



Reece Bennett, Josef Cohen and Kyle Rafferty look on in anticipation to see whose car finished first in the heat at the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby on Saturday. Photo by Adrienne Downing

Derby tests car builders' creativity

By Adrienne Downing

Forty-two Cub Scouts gave up sleeping in and morning cartoons on Saturday and flocked to the Jamestown Community Center for the annual Pinewood Derby. The scouts put their cars to the test after weeks of designing, shaping, painting and perfecting them. There was a pit area for anyone who wanted to make last-minute adjustments, but for most, the problem solving was complete before the race.

The race was divided into five divisions: Tiger, first grade, Wolf, second grade, Bear, third grade, Webelos I, fourth grade and Webelos II, fifth grade. There were enough heats in each division to allow each car one run on every lane of the six-lane track.

After the division races, there was a finals race with the top 25 fastest racers competing.

The cars were required to be a maximum of 5 ounces, 2.75 inches in width, 7 inches in length and 3.5 inches in height and for some racers the weight requirement was the biggest challenge.

Cole Haly, who finished first in the Bear division, made his car exactly five ounces, but did not know the paint would add so much weight to the car. After the car was painted, he had to drill holes in the bottom of the car to reduce the amount of weight.

"There are so many holes in the bottom of that car it looks like Swiss cheese. I thought if they drilled another hole in it that it would just disintegrate," said his mom, Traci.

Jacob Maguire had just the opposite problem with his car. Although there is no minimum weight requirement, the racers want their cars to be as close to the maximum weight as possible to be more competitive.

"My car was only two ounces on Thursday night, so we had to put coins on the bottom and weights on the top to make it weigh more," he said. His strategy worked because he finished in third place overall. He, along with the first and second place finishers, will move on to

the district race in April hosted by Pack 29 in Narragansett.

"I don't know if everyone has a track like this, but this is a really nice setup," Julie Maguire, his mom, noticed.

Cubmaster Bill Pratt said the track was purchased by the pack two years ago and explained that it is not just a matter of having it put together and ready to run.

"Getting it set up and getting the sensors to work really takes a lot of work. We had parents here last night (Friday) setting up. There is a computer that the sensors are hooked to and John Yarger really did a great job putting all that together for us," Pratt said. "We really appreciate the support of the community and that they allow us to use the community center because it helps the event go smoothly by being able to set up here."

Completing the setup work early allowed racers to arrive on Saturday morning, register their cars and start racing.

Awards were given for the top six finishers in each division, the top six overall racers, best of show, sportsmanship and several other design categories.

Finn Dwyer finished in first place overall with an average time of 3.1029. Isaac Spivak, with an average time of 3.1063, finished in second place and Jacob Maguire finished third with a time of 3.1065. Ben Stewart finished fourth, Kyle

Rafferty, fifth and Joshua Neronha came in sixth place.

The sportsmanship award was presented to Webelo Ryan Geib. Ian Archibald perfected his theme by making his car a wiener mobile and wearing an oversized hot dog hat. For his efforts, he took home the Best in Show award.

Pratt commended all of the scouts for their hard work and noted how the derby fits in with the overall Boy Scout mission.

"Tradition is part of the Boy Scouts and this derby has been going on for more than fifty years. There have been over 10 million derby cars raced since the first race in the 1950s," he explained.

"It is good for the kids because they get a sense of accomplishment from it. The take a block of wood and make something out of it and they get to spend time with their parents in the process," he said.

The Jamestown Boy Scouts have a rolling enrollment, so anyone interested may join at any time.

"We do a lot of fun activities. We march in the Memorial Day parade and do campouts in May and October. The scouts are a service-based organization and what we really do is help other people," Pratt concluded.

For more information on the Jamestown Pack, call Bill Pratt at 423-1698 or Greg DiGasper at 423-2468.

Register now to play baseball in town leagues

Baseball players can register by picking up forms at the recreation center or at Baker's Pharmacy.

Forms can also be downloaded at www.jamestownri.com/ (click on "Community Organizations, and then on Jamestown Baseball).

Boys and girls, who are ages 5 through 12 by April 30, are eligible to play in the Cal Ripken divisions. Players are requested to bring a birth certificate to registration and if not available, it must be provided by April 23.

Try-outs for major leagues (ages 9 through 12) and boys Babe Ruth (ages 13 through 15) will be held Saturday, April 7, at Around the Horn Sports Center, 3377 South County Trail in East Greenwich. Players 9 years old and older, who have not played on a major league team, need to try-out if they wish to play on a major league team. New Babe Ruth players, even if they played in the majors last year, must try out for the Babe Ruth teams. Major league tryouts

will start at 8:15 a.m., followed by Babe Ruth tryouts at 9:30 a.m. Opening day is scheduled for Saturday, April 28.

The following important deadlines should be noted. Major league registrations are due by Friday, March 30. All other age group registrations are due by Friday, April 20. These deadlines are final.

All players, in all age groups, are responsible for their own batting helmets.

A parents meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. in the Melrose school multi-purpose room. All parents, especially parents of first time players, are asked to attend. Jamestown Baseball needs volunteers to serve in various positions, including concession stand coordinator, instructional league coordinator, and instructional league managers/coaches. A second Babe Ruth team and qualified umpires are also needed. For more information, contact Tony Rafanelli at 423-3953.

Easter Basket Gift Ideas

Jewelry, Crystals, Incense & More!



Midnight Sun

Many Beautiful and Unusual Gifts
85 Brown St. Wickford • 295-1601 • Open 7 Days

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

British Challenger Soccer Camp

Hosted by Middletown Youth Soccer Club
Wyatt Road, Middletown

July 9th-13th

Full Day 9 AM-4 PM
U8-U14

Half Day 9 AM-12 Noon
or 1 PM-4 PM U6-U14



FREE \$30 SOCCER JERSEY
if you sign up online prior to May 25, 2007

For Questions
Contact Dana Scott 338-1583

To register go to www.challengersports.com

WILLIAM A. LEONARD

General Consulting for Individuals & Small Businesses

I can...

- > install and setup your computer hardware and software.
- > degunk your computer for better performance.
- > build or help you build web pages and get them on the internet.
- > help you learn how to use Microsoft™ Windows and Windows programs
- > provide scanning services and digital photography and show you how.
- > create custom programs for Microsoft™ Windows Environment.

(401) 423-2809 • WWW.WAL1.COM

EVICITION HASN'T STOPPED US!

PAWS & CLAWS Still Offering

- Vet Visitation Transportation
- Dog Playgroups & Exercising
- In-home Pet Sitting (Including Sleepovers)

PAWS & CLAWS

Loving Pet Care

Jamestown, Rhode Island

401-423-9677

PERRY'S PLUSH POOCH

Voted Best Pet Groomer
2006, 2005 & 2004
- Newport Life Readers

683-3778

The Long and Short of it is, We Have Propane.

"Thank you for your impeccable service, knowledge and professionalism. The way you handled the recent gas leak at our restaurant was outstanding. You fixed a potentially disastrous situation quickly, efficiently and brought my entire propane system up to code. I am impressed and grateful."
- Chuck Masso
Chopmist Charlie's Restaurant



Buckley Heating & Cooling

COMFORT RELIABILITY SOLUTIONS.

Become a Buckley Heating & Cooling propane customer and we'll replace your old tank for a new one and give you 25 gallons absolutely free.

1632 Kingtown Road
Peace Dale, RI 02879
401-789-9711

307 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, RI 02842
401-847-4090

www.buckleyhc.com