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Not One...But Two Circuits of Powerboats Compete for Waterway Supremacy; Many More Favorite Events Return for Fifth Annual Bradenton Area River Regatta Feb. 9

BRADENTON, Fla.— Speed, power...and then even more speed...highlight the fifth annual Bradenton Area River Regatta, when the FREE all-day event returns to the shores of the Manatee River, Saturday, Feb. 9.

Regarded as the largest spectator event in Manatee County, each year the River Regatta has delivered a jam-packed slate of family-fun interactive activities and musical entertainment...on water and on land. This year, not one but two different classes of speedboat racing—among the fastest and most powerful watercrafts in the world—are featured at the Regatta. Add all the other FREE events on both banks of the Manatee River in Palmetto and Bradenton, a full day of activities for all ages to enjoy are scheduled from dawn to dusk.

An amazing fireworks display sponsored by Manatee Memorial Hospital and produced by the first-family of pyrotechnics—Zambelli International—brings the festivities to a climactic conclusion, beginning at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Highlighting the water events—and new in 2019—is an additional class of powerboat racing. The shores of the Manatee River will surely rock when F-3 powerboats join the F-2 circuit, doubling the power and speed of this high-drama racing. The smaller, more nimble F-3 powerboats can max out at 100 mph., still rivaling the ferocious power and speed of their larger F-2 counterpart to form what has become the largest single-day racing event on the APBA circuit.

Fans can also view these impressive crafts on display at a new Powerboat Village near the Palmetto Riverside Park Area all day. Palmetto-native Bob Walwork will have two of his vintage Raveau Boats on display. These classic crafts were first built in late 1930s and early '40s and became known for their craftsmanship and endurance capabilities. They were one of the first power-racing watercrafts built.

World Flyboard Champion Kristen “The Destroyer” Smoyer also returns to entertain spectators with her incredible and improbable stunts that have garnered her world-wide acclaim.

Top musical acts are always a staple for the River Regatta and this year’s lineup features two national headliners: Bradenton area’s very own “We the Kings,” on the Bradenton Main Stage, and The Andy Pursell Band in Palmetto.

—more—

add one...fifth annual river regatta

Other featured entertainment generating diverse sound waves throughout the day are Palmetto-area alternative punk band, Penny Fountain, and the Trevor Bystrom Band. Bystrom, an acoustic virtuoso, plays a wide range of instruments in various styles and his original compositions continue to explore new world sounds and grooves.

Also new in 2019 are not one, but two, separate stunt dog corps. Team Zoom and Dare Devil Stunt Dogs, both nationally recognized tricksters, will perform awe-inspiring maneuvers on the Manatee Riverwalk Great Lawn throughout the day.

"We are really looking forward to the 2019 Bradenton Area River Regatta," said Palmetto Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant. "Now in its fifth year, the event continues to grow and add more excitement to Manatee County and surrounding communities. The organizational team has been working hard lining up food vendors, exciting powerboat racing on the river and of course all types of entertainment for everyone of all ages.

"A powerboat village, where classic powerboats from F1 to F3 will be on display near our Riverside Park area will help showcase this tremendous area."

"We are looking forward to 2019 Regatta on the beautiful Manatee River, the link between Bradenton and Palmetto," said Bradenton Mayor Wayne Poston. "Our expectations for the fifth annual event are for good weather, great family fun, terrific food and a huge audience turnout that helps put the Bradenton Area on the map as a local and regional destination. The excitement is building, and it will be a great event for our residents and visitors."

"Each year, we look forward to this free, family-friendly event that, in only five short years, has grown into one of the Bradenton Area's signature annual events," said Elliott Falcione, executive director of the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau. "We are thrilled to see it return again in 2019 and anticipate that this year's will be better than ever. We expect record attendance and great feedback, but also a tremendous economic impact for our communities."

Twice the Thrills...Superleague Racing Doubles the Power and Speed On the Manatee

Without question the marquee events at Regatta involve the fastest inland boats on water—Powerboat Superleague Racing. This year, the F-3 circuit joins F-2 racers, promising breathtaking drama all day long. In an electrifying demonstration of speed and skill, circling the tight turns of the Manatee track, highly skilled drivers—including Bradenton's own Jeff Reno and Fred Durr of St. Petersburg—compete for one of Superleague's four championships. The more-nimble but powerful F-3 circuit will surely add to the breathtaking drama all day long.

