



PUBLISHER'S NOTE with Karl Teel

We're Marching into Social Media

March is the month that is much like life. It can run hot or cold, calm or windy, shorter days get longer, and longer nights get shorter. It is a time of transition, once again — much like life itself. *Recreation News* has been keeping pace with transition as well. In this fast-paced world in which we live there have been lots of shifts, especially in our vacation planning. Planning a nice vacation takes time; you need to research, make reservations, etc. But life also presents spur of the moment opportunities as well. You suddenly find some free time on an upcoming weekend and the weather is sunny, or you planned on something for the weekend outdoors and now it looks rainy. At *Recreation News* we've responded digitally with the new email blast — the *Weekend Update*.

The *Weekend Update*, like *Recreation News*, is free. Typically, there are four parts to the email: events this weekend, travel bargains, contest giveaways, and specials from our sponsors. Many of the events are either extra special in our eyes, or we received information on them too late to place in the paper. Of course, our readers are always interested in the travel bargains and specials, too. And we don't want you to forget to enter our contests! To date, *Recreation News* has given away more than a quarter-million dollars worth of free trips, ski lift tickets, dinners out, and more — but you can't win if you don't enter. Signing up for the email blast is easy. Simply include your email address on any contest entry and you're in! Or, you can simply email your name and address to Events@RecreationNews.com with the subject line "email blast." Don't forget to tell a friend about it — it's free for them as well.

We've also kept pace with change with our new Facebook fan page. You can key in the URL below and become a fan, or you can go to Google and key in facebook "Recreation News" in quotes and it's the first entry that pops up. It's just another way that *Recreation News* helps deliver great ideas and bargains for your travel and leisure. (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Recreation-News/322793190556>)

Now, on to more traditional March events. It's once again time to help out less-fortunate children with cancer and their families at the 13th Annual Children's Premiere Night with the 139th edition of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus benefiting the NIH Children's Charities with *The Greatest Show on Earth!* This year, audiences will be spellbound by *Zing Zang Zoom*, a thrill-filled, mind-blowing circus

spectacular where family fun is no illusion. Your escape from the everyday begins one hour before show time when you make your way to the arena floor. The free All-Access Pre-Show allows families to interact with the stars and mingle with an amazing group of acrobats, aerialists, animals, clowns, jugglers, and more. You can even step into a circus closet and slip on a costume. There's so much the pre-show has to offer and the show hasn't even started!

So grab your cotton candy and be prepared to be whisked away into a whirlwind of action and adventure. Join the 13th Annual Children's Premiere Night hosted by the NIH R&W, benefiting the NIH Charities on Wednesday, March 17, at 7:00pm with the free pre-show at 6:00pm. You won't hear about this on the radio or television because this night is only for special invitees from the NIH R&W . . . and you and your friends and family are invited!!

This event is a fundraiser for the NIH Charities and is a wonderful opportunity for the R&W to provide a magical evening to many special-needs children in the local metro area. Over the years, with your help, they have treated more than 25,000 deserving children to the circus. The NIH R&W has a goal to fill the entire Verizon Center with friends and family, so they need your help. Pass the word along to all your friends and family and have them join you. Tickets are on sale at the R&W Activities or call 301-496-4600. Tickets available include Circus Celebrity — front row/interactive seating where you become part of the show (reg. \$115), front row (reg. \$75), VIP (reg. \$52), 100 level (reg. \$35), and 200 level (reg. \$30). Don't delay . . .

On Our Cover

Crabtree Falls, in Nelson County, Virginia, is the highest vertical-drop cascading waterfall east of the Mississippi River. Not far from the Blue Ridge Parkway, it features five major cascades and falls a total of 1,200 feet. (Virginia Tourism)

they have the best seats in the house for this special R&W-hosted evening, but they won't last long! We'll see you at the circus!

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