

Take extra precautions

Help prevent wave of boat thefts

The warm sunny days and gentle winds of summer are delights to recreational sailors. Yet boat owners are reminded to take precautions so they do not become victims of theft.

The Marine Division of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department has logged 65 larceny complaints from boat owners this year. An estimated \$20,000 worth of equipment has been reported stolen.

Deputy John Graham of the Marine Division suggested owners chain their motors to their boats and also chain the boats securely. This extra safety measure may not only prevent theft but may also prevent a child from taking the boat for a joyride, which may lead to an accident or a drowning.

"We suggest people never leave anything in the boat they want to find there in the morning," Graham said, adding

that all equipment should be marked with the owner's name, address and phone number.

Dennis Holland, owner of Pine Lake Marina in Orchard Lake, agrees that equipment loss is a big problem.

"Part of the problem is people leave too many things visible in their boats and people see them," Holland said. He suggests covering a boat overnight and securing the boat in a lighted area.

"Although smaller crafts are not required to be registered with the Secretary of State's office, Graham suggests boat owners register them to be assured of their return if stolen.

"If you are going on vacation, ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your boat and inform him if someone else will be using it," Graham said.

German Shepherd show in Southfield

The German Shepherd Dog Fanciers of Southeastern Michigan are sponsoring a "Fun Match" this Saturday at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen, south of 11 Mile.

The event will feature an all-breed obedience "Show and Go" and junior handling with German Shepherds. Pure and mix-breed dogs are welcome in the obedience competition, sponsors say.

All profits from the match will be donated to the Leader Dogs of Rochester and the Michigan Humane Society. Entries will be taken from 11 a.m.

until judging begins at 1 p.m. There is a charge of \$3 for the first entry of any dog and \$1 for each subsequent entry of the same dog.

All refreshments, ring equipment, trophies for the German Shepherd competition and junior handling, as well as the services of the judges and the members of the group, are donated by the German Shepherd Dog Fanciers.

Obedience classes will be offered in sub-novice, novice, open and utility categories. Dogs may be entered as often as the owner wishes, sponsors say.

For more information, call Mary Schwustler at 476-1636 or Tom McCoy at 474-3974.

Youth fitness meet set

Farmington Hills' Youth Fitness Olympics, which gives area youngsters a chance to display their playground skills, will be held at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, on the Farmington Harrison High School football field and track.

Sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, the meet offers competition in sprints, standing and running long jumps, chinning, triple jump and a shuttle relay.

There are four competitive classes

— Class A, ages 13-14; Class B, 11-12; Class C, 9-10; and Class D, 8 and under.

The winners in Classes A, B and C will represent the Farmington area in the 25th annual Detroit Youth Fitness Meet on July 29, a Thursday, at Kensington Metropark.

Any Farmington-area boy or girl may sign up for the Youth Fitness Olympics at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. Additional information may be obtained by calling Jef Farland at 474-6115.

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