

Big Begonia Festival Weekend Schedule

Begonia Festival

A "professional bottle cap flicking contest," billed as a world's first, will be held Saturday, and the ever popular Nautical Parade down Soquel Creek will take place Sunday, as the 26th Annual Capitola Begonia Festival closes this weekend.

The bottle cap flicking contest is expected to attract men and women competing in separate divisions in two categories — accuracy and distance. Some 50 entrants are expected at the Saturday 2 p.m. contest that takes place adjacent to Capitola Wharf.

The contest's brainchild is Gary Medeiros, who recently organized the rope swing contest in Ben Lomond. "This is a bizarre event," he admitted. "But so is anything when it's first started. I bet people thought baseball was even funny when they first started playing it."

Medeiros' objective is to form contests around activities which the public probably has been doing a long time. He says bottle cap flicking has been a popular pastime at parties.

He noted the contest is billed "professional," since there is a \$1 entry fee.

Other Saturday events include volleyball, skateboarding and a jester dinghy sailboat race.

The men's beach volleyball tournament, which is in its eighth year, gets under way at 8:30 a.m. on Capitola Beach. Tournament chairman Dennis Norton calls it "the most prestigious Northern California beach volleyball tournament."

He expects 48, two-man teams. The finals of both the men's and senior men's events will take place Sunday after the Nautical Parade.

Norton also said last weekend's women's volleyball tour-

Sentinel

Friday, September 7, 1979 — Santa Cruz

—41

namement was extremely successful. Susie Smith of Manhattan Beach and Leslie Boyle of Santa Cruz won first place, while Jackie Marques of Berkeley and Robyn McFarland of Santa Cruz took second.

A "pro-am downhill skatebaord contest" will be take place down Monterey Avenue in Capitola at 9 a.m. Saturday. A cash purse of \$550 and numerous other prizes will be offered.

Promoting and officiating the event will be Gary Tracey of Capitola and John Hutson of Santa Cruz. Hutson, who holds the Guinness Book world record of 53 mph, said, "Approximately 30 of the best downhill skateboarders from Northern and Southern California, and from as far away as Colorado and Washington, will speed down a twisting quarter mile course."

The jester dinghy sailboat race begins at noon Saturday. Contest chairman Bob Larson expects 25 entrants racing in four or five separate races. All participants must have their own boat that measures eight feet long and four feet wide.

"The course may change depending on the wind," he added.

"It'll be a good course for sailors, though."

Prizes have been donated from local restaurants and merchants.

Sunday at 2 p.m., some 15,000 persons are expected to watch 18 begonia-covered floats entered in the nautical parade down Soquel Creek. Participants will be working on their creations along Soquel Creek from Saturday through Sunday morning.

"The Clean Machine" jazz group will provide music before and during the parade. They are made up of Steve Berman, Dene Davidson, Gary Griffith and Scott Musik.

Judges for the parade, as well as the home and commercial decorating contest which runs Sunday will be: Marvin Smith, a photographer from Marin County; John Hutchins, a begonia grower from Capitola; Velma Polizzi, a legal secretary from Santa Cruz; and Dorothy Smith, an artist from Tiburon. Alternate is Robert Kress, a teacher from Santa Cruz.

The home and commercial decorating contest also makes use of thousands of begonias, according to event chairman Alida Stevens-Smith. Entrants will build begonia-covered structures for their homes or businesses.

Spectators are urged to use the "park and ride" lots at either Bay Avenue and Hill Street (at the Highway 1 offramp), or the Jade Street and 47th Avenue lot. The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District will offer free shuttle service from the lots every 10 minutes throughout the weekend.

The Eureka Federal Savings double-decker bus will be making rounds throughout the village Sunday. Capitola Police are expected to close the Esplanade area to traffic Sunday afternoon.