

Cardboard boat races attract 82 paddlers, raise more than \$19,000

Even the rain didn't sink the splashing good time Saturday when 29 boats and 82 paddlers competed in the 6th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta on Saturday at Chimney Cove on Lake Wedowee.

This year's event netted \$19,076 to benefit Randolph County Schools and Randolph County Animal Shelter.

The organizers of the event hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as they did. The dunking booth, face painting and crazy hair booths were a hit, as well as the cake auction. Wadley student Connor Fordham auctioned off cakes and pies made by the employees of Bank of Wedowee and Tracy Carpenter.

The first ever watermelon-eating champion was crowned. Adrian Peters survived tough competition and took the win after competing against board of education member Jerry Walker and Wedowee Mayor Tim Coe in the watermelon seed "spit-off."

The silent auction was of great benefit thanks to the highly sought-after items donated by the county schools. Wedowee Elementary School teacher Kandie Smith won the raffle for the vacation for two to Myrtle Beach, S.C. Alabama 100.7 donated the trip and spent the day broadcasting by land and sea, providing great music and entertainment all day.

Wedowee Hospital Auxiliary provided delicious breakfast and baked goods. Randolph County Cattlemen's Association provided meat for concessions. The Cattlemen along with the men from Wedowee First Baptist and First United Methodist churches prepared lunch for everyone.

Others contributing to the day's success were Patt High, Chuck Smith and Randolph County Animal Shelter, Walmart, Tanner East Alabama, Randolph County Commissioners, Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Randolph County Rescue Squad, Southern Ambulance Transport, Randolph County Sheriff's Auxiliary, Superintendent Rance Kirby, Joe Tom Bradley, Lakeview Auto, Wadley PTO, Jerry Huddleston, Penny Pool and The Randolph

Leader, and Bank of Wedowee employees.

Central Middle School from Carrollton, Ga., won the Demolition Derby. They were unsinkable, surviving the mounting attacks led by Revenge of the Dirty Girlz 2. The Tanner Paddlewheeler with captain Ricky Daniel was one of the most unique entries and persevered after a shaky start. Some of the fiercest competition came from Out to Launch, Mississippi State, and the Dirty Girlz. Announcer Gregg Dendinger provided important information and made every crazy moment funnier.

RCAS had a rewarding day showcasing their adoptable dogs and cats. Two animals were reserved for pickup this week to move to their forever homes. Everyone loved on Otto, the huge new shelter mascot. Hundreds of people stopped by to thank the shelter for their services, and they left many donations.

It was a fantastic day for two fantastic causes, and the organizers are already hearing that some participants are ready to get started on their 2015 boats.

Winners of the photo plaque awards based on time are:

1. Full Speed Ahead Award (youth)--Fastest one- or two-man vessel in race trials--#17 River Monster

2. Full Speed Ahead Award (adult)--Fastest one- or two-man vessel in race trials--#27 Revenge

3. Robinson Crusoe Award (youth)--Swiftest three-or-more man vessel in race trials--#12 Out to Launch

4. Robinson Crusoe Award (adult)--Swiftest three-or-more man vessel in race trials--#29 Mississippi State

5. Popeye's Spinach Award--Fastest Finisher at Grudge Match Finals--#29 Mississippi State

6. Greased Lightning Award--Swiftest Boat in the Flotilla Race--(no winner)

Winners of photo plaque awards not based on time:

7. Pint-Size Pirate Award--Crew average age 12 years and under--#29 Jeld-Wen

8. Old Wheezy Geezer Award--Crew average age 55

years and over--#4 Josh Burns

9. Rah! Rah! Rah! Spirit Award--Most enthusiastic crew--#2 Revenge of the Dirty Girlz 2

10. Best Landlubber Fan Base--Largest and loudest fan base--#2 Revenge of the Dirty Girlz 2

11. Mr. Toad's Wild Ride Award--How Did We Ever Make It--#8 Wadley High School Lunchroom Ladies

12. Smarty Pants Award--Best creative, unusual or unique boat design--#7 Central Middle School

13. Captain Bligh's Award--Best "clean" boat name--#13 Miss Kay

14. Full Monty Award--Best costume and theme--#21 Pawrates

15. Dead Mackerel Award--Ugly duckling boat--#27 Revenge

16. The Tug Award--Largest vessel to finish race with crew inside--#25 Troop 1081

17. The Dinghy--Smallest vessel to finish race with crew inside--#23 D'man B'man

18. Best Hurry Up & Get It Made Boat Award--It's not pretty but it's ours--#28 Shake and Bake

19. Proud Mary Paddlewheeler--Hardest Paddlin' team--#12 Out to Launch

20. Bottom Feeder Award--Low rider vessel--#6 Robertson/Richards

21. Davy Jones Locker Award--We didn't get anything but wet--#11 Tanner East Alabama

22. Yellow Submarine Award--We didn't have a chance from the start--#22 Collin Kucik

23. Swimming 'Round the Bend--Longest swim through the course--#9 Troop 4132

24. Pride of the Fleet--Wickedest looking boat to finish the race--#1 Pirates of the Cove

25. Plundering Pirate--Demolition Derby: last boat floating w/entire crew inside--#7 Central Middle School

26. Titanic Award--Spectacular sinking after more than 50 feet of travel--#16 The Intimidators

27. FRCS Volunteer and Outstanding Service Award: Patt High, community volunteer, and Chuck Smith, RCAS president