Many of Superleague's top drivers lead a field of 12 "pilots" in one of the most explosive spectacles on water. Boats climb from 0-100/mph in less than four seconds and reach four-plus G's on the course negotiating turns while barely slowing down.

A series of qualifying runs and time trials in both classifications will precede championship racing.

Smoyer, the 2016 Pro Ladies Flyboard World Champion, will dazzle the audience with her uncanny flips and stunts throughout the day in one of the newest water sport crazes—the Flyboard.

add two...fifth annual river regatta

Fireworks Extravaganza – Zambelli Style – Illuminates the Palmetto-Bradenton Skyline

Zambelli International, world renowned as the king of pyrotechnics, provides the perfect conclusion for the evening with a kaleidoscopic show presented by Manatee Memorial Hospital. Cleverly choreographed to music and featuring a brilliant array of pyrotechnical excellence, the climactic explosion will surely leave spectators in awe. Crowds can hear the music through speakers staged along the Riverwalk.

Multiple firing points including the Green Bridge will produce amazing views from both sides of the river. The show is set to begin at approximately 6:45 p.m.

National, Regional and Local Musical Entertainment Provide Sound Waves All Day Long

Headlining the stages at the 2019 River Regatta are “We the Kings,” a melodic emo pop band from Bradenton, on the Bradenton Main Stage, and “The Andy Pursell Band,” both starting at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Friends since childhood (the band’s moniker even refers to the name of their junior high school mascot), the four bandmates of “We the Kings”—singer/guitarist Travis Clark, guitarist Hunter Thomsen, his brother, bassist Drew Thomsen and drummer Danny Duncan—formed the group while attending high school. The group, which released its newest album “Six” this year, has earned national fame and recording success including Top 100 singles such as “Check Yes Juliet” and “We’ll Be a Dream,” the latter which featured guest vocals from Demi Lovato.

Across the River on the Palmetto Main Stage, “The Andy Pursell Band” will keep fans on their feet with an energetic mix of originals and cover songs, blending country with a rock edge. Started by lead singer/songwriter Andy Pursell in 2015, the band has performed at venues such as: Grand ‘Ole Opry, Hard Rock Café, and the Whiskey a GoGo.

A powerhouse of musical entertainment leading up to the headliners will perform all day long on both stages, including Bradenton’s Sam Woolf of American Idol fame, who opens for “We the Kings.” Also in Bradenton, other regional bands are Palmetto-area alternative punk band, “Penny Fountain”; the Trevor Bystrom Band”; “Shaman” (formed by Del Couch and which has toured throughout the southeast for 20 years) performing a tribute to Abba on the Bradenton Main Stage at approximately 2:45 p.m.; followed by “Under the Moon & Friends,” a three-piece corps featuring senior students from Manatee School for the Arts.

Rising regional and national groups performing in Palmetto include: the Billy Rice Band, which opens for Pursell with a tribute to George Strait; 301 Travelers, a versatile quintet performing rock-and-roll contemporary tunes from the 80s, 90s as well as New Country and even a little pop; and individual artists, Matt Walden and Brandi Sparks. Talented students from The Del Couch Music Education Foundation perform on both stages beginning at noon.

New to the Regatta are performances by nationally acclaimed University of South Florida “Herd of Thunder (HOT)” Ceremonial Band, which will play sets at the base of The Green Bridge in Bradenton from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Other activities throughout the day along the Bradenton Riverwalk include two separate nationally-acclaimed stunt dog troupes: the Team Zoom and Dare Devil Stunt Dogs.

add three...fifth annual river regatta

On both sides of the River along the Bradenton River Walk and at the Palmetto River Park Area, a variety of activities and interactive fun are available at the Pittsburgh Pirates/Bradenton Marauders-sponsored Family Fun Zones, including interactive inflatables, games, prizes and face painting. There are plenty of good things to eat and drink, too, in designated food festival areas on either side of the Green Bridge.

Kicking off the festivities is the De Soto Little Anglers Fishing Derby (at Palmetto Fishing Pier).

Full details, schedule and additional information are available at: bradentonarearegatta.com. Follow all the fun and activities on Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiverwalkRegatta.

