquapin Round Road from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily. Tickets are also available at the Eastport Yacht Club. For more information, call 410-263-0415.

Sailing enthusiasts who want to learn from the experts are invited to gather at the Ericsson stage at City Dock on Saturday, May 6, for a *Meet the Skippers* forum hosted by Gary Jobson from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Attendees will learn inside tactics and logistics for the restart and leg six of the race.

More mechanically inclined individuals can roll up their sleeves and put their creativity to work by building their own boat during the Sikaflex Challenge at City Dock on Saturday, May 6, from noon until 7:00 p.m. Up to 20 two-person teams can compete in this first-ever MMHF event at a cost of \$50 per team. The Sika Corporation will provide the wood, a caulk gun and 12 cartridges of Sikaflex 291 per boat. Participants must supply sawhorses and all hand tools, which are

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limited to a saber saw, cordless drill, tape measure, pliers, and a power cord. No nails or screws can be used in constructing the boats. Instead, the builders “knit” the components together with cable ties. For this reason, participants are encouraged to bring a bountiful supply of cable ties. Small holes are drilled into the wood, and the wire is slipped through the holes and twisted together. The boat is then bonded and sealed with Sikaflex 291. The wires and cable ties must be removed before the sea trials that will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Sika will provide custom-made Sikaflex Challenge trophies for first, second, and third place in the sea trials, as well as for fastest built and best design. For more information, call 410-268-2114 or email Brendan@mdmhf.org.

Just a few blocks from City Dock at 41 Randall Street, The Annapolis Bookstore will be getting into the action with the Great Annapolis Treasure Hunt: Chapter 1: *The Black Pearl* on Saturday, May 6, from 11:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. In partnership with Phoenix Yacht Management, the bookstore is sponsoring the treasure hunt to benefit the Box of Rain Foundation.

Teams of two will pursue a series of clues that will lead to significant sites throughout Historic Annapolis and the Maritime Republic of Eastport. The first in what is expected to become an annual event will culminate with the discovery of a concealed treasure chest. Registration fee is 88 pieces of eight (\$88) for a

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team of two. The hunt will be limited to 75 teams. One member of each team must be 21 years of age or older. Registration will take place at The Annapolis Bookstore beginning on Thursday, April 6, up to and including the day of the event.

The first team to uncover the buried treasure box and return it to the bookstore wins a grand prize that includes a three-nights' adventure for six to a surprise destination on the Chesapeake aboard a private luxury catamaran including captain and crew courtesy of Phoenix Yacht Management and valued at \$5,000. The prize will be awarded from the MMHF Ericcson stage on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Five runner-up prizes will also be presented. Proceeds will benefit the Box of Rain Foundation. For more information, call 410-280-1821 or email Annapolis_bookstore@hotmail.com.

Following the Great Annapolis Treasure Hunt awards, The Annapolis Bookstore and Phoenix Yacht Management will invite festival goers to process across the stage in a Best Dressed Pirate Contest. The winner will receive two free tickets to Watermark's Pirate's Den Gala aboard the *Harbor Queen* on Saturday evening from 7:30 until 10:30 p.m. Costumes are encouraged for the evening of music and dance. The *Harbor Queen* will depart from City Dock. For tickets, visit www.watermarkspecialevents.com or call 410-268-7601, ext. 104.

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Individuals in search of a treasure trove of history might want to visit the Captain Salem Avery House Museum in Shady Side for a Civil War Living History Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7. Sponsored by the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, the event will include Union and Confederate encampments, historic music along the waterfront and short talks about life during the Civil War era. Under the *Soldier for a Day* program, children will have the opportunity to shadow Union and Confederate soldiers as they sing songs, cook salt pork, drill with wooden muskets, and try on uniforms. The event will take place from noon until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Call 410-867-4486 or visit www.averyhouse.org.

