

Sports

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Here, surviving is winning

1982

NORTH WILDWOOD — At least 31 two-man crews are expected to compete for the \$1,000 first prize in today's seventh annual North Wildwood Invitational Rowing Marathon.

The race around Five-Mile Island, which encompasses North Wildwood, Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, could be between 18 and 22 miles long, depending on the current.

The crews will begin at 15th Street and the beach at 7:30 p.m., head south, and should finish about three hours later at the same spot.

The 400-pound boats will start in two rows in the water.

The race, one of two annual lifeguard rowing

events that awards prize money — the other being Atlantic City's Boardwalk Row — will offer \$500 for second place; \$300 for third place; \$200 for fourth; and \$100 for fifth.

The prize money is raised by the sponsoring North Wildwood Beach Patrol through fund-raising events during the year.

Last year's championship crew of Avalon's Dan O'Malley and Peter Soderman have split this year, each taking new partners. O'Malley will row with his brother Steve, while Soderman will row with Jim Ronon. O'Malley was a member of the winning crew the last three years.

Wildwood Crest's Moxie Bilkins and John Green-

Rowing Marathon Today

wood, who have won the row twice, are also entered.

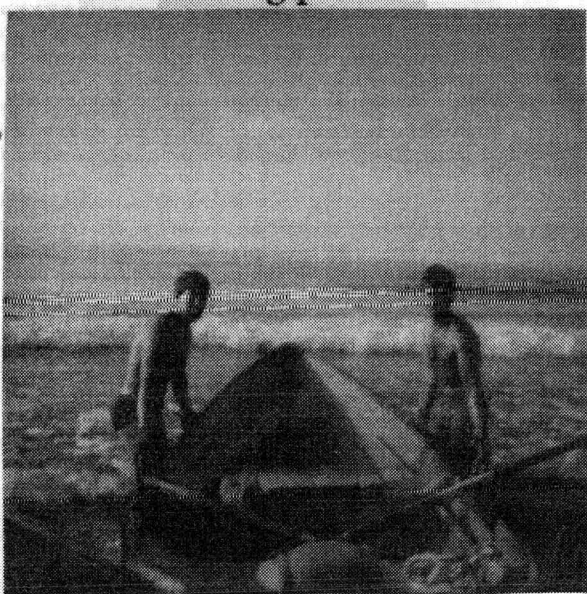
Other favorites expected include the Wildwood crew of Ray Davidson and Rick Greco, Sea Isle's Myles Lederer and Doug Aikens, Ocean City's Tom Morrison and Rick Shoyer, Cape May's Buzzy Mogck and Chuck Patterson, and two North Wildwood crews: Mike and Dennis Regan, and Larry Wargo and Jim Fenningham.

The record for the event is two minutes and 57 seconds, set by North Wildwood's Jim Troy and Harry Zander in 1975.

The race, to which crews from New York to Florida are invited, will include four or five out-of-area crews, the farthest coming from Long Island.

rowing partner

E Moore
Salvatore



AROUND THE
ISLAND ROW
1982

22ND of 35 (3:20:45)

Local Lifeguard Races

NORTH WILDWOOD — Entrants for today's North Wildwood Invitational Rowing Marathon, to be held at 15th Street and the beach (more entrants are expected today):

AVALON: Peter Soderman-Jim Ronon, John Riddler-Rob Kress, Dan O'Malley-Steve O'Malley, Jeff Cummings-Joel Molray.

WILDWOOD: Ray Davidson-Erik Wargo.

SEA ISLE: Jim Farley-Dave Vasso, Bill Riley-Tom McFadden, Sean Lederer-Fred Waite, Myles Lederer-Doug Aikens.

VENTNOR-ATLANTIC CITY: Paul Money-Frank Kelly.

VENTNOR: Steve Brown-Bill Howarth.

WILDWOOD CREST: Moxie Bilkins-John Greenwood, Tom Fredericks-Joe Malloy, Skip Ferraro-Art Duffy, Carmen Alamerio-Jim Martin, Steve Salvatore-Jack Moore.

OCEAN CITY: Tom Morrison-Rick Shoyer.

CAPE MAY: Marty Franco-Terry Randolph, Gary Fuhrman-Jim McDonald, Buzzy Mogck-Chuck Patterson.

