

MAKING WEEKENDS MORE FUN

Find Adventure in Weekend Getaways New Web Site Highlights 1,000 Fun, Unusual Weekend Events

(NAPSA)—“Isn’t there anything new to do this weekend?” If you’ve ever asked that question, you are not alone. According to recent research, more than half of Americans (53 percent) report they are looking for “something different” to do on their weekends. Yet most (65 percent) say they still spend weekends “running errands,” “working” or “watching the tube.”

The good news is that new kinds of travel guides to get Americans off the couch are coming out, especially via the Internet. Hampton Inn hotels, for instance, has produced a “weekends-only” events calendar and online searchable database filled with more than 1,000 activities for families, seniors, couples and solo travelers who want a quick escape for the weekend. This calendar can be accessed free through www.hamptoninnweekends.com, where events are sorted by month, region and any type of special interest...even the really different annual activities to spark the imagination, such as:

- The Wizard of Oz Festival in Chesterton, Ind.

The Wizard of Oz comes to life with costumed Oz characters, parade, arts and crafts and food. Also meet the munchkins from the movie.

- Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival in Little Chute, Wis.

Features a cheese breakfast, tastings and carving contests.

- A Punkin’ Chuckin’ Contest in Millsboro, Del.

Hundreds of unlucky pumpkins get smashed to smithereens by catapults, slingshots, human and engine power.

- The O. Henry World Championship Pun-Off in Austin, Texas.

Pundits match wits in two separate pun competitions.



A new 2003 calendar sports 1,000 different weekend activities for families, including the Millsboro, Delaware Punkin’ Chuckin’ Contest.

- And the Haute Dog Charity Easter Parade in Long Beach, Calif.

This annual parade features about 400 pooches, some colorfully costumed in Easter attire, get together for Yappy Hour.

From hundreds of food and art festivals to balloon races, Civil War reenactments and film festivals, the year 2003 holds plenty of opportunity to make the most of a weekend and chase away the boredom blues.

“Boredom is a major problem in the lives of Americans, affecting everything from productivity to one’s overall outlook on life,” says Alan Caruba, founder of The Boring Institute, a clearinghouse for information about boredom and how to overcome it. “There are so many great activities out there that can help a person snap out of the ‘same old weekend’ rut—if you take a few moments to just look!”