

**DON'T MISS THE ROWBOAT: ISLAND RACE TO BEGIN 7 A.M.**

Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) - Wednesday, August 23, 1995

Author: GUY GARGAN For The Press

The North Wildwood Beach Patrol's Around the Island Row will start Thursday at the earliest time in its 20-year history - 7 a.m.

"We had to go with a 7 o'clock start because the race is being held about four or five days late this year and we want to grab the (favorable) tide," North Wildwood Beach Chief Tony Cavalier said.

"That means the race will be over around 10 or 10:30 and the rowers will be out of the heat. We have less boats entered this year because we're holding it so late this year. Some of the oarsmen had to back to school. With the cooler conditions, the race should go a little faster as long as we don't get strong winds."

The boats get a floating start at 15th Avenue and head north to the Hereford Inlet at the beginning of the counterclockwise 21-mile circuit of Wildwood. The crews continue on to the Stone Harbor Bridge, go under the Grassy Sound Bridge and then proceed south through the back bay.

Though the race doesn't have great spectator value, fans usually gather at the West Wildwood Train Trestle, the Rio Grande Bridge and the Cape May Bridge to watch the action in the bay. Then the boats enter the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood and make the final sprint north up the Wildwood beaches back to the 15th Avenue finish line.

Because of the tricky ins-and-outs of the race, the crews that have rowed it several times usually dominate the action, and many of them will be on hand.

South Jersey doubles champions Kevin Murphy and Jim Wadlow of Cape May Beach Patrol have both rowed around the island before, and they should challenge Thursday. Sternman Wadlow won the race last year with Steve Mogck, giving Cape May its first win in the event.

Max Bilkins of Wildwood Crest is the event's only five-time winner, and the 43-year-old bowman has won it three times with his current partner Bick Murphy.

**TODAY'S LINEUPS**

BRIGANTINE - Shawn Daly-Tom Foley; CAPE MAY POINT - Mike Mader-Keith Jackson, Pam Hasse-Derek Wanner; VENTNOR - Jim Mason-Scott Jones, Dennis Funk-George Miller; ATLANTIC CITY - Dave Frankel-Tedd Frankel; MARGATE - John Kelley-Chris Oves; LONGPORT - Mike McGrath-Matt Keim, Jason Iannotti-Roy Mangeli; OCEAN CITY - Bob Amsler-Chris Denn; SEA ISLE CITY - Shane Doyle-Chris Mowery; AVALON - Craig Whitehead-Mike Cras, Joe Markman-Joe Galone, Jim Cras-Steve Markle; STONE HARBOR - Laurent Assance-Dwayne Boyes; WILDWOOD - Joe Slater-Tom Killian, Dan McGuinn-Steve McGuinn, Ed Schneiders-Tom Reynolds, Pat Murray-Ed McGinley, Chris McCann-Jim Gibbons; WILDWOOD CREST - Max Bilkins-Bick Murphy, Jack Wisgo-Rick Greco, Tom Frederick-Skip Feraco; LONG BRANCH - Matt Schad-Michelle Davidson; HARVEY CEDARS - William

Bartholomew-Cory Willis; NORTH WILDWOOD - Joe Taylor-Romolo Forcino, Greg Einhorn-Kevin Gross, Jeff Peterson-Marty Hagan, Linda Kelly-Matt Donahue, Bill Auty-Brian Haigh.

**Edition:** All

**Section:** Sports

**Page:** D5

**Record Number:** 9508230158

**Copyright (c) 1995 The Press of Atlantic City**

[← Back](#)

# BILKINS, MURPHY TEAM UP AGAIN FOR ROWING VICTORY

*August 25, 1995 Publication: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) Page: D1 Word Count: 919*

"Bilkins and Murphy" is a phrase synonymous with the North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row, and now even more so. Veteran Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol lifeguards Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy won the annual 21-mile row around Wildwood for the fourth time on Thursday morning. The Crest stars charged from third place in the backbay to grab the lead, and won in two hours, 57 minutes, 48 seconds.

Bilkins and Murphy took over first place just before the Cape May Bridge, with the counterclockwise race about two-thirds over. From there, they steadily ran away from the field, and won by about 20 boat-lengths over Bob Garbutt Jr. and Jim Wadlow.

