LIBERTY CALL

Independence Day!

Celebrate safely

By Naval Safety Center Norfolk

Most of you are already planning this year's Independence Day celebration. The kids are out of school; it's time to pack those bags, jump in the car and roll. Others will be picnicking, fishing and catching rays at the beach or pool.

And then there's that likely headache from too much good food and cold beer. Great fun if you can survive it.

Based on off-duty mishaps during previous July 4 celebrations, it's likely not everyone will.

Dangerous activities include driving between midnight and 6 a.m., not wearing seatbelts, speeding and driving under the influence.

Hazards off the road stem from swimming alone, overloading small boats, and sightseeing from rooftops and cliffs, many times after drinking too much.

The dangers are real. At the current traffic fatality rate, this year will be the Navy's best ever. Conversely, the Marine Corps will have its worst since fiscal year 91. And off the road, the warning flag is up for recreational activities.

Eighteen sailors died in recreational mishaps this fiscal year. Six died while swimming. Who can guess what the Navy's losses will be at summer's end? Perhaps we should look at the Marine Corps off-duty program; they're having their best year ever.

The one common factor among recreation and traffic losses is alcohol. Over the last five years, 36 percent of all off-duty PMV and recreational fatalities involved alcohol. Could the Surgeon General's warning about alcohol be true?

This Fourth of July doesn't have to end in tragedy. Make risk management a priority. When driving long distances during this holiday period, remember these rules:

- Don't speed. Speeding reduces your ability to steer around curves and avoid objects. You never know what's around the next corner.
- Seat belts are your best defense in a crash. Make sure you and your passengers are buckled in correctly.
- Don't drive between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. Fatigue strikes without warning, not to mention drunk drivers.
- Drinking alcohol or using other drugs guarantees trouble. Use caution when using over-the-counter drugs.

When you arrive at the beach or ballfield, don't assume you can ignore the hazards those activities represent. They can kill you.

Here are a few tips that will help you survive:

- Don't swim alone. Swim only in areas with lifeguards. Before diving, plan your dive and dive your plan.
- While boating, don't exceed the boat's maximum capacity. Wear your personal flotation device. Tell a friend where you'll be and when to expect you back.
- Stay off rooftops and balcony ledges and don't lean out windows, no matter how good the view.
- Get some training before operating an off-road vehicle or ATV. Practice before squeezing that throttle. Wear your PPE.
- If you drink, drink responsibly.
- Finally, resist the urge to light the neighborhood sky with illegal fireworks. Leave such displays to the pros.

Enjoy the Fourth of July, but keep it safe. There is risk associated with everything you do. Some are greater than others. You can reduce much of it by remembering the safety tips listed above.

This Fourth of July declare your independence from hazards that can injure or kill you. Above all, manage the risks. Ask yourself: what can hurt me? And what can I do about it? And then do it!

Events announced for July 4 block party at Pearl Harbor

By JO3 Brenda Diggs
Navy Region Hawaii

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host their third annual block party for 4th of July celebrations Tuesday on Avenue A at Pearl Harbor. Sailors and their families can celebrate their Independence Day with live entertainment, games and a spectacular fireworks display.

Activities for kids of all ages will be available. A petting zoo with baby chicks, rabbits, a cow, a pony and baby goat and more will be on display near Popeye's.

A bounce house for keiki's will be a great activity and Uncle Sam will be around making balloon animals for children and handing out free American flags. McGruff the Crime Dog will be on hand to meet with fans of all ages and talk about safety.

Music lovers will have plenty to cheer about. The Wolcott High School Band, Dita Holifield, Hula Joe and The Hut Jumpers and many more will be performing live on stage.

Modern swing dance, O'Linaka Hula Hhalau and HPK Yo-Yo demonstrations will be performed for all to see.

A bungee run, a giant slide, an obstacle course and the Climber's Paradise Rock Wall will be available for all adventure seeking spectators.

Carnival games booths will be scattered up and down Avenue A, while Lamborghini's, Ferrari's and other fast cars will be outside the Mini-Mart for viewing.

