

Summer Fun in Salem

by **Nikki Blinow**
Features Editor

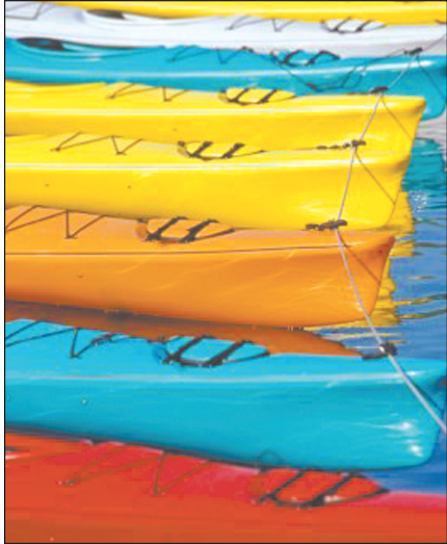


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Ramen noodles. Natural Ice. Thirty-cent wings at Sidelines. These are the staples of college life at Salem State. And while the wings at Sidelines may be full of artery-clogging saturated fats, and Natty Ice may just be one of the worst beers on the planet, students can't resist going back for more. It's a budgeting thing.

But just because college students are notoriously low on funds, doesn't mean they have to spend their days sitting inside all summer. In fact, there's a variety of things to do on the North Shore that are actually cheap. That's right, cheap. And for those

weeks when you've put extra hours in at your summer job, there are plenty of activities to splurge on (some of which even offer student discounts). All you need to find the fun on the North Shore is a little ambition. Because it's true, Salem State isn't Boston; there is no Fenway, no North End, and no Gypsy Bar, so you have to look a little harder for something to do. But with a small amount of effort, you can find plenty of ways to occupy yourself without heading into the big city.

If there's one advantage to living on the North Shore, it's the proximity of the ocean. And if there's one advantage to living close to the ocean, it's that the ocean is generally free, minus the occasional parking fees. Students looking to hang out at the beach may enjoy Devereux beach or Riverhead beach, both of which are located on Ocean Ave. in Marblehead. According to the Marblehead website, kayaks can be rented at Riverhead beach for an hourly fee. If you'd prefer to have your fun on land, Lynn and Nahant have beaches with paved sidewalks, perfect for rollerblading, biking, or just walking.

Castle rock is located a few minutes away from Devereux beach, and is a worthwhile stop. Although it's not well suited for sunbathing, the small cliff offers a beautiful view of the ocean, and is a great

location for reading, picnicking, or just hanging out. Make sure you were comfortable shoes if you visit, because you might find yourself climbing around playing "king of the mountain," just like you did when you were a kid and you had to conquer every giant rock in the woods.

For those notorious New England days when the weather isn't cooperating, students can take refuge at the Peabody Essex Museum. Their most recent exhibit, *Painting Summer in New England*, boasts a variety of New England-themed paintings, many of which depict Massachusetts. Even if you can't go to the beach, you can at least look at a nice picture of one – no sunblock required.

And while some of the artists may not have been New Englanders themselves, all of the works were created while visiting or residing in the area. More than 83 artists are featured, including Frank Benson, Alex Katz and Norman



Summer, 1909, Frank Weston Benson. Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. Gift of Isaac C. Bates.

Rockwell, and they offer up more than your usual seashore scenes. Bustling cityscapes, serene still lifes, and cozy country homes are also on view. Residents of Salem receive free admission, and students get in at a discounted price with proper identification. For more info, visit www.pem.org

If you're for looking for even more to do, here's a list of what's going on around the area:

Daily sails on the Schooner Fame – a replica of a schooner used during the war of 1812, Fame sails up to three times daily through Labor day. Departing from Pickering wharf in Salem, the schooner then sails around the harbor for approximately an hour and a half. Departure times are at 2, 4 and 6 p.m. on Weekends until June 30, and then 2, 4 and 6 p.m. daily through September 4. Tickets are \$25. For more info visit www.schoonerfame.com

Live Music – a variety of bars and restaurants in Salem offer live music throughout the week. McSwiggin's, located on the corner of Essex St. (diagonally across from the Hawthorne Hotel) hosts traditional Irish bands between 6 and 9 p.m. on Sundays, and jazz and funk musicians from 9:30 p.m. to midnight on Mondays. Call 978-745-5656 for more info. In a Pig's Eye, located on Derby St., hosts a blues jam on Fridays between 6 and 9 p.m. Pop, rock, reggae, and just about everything else can be found at Rockafellas, depending on the night. The bar seems to welcome just about any style. To see the schedule or performers, visit www.rockafellasofsalem.com/events. Cover charges usually apply, but tend to be lower than those found in Boston area bars and clubs.

Wine Tasting Classes at Pamplemousse – located on Essex St., Pamplemousse offers wine tasting classes just about every month. Classes range from \$35 - \$45 per person. For more information visit www.pmouse.com

Karaoke at Fantasy Island – located on Loring Ave., across from Vinnin Square in Swampscott, Fantasy Island hosts karaoke every Friday and Saturday night.

Nikki Blinow's e-mail is features@ssclog.com

Join Salem State professors Steven Matchak and Stephen Young in exploring

The Geography of Ireland: A Study/Travel Seminar

Visit Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Kerry,
Galway, Aran Islands

July 11 - July 26, 2006

Trip Information:

Cost: \$2,249.00 per person, shared room plus fuel surcharge - \$110.00 (may fluctuate)

Single room supplement: \$500.00

Course Cost:

Undergraduate: \$645.00 per 3 credits

Graduate: \$775.00 per 3 credits

Academic Contacts:

Dr. Stephen Matchak - 978-542-6324
smatchak@salemstate.edu

Dr. Stephen Young - 978-542-692
syoung@salemstate.edu

For More Information:

Travel Institute - 978-542-632 | travel.institute@salemstate.edu