

Celebrate the Island

With summer on the horizon, there's no better way to celebrate the upcoming season than by enjoying some of the more unique experiences LBI has to offer. Here are five activities not to miss this summer!

By Susan Bloom For NJ Press Media

Celebrate America's independence, LBI style

JULY 4TH PARADE, BARNEGAT LIGHT – On July 3, go back in time and enjoy a traditional small-town parade in which all are invited to participate. Involving everyone from area children to local policemen, firemen, lifeguards, first aid squad and Coast Guard members, this year's parade is themed "Hometown Heroes." Lineup is at 6:30 p.m. on West 11th Street and the parade kicks off at 7 p.m., followed by a patriotic concert by The Liberty Band in the parking lot area between 10th and Ninth streets on the bay. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume. For more information, call 609-494-9196 or visit www.barnegatlight.org.



FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS, BEACH HAVEN – At 9:15 p.m. July Fourth, join fellow revelers at Ninth Street and Taylor Avenue to enjoy the Island's only Fourth of July fireworks, which will be launched from a barge behind Bay Village. Funded by contributions from local businesses and organized by the Red, White & Blue Committee, "this will be our 24th year presenting fireworks, and they're wonderful," said Committee member Caroline Kasunich. "Everyone's invited to enjoy a fun time and spend the day at Bay Village."



A.J. Meerwald.
Courtesy of Bayshore Discovery Project Port Norris

Sail on a historic schooner

FROM JULY 20 to 24, the historic A.J. Meerwald will be docked in Beach Haven, ready to accommodate up to 49 people for the each of eight sails it will make around the inlet and bay that week. Originally built in 1928 as a Delaware Bay oyster boat, the A.J. Meerwald is a fully restored traditional sailing vessel complete with canvas sails, and it was named the Official Tall Ship of New Jersey. In addition to learning about the boat's history, "passengers will enjoy an interactive experience by helping to hoist the sails and will get to see dolphins, birds and beautiful scenery on the ride," said Janis Traas, outreach coordinator for Bayshore Discovery Project.

Tickets for the two-hour sail are \$40 for adults and children 13 and older, \$35 for seniors and \$20 for children ages 3 to 12; children younger than 3 are free but still require a reservation. For more information and the sail schedule, call 856-785-2060.

Enjoy Island delicacies: Don't miss these savory LBI specialties this summer!

ELEPHANT EAR AT CRUST & CRUMB BAKERY – Made with flaky French pastry with brown sugar, cinnamon and crushed pecans, the Crust & Crumb's Elephant Ear has been one of LBI's most tasty indulgences for more than 50 years. "We sell over 100 of these a day," bakery manager Lou Richards Jr., 22, said of the legendary treat measuring 12 inches in diameter. "It's one of those things that, once you start eating it, you can't stop." Open from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week through Labor Day, the bakery is at North Bay Avenue and Ninth Street in Beach Haven; call 609-492-4966.

WINGS AT CHICKEN OR THE EGG – Opened in 1991 by owners Mark and Craig Cohen, this landmark eatery is celebrating its 20th year in business. "Our wings really put us on the map and have won awards locally and nationally," Mark Cohen said. "They're big, juicy, come in 15 different flavors, and have a cult following on LBI." You can try them anytime this season, as Chicken or the Egg is open 24-7 from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Located at 207 N. Bay Ave. in Beach Haven; call 609-492-3695 or visit www.492fowl.com.



FRENCH FRIED LOBSTER TAIL AT HOWARD'S RESTAURANT – Invented by Howard Sparks in 1950, this Beach Haven establishment's signature entrée, which chef/owner Kevin Sparks describes as "crispy on the outside and tender and sweet on the inside," has been delighting visitors for more than 60 years. "It's an LBI tradition; you're not an Islander until you try it," he said. Open from 5 p.m. until after 9 p.m. seven days a week through Labor Day. Located at 33rd Street and Long Beach Boulevard in Beach Haven; call 609-492-2319 or visit www.howardsrestaurant.com.

Build sand sculptures

JULY 7, 21, AUG. 4 AND 18 – Barnegat Light will host sand-sculpting contests for the whole family. A tradition for more than 10 years, the contests start at 2 p.m. at a well-defined area on the beach and sculptures are judged at 3 p.m.

"All creations are valued, from the smallest to the most intricate, and medallions are awarded for first, second, and third places as well as individual best, group best and others," said Nancy Manookian, deputy municipal clerk and recreation coordinator for Barnegat Light. "It's very relaxed family fun at the beach, and people of all ages are welcome to participate," she said.

There's no fee to participate, but participants must register at the beach, by 2 p.m. Rain dates are on the following Fridays. For more information, call 609-494-9196 or visit www.barnegatlight.org



Visit the New Jersey Surf Museum

THE ONLY SURF MUSEUM in New Jersey and one of only three on the East Coast (the other two are in Florida), the New Jersey Surf Museum officially opened in May 2010. In addition to seeing different generations of surfboards from the 1950s to today, famous surfing movies and a colorful surf wax display, visitors can check out the museum's new "Surfer Girlz" exhibit featuring women from LBI. "We hope everyone will visit and support our summer surf events," said Diamond Frandsen, Surf Museum coordinator.

For more information, call Tuckerton Seaport at 609-296-8868 or visit www.tuckertonseaport.org.