Guido Salmaggito will perform the national anthem to the aerial fireworks spectacular scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

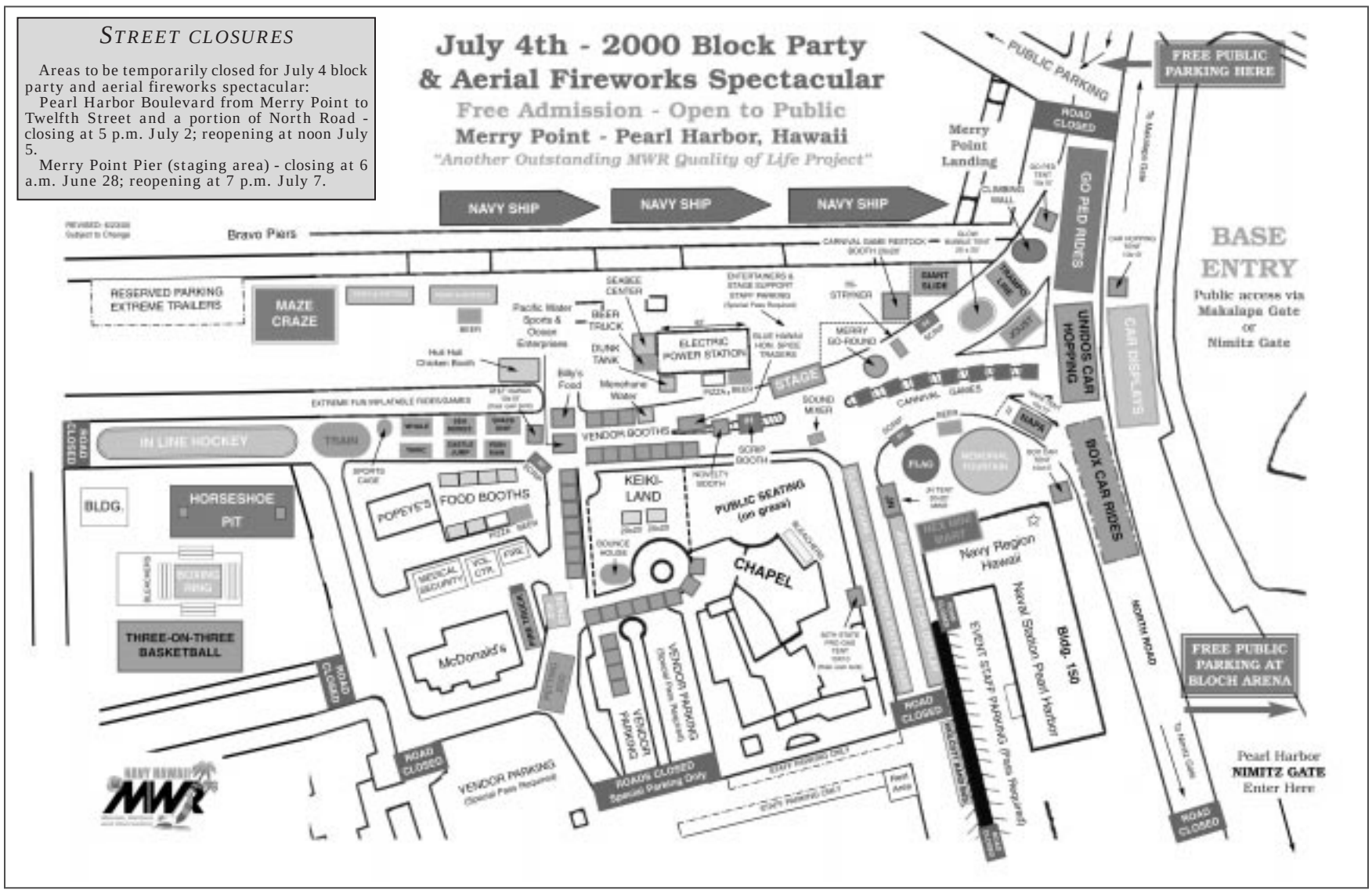
The block party is free, opened to the public and will conclude at 10:30 p.m.

