

EVENT

Yo-ho in San Pedro: Boat show's final day sets sail today

By David Rice
Correspondent

With more than 300 boats on display, one could surely find that perfect, basic craft for a first-time buyer at Day 3 of the Third annual L.A. Harbor Boat Show in San Pedro on Saturday.

Or you could spend some time with someone with just a wee bit more experience, like the captain who piloted a Beneteau model sailboat to victory in the Pacific Cup race from San Francisco to Hawaii.

"I like the emotional phase of sailing because you are playing with the elements: the wind, wave, and seas," said Charles-Etienne Devanneaux, cutting loose with words that teleported the listener out onto the open sea.

An accomplished sailor who's tamed the waves since he was a lad, NAOS Yachts founder and CEO Devanneaux was in San Pedro to work the Southern California territory for Beneteau and Lagoon Boats.

"This show has been good to us because we can show our boats to a large audience of enthusiasts," he said. "We can show everyone the new generation of boats."

Beside all those boats — from entry-level

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Boat show

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entries to full-on seagoing supercraft — more than 100 vendors packed the Cabrillo Way Marina. The show wraps up its four-day run today.

Event director Duncan McIntosh, also president and CEO of his own self-named boating company, said this year's event will likely top 10,000 attendees.

"Our idea for this boat show is to put all the boats that you could imagine together in one place," McIntosh said. "Our vendors range from finance companies to people who sell boat accessories, boat dealers and boat insurance companies."

Not buying this weekend? One vendor, the Freedom Boat Club, aimed to put seagoing folks on the high seas without necessarily towing the boat home tonight.

"Members of our boat club come down to the dock and they can take the kids



out boating for a day, or go out and do some hardcore fishing," said Andrew Hard, co-owner of the club's Huntington Beach and Los Angeles branches, "or take a boat to Catalina for the day." The Los Angeles Yacht Club was on hand, too, giving sailing lessons for \$20 per hour.

"We like to help get people who love the water on the water easily," club Director Kelly Marie said.



San Pedro is hosting the Los Angeles Harbor Boat Show, the annual in-water maritime event that celebrates the ocean activities. The event continues today in San Pedro.



PHOTOS BY CHUCK BENNETT

The Los Angeles Harbor Boat Show showcases scores of dealers, vessel types, new and brokerage models and exhibitors, plus attendees can partake in boater education classes, live entertainment and food trucks.