Ventnor alumni standouts Scott Jones, 40, and Jim Mason, 46, came on to get third, finishing 12 boat-lengths behind Garbutt and Wadlow. Jones and Mason put on a finishing sprint that just barely overtook John Kelley and Chris Oves.

For the 43-year-old Bilkins, a 24-year guard, it was his 15th race around the island in the event's 20-year history, and his sixth victory. He won the race with John Greenwood in 1978 and won again with Dave Koper a year later.

But his four wins with Murphy, a 36-year-old, 150-pound sternman, will be the most remembered. The pair's other wins in the Around The Island Row were in 1985, 1992 and 1993.

"Winning this race never gets old," Bilkins, whose first name is pronounced 'Mox,' said. "I feel so fortunate to be in good health and to be able to row in this race. As long as I enjoy doing it and I'm able to, I'll continue. It also helps to have a good partner, and I think I have the best. I credit Bick for this because he's a marathoner and he's so in tune with how to train."

The race began at 7:10 a.m. at 15th Avenue beach as 31 two-man boats got a floating start and headed north.

Bilkins and Murphy stayed back at first, and Wildwood brothers Dan McGuinn and Steve McGuinn took the early lead. The McGuinns led Romolo Forcino and Joe Taylor of North Wildwood entering the Hereford Inlet at the top of Wildwood.

At the Stone Harbor Bridge, it looked like it might be a two-boat race as Wildwood led by eight lengths over Garbutt and Wadlow, who rowed in a Cape May boat. After 15 more boat-lengths, North Wildwood led the Crest.

"We didn't really want to lead in the beginning, especially since the other boats follow us and hang around us (because Bilkins and Murphy are the foremost experts on how to row the many-faceted race)," Murphy said. "I started to get a little tentative at the Rio Grande Bridge because I wanted us to start picking people off, and we weren't. We kept the pressure on and felt the wind going (against the rowers). Then one time I turned around and I saw the stem of the Wildwood boat, and I couldn't believe we were that close."

Garbutt (an Ocean City lifeguard) and Wadlow (of Cape May) briefly had the lead in the bay. The pair were actually the most interesting story of the day. "I saw Jim at the women's tournament in Wildwood last night (Wednesday) and I wished him luck because I thought he was rowing with Kevin Murphy," Garbutt said. "But Murphy wasn't rowing (due to an operation this past winter) and we decided to team up. The first time I ever rowed with Jim was going out to the starting line today. We had no finesse at all but we pulled hard the whole way."

The McGuinns made a good showing but faded to 12th. "We started to fade at the rocks (the Cold



Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood Island)," Dan McGuinn said. "We were trying to hold on and make a move in the ocean but we didn't keep the lead. When we got into Wildwood (three miles from the end) I didn't think we were going to finish."

Meet record holders Dennis Funk and George Miller, both 44, overtook Forcino and Taylor to grab fifth place.

## RESULTS

1. Max Bilkins-Bick Murphy, Wildwood Crest 2:57:48; 2. Bob Garbutt Jr.-Jim Wadlow, Ocean City-Cape May 2:59:18; 3. Scott Jones-Jim Mason, Ventnor Alumni 2:59:56; 4. John Kelley-Chris Oves, Margate Alumni-Ocean City Alumni 2:59:57; 5. Dennis Funk-George Miller, Ventnor Alumni 3:01:03; 6. Romolo Forcino-Joe Taylor, North Wildwood 3:03:44; 7. Joe Slater-Tom Killian, Wildwood 3:04:08; 8. Craig Whitehead-Mike Cras, Avalon 3:04:22; 9. Jim Sigmund-Joe Cram, Brigantine 3:05:11; 10. Jack Wisgo-Rick Greco, Wildwood Crest 3:05:34.

11. Tom Frederick-Skip Feraco, Wildwood Crest 3:05:39; 12. Dan McGuinn-Steve McGuinn, Wildwood 3:07:02; 13. Shawn Daly-Tom Foley, Brigantine 3:08:37; 14. Steve Markle-Jim Cras, Avalon 3:11:08; 15. Mike McGrath-Matt Kelm, Longport 3:12:21; 16. Bob Amsler-Chris Denn, Ocean City 3:14:17; 17. Dave Frankel-Tedd Frankel, Atlantic City 3:17:46; 18. Mike Mader-Keith Jackson, Cape May Point 3:18:42; 19. Shane Doyle-Chris Mowery, Sea Isle City 3:21:08; 20. Matt Donahue-Linda Kelly, North Wildwood 3:21:56.

