

# Plans underway for 4th cardboard boat races

"We're gearing up for the 4th annual Paddlin' 4 Paws Cardboard Boat Regatta Races on May 12 at Chimney Cove, Wedowee, as a fundraiser for the Randolph County Animal Shelter," says organizer Patt High.

Last year's 80 contestants ranged in age from 5 to 76 years old, and they rowed their hearts out for the 1500 spectators who were secretly cheering for them to sink. Only seven of the 34 boats sank, including during the finale, the Demolition Derby Race (Water NASCAR). Twenty-six teams went home with photo plaque awards and bragging rights for a full year, including teams that swam their boat in and others that sank.

The day of fun and frivolity for the whole family will include inner tube races before the main event and music by local favorite, the Lard Bucket Bluegrass Band.

So how do you get involved in these hilarious 200-yard races? Easy, pick your crew, then attend class:

First you decide how many of your friends will

help you build the boat, or if you want to race solo. Your boat size depends on your crew and what awards and race(s) you are shooting for. There are five races; heat trials, grudge races, parent-child race, 'everybody' race, followed by the Demolition Derby.

Second, attend a free February boat builder's class to learn how to build a 'floater'. Two previously raced boats will be on display while three experienced builders demonstrate techniques and offer 'hands on' assistance for your boat. Print materials are available at the shelter and at one of two classes.

The first will be Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon at the old Kiwanis Building at Kids Town Park in Roanoke.

The second will be Monday, Feb. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lineville Elementary School auditorium at 88584 Hwy 9, in Lineville.

To get the most out of the class, High suggests you bring basic supplies such as a box cutting knife, a ruler and marking pens. All paid en-

tries are eligible to receive a new sheet of cardboard 11' x 5.5' for free, either at class or in Wedowee. You will need truck tie-downs for transport. Paid entries also receive 10% off builder's supplies at participating retailers.

Your boat entry fee covers your race crew for up to five races. Non-profit groups and individual/friend's boats pay a \$25 entry fee. A business boat entry fee is \$50 (has their business name on the hull). If a business 'adopts' a crew to build their entry, the business pays the boat entry fee of \$50, plus \$50 for the crew building expenses as caulking, KILZ and paint.

At [www.highairs.com](http://www.highairs.com) you can view prior race videos/photos, as well as download "How to Build a Killer Boat and Race It", "Adopt a Boat" and Race Entry forms, as well as boat design diagrams. Patt High, volunteer organizer for RCAS, can be reached at 256-363-1056 or [highairs@gmail.com](mailto:highairs@gmail.com). She is the go-to person for the print program booklet, t-shirt ads, shoreline flag ads, and vendor booths.