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## Racing isn't only reason to visit Fort Adams during ACWS

### Exploration Zone will be an interactive group of exhibits

BY KEN SHANE



While the lightning-fast, 45-foot catamarans like Team Korea's will be the spotlight of the America's Cup World Series, the Exploration Zone at Fort Adams will offer an educational twist.

Not all of the excitement will be on the water when the America's Cup World Series begins this week. Working closely with the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, organizers have created the Exploration Zone.

The attraction is presented by Fidelity Investments, and will feature several local nonprofits working together to create an enlightening and entertaining experience for visitors to Fort Adams during the America's Cup event.

In addition to the Graduate School of Oceanography, other organizations that will participate in the Exploration Zone include NewportFilm, Oliver Hazard Perry Rhode Island, Sailors for the Sea, Sailing Heals, the Rose Island Lighthouse, the Rozalia Project, the International Yacht Restoration School, Clean the Bay, the Herreshoff

Marine Museum, and Sail Newport.

"All the attention that this high profile sailing event generates is a great platform for communicating the importance of ocean conservation and sustenance of marine life," said Kim Cooper, the marketing director for Sail Newport. "The Exploration Zone is an interactive group of exhibits that work together to support the initiatives that sailors all over the world partake in to promote healthy use of the ocean, and respect for marine life. There is a worldwide initiative for sailors to give back to the ocean that has meant so much to them."

Cooper noted that Sail Newport was founded in 1983 in part to attract and foster high-profile sailing events like the America's Cup World Series. The organization has been involved in the event from the start, lending operations support to the America's Cup Event Authority. Sail Newport is also responsible for coordinating some 300 volunteers who will work during the event.

Cooper said that the group is running several of its programs in conjunction with the event, for example the Youth Challenge regatta that will take place this weekend. "It's being sailed out of Sail Newport, but we're bringing the

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