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## Halloween Cruise Gets Better Every Year!

by Chuck Whitt

The 2010 Halloween Cruise to St. Helens' Sand Island that concluded on Sunday, October 17 was a marvelous weekend, with plenty of festivities for everyone. While the winds were blowing a bit as boats started to arrive on Thursday, October 15, they really picked up on Friday, easing off a bit for the weekend. With the drop in temperatures, the wind chill kept everyone bundled up as they wandered the docks. But up on the island itself, out of the wind, the weather was wonderful. With blue skies and sunshine aplenty, coats and sweatshirts were shed as everyone had a great time.

Starting at around 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning, kids began wandering all over the island in search of the elusive rubber duckies scattered by the Compass Rose Cruising Club for a free kids raffle. So it was not an unusual sight to see a child walking down the ramp, beaming from ear to ear, while carrying a handful of rubber duckies. These were exchanged for a raffle ticket to use in Sunday's drawing.

At noon the St. Helens Yacht Club started serving a chili and hot dog lunch on the island. It was a decadent delight for young and old alike, well attended and greatly appreciated. The contests started at 2:00pm with the pumpkin carving. 3:00 p.m. brought the

costume contest, followed by the appetizer contest at 5:00 p.m. All these events were very well attended, and proved once again people's creativity and ingenuity—including some icky-looking, though tasty, appetizers!

At 6:00 p.m., the trick-or-treating started on the docks as the 95 assembled boats began lighting up their displays. Little creatures running all over (wearing PFDs), combined with the elaborate, yet compact boat displays, afforded quite a treat to the eyes and ears. Saturday night closed out with the traditional Haunted House displays put on by the various yacht club groups up on the island. With the Tomahawk Bay Y.C., St. Helens Y. C. and Tyee Y. C. competing to see who scared who the most, the darkness echoed with screams as the participants wandered the darkened trail.

On their return, the attendees stood there at the voting table, drinking hot apple cider, offering tales of ghoulish doctors and scary zombies. Laughter, amazement, and echoes of "can we go again?" filled the air. For some, this scare-fest was too much, so Scappoose Boy Scout Troop 294 stepped in to host a Kids Activity Center. Here kids could play traditional games and get prizes for their participation. Truly, there was something for everyone.

The boaters woke up Sunday morning to a fine breakfast of ham, eggs, hash browns and pancakes that was cooked up by the St. Helens Sail and Power Squadrons. The last official activity of the Halloween Cruise was the awarding of plaques and trophies for the best decorated boats and best haunted houses. But first and foremost on everyone's mind were the raffles. In addition to the rubber ducky raffle for the kids, tickets were sold (and non-perishable goods collected) by the Compass Rose Cruising Club to support the Sunshine Division food bank.



Costume contests for youths of all ages.



Best decorated boat contest.



Pet costume contest winner.

The prize was a 32" LCD TV donated by Standard TV and Appliance. So at 11:00am everyone gathered at the base of the ramp to see if they had won. First up was the kids drawing, from which three lucky kids had their number pulled and their prizes awarded (for a DVD and two iPods). Then the ticket was drawn for the TV. The real winner may well have been the Sunshine Division, for through the generosity of the attendees, the CRCC had helped collect over \$1100 for the food bank, as well as many pounds of non-perishable food items.

Finally, the awards were made for the best decorated boat and the best haunted houses. For the Best Decorated Boats, Honorable Mention went to *Truckin'*, 3rd Place went to *R Pleasure*, 2nd Place to *Kickback Time* and 1st Place went to *Midnight Sun*. For the Haunted Houses 3rd Place went to the Tyee Yacht Club, 2nd Place went to the Tomahawk Bay Yacht Club and 1st Place went to the St. Helens Yacht Club.

This year is done, but not forgotten. Look for more pictures as well as updates for next year's Halloween Cruise (10/22-23/2011) at [www.halloweencruise.org](http://www.halloweencruise.org).

# Celebrate Boating Photo Contest

Send us your favorite boating pictures from this past season and win a spot on our front cover of the 2011 January Boat Show Issue. 20,000+ distributed at the Portland Boat Show.

### Rules and Regulations:

Deadline: December 5, 2010

1. Mail or e-mail your photos to: *Freshwater News*, 380 S.E. Spokane St., Ste. 105, Portland, OR 97202 or e-mail: [fwn@freshwaternews.com](mailto:fwn@freshwaternews.com)
2. For digital images, please send high resolution images; do not send low quality downloads from the internet sites
3. Submitted images cannot be produced by professionals. Entries must be original, and have never previously been published.
4. Please include a photo caption along with the photographers name.
5. All photos will remain the property of *Freshwater News* and may be used for advertising or promotional purposes.
6. Photos will not be returned.
7. No more than six entries per person.



Questions??? Call us at 503-283-2733