21. Ed Schneiders-Tom Reynolds, Wildwood 3:23:03; 22. Jason Iannotti-Roy Mangel, Longport 3:25:12; 23. Pat Murray-Ed McGinley, Wildwood 3:28:40; 24. Joe Markman-Joe Galone, Avalon 3:29:57; 25. William Bartholomew-Cory Willis, Harvey Cedars 3:31:30; 26. Jeff Peterson-Marty Hagan, North Wildwood 3:32:47; 27. Greg Einhorn-Kevin Gross, North Wildwood 3:36:02; 28. Derek Wanner-Pam Hasse, Cape May Point 3:41:00; 29. Brian Haigh-Bill Auty, North Wildwood 3:55:48; 30. Laurent Lassance-Dwayne Boyes, Stone Harbor 4:10:00; DNF - Chris McCann-Jim Gibbons, Wildwood.

Cape May County Gazette Leader

# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 30, 1995

## Bilkins, Murphy

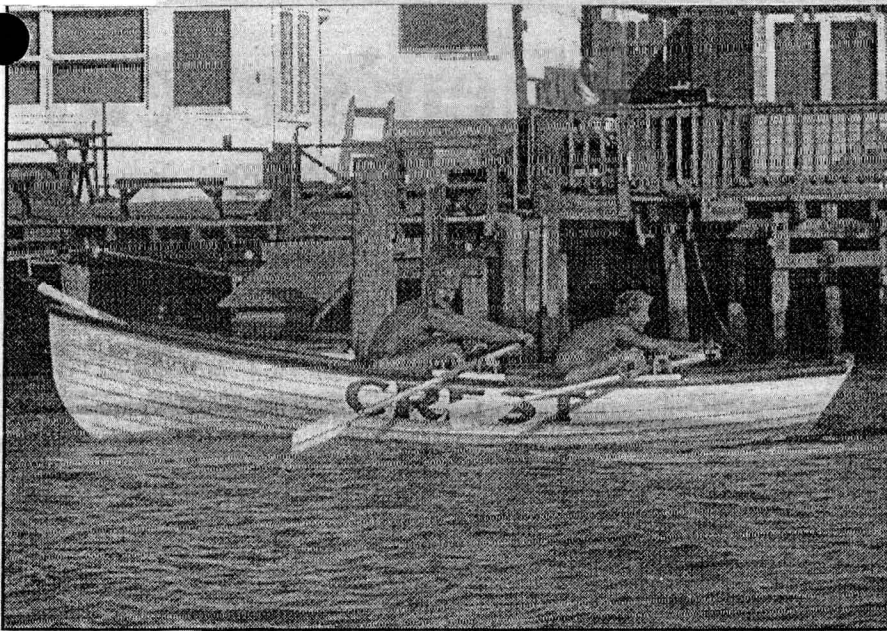


Brian Cunniff

WILDWOOD CREST'S Bick Murphy (left) and Max Bilkins (right) work their long rowing stroke in the ocean portion of the Around the Island Row on Thursday. Bilkins and Murphy won the event for the third time in the last four years.

## dominate Island Row

# Bilkins and Murphy



take over

Brian Cunniff

IN TOP PHOTO, WILDWOOD CREST'S Max Bilkins (left) and Bick Murphy (right) started to make their move as the boats moved past the Rio Grande Bridge. At bottom, North Wildwood's Joe Taylor (left) and Romolo Forcino (right) work their way through the back bay. Taylor and Forcino finished in sixth place, the highest North Wildwood finish since 1978.

