



Photos by KEN OSBURN / Staff

The annual Upstate Boat Show featuring boats of all kinds, as well as RV and other outdoor equipment, opens today at Carolina First Center in Greenville.

## Boats, RVs cruise into town for annual show

By Jenny Munro  
BUSINESS WRITER  
jmunro@greenvillenews.com

The temperatures are hovering in the 30s and 40s — just the right time to dream of summer and boats on the lake, river or ocean.

If you're ready to flip the calendar to warmer months, you have a chance at the 39th annual Upstate Boat Show, held today through Sunday at the Carolina First Center.

"January is the kickoff of the boating season," said John Hall, general manager of Sea Ray of Greenville. "If you're going to buy a boat, now is the time to do it."

He said that dealers will have both 2008 and 2009 models available. Manufacturers have plenty of incentives available, and 2008 models have been further reduced in price to move the inventory.

Plenty of boats — ranging the gamut in prices — boating accessories and recreational vehicles will be available to look at,



compare and even buy on the floor. Hall said his stores sell boats ranging in price from about \$20,000 to \$3.2 million or so.

Experts will be available at the show to help entry-level buyers make their way through boating basics. Attendees also will be able to see demonstrations, listen to presentations and learn to tie knots.

Also, the RV Dealers Association has joined with boat dealers, offering more options for outdoor enthusiasts.

"Most people think of recreational vehicles as luxury items that cost hundreds of thousands of dol-

lars," said Terry Masters, president of the South Carolina RV Dealers Association. "In reality, you can purchase a quality RV for around \$15,000 or a fold-down for around \$5,000 to \$6,000."

The show will be open today and Friday from noon to 9 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Tickets, on sale at Carolina First Center, are \$6 for adults, \$5 for students, 6 to 18, \$5 for seniors 65 and older and free to children younger than 6. Parking is \$5 a car.