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July 4 boat parade to be held on Otsego Lake

- Jun 25, 2020

The Otsego Lake Association will hold its annual “We Love Our Lake” decorated boat parade at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 4.

According to a media release, this year’s theme will be “Let’s Celebrate — It’s the 4th of July.” The parade will form off Three Mile Point, then proceed slowly along the west side of the lake and end at Lakefront Park in Cooperstown.

Presenters said the parade will be led by the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station’s barge, the Anondontoides, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no judging and no prizes or candy given out to the boaters this year. OLA encourages all boaters, either in the parade or just observing, plus the spectators on shore to practice social distancing and wear face masks, the release said.

All boats are welcome. Organizers encourage participants to decorate boats using the theme, but owners may decorate boats any way they wish, or not at all. Boats may join the parade at any time or anywhere along the route, especially for non-motorized boaters who might not want to travel the full route, the release said.

Spectators may watch from shore at various points along the parade route including Three Mile Point, Brookwood Point, the Country Club (for members only), the Otesaga Hotel and Lakefront Park.

There are no fees, registration forms, rules, or regulations except travel slowly, stay in line, be courteous to other boaters, and practice social distancing, the release said. In the past, more than 50 boats have participated in the parade. for more information, contact Wayne Bunn, boat parade chairman, at bunnwayne@gmail.com or 518-542-6630. Photographs of past parades can be seen at www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org.