in bay

1995





# Win third title in last four years after grabbing lead in bay

By BRIAN CUNNIFF  
Sports Editor

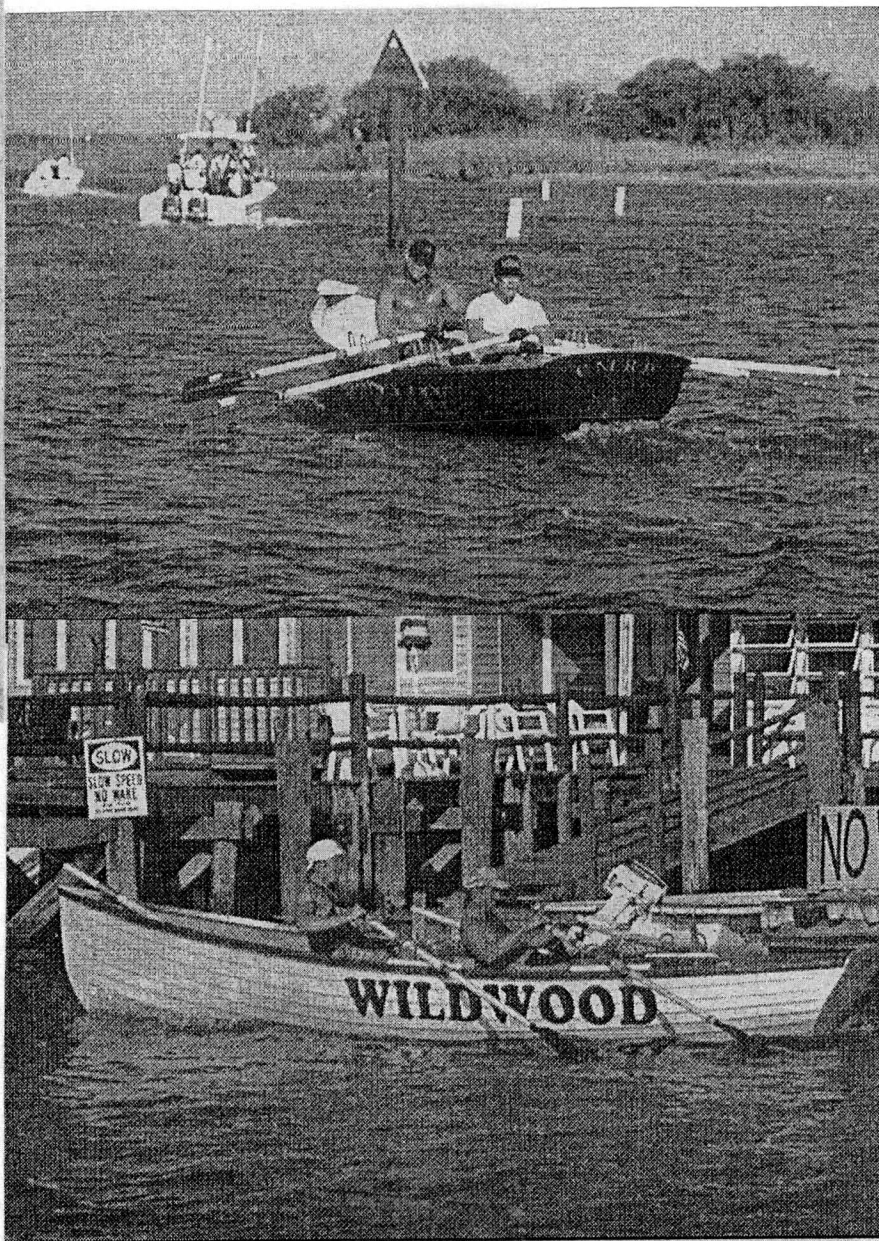
**NORTH WILDWOOD** — When it comes to the Around the Island Row, the 19-mile doubles crew race that encompasses Five Mile Island, a crew that has any thoughts of winning the race must first answer the challenge from Wildwood Crest's Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy.

And for the third time in the last four years, no other crew could.

Bilkins and Murphy won their unprecedented fourth Around the Island Row title on Thursday with a time of 2:57.48, a full minute and a half ahead of second-place finishers Jim Wadlow and Bob Garbutt Jr. Bilkins and Murphy also won the prestigious event in 1985, 1992 and 1993.

"I feel fortunate that I'm able to do this race," said the 36-year-old Murphy, reflecting on the legacy he and his partner have created in the Row over the years. "We're fortunate that we get the time allowed us by our beach to train...and for a lot of guys it's hard to get back here every year and remain a crew together and we've been lucky to be able to do that."

