



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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For Immediate Release-June 9, 2013

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MARINE DIVING MAGAZINE TO FEATURE FLIPPER TOURNAMENT

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Japan's Marine Diving magazine returns to the Northern Marianas this week to cover the 5th Annual Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament on June 15, 2013.

The magazine will devote five pages of its August issue to the race, as well as diving spots around Saipan and other tourist attractions.

“Marine Diving magazine has been in existence for 44 years and their last visit here was in 2009. It's great to have them again turn their focus to the underwater wonders of the Northern Marianas,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Marketing Manager Bruce Bateman. “With their circulation of 170,000 hard core divers, this is an excellent opportunity to tout the award-winning waters of our islands.”

For 10 consecutive years Managaha has been named “Best Beach and Snorkeling” at Japan's annual Marine Diving Fair, and local swimmers are invited to join visiting competitors in swimming around the island on June 15.

The Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament is a 1.5 km swim around the island and requires swimmers to use fins mask and a snorkel. Either a wetsuit or a life jacket

must also be worn. Competition age divisions are: 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-and-up. Those age 18 and under will be entered into the Junior Division.

Free ferries for competitors will depart Smiling Cove Marina to Managaha promptly at 4:45 a.m. the morning of the race. The race will begin at 6:30 a.m., followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony on the white sand beaches of Managaha.

The cost is \$25 for Northern Mariana Is. residents with valid I.D. The deadline to register with the MVA is June 14, 2013, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. during the orientation at the Micro Beach pavilion on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

The event is also sponsored by the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan. For more information or a registration form, contact the MVA at 1.670.664.3210 or visit the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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