

Lakes Region

BOATING



Small outboard hydroplane boats that will race at the Kingston Sprint Cup Invitational

SSO to host Kingston Sprint Cup Invitational

WOLFEBORO — South Shore Outboard Association will host the Kingston Sprint Cup Invitational, Granite State Title Series, an event where the New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) will be in attendance on Sept. 25 and 26, in Kingston.

"We are excited to support the SSOA in spreading awareness of the sport of small outboard hydroplane racing," explained Martha Cummings, NHBM executive director. "Our 2019 exhibit on racing was our introduction to the SSOA and all that they do in New England with small hydroplane racing, so it is great to partner with them again."

The Kingston Sprint Cup Invitational will feature small outboard hydroplane racing as a racing tribute to legends of the sport from its golden era, 1960s and 70s. Hailing from across the country, drivers will compete on an approximate 3/4-mile rectangular course around which they will race three times. Racing will be held in a two-heat format.

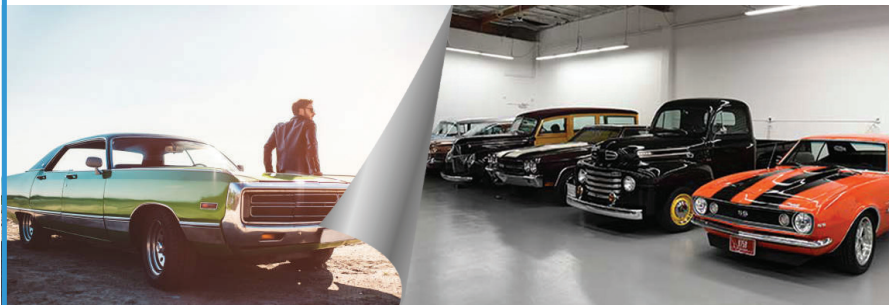
"The race in Kingston follows on the heels of our Vintage Race Boat Regatta, which is a live exhibition of vintage race boats of all sizes," said Cummings. "The SSOA race is a real boat race, so it's a great event for folks interested in seeing an actual, live, boat race... We're excited to be a part of it and help cheer them on."

Founded in 1951 on the South Shore of Massachusetts and now headquartered in Kingston, NH, SSOA is the largest racing club in New England. To learn more, visit southshoreoutboard.com.

To learn more about NHBM, visit nhbm.org.

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BUSINESS

In Tuesday's Laconia Daily Sun

Future of Lake Tahoe clarity in question as wildfires worsen

By SAM METZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON CITY, Nev. — When a wildfire crested the mountains near North America's largest alpine lake, embers and ash that zipped across a smoky sky pierced Lake Tahoe's clear blue waters.

The evacuation order for thousands to flee their homes has been lifted, but those who returned have found black stripes of ash building up on the shoreline — a reminder that success fighting the Caldor Fire won't insulate the resort region on the California-Nevada line from effects that outlast wildfire season.

Scientists say it's too soon to draw conclusions about the lasting damage that record-setting wildfires will have on Lake Tahoe. But they're not wasting time. Researchers and state officials on the Tahoe Science Advisory Council discussed future study at a meeting Thursday.

Scientists funded by California, Nevada and the League to Save Lake Tahoe are researching lake clarity and biodiversity during and after wildfires. They're using collection buckets — some loaded with glass marbles — to capture and measure the size and quantity of particles and pollutants from wildfires that have sullied the normally crys-

tal-clear waters. They're studying how particles enter the lake, how they move around it and the effect on algae production.

The clarity of the iconic alpine lake can vary even without catastrophic wildfires. On average, Lake Tahoe is clear 65 feet (20 meters) below the water's surface. Through wildfire season, scientists stationed near the lake's center have only been able to see 50 feet (15 meters) below the surface — a reduction they aren't sure is due to particles, algae or simply lack of sunlight, said Geoff Schladow, professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the University of California, Davis' Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

"My feeling is, in some ways, it may look worse than it is," Schladow said. "What smoke in the basin actually does, particularly when it lasts for months, is something we don't really know. We're finding that out as we speak."

Smoke from Northern California wildfires has cloaked the Lake Tahoe basin in past years. But as blazes have grown in size and intensity — partially due to climate change, scientists say — smoke that has sat atop the lake for two to three months in the past two wildfire seasons has exceeded the expect-

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LAKES REGION BOATING

tations of many residents and tourists who flock to the deep blue lake for its clean alpine air and fragrant pine trees.

It's also concerned scientists, who have spent years studying how algae, erosion and air pollution from vehicles that 15 million tourists drive in each year affect clarity. They say the sheer amount of wildfire smoke that has lingered could harm lake clarity in ways that weren't previously considered.

"Our bread-and-butter sources of declining lake clarity are pretty well understood," said Allison Oliver, an ecologist at the Skeena Fisheries Commission in western Canada who studied how rivers and creeks delivered murky sediment to Lake Tahoe after the 2007 Angora Fire.

"This new phenomenon where we're getting these big shifts in climate regimes and this pattern of big summer fires," she said of the Sierra Nevada mountains, "that's not something that was on people's radar as much 15 or 20 years ago. Now, it's routine."

On many days, smoke has blotted out views of the mountains that wrap the lake's pristine waters and left an inescapable campfire stench on clothes, in cars and beneath fingernails.

"It's really apparent that we need to be concerned about not only fires burning in the basin that cause erosion and burn scars, but the smoke generated from massive fires outside the basin," said Jesse Patterson, the League to Save Lake Tahoe's chief

strategy officer. "We need to think bigger, if we want to keep Tahoe blue decades to come."

