

Astoria Regatta is rockin' on the river

Enjoy parades, royalty, boat races, games, fireworks, more

ASTORIA — The Astoria Regatta, a traditional local festival full of fun family events, runs Aug. 5 to 9.

“Rockin’ on the River” is the theme for this year’s annual celebration, which started in 1894 and has been designated a Historic Cultural Tradition by the Oregon State Historic Commission.

2014 Regatta Queen Claire Helligso graduated from Astoria High School in the spring and will attend Pacific Lutheran University’s nursing program this fall with plans to minor in dance. The 2015 Regatta Princesses are: Sophia Thomas, an incoming senior at Warrenton High School; Katrina Diego, an incoming senior at Warrenton High School; Kimberly Castro, an incoming senior at Astoria High School; and Ally Bentley, an incoming senior at



Photo by Edward Stratton

The Rattler, left, an Olson 30 racing yacht led by retired firefighter Mike Campbell, took home the 2014 Regatta Cup after besting the Mach One, right, an Olson 29 captained by local veterinarian Norman Shatto.

Warrenton High School.

Kick the weekend of events off by finding out which of the four Regatta Princesses will be crowned the 2015 Regatta Queen. The Coronation and Court

Reception are set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 at the Liberty Theater. The event is free, and there is a \$10 suggested donation. Light refreshments will be served.

Friday, Aug. 7 sees a lineup of prestigious events. The military-style Seamen’s Memorial Ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. at Maritime Park under the Astoria Bridge, honoring those who have served in the maritime industry. Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard will honor those who have served the maritime industry, from military seamen to commercial fishermen.

The Gathering of Past



Submitted photo

The 2015 Astoria Regatta Court will lead the festivities at this year’s Regatta.



Photo by Alex Pajunas

The U.S. Coast Guard’s Color Guard stands in position among attendees of last year’s Seamen’s Memorial ceremony at Maritime Memorial Park. This year’s ceremony takes place at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 7.

Admirals and Presidents at 1 p.m. in the Columbia Center Coho Room honors past admirals and presidents of the Astoria Regatta with a delicious lunch. This event is limited to 80 people. Tickets are \$35; reservations are required.

The Admiral’s Reception at 6 p.m. honors Admiral Patrick Reiten. Enjoy a swanky reception at the Liberty Theater and signature appetizers from top local restaurants. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$10 at the door with a Regatta Pin. Reservations are required.

The festivities continue Saturday, Aug. 8. The Moose Lodge will host a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m. at the Flavel House Museum Garden, watch the Regatta Court help the new queen plant roses

at the Royal Rosarian Rose Planting Ceremony. This event is free.

Explore the rich history of the festival with “Regatta Through the Years,” a special display at the Clatsop County Heritage Museum. See it from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Saturday at noon sees the event everyone looks forward to: the Grand Land Parade in downtown Astoria, led by Grand Marshall Willis Van Dusen. Enjoy floats, cars, walkers, candy and entertainers along the loop of Exchange and Duane streets.

Before and after the parade, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy a free Regatta barbecue, beer garden, live entertainment and a kid’s fun zone in Heritage Square, located at 12th and Duane streets.



Photo by McKinley Smith

The Astoria Regatta Court will participate in the Grand Land Parade, set for noon Saturday, Aug. 8 in downtown Astoria.

Food includes salmon, ribs, hamburgers and hot dogs. The beer garden will serve beers from local and national breweries. The kid’s fun zone will feature games, a bouncy house and more. There will also be a special celebration at 3 p.m. for former mayor and parade Grand Marshall Willis Van Dusen; the city of Astoria will provide cake. Also be sure to shop at the Regatta Sidewalk Faire at downtown merchants, organized by the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

The Astoria Yacht Club will hold its annual Regatta Sailboat Races all week. On Saturday, view the races east of the Astoria Bridge toward the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Sunday’s races will be held west of the bridge.

You can also see the High-water Boat Parade at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Gather at the Columbia River Maritime Museum for this free event. Following the parade, there will be a reception at the West End Mooring Basin to give awards in different categories to boat parade participants.

After the awards, find your favorite spot to view the spectacular fireworks show over the Columbia River at dusk.

On Sunday, the Astoria Yacht Club will host the annual Ducky Derby at 11:30 a.m. Root for your ducky to win prizes at this free event, held at the West End Mooring Basin. The Columbia River Symphony will present a special free “Rockin’ Regatta’s Summer Pops” concert at 3 p.m. at Astoria High School to close out festivities.

For more information and the complete schedule, visit www.astoriaregatta.com

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