Schedule of Events

1 pm AMATEUR BOXING - 8-10 Bouts - Near Popeye's - FREE!
2 pm ALL OTHER EVENTS open - Free Admission to Block Party
2 pm BOX CAR RIDES - Sponsored by NAPA - Pay as you go!
2 pm GO PED DEMONSTRATION & RIDES - Pay as you go!
2 pm PETTING ZOO opens - Near McDonald's - FREE!
2 pm FIRE PREVENTION display - Federal Fire Department - Near McDonald's
2 pm NOVELTY SALES BOOTH open - Get your goodies while supplies last!
2 pm KIDS KEIKILAND Activities - Near the Pearl Harbor Chapel - FREE!
2 pm CARNIVAL GAMES open for business - Step right up!
2 pm FOOD & BEVERAGE BOOTHS - Open for business
2 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - O'LINAKA HULA HALAU DEMONSTRATION - FREE!
2 pm Giant Slide, Trampoline, Xtreme Fun Rental Inflatables, Car Hopping, JN Automotive Exotic Cars and other Car Displays, Street Hockey, Rock Climbing Wall, Dunk Tank, Arts & Crafts, Yo-Yo Demonstrations, Maze Craze, Merry-Go-Round, Joust About, Hy-Stryker, Galaxy Bubble Booth, Waimanalo Horseshoe Pitching & much, much more!
2 pm Ward Field - BIRDS OF PARADISE AIR SHOW TEAM - R/C Aircraft Demos
2 pm LIVE on Stage - WOLCOTT HIGH SCHOOL BAND - From the Mainland
2:45 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - SALLE HONOLULU FENCING CLUB DEMONSTRATION - FREE!
3 pm At Merry Point - UNIDOS CAR HOPPING COMPETITION
3 pm FOUR LIVE PRO-WRESTLING HAWAII MATCHES - Near Popeye's - FREE!
3 pm LIVE on Stage - DITA HOLIFIELD - Hawaii's BEST Country Music
3 pm Ward Field - HIGH PERFORMANCE KITE DEMOS & FREE lessons
3:30 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - SWING DANCE LESSONS - Step right up - FREE!
4 pm LIVE on Stage - HULA JOE & THE HUT JUMPERS - GREAT Swing Music
4 pm On the Street - PACIFIC WATER SPORTS CENTER GO PED DEMOS
4:15 pm LIVE on Stage - SWING DANCE DEMONSTRATION - with Hula Joe's
4:30 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - HPK Yo-Yo DEMONSTRATION - Amazing Stuff!
5 pm Ward Field - OAHU Jr. OLYMPICS GIRLS SOFTBALL GAME - (18 and under)
5 pm At Merry Point - UNIDOS CAR HOPPING COMPETITION
5:15 pm LIVE on Stage - J.P. SMOKETRAIN - Red Hot Chicago Style Blues
5:30 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - HONOLULU FENCING CLUB DEMONSTRATION - FREE!
6 pm CHINESE LION DANCE & FIRECRACKERS - Au's Shaolin Society - FREE!
6 pm On the Street - PACIFIC WATER SPORTS CENTER GO PED DEMOS
6:15 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - HPK Yo-Yo DEMONSTRATION - Amazing Stuff!
6:30 pm LIVE on Stage - THE LOVENOTES - Outstanding "Doo Wop" Group
7 pm At Merry Point - UNIDOS CAR HOPPING COMPETITION
7:05 pm Ward Field - AIR TUGH PRODUCTIONS SKYDIVERS carrying U.S. Flags!
7:14 pm A moment of SILENCE PLEASE, while we observe EVENING COLORS
7:30 pm LIVE on Stage - the powerful DICK JENSEN SHOW! - From Waikiki
7:30 pm FREE U.S. Flags - Uncle Sam & Friends give away FREE U.S. Flags
8 pm LIVE on Stage 2 - HPK STROBE Yo-Yo DEMONSTRATION
8:10 pm Join UNCLE SAM as he PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE to the United States of America! - Main Stage
8:15 pm GUIDO SALMAGGI sings our National Anthem - Wave Those Flags!
8:32 pm SPECTACULAR AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY - Right Above Us!
9 pm LIVE on Stage - STONES THROW - Jerry Martini (formerly of Sly & the Family Stone) leads this great hot new band! - FREE!
10:30 pm EVENT CONCLUDES - Please Drive Safely on Your Way Home!

STREET CLOSURES

Areas to be temporarily closed for July 4 block party and aerial fireworks spectacular:

Pearl Harbor Boulevard from Merry Point to Twelfth Street and a portion of North Road - closing at 5 p.m. July 2; reopening at noon July 5.

Merry Point Pier (staging area) - closing at 6 a.m. June 28; reopening at 7 p.m. July 7.