The 10K Governor's Bay Bridge Run coordinated by the Annapolis Striders will be taking place on Sunday, May 7. All runners must ride buses from Sandy Point State Park to the starting line on Kent Island. Buses will depart from Sandy Point at 7:00 a.m. The race begins at 8:00 a.m. The course ascends 2 miles on the eastbound span to the highest point of the bridge, descends 2 miles, and then follows flat roads to finish in Sandy Point State Park. The race has a 3000-runner limit. Registration closes on April 18. www.annapolisstriders.org.

The 2006 Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk also takes place on Sunday. Shuttles for the day-long event that kicks off at 9:00 a.m. will begin boarding at 8:30 a.m.

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from Anne Arundel Community College, Navy Marine Corps Stadium, and Chesapeake Business Park in Stevensville. Most walkers complete the 4.5 mile walk along the eastbound span of the Bay Bridge in two hours. Call 1-877-229-7726 or visit www.baybridge.com.

Back in Annapolis, MMHF events continue with a Blessing of the Volvo Ocean Race Fleet on Sunday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. Following the ceremony, the Volvo 70s depart City Dock to prepare for the race restart at the mouth of the Severn River north of Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse at 1:00 p.m.

Sailing enthusiasts who want to watch the Volvo Ocean Race boats until they leave the Chesapeake Bay can sign up for an eight-hour Ocean Race Re-start Cruise aboard the 74-foot *Schooner Woodwind*. The boat will depart from the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront Hotel at 9:00 a.m. The *Woodwind* will sail south past Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse. Depending on wind conditions, the race boats are expected to pass by around 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. The day will include a continental breakfast, gourmet boxed lunch, afternoon appetizers and beverages. Call 410-263-8994 or visit www.schoonerwoodwind.com.

While the racing syndicates may be gone, the festivities at City Dock will continue when The Annapolis Bookstore hosts *Tales of the Sea* readings and announces the winners of its *Finding Treasure Poetry Contest* at 11:00 a.m. Winners will

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receive The Annapolis Bookstore's Golden Quill, a black pearl and cash prizes. Awards will be given in three categories: children ages 12 and under, youth ages 13-18, and adults. The awards ceremony will wrap up a month-long poetry contest that The Annapolis Bookstore is sponsoring in recognition of National Poetry Month in April. This year's theme was selected to honor the arrival of *The Black Pearl, Pirates of the Caribbean*. Entries will be accepted through April 30. The poetry will be judged by a panel of distinguished poets and writers. For information, contact The Annapolis Bookstore at 410-280-1821 or visit the store at 41 Randall Street in Annapolis.

People aren't the only ones who will be in the spotlight on Sunday. Watermark invites pet owners to dress up their Bow-wow Buccaneers, Canine Corsairs, and Jolly Waggers for a barkin' good time during its Pirate Pet Parade at noon. Attendees can join the notorious Captain Billy Baye and his sidekick Hopping Tom as they promenade around City Dock to discover the best pirate west of the Chesapeake Bay. Prizes and judging will be coordinated by Paws Pet Boutique. Call 410-268-7601, ext. 104 or visit www.watermarkspecialevents.com.

Just a few blocks away from the waterfront festivities, a First Sunday Arts Festival will be in full swing on West Street from Church Circle to Cathedral Street from noon until 5:00 p.m. Featuring crafts vendors, artists, crafts

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demonstrations, and live music by Jazz guitarist Rob Levitt, the event is the first of this year's six May through October First Sunday Arts Festivals. For information, visit www.goweststreet.com.

The Volvo Ocean Race boats are expected to begin their Baltimore/Annapolis Stopover in Baltimore on April 15, 16, or 17. Area residents who want a sneak preview of the boats before their May 4 arrival in Annapolis should plan to watch the Saturday, April 29, In-Port Race at 1:00 p.m. The course is located north of the Chesapeake Bay at the Magothy and Chester Rivers. The best place for watching the race from land is Downs Park in Pasadena.

For information on these and other Volvo Ocean Race festivities, visit the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau web site at www.visitannapolis.org or call 410-280-0445.

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