

Gilligan's Island theme established for July 11 Lake Vermilion Flotilla

Prizes for best boat and best costume, shuttle from Fortune Bay to marina

TOWER, MINN. The long-standing tradition of the Lake Vermilion Flotilla will enjoy a new twist this summer, a Gilligan's Island theme. Join the fun July 11 to see which group best resembles the seven famous castaways and which boat or pontoon looks the most like a deserted island. Prizes will be awarded to the best boat and the best costume, so dig out your Skipper hat and pull out a slinky Ginger dress. This year's flotilla is being hosted by Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

There's no better way to experience a summer parade than on Lake Vermilion, which the National Geographic Society once declared one of the top 10 most scenic lakes in the country. The annual flotilla always attracts a huge crowd, and contestants have been known to go to great lengths, demonstrating considerable creativity and comedy. In this economy, they're prone to pull out all the stops for those coveted prizes.

Rain or shine, the flotilla begins at noon at the Fortune Bay Marina on Everetts Bay. It's packed with free entertainment, beginning with a DJ that'll keep the tunes rolling from noon till 8 p.m., fueling a big party under the big tent. Then cue the live music, with a concert by Sweet Freedom. Barbeque and a full bar are available - no coolers allowed - and take advantage of shuttle service all day from Fortune Bay to the marina. Partying couldn't be any easier!

The Lake Vermilion Flotilla wouldn't be complete without a little eye candy for the auto aficionado. Iron Trail Motors will be displaying its best new models, including the new Chevy Camaro, which has been turning heads and generating buzz for its advanced technology, powerful performance, athletic design and unusual safety. Also, 77 Marine will be on site showcasing some of its beautiful new boats. So bring a lawn chair and a friend and join the fun!

