

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Returns October 3 - 11, 2010!

It's that time again! The Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta (www.damartiscottapumpkinfest.com) organizing committee is up and running, with imaginations going wild, thinking up new and unusual things to do with pumpkins.

The 2010 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta is scheduled for October 3-11. The famed regatta will be held on Sunday, October 10 from around 11 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. (depending on the tides). The pumpkin boats will be built the week before the regatta. Construction is set to begin right after the officially-sanctioned Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) giant pumpkin weigh-in on Sunday, October 3). The eagerly anticipated regatta will again determine "the fastest gourd afloat," as detected by the local constable's radar gun!

Exciting recent developments for this year's festival include:

- Sponsorship by Down East Magazine of the 2010 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta. As the "official magazine sponsor" for the 2010 festival, Down East's support will increase the visibility of Pumpkinfest in Maine and nationally, as well as add to attendance at the festival's family-friendly events.
- A competitive Pumpkin Chunkin "chunk-off" between the 2009 World Champion Team and a New

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Hampshire challengerRunner. This will be held on Saturday, October 9, from 9 a.m. until noon.

- The entry of pumpkin boats built by Maine Maritime Museum (<http://www.mainemaritimemuseum.org/>) and Lyman Morse Boatbuilding (<http://www.lymanmorse.com/index.php>) in the regatta. Several other boatbuilders are still planning their participation, so the competition is on. The Damariscotta Harbor Regatta will be a sight to behold this year, with Maine's own marine architects plying the waters!
- The long-awaited return of the "New Moon Ball," organized by the Damariscotta River Association. The ball will be held at Darrows Barn on Saturday night, October 9 (<http://www.draclt.org/>).

Returning to Pumpkinfest will be familiar favorites including the awe-inspiring pumpkin catapulting (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/10/1026_051026_pumpkintoss.html); underwater pumpkin carving (<http://www.oceanswide.org/>); the world-famous pumpkin drop; and the second annual pumpkin dessert contest.

Kicking off Damariscotta Pumpkinfest will be the Giant Pumpkin Plantlet Give-Away. It will be held on Sunday, May 23 at Pinkham's Plantation, 431 Biscay Road in

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Damariscotta, ME (from 9 a.m. until all 600 Atlantic Giant Pumpkin plantlets have been "adopted").

Prize winning pumpkins will be determined at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest's Weigh-Off to be held on Sunday, October 3. This year, the weigh-in will be officially sanctioned by the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) whose mission is to cultivate "the hobby of growing giant pumpkins throughout the world by establishing standards and regulations that ensure quality of fruit, fairness of competition, recognition of achievement, fellowship and education for all participating growers and weigh-off sites" (www.greatpumpkinommonwealth.com).

Stay up-to-date on Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta details at www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com.

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