

Thrills for island skaters

By Adrienne Downing

Skateboarding and BMX riding received a public facelift on Aug. 17 in the form of the Jamestown Skatefest 2007.

The event was the brainchild of teen coordinator Melissa Minto, Robb Roach of Kettlebottom Outfitters and Jason Hamel of Hamel Graphics.

The trio's talents and contacts complemented each other in pulling together the daylong event, which drew a total of 275 people, with some staying for the entire day.

"Melissa mentioned to me that she would like to do something with the skateboarders. I had dreamed of doing something like the Skatefest and the idea took off from there," Roach said.

"A lot of the teens that were coming into the teen center would come with skateboards, so I thought doing something for them would be great," Minto said. "I called Jason and asked him for some suggestions and he said he knew Donny Barley and the person who owned the Trickstars BMX stunt team and offered to contact them for us."

Barley is a professional skateboarder with the Zoo York team and has been Hamel's friend for 15 years. Josh Kirtland, owner of the BMX team, lives in Portsmouth and was happy to lend support to the local event.

The Trickstars staged three performances throughout the day, and Barley put on a demonstration and signed autographs for the crowd.

Roach also had his TV camera crew on hand to tape the event for a future airing on his show, Kettlebottom Outdoor Pursuits.

Rep. Bruce Long not only donated his Del's Lemonade truck for the event, but he also gave the proceeds from the sales to the teen center.

Skateboards and bikes were not the only thing flying high at the park. Free gear and product give-



One of the almost 300 attendees at SkateFest 2007 demonstrates his skills to the crowd. The kids were able to take turns showing off their boarding prowess for rewards at the event.

Photo by Andrea Von Hohenleiten

aways were also known to make spontaneous airborne trips into the crowd.

Islander Brian Cotsonas, a representative for Smith Optics, donated sunglasses and other paraphernalia.

"I live on this island and it was great to be able to give something back to the community that supported this," he said.

Roach said that other sponsors were equally as generous.

"Paul Danchak from Volcom gave a ton of gear and Zoo York gave away skateboards and decks," he said.

The purpose for the fest was two-fold according to Roach, who saw the day as a great opportunity to educate both the skateboarders and the public on each others needs.

"We took the time during the day to really explain to the kids that

this is their park, and they should take care of it, feel ownership for it. We encouraged them to police themselves and really got out the no drugs, no drinking, no graffiti message," Roach said. "It was a very positive message."

Sixth-grade teacher Beth Weibust was instrumental in getting the skatepark built and she was encouraged by the number of spectators who now see the positive side of the sport.

"I think sometimes people have a hard time seeing it as a sport, but it really is. It really gives kids who may not fit the team sport mold an opportunity to excel at an individual sport, to give them a sense of accomplishment," she said.

All of the parties involved with the day declared it a big success and are already making plans for next year.



Double J/22 win for Porter

By Jeff Westcott

Yet another picture perfect day greeted the fleet of eight J/22's on Aug. 12, with a light, but steady, southerly breeze. The race committee of Peter and Sally Schott set a course of Zp, 13p for the first race. The pin of the generous starting line was favored, especially so since the flood tide was only in its earliest stage. At the gun, the whole fleet was bunched at the pin, forcing Bob Miniutti and Eric Senior's Good News over early. FJ Ritt's Paladin and Bad News, with Cory Sertl driving again this week, got the best of the tangle and led in the early going. Playing the left side at first, then seeking current relief on the right later, Bad News rounded the windward mark first, followed by the close group of Paladin, Rhapsody, and Blues eRacer. On the run to the can north of the bridge, Blues eRacer gained by sailing a more direct course in the flood current to take a narrow lead at that mark. However the final beat, often more of a fetch in a southerly, was lengthened by the adverse current just enough to allow Bill Porter's Rhapsody to grind out her first win of the year. Louis Mariorenzi's Blues eRacer held on for a strong second from Paladin and the fading Bad News. Besame, Chaos, Machbuster, and Good News followed in that order.

The course for the second race was lengthened to Zp, 13p, 15p. With the pin still favored, but the current building, a better organized start found most of the fleet going right soon after the gun. Only Machbuster defiantly went left into the tide and she quickly paid the price. Bad News again led at Z, and a fairly compact fleet began the long run to 15 (a special mark, not far from Besame's mooring). Only 500 yards from the mark, Bad News still led, but found herself lower than the pursuit and suddenly in a hole, as the breeze went lighter near the Jamestown shore. In no time Rhapsody, Paladin, Blues eRacer, and Rob Salk's Besame had all slipped by the no-doubt frustrated Bad News. As the leaders approached the finish, the tide finally overpowered the pin buoy causing some confusion as to where the finish line really was. It was clear, however, that Rhapsody had sealed another win, abetted by Mark Sertl's crew work. Twice Bad News had won the race to the windward mark, only to be chased down by the relentless Rhapsody. After a review by the committee, the remaining order was determined to be Paladin, Blues eRacer, Besame, Bad News, Chaos, Good News, and Machbuster, the last three in a virtual dead heat.

Bad News clings to a one-point series lead over Paladin. Rhapsody, now third, trails by eight.

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