

The Port's summer season is upon us. Let the fun begin!

By Bob McChesney, Executive Director, the Port of Edmonds

This weekend the Port of Edmonds will be humming with activity; it's Waterfront Festival time again.

The Edmonds Waterfront Festival marks the beginning of the fun season here at the Port. Even though summer won't actually begin for two weeks, the summertime activity and atmosphere are already in full stride.

Two weeks ago, for example, visitors enjoyed the sparkle and chrome of a vintage car show held at the new Edmonds Yacht Club.

Now this Friday through Sunday (June 4, 5 and 6) it's Waterfront Festival time at the Port.

There will be three big floating maritime displays, food vendors, arts and crafts booths and live music and entertainment. If you have never come down for the event, this would be an excellent year to begin.

One hint: you can avoid a lot of traffic congestion by taking one of the shuttle buses to and from the marina. They will operate from four locations: the Edmonds United Methodist Church at 8th and Caspers, Fifth and Bell, Third and Dayton and the Willow Creek Fish Hatchery. The busses and the parking are free.

The big festival highlight this year will be the arrival of the tall ships Lady Washington and her companion vessel Hawaiian Chieftain. Onboard tours, even cruises, will be available.

The classic yachts will be back and on display in the mid-marina area, in front of Anthony's Homeport restaurant. It is an opportunity to go back in time and marvel at the fine craftsmanship, gleaming chrome and classic lines of yesteryear.

At the other end of the speed continuum, owners will be displaying and operating some of their sleek, super-powered offshore racing boats. These are the thoroughbreds of the boat racing world.

All three of these floating attractions are in the mid-marina area, which is open to the public without charge.

The best part is that the Waterfront Festival is just the beginning. A long list of summertime activities awaits you at the Port.

There is our always-popular boardwalk and promenade with its spectacular views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. The Port's award-winning flower program is at its best this time of year. Our waterfront restaurants offer everything from double-decker ice cream cones to full course gourmet dinners.

For the sportsman, the local salmon fishing season begins in July. If you don't have access to a boat, the public fishing pier is open year around.

Just across the tracks, the remarkable Edmonds saltwater marsh attracts bird watchers and nature lovers. You may not realize it, but it is one of the few saltwater marshes remaining on the West Coast and is a noteworthy wildlife sanctuary.

This barely scratches the surface. Whatever your interests, the Port of Edmonds has something for everyone this summer. We encourage you to come down and enjoy this wonderful resource. We are always happy to have you.