The league, best known for its "Keep Tahoe Blue" bumper stickers, has aggressively pursued environmental restoration projects to maintain the lake's clarity, prevent erosion and replant burn scars. But amid accelerating climate change, Patterson fears local land management efforts may no longer be enough to protect the lake.

Scientists fear alpine lakes can act as "sponges," soaking up the microscopic particles in wildfire smoke, said Sudeep Chandra, a biology professor and director of the Global Water Center at the University of Nevada, Reno. Regardless of whether studies end up showing smoke obscures algae-fighting sunlight or increases the flow of pollutants into the lake, he believes the challenge for scientists will be expanding the scope of research into factors affecting Lake Tahoe.

Chandra applauded efforts to maintain lake clarity through restoring rivers, preventing erosion and encouraging responsible development. But after he saw how much smoke from California's Dixie Fire further north in the Sierra Nevada ended up in the basin, he said questions about the lake's future need to reckon with broader climate change trends.

"We're clearly regionally connected. That's going to be a new way of thinking about managing the Lake Tahoe basin," he said.

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LAKES REGION BOATING

7 smart strategies to keep mosquitoes at bay

Mosquitoes and other flying insects annoy, irritate and generally make outdoor activities less enjoyable for everyone. Fortunately, there are simple and effective ways to keep bugs at bay and the outdoor adventures going strong.

"You don't have to resort to chemical mosquito repellents if bugs are bothering you," says Bran-

don Roach, executive vice president of new product development and engineering at Skeeter Hawk, a brand with a full line of all-natural mosquito and flying insect defense products. "A few smart strategies and natural tools will help you and loved ones keep mosquitoes away."

Whether you're going on a walk, relaxing on the



patio or hosting a gathering in your backyard, you want to enjoy your time outdoors. Here are seven natural solutions to solve mosquito problems:

1) Avoid standing water

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, so at home, eliminate places in your yard where water accumulates, such as buckets, pots and lids. Put containers away or turn them over so they don't catch water. For things like pools and bird baths, remember to keep water fresh.

2) Add perimeter protection

Like an invisible forcefield, a Skeeter Hawk Mosquito Trap can be used in your favorite outdoor spaces like campsites, pools and backyard patios. These effective traps use a whisper quiet fan and long-lasting patent-pending UV LED technology to attract and trap mosquitoes and other flying insects.

3) Circulate air

When air is calm it's easy for mosquitoes to fly around. When it's windy, mosquitoes have a more difficult time getting where they want. Therefore, if you're hosting a gathering at your home and air is stagnant, consider running fans if possible. You may add portable fans to patios, decks and other outdoors areas where people gather.

4) Cover up

Add a barrier between yourself and mosquitoes with your clothing. Even during warm weather, you may opt for cotton clothing that breathes to keep you cool. In addition to shirts and pants that cover your skin, consider skipping the sandals and wear socks and closed-toe shoes to protect feet and ankles. Wearing a hat helps protect your head, too.

5) Wear personal repellents

When bugs are bugging you, you don't need to resort to heavy chemical repellents. Skeeter Hawk offers personal wristbands and carabiners that are portable and easy to wear, repelling bugs with all-natural essential oils not dominated by citronella.

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LAKES REGION BOATING

Wolfeboro citizen recognized by EPA with Regional Environmental Award

WOLFEBORO — Richard Skarinka, of Wolfeboro, was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his work to protect New England's environment. Skarinka was among 22 recipients across New England honored by EPA's New England Office at the 2021 Environmental Merit Awards virtual ceremony.

EPA New England's annual Environmental Merit Awards are given to community leaders, scientists, government officials, business leaders, schools, and students who represent different approaches, but a common commitment to environmental protection.

Rick Skarinka was honored with an award for Lifetime Achievement. EPA also recognized the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for its work along with 17 other New England organizations on a team that focused on ensuring access to safe drinking water in New England.

"Initiatives led by individuals like Mr. Skarinka have made great strides towards combatting climate change, bringing cleaner air and cleaner water, and ensuring our underserved communities' voices are

being heard," said EPA New England Acting Regional Administrator Deborah Szaro. "EPA is proud to recognize these awardees' great accomplishments and their continued efforts, especially throughout the pandemic. They truly make a difference in our New England communities."

"Rick's leadership, commitment to mentoring for staff and collaboration with communities, coupled with a tireless commitment to the state for almost 30

years, has ensured that New Hampshire residents on public water systems have access to a reliable supply of safe drinking water," said New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Commissioner Bob Scott.

For more information on EPA's Environmental Merit Awards, including photographs from the award ceremony: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-merit-awards-new-england>.

from preceding page

Just wear on the wrist or ankle or add to a belt loop or backpack. No bugs, no foul smell.

6) Wear lighter colors

Research shows that dark colors like black, navy blue and red are more attractive to mosquitoes. When deciding what to wear before heading outside, consider light colors that not only keep you cool, but also help repel these insects. Whites and pastels may be a good option.

7) Avoid perfumes

Strong smells are like a siren call for mosquitoes, so the next time you'll be heading outdoors, skip the perfume or cologne. Don't forget about other strongly scented products you may use including deodorant and soaps. You may not be able to limit use of these personal products, but you can opt for light or no-scent versions.

For more information about mosquitoes and natural options for keeping them at bay, visit skeeter-hawk.com. Products can be used independently or in combination for layers of customized protection so you can fully enjoy the outdoors.

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