

## Charleston Harbor Fest—Excitement for Viewers and Doers

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA (May, 14, 2008)—Charleston Harbor will be awash with activity this weekend, May 16-18, when Charleston Harbor Fest takes place. From pirates on parade at Ansonborough Field to the Rail Jam demonstrations at Patriots Point, the ongoing action on both sides of the harbor will be exciting as well as spectacular. And Harbor Fest isn't just for viewers. Anyone so inclined can join in.

The action begins on Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. with a parade of sail. Three traditional tall ships (*The Spirit of South Carolina*, *The Schooner Virginia* and the *Corwith Cramer*) will greet *The Amistad* near Sullivan's Island and accompany it to the Maritime Center with a close visit sailing past Waterfront Park.

On Friday, May 16, Harbor Fest moves into full gear. If you love action-oriented watersports, the Water Action Village Expo (WAVE) at Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant is perfect for you (and your children)! The young ones can try out the inflatable surfer beach slide, or endure a round of jousting with inflatable jousting sticks, while you go for a helicopter tour of the harbor. You can also watch kayaking demonstrations, or take in the aerial acrobatic show in the skies above on Saturday and Sunday. A certain highlight will be the Rail Jam, where experienced riders demonstrate amazing jumps and tricks as they're pulled along a specially built pool on waterboards by ultra-high-speed winches. Rail Jam shows start at 12:00, 1:00, 3:00 and 4:00pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Also on display at Patriots Point will be some of the latest toys for watersports enthusiasts. And, if you don't fancy getting wet, don't worry. There's a climbing wall, treasure hunts, and a children's village with numerous arts and crafts activities, including model plane building.

Just across the harbor, the stage will be set for a full slate of viewer or doer-friendly activities and exhibitions in and around the Charleston Maritime Center. Kids can participate in treasure hunts, witness pirate parades, or watch other families build a traditional 12-foot Charleston bateau. Attendees at Charleston Harbor Fest can also take sailing lessons, tour traditional tall ships, listen to live music (including sea chanteys), view classic wooden boats, or row a traditional Mosquito Fleet gig. There will also be an Education Village and a Children's Village, together offering dozens of entertaining and educational activities.

A unique extension of Harbor Fest will take place on Thursday when leaders from the Gullah-Geechee Nation welcome *The Amistad* on Sullivan's Island. They'll also conduct a special ceremony to commemorate their ancestors who arrived in the Lowcountry aboard similar ships. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Fort Moultrie, a sacred libation ceremony will include a drum call by various African dance troupes and speeches.

Throughout the weekend, both venues for Charleston Harbor Fest (Patriots Point and the downtown) will be served by shuttle bus and water taxis. Charleston Harbor Fest offers free general admission to the festival grounds and docks, but to board the ships for tours

and ride the shuttle buses between event locations you must buy a wristband. Wristbands are good for all 3 days of the event. The cost is \$12 in advance online at [charlestonharborfest.org](http://charlestonharborfest.org) or [etix.com](http://etix.com) and \$15 onsite. Children 6-11 years are \$5 in advance or onsite. Children 5 years and under are free. The Corwith Cramer ship will be closed on Sunday. For additional details and event and activity schedules, log on to [www.charlestonharborfest.org](http://www.charlestonharborfest.org).

Charleston Harbor Fest is an event of the South Carolina Maritime Foundation. Proceeds from this festival support educational programs for South Carolina youth aboard the *Spirit of South Carolina* tall ship. Sponsors of Charleston Harbor Fest include The Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Carolina MasterCraft, NOAA, Clear Channel Radio, The Drive 100.5, The Post & Courier, Bauer International, Step Up Productions, Rising High Café and partners include The Gibbes Museum, Patriots Point, SpiritLine Cruises, the SC Aquarium, Charleston Water Taxi and Charleston Harbor Tours. For additional information, event updates, and tickets visit [www.charlestonharborfest.org](http://www.charlestonharborfest.org) or call (843) 722-1030.

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