



Peekskill's Hudson festival is huge this year

A double shot of entertainment and festivities is in store this week in Peekskill, where an annual festival is combining with the quadricentennial observance of the discovery of the **Hudson River** by Europeans.

Civil War re-enactors, dragon-decorated boats, a visit by Dutch sailors, lighting shows, a parade, **music** and fireworks are part of the big show.

"There's a lot more events than ever. Everyone is involved," said Bill Powers, a spokesman for the annual Peekskill Celebration. "It's a week that would make Henry Hudson wish he were alive again, to see it all. It's going to be a pretty cool week in Peekskill."

The Peekskill Celebration, now in its 14th year, began with a 10K road race over the weekend, and it will feature activities all week. Lighting specialists will spotlight historic buildings in and around Peekskill's downtown, just as they were in 1909, when Peekskill celebrated the Hudson's tricentennial. On Friday, all of them will be illuminated at once.

On Saturday, boaters in fanciful vessels adorned with dragon heads will take to the river and paddle furiously along the riverfront in 500-meter sprints.

Also Saturday, a Civil War encampment will set up near the Lincoln Depot from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the spot where President-elect **Abraham Lincoln** made a whistle-stop speech on his way to Washington in 1861.

"People can see what the daily life of camp was like," organizer Paul Martin said.

Four re-enactment units will be on hand, and there will be balladeers, a play based on the letters from a New York soldier, artwork and sculptures.

A benefit to help raise funds to build a history center at the depot will take place from 7 to 10 p.m., with a suggested donation of \$20 per person.

On Tuesday, a squadron of old Dutch vessels will dock at the Peekskill waterfront between 4 and 7 p.m. The 19 vessels, barges and sloops, were built 100 years ago, and they replicate the kind of craft that a 17th-century sailor would have recognized. The Dutch crew will be on hand to discuss the vessels and offer tours of several of them.

An estimated 30,000 people are expected to attend the festivities.

More information and a rundown of activities are available at peekskillcelebration.com.

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