

Big Begonia Festival parade is Sunday

Fifteen floats are entered in Sunday's Nautical Parade — the premier event of this year's 29th edition of the Capitola National Begonia Festival.

And before the scheduled 2 p.m. starting time Sunday, numerous other events will be held.

The Third Annual Capitola Beach Festival, in conjunction with the Capitola Junior Lifeguard Program, will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday on Capitola Beach.

The Eddie Arco Memorial Paddleboard Race will begin at 9 a.m., a one-mile soft sand run at 10 a.m., a one-mile ocean swim at 11 a.m. and the always-fun beach flags competition starts at noon.

The men's doubles of the Northern California Beach Volleyball Championship will be held both Saturday and Sunday. The finals will begin just after the Nautical Parade.

The Home and Commercial Decorating Contest will run Sunday only. Open to any business or residence in Capitola, participants are encouraged to decorate anything and everything with begonias.

The estimated 75,000 begonia flowers that

will be used for this year's festival will begin to be picked in the Marina growing fields of Brown Bulb Ranch today. As is the tradition, participants will be working into the wee hours Saturday and early Sunday building chicken wire frames for floats and attaching flowers in the laborious process.

More than 15,000 spectators are expected to jam themselves into every nook and cranny along the Soquel Creek parade route. As always, parking will be at a premium, so spectators are encouraged to arrive early.

Free shuttle buses will be running every 10 minutes from the park-and-ride lot located at the Crossroads shopping center, Bay Avenue and Highway 1.

Other parking will be available within easy walking distance off Cliff Drive and at Jade Street Park on 47th Avenue. "Locals" are encouraged to park here, on the city's southeast side.

Entries this year in the Nautical Parade are divided into two divisions — Group and Commercial. Most of the floats are expected to follow the theme of "Capitola In Song."

Group entries are as follows:

Depot Hill Gang — In the Octopus' Garden.
County Superintendent of School's office — I Left My Heart in Capitola.

Green Earth Singles — Here Comes the Sun.
Santa Cruz Elks Club — God Bless America.
Joe Urbancic, sponsored by the Venetian Court Homeowners Association — Talk to the Animals.

Nels Enemark and The West Hillies — His Master's Voice.

Bahai's Faith — Undecided.

In the commercial division, entries include the following:

Brown Bulb Ranch — Age of Aquarius.
Old California Title — Little Deuce Coupe.
Cathedralite Domes — Capitola Energy Express.

Mervyn's Department Store — Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

Orchard Supply Hardware — What's New, Pussycat?

Dragginwood and the Magic Crystals — Puff the Magic Dragon.

Edgewater Club — Scotch and Soda.

David Lyng and Associates — Going Dow to Rio with Carmen Miranda.