

Donzi Classics Come Back to Lake George for June "Dust-Off"

By Buzz Lamb

The Classic Donzi Club returned to Lake George for its 18th annual Dust-off Weekend June 14 to 16. According to organizer Scott Pearson, the Lake George gathering is the one and only event dedicated to Donzi Classics. "It is the longest running Donzi Classic-only event in the world. The boat show features some of the best Donzi Classics on the planet," he said.

Pearson, from Farmingdale, N.J., who has been president of the club since 2001, is the organizer of the Spring Dust-off Regatta which this year had 20 classic Donzi boats in attendance and 70 people at a Saturday night awards banquet at the Algonquin restaurant in Bolton Landing.

"The regatta showcases the Donzi classics and beautiful Lake George," Pearson said. "The format



for this year's regatta is a cruise that covers the entire lake. There will be pace boats and sweep boats that will make the run an enjoyable and safe run."

Pearson said Treasure Cove Resort in Diamond Point is the host hotel this year. "Ninety percent of the members here this weekend are staying at Treasure Cove... it's perfect for our club. There is a ramp right there and plenty of space for parking our boat trailers," he said. "Owner John Seh puts on a barbeque for us on Friday night, as well."

On Saturday, June 15, Donzi owners gathered at the docks at the Algonquin at 8 a.m. for a kick-off breakfast and driver's safety meeting in cooperation with the Lake George Park Commission. "We emphasize safety," Pearson said. From there the boats left the docks en-masse to participate in the length of the lake cruise. "We go back to the Algonquin for lunch and then out on the lake again. The



weather was perfect this year," he said.

Jay Lurie, from New Canaan, Ct. brought his 1976 Donzi Ski-Sporter to the regatta. "We had an old Donzi on the lake when I was young and I got mine about six years ago," he said. "It has always been in fresh water," he said.

Matt Veth, from Greenwood Lake, N.Y., has been in the club since 2002. Veth said there is judging in several different categories. "Today the boat owners vote for the People's Choice Award and we also give awards for Vintage Classic (oldest boat at the show), Heritage Classic (best original condition), Renaissance Classic: (best boat restoration) and Resto-Mod Classic (best restored/modified)," Veth said.

Pearson said the most unusual boat at this year's event was a 1968

Donzi 22-foot Corsican owned by Lake George resident Ken Salamone. "They only made 59 of that model. It's really distinctive because of the hump in the deck," he said.

Ken Salamone said he got the boat only two months ago. "It was on Lake Winnepesaukee and the only reason I was able to buy it was my son E.J. was friends with the owner." Salamone said the boat has the original gelcoat, a 302-cubic-inch Holman-Moody engine and a Bravo Drive. "It'll do a solid 65 miles-per-hour," he said with a smile.

Keith Scott, owner of the Algonquin, said the club is a really good group to work with. "I have been dealing with them since I bought the restaurant in 2001. They have breakfast, lunch and dinner here. The awards banquet Saturday night is upstairs at our Topsiside location," Scott said.

Scott said the club members do not bring their Donzi boats to the evening banquet because they don't want their members out on the lake at night. "They are a very responsible group when it comes to things like drinking and driving," he said. "It's also really neat the way they back their boats into the dock and have them all lined up when they come back for lunch. They are so precise about everything."

Pearson said the club will be returning to Lake George for the first weekend after Labor Day for their fall picnic and cruise. "We could not put this event together without the help of Florence McAuley at the Algonquin and John Seh at Treasure Cove. They really make it easy for us," he said.



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