Bilkins and Murphy were as far back as sixth early in the race, but by the time the lead crews reached the back



**THE WILDWOOD BOAT of Dan and Steve McGuinn (left) held a lead for a good portion of the first half of Thursday's Around the Island Row. The McGuinn brothers eventually faded however, and finished in 12th place. Jim Wadlow and Bob Garbutt Jr. who competed in a Cape May boat, took a short lead in the back bay before being passed by Wildwood Crest's Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy. Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. finished second.**

to dominate

## Around the Island Row

"Island Row"  
Continued from Page 1B

bays the Wildwood Crest tandem was battling for third place. Wildwood's Dan and Steve McGuinn held the lead for a good part of the first half of the race, ahead by as much as 15 seconds at the Stone Harbor Bridge. Ocean City's Garbutt Jr. and Cape May's Wadlow, who decided to row together the night before the race in a Cape May boat, stayed a tight second and eventually took a short lead one hour and 32 minutes into the Row.

"We don't want to jump out ahead (early in the race) because it blows your whole energy load right there," Murphy said. "We always want to work on our pace and getting a good, long stroke going. Then, about an hour into the race, we think about trying to pick boats off and move forward and that strategy has paid off for us."

Bilkins and Murphy were behind the leaders by as much as 70 seconds at Second Street, according to times taken by Wildwood Crest Lt. Kevin Donahue. They cut two seconds off that lead around Hereford Inlet, another three by the Stone Harbor Bridge and still seven more seconds by the Grassy Sound Bridge. At the Wildwood train trestle, Bilkins and Murphy closed to about 50 seconds off the pace and by the time they reached the Rio Grande Bridge they were 45 seconds out of the lead while battling for third place with Margate's John Kelly and Chris Oves and North Wildwood's Joe Taylor and Romolo Forcino, who had held a short lead early in the race.

It was then that the venerable Bilkins and Murphy made their move. With Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. also closing in on the lead boat, Bilkins and Murphy surged into third place. After Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. took a short lead however, Bilkins and Murphy kicked it into overdrive.

Just after the Rio Grande Bridge, the McGuinn brothers and Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. were taking anywhere from 30 to 31 strokes per minute. Bilkins and Murphy, on the other hand, were only taking about 28 or 29 strokes per minute but were still closing fast. The McGuinn brothers seemed to lose much of their stamina between the Rio Grande and Cape May bridges, a stretch of the race where Bilkins later said many rowers often hit "the wall." The McGuinn brothers were not maximizing their strokes as well as they had been earlier in the race; their strokes became much shorter and less efficient. Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. took the lead by rowing much more consistently.

"For us I would say years ago (they had to deal with hitting 'the wall'), but we train pretty good throughout the summer as this race for a goal and we come prepared," said Bilkins, whose first name is pronounced 'mocks.' "A lot of guys don't realize this is a three-hour race."

In the meantime, Bilkins and Murphy

closed the gap by getting into a rhythm with longer, more efficient strokes. Murphy, the sternman, laid almost flat with each stroke as he and Bilkins powered away at the lead. The Wildwood Crest crew finally overtook Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. for first place 1:51 into the race, about two minutes before the rowers reached the Cape May Bridge. To put their amazing push to the lead in perspective, Bilkins and Murphy went from 45 seconds down at the Rio Grande Bridge to 10 seconds up at the Cape May Bridge. At the Rio Grande Bridge, the McGuinn brothers, who had the lead at the time, had a split time of 1:15.09. Bilkins and Murphy reached the Cape May Bridge with the lead in a split time of 1:53.48. In other words, Bilkins and Murphy made up a total of 55 seconds on the leaders in just 38 minutes.

Bilkins said he and Murphy don't worry much about how far back they are in the race. Their only concern is with cutting the lead time down at each checkpoint.

Knowing how far they are away from the lead "helps us gauge in terms of stroke rate what we have to do," Bilkins said. "We use (those times) in terms of the next point and did the lead increase or did we knock some time off."

"Our whole theory is to be more efficient than the other boats and if our boat is racing efficiently the difference is at the rockpile (at the end of Cold Spring Inlet). That's where we want to make our move."

