



The Maritime Republic of Eastport

WE LIKE IT THIS WAY

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For Immediate Release

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The Maritime Republic of Eastport (MRE) announces date for the Twelfth Annual Tug-of-War.

(Eastport, Maryland, October 26, 2009) - The MRE will once again roll out the rope for the annual Tug-of-War (known as the "Slaughter across the Water") on Saturday, November 7th, 2009. Time: Crack 'O Noon until 5 p.m.

This annual rite of late-fall will include six tug competitions held across the Gulf of Eastport (a.k.a. Spa Creek). Tug teams are made up of local businesses, service organizations and anyone else feeling the need to "tug it out." They'll be positioned on opposite sides of Spa Creek at Susan B. Campbell Park (City Dock) on the Annapolis side and at Second Street and Severn Avenue on the Eastport side.

Concurrent with the action will be Tugfest, a street festival held in Eastport. The Tugfest is a combination of vendors, children's activities, and live music. New this year will be the MSP Polar Bear Plunge Family Fun Zone. (www.plungemd.com - Contact Betsy Jiron for details: tel: 410-207-2146) .

Start time for Tugfest is 11 a.m. Live music on the Eastport side will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the Eastport Elementary School Band followed by Tiki Barbarians with Jeff Holland; Sunny Isle Blues Band; Sweet Leda; and Dean Rosenthal. A variety of food and drinks (including alcoholic beverages) will be available for sale at Tugfest.

The City of Annapolis Department of Economic Affairs is sponsoring the festivities on the Annapolis side of the Tug this year. Mary Giannini, Executive Director of the Downtown Annapolis Partnership (tel: 410-263-7940), has organized some family-friendly activities and vendors including face painting and a balloon animal vendor. The festivities on the Annapolis side will kick-off at 10 a.m. with a performance by Brigitte Children's Musician followed by Chesapeake Steel Drum Band; Caledonian Pipe and Drum Corps; and The Kid's Caribbean Band. Limited food will be available on the Annapolis side with activities wrapping up around 2 p.m.

Admission to all of the events is free.

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About the Tug and The Maritime Republic of Eastport (MRE*)

Recognized as the longest Tug over water *in the world*, The Tug of War was originally conceived by the residents of Eastport twelve years ago when the City of Annapolis used the excuse of a "public works project" to close the Spa Creek bridge that leads to Eastport from Annapolis.

This unprovoked act of aggression on the part of the City of Annapolis had the effect of cutting off Eastport residents and businesses from the rest of the city. The somewhat fractious citizens of Eastport, feeling the sting of rejection by the City as well as the effects of the generous pouring habits of a local bartender, decided to declare war against Annapolis and secede.

Thus, to the rallying cries of "*Up The Republic*", The Maritime Republic of Eastport was born.

In the ensuing years, although the Spa Creek bridge has since re-opened, the once persecuted citizens of Eastport have yearly declared a symbolic War of Independence against the City of Annapolis lest anyone forget this dark period of Annapolis-Eastport relations. The Tug-of-War, a celebration of the geographical and, some would argue, philosophical differences between Eastport and Annapolis, is a not-to-be missed maritime event unlike any other.

**The MRE is a registered 501(c)3 organization. All funds raised by the Tug and other MRE events are distributed to various charitable organizations in the Annapolis area. So far, over \$250,000.00 has been raised.*

To read more about The Maritime Republic of Eastport please visit: www.themre.org

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