

Fools

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of makeshift watercraft. Participants arrived early to unload and stack materials on the beach bordering the 500-yard race course as they prepared for the nonsensical nautical event.

Jamestown resident Joe Logan, an engineer and town zoning board member, entered his "Fools Gold" vessel made of used water-softener tanks. Joe donned a jester's hat as his captain's uniform and commanded his crew of family members who were not available for comment because they were off getting lemonade while he built the boat. He has been in the race at least five or six times. He couldn't remember which.

While Candy Powell took command of the registration desk, Judy Calabretta, Jill Anderson, Larry Buckley and Betty Buckley manned the Fools' Rules T-shirt booth. Since there is no entry fee, the proceeds are used to take care of the expenses of hosting the event. The money is put into a separate account and at the club's annual meeting, yacht club members vote to decide the charity that will benefit from left over funds.

Throughout the construction phase, Chief Fool Powell marched up and down the town beach, bullhorn in hand, shouting orders and issuing threats of walking the plank to anyone foolish enough to test-sail their meticulously (ha!) assembled yachts. He needed the bullhorn to be heard over the sound of hammers, saws, giggles, and laughter that permeated the air, creating a festive atmosphere of maritime mayhem.

Michael Weedon and Jeremy

Thayer of Richmond, R. I., two rookies in the silly sailing event walked away with a coveted prize. They didn't win the race because their craft was barely capable of floating, let alone sailing. This won them the award for "Worst Example of Naval Architecture," a respectable feat for newbies. Their luxury yacht, The Silver Bullet, was constructed of six plastic 50-gallon drums painted silver and lashed together to very closely resemble a six-pack of a popular beer. Congratulations are in order to these formidable fools.

Young Captain Carl DeVellis commanded his ship of fools made entirely of masonry equipment and supplies to a fourth-class win on The Mortar, The Merrier. Dad, Al DeVellis, is a masonry contractor in town and a veteran of the foolish sailfest, having won in several classes at least three times over the last decade.

Amina Brown and her bevy of tropical beauties crewed the Leaky Tiki to a second-place finish in the unlimited class. Although they didn't come in first, they did win the judges award. The Leaky Tiki was the most well-appointed yacht in the foolish flotilla with its inflatable palm trees, sail painted to resemble a Hawaiian shirt, and statuesque cutout of an island maiden on the prow. The female crewmembers dressed in plastic "grass skirts," plastic leis, and colorful head pieces. Robinson Crusoe could have learned a thing or two about yacht construction from this crew.

Nat Hines and Matt Gregoire, two rookie fools on "The S.S. More powerful than Superman, Batman, Spiderman and the Incredible Hulk put together 2000," deserve minimally honor-

able mention for coming in third place in Class 2 on a boat of unusual design. It was constructed from a tub that in its past life was a cow watering trough.

28th annual Fools' Rules Regatta Results

Class 1: First place, Thunderbolt, Alex Pardus; Second place, Beach Bum, Lauren McDonough.

Class 2: First place, Sterling Silver, Gibson and Sterling Dintersmith; Second place, Itsy Bitsy, Erica Lush and Eliza Chase; Third place, The S.S. More powerful than Superman, Batman, Spiderman and the Incredible Hulk put together 2000, Nat Hines and Matt Gregoire.

Class 3: First lace, Cannon Ball, Peter Fay, Nick and Fred M.; Second place, The Destroyer, Jeremy Page, Ben Schmidt, Christian Tiexiera; Third place, Udderly Ridiculous, Bethany Reise, Mary Duchett, Hillary Vannof.

Class 4: First place, The Mortar, The Merrier, Carl DeVellis; Second place, Buzzy — Geherly Gomez; Third place, Unsinkable, Casey Brown.

Unlimited: First place, Floatopian Tub, David Malboeuf; Second place, Leaky Tiki, Amina Brown; Third place, Nautical Nitwits, Grampa Don and Alec Roberts.

Most Ingenious Design: Tie-Wrap Theory, Madeline and James Doherty.

Worst Example of Naval Architecture: Silver Bullet, Michael Weedon.

Judges' Award, Leaky Tiki, Amina Brown.



These intrepid sailors urge their craft onward in Saturday's Fools' Rules Regatta. Photo by Don Miller

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