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Changeover from Sail to Power in Annapolis

Monday, October 10, 2011 -- A cannon shot marked the end of the 42nd Annual United States Sailboat show in downtown Annapolis, Maryland. Two hundred boats streamed out of the purpose-built marina in less than two hours, repositioning of docks for the United States Powerboat Show began, and by 8pm the first dozen powerboats were arriving in Ego Alley. Always a popular spectator sport in Annapolis, changeover was complete with exhibitors perched in the rigging, boats spinning in circles, and frisbees and t-shirts being tossed to the huge crowd of onlookers. The 2011 United States Sailboat Show was complete.

Most marine exhibitors were very pleased with the crowds, their willingness to spend, and especially the near-perfect weather. Over two hundred boats, three dozen catamarans, and nearly twenty premiering boats made up the impressive array of boats in water. Reports of boat sales, scheduled sea trials, and contract preparations were consistent among the many boat manufacturers represented. Land and booth displays continue to push to the limits of the show, forcing producers to erect more and more tents on floating docks to accommodate the demand. Ticket sales were reported slightly ahead of a very good 2010 show with final tallies yet to be completed.

The daunting task of redesigning the floating marina and positioning of over 250 power boats continues through Wednesday with the United States Powerboat Show opening for VIP and Trade Day on Thursday, October 13. With many boats being shown for the first time in Annapolis and a noticeable increase in the number of larger boats over sixty feet, this year's show will have a new look and feel. The complete list of exhibitors and boats of all styles from 8 to 80 feet is available at www.usboat.com. Particularly large numbers of center console and offshore fishing boats, trawlers, and power catamarans will be on display.

Show features include daily seminars, Antique and Classics Boats display, the Painkiller Barge Bar, Take the Wheel interactive workshop and demos, and a grand prize of a one-week Moorings power cat charter in the BVI along with airfare for two provided by British Virgin Islands Tourist Board. Tickets and Information are available on line at www.usboat.com.

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