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Jet ski event coming to Lake Hartwell

THE JOURNAL STAFF

HARTWELL, Ga. — The Hartwell Marketing Alliance, which includes representatives from Oconee and Pickens, started beating the drums Thursday for a jet ski championship event in August on the Georgia side of Lake Hartwell.

Ken Sloan, director of Oconee Mountain Lakes Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the event with a $10,000 purse would be held in Anderson next year and Oconee in 2012.

Hart County, Ga., will host this year's event on the weekend of Aug. 14-15.

Sloan said the Upstate Watercraft Promotions (UWP) event is expected to draw 150 to 250 participants. A similar event held in Charleston, W.Va. last year had an economic impact of $2 million to that area, Sloan said.

The Hartwell Marketing Alliance is made up of three counties from South Carolina (Anderson, Oconee and Pickens) and three from Georgia (Franklin, Hart and Stephens).

Sloan said the event would be shown on TV by ESPN.