The 2019 Bradenton Area River Regatta is sponsored by Manatee Memorial Hospital, Firkins Automotive, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), RTI Insurance Services, The Bradenton, Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key, Pittsburgh Pirates/Bradenton Marauders, Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, Heli Aviation, University of South Florida, Courtyard Marriott-Bradenton, Pier 22, Riverhouse Reef & Grill, Regatta Pointe Marina, Grove, Workforce Business Services (WBS), Bealls, Bridgely Key, Grimes Goebel Attorneys at Law, Sysco, Bradenton Herald, SRQ Media, 10 News WTSP, Ticket Sarasota and Spectrum.

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The Bradenton Area River Regatta is produced and managed by ISM/USA—a sports event management and marketing firm with offices in Pittsburgh, PA and Lakewood Ranch, FL.

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About the Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau:

The Bradenton, Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key area is located on Florida's West Coast between St. Petersburg and Sarasota. It is bordered on the north by Tampa Bay, and to the west by the Gulf of Mexico. Easy to get to, but off the beaten path, filled with "Old Florida" ambience brimming with opportunities to experience Florida at its most real and authentic, the Bradenton/Anna Maria Island/Longboat Key area is a part of the state worth discovering and exploring again and again. For more information, please visit www.bradentonqulfislands.com.

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Schedule of Events

[Schedule Subject to Change]

In Bradenton

FRIDAY, FEB. 8

Time	Event	Location
6 p.m.	Meet the Powerboat Superleague Drivers	Mattison's, Bradenton Riverwalk

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

Time	Event	Location
8:30 a.m.	DeSoto Little Anglers Fishing Tourney	<i>Palmetto Pier</i>
Noon, 2, 4, 6 p.m.	All Star Stunt Dog Frisbee Shows	<i>Bradenton Riverwalk Main Lawn</i>
11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 p.m.	All Star Stunt Dog Shows	<i>Bradenton Riverwalk Amphitheater</i>
10, Noon, 2 p.m., 6	Distinguished Daredevils Variety Show	<i>Bradenton Riverwalk Amphitheater</i>
Starts 10 a.m./All Day	Pittsburgh Pirates/Bradenton Marauders Area "Family Fun Zone" and Food Festival	<i>Bradenton Riverwalk Main Lawn</i>
7:30 p.m.	Kristen "The Destroyer" Smoyer Special Show	<i>Pier 22 Restaurant</i>

In Palmetto

Time	Event	Location
Starts 10 a.m./All Day	Powerboat Village	<i>Riverside Ave./Riverside Boat Ramp</i>
Starts 10 a.m./All Day	Pittsburgh Pirates/Bradenton Marauders "Family Fun Zone" USF Bulls – Tampa Bay Lightning Area Food Festival DeSoto Beer Garden	<i>Riverside West Park</i>

Bradenton Riverwalk Pavilion Stage

Noon	Couch Music Education Foundation Students
1 p.m.	Penny Fountain
1:45 p.m.	Trevor Bystrom Band
2:45 p.m.	Tribute to ABBA-Shaman Band
4 p.m.	Under the Moon & Friends
4:30 p.m.	Sam Woolf
5:15 p.m.	We the Kings
4 p.m.	Tribute to George Strait-Billy Rice Band
5:15 p.m.	Andy Pursell Band



Palmetto Main Stage

Noon	Couch Music Education Foundation Students
1 p.m.	301 Travelers
2 p.m.	Matt Walden
3 p.m.	Brandi Sparks
4 p.m.	Tribute to George Strait-Billy Rice Band
5:15 p.m.	Andy Pursell Band

Powerboat Super League Racing

All Racing on Manatee River

10 a.m.	F-3 Practice Runs
10:30 a.m.	F-2 Practice Runs
Noon	F-3 Qualifying Heats
2 p.m.	F-2 Qualifying Heats
3 p.m.	F-3 Championship Racing
3:45 p.m.	F-2 Championship Racing

Special Events

1-3 p.m.	University of South Florida <i>Heard of Thunder (HOT) Ceremonial Band</i>	<i>Center Span Green Bridge</i>
6:45 p.m.	Musically Choreographed Fireworks Display by Zambelli International	<i>Shot from Barges/Manatee River</i>



2019 Bradenton Area River Regatta

Digital Press Kit

www.BradentonAreaRegatta.com

“Press” Tab

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