Despite leading by just 10 seconds at the Cape May Bridge, Bilkins and Murphy took a water break. But when the Wadlow and Garbutt Jr. were not able to cut into the lead, Bilkins and Murphy pulled away even more after their break.

"I have to give Bick a lot of credit," said Bilkins. "He's more into disciplined training and we use his philosophy. We want to break every 20 to 30 minutes as much as possible no matter where we are in the race and it seems (those breaks) are always in ideal spots. If the current is moving good, you're still moving while you break. Getting a lot of fluid is good for you. The 20 to 30 seconds you use to break is worth it at the end of the race and in the long haul."

Bilkins and Murphy extended their lead to an amazing 41 seconds at the end of the rockpile.

"My philosophy as well as Max's just from running races and rowing is that you have to overtake someone with authority and make them know they're not going to get you," Murphy said.

By the time the boats turned the rockpile, the only drama left to the race was to see if Bilkins and Murphy could break the record time of 2:56.06 set in 1987 by Ventnor's Dennis Funk and George Miller (Funk and Miller placed fifth in this year's race.). With Bilkins and Murphy ahead by 1:12 at the Wildwood Crest fishing pier, they still had a chance.

"At the Crest Pier we decided to try to shoot for the record," said Murphy. "Then we decided to not so much try for the



record but at least get in under three hours."

Bilkins and Murphy did not break the record, but their effort was certainly good enough for yet another Around the Island Row victory.

"There's no secret to the success that those two have," Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol captain Buddy Johnson said later. "It's just hard work."

Hard work and, according to Murphy, pace.

"We have a strategy with his race and No. 1, the strategy is pace," he said. "I don't think there a lot of people who do anything for three hours and in this race, in terms of effort, you don't know how to go about it. We try to keep the same pace. We're always checking our strokes per minute and after (rowing for) an hour and a half, we always want to make sure our strokes per minute are consistent so we can go strong for another hour and a half."

Said Bilkins of their strategy: "Whoever's in the lead, we want to be right with them at the Cape May Bridge and then go for it at the rockpile. Three of the four years we've won it, we caught the lead boat in the ocean. This is probably the first time we've taken the lead that early."

#### ROWING AROUND THE ISLAND:

The title was actually the sixth in the career of Bilkins, who also won the race in 1978 with John Greenwood and in 1979 with Dave Koper. ... All three Wildwood Crest boats entered in the race placed in the top 11. Jack Wisgo and Rick Greco finished 10th, with Tom Fredericks and Skip Feraco placing 11th. Fredericks and Feraco may have finished higher if it wasn't for their encounter with an angler's fishing line in the back bay. ... Forcino and Taylor placed sixth, the highest North Wildwood finish since 1978, when Tom Palmer and Jim Nawn came in

fifth. ... One of the surprises of the Row was the non-entry of Kevin Murphy from Cape May. Murphy enjoyed a successful summer rowing with Wadlow, winning four South Jersey doubles events. But Murphy's concern over the effects of the long, grueling race on a recent operation apparently kept him out of this year's race. ... Wadlow won last year's race with Steve Mogck. ... When thinking about all of the bad things that can go wrong over the course of the Row, it makes it even more amazing that Bilkins and Murphy have enjoyed the success they have. Said Murphy: "One of the reasons is that we've stayed healthy enough to do it every year. You look at what happened to Kevin Murphy and all the things that can happen like equipment failure. The more you do this the better prepared you are for the things that might happen." ... Murphy didn't have much chance to celebrate his victory. The 36-year-old teacher and cross county coach at Emory University caught a 5:30 p.m. flight that evening back to Atlanta.

**RESULTS:** 1. Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy (Wildwood Crest) 2:57.48; 2. Bob Garbutt Jr. and Jim Wadlow (Cape May) 2:59.18; 3. Scott Jones and Jim Mason (Ventnor) 2:59.56; 4. John Kelly and Chris Oves (Margate) 2:59.57; 5. Dennis Funk and George Miller (V) 3:01.03; 6. Romolo Forcino and Joe Taylor (North Wildwood) 3:03.44; 7. Tom Killian and Joe Slater (Wildwood) 3:04.08; 8. Mike Cras and Craig Whitehead (Avalon) 3:04.22; 9. Joe