NORTH WILDWOOD: Mike Regan-Dennis Regan, Larry Wargo-Jim Fenningham, Tom Palmer-Al Smith, Joe Doris-Joe McMahon, Tim O'Brien-John Fenningham.

STONE HARBOR: Doug Brewington-Jeff Smith, Mark Womeldorf-Mike Orsten.

Sports Editor

NORTH WILDWOOD — Conditions were "go" for one of the best round-the-Island Rows: a 35-boat field, clear skies, calm waters and a \$1,000 first prize.

Admittedly, the rowers shoot for the bucks as an incentive for the mile event. But then again, there's the personal satisfaction of just completing the course —and surviving to talk about it.

"Get a record?" questioned Ocean City's Rick Shoyer, who with partner Tom Morrison won this year's event with a 3:00.20 time, when it was suggested that his first place time might have broken the course record of 2:59.

"I made it. I set my own personal record and that's the one that counts," gasped an exhausted Shoyer.

"From Ocean Drive on, we were hanging on for dear life. Those last few miles seemed like 20, what with the wind against us and the rough ocean. If we didn't have a good lead, I don't know what we could have done.

"I went through about three pain barriers," continued Shoyer, who has had seven knee operations and was competing this day with four screws, three rods, two plates and no cartilage in his right knee.

The agonies of this event were evident on every rower.

John Kelly of Atlantic City, who was in the lead boat with Phil Money of Ventnor for two-thirds of the race, was rushed to Burdette-Milin Memorial Hospital, treated and released with a case of heat exhaustion. Those on the scene reported that he had become so hot that he threw himself overboard to cool off.

Swift action by the North Wildwood Beach Patrol guide boat pulled Kelly out of the water and got him to shore for first aid and eventual ambulance.

The beach patrol also treated several post-race cases of heat exhaustion. The most serious being Ray Davidson of the Wildwood Beach Patrol, who finished 13th with his crewmate Mike Greco. He suffered from severe heat cramps, but was reported in good shape after being taken to a local doctor's office.

The lack of any breeze in the back bay stretch of the course was tributed by several of the rowers as the cause of their heat problems. With no wind, there was no way for the body to get rid of its heat. Drinking water only made the condition worse.

With Kelly and Money gone from the field, Shoyer and Morrison took over first place at the West Wildwood Trestle by threading their way through the pilings, while Kelly and Money went through the narrow opening. It was a few yards after this that Kelly ran into problems.

At the same time Doug Aitkens and Mile Lederer of Sea Isle City were making their move in the race.

the same time Ocean City passed us in the back bay," described Aitkins, illustrating with the space between his index finger and thumb.

That battle was over. Now the Sea Isle duo had to be concerned with the challenge of Dennis and Michael Regan of North Wildwood.

"Those guys were pushing us to death the last three miles," exclaimed Aitkins after he and Lederer crossed the finish line in second place, while they had finished third in 1981.

The Regans had been doing some pushing of their own, but for the time race. Off to a slow start due to navigation problems, Mike Regan noted that he and his brother were tenth at the Cold Spring Point, while they had planned on being first or second.

Grit and determination drove the Regans through the course, until they eventually prepared to do battle with Dan and Steve O'Malley of Long Branch and Rick Stinson and Kevin Miller of Long Branch in the back bay. A battle which was won, as the Regans passed both the

"I made it. I set my own personal record and that's the one that counts," Rick Shoyer, winner of the Around-Island Row.

Malley's (fifth place) and Long Branch (fourth place) at the Grassy Point and Bridge.

Though giving chase, the Regans were never able to draw more than 30 yards on Aitkins and Lederer and ended third, 3:02:22 to Sea Isle's 3:01:10.

Still, this showing was the best ever for the Regans, who finished first in last year's event.

"The only thing I had going for me was prayer and Mike Regan," proclaimed an extremely fatigued Dennis Regan, himself suffering from mild heat cramps, but nevertheless ecstatic over his third place finish.

The Around-Island Row is the type of event that gives you satisfaction if even if you just finish, which 34 out of 35 boats did this year. Lou Cirelli, captain of the North Wildwood Beach Patrol, which sponsors this event, both echoed and stressed that statement, noting that it is a matter of personal pride and a summer-full of training that makes the 18-mile completion a success, no matter where one placed.