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32nd Annual Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix Scheduled For June 25-July 4

This year's 32nd Annual Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix Festival will once again provide a week full of activities for the entire family to enjoy and two full days of racing excitement. One change this year includes an expanded "Boats On Main" Block Party in Downtown Sarasota on Friday, July 1. This event will begin at 6 pm featuring a stationary display of race teams on Main Street. This will provide the general public an opportunity to meet the team pilots before the weekend races, receive team giveaways, and allow time for photo opportunities. On Saturday, July 2, AquaX racers (personal watercraft), Superstock boats (28' open canopy style boats), and Classic/Vintage boats will be racing. On Sunday, July 3, over 25 powerboats will compete ranging in speeds from 90 mph to over 150 mph for a \$60,000 prize purse. The best viewing will be from Lido Beach. Tickets are still available to the VIP Race Viewing area, located at the Sandcastle Resort at Lido Beach, and can be purchased on the Festival website sarasotapowerboatgrandprix.org. This year's Grand Prix Race will be featured in a one hour special on Fox Sports Sun on July 25 at 9 pm, July 26 at 2 pm, and on July 31 at 6 pm.

"We are excited that many of the larger powerboats who could not race Sarasota last year due to a schedule conflict, will be will be back participating", said Festival Director Lucy Nicandri. Suncoast Charities for Children produces the Festival (including the July 4th Bayfront Fireworks), and benefits from the net proceeds raised. Presenting sponsors for this year include Sarasota County and Visit Sarasota County. Major Sponsors include Sarasota Ford, Budweiser, Ocean Properties, City of Sarasota, and Hyatt Regency Sarasota. For a full Festival schedule, and for more information, visit sarasotapowerboatgrandprix.org and click on the event tab at the top of the page.

***PLEASE NOTE - STREET CLOSURES – BOAT RAMP CLOSURES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

Portions of Main Street will be closed on Friday, July 1, beginning at 3:30 pm

New Pass will be closed from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday, July 2, and Sunday, July 3, due to the races. Centennial Park boat ramp will be closed beginning at 11:59 pm on Thursday, June 30, thru 6:00 pm on Sunday, July 1.

Powerboat P1, P1 Marine Foundation, and Suncoast Charities for Children invites you to spread our "Share the Beach" message to raise awareness in protecting local wildlife during the Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix Festival. Beachgoers must refrain from setting up on the beach until sunrise race weekend due to turtle nesting, and if you see a Manatee swimming towards you along the shore, please give them the right away and do not touch them. Together we can all enjoy the races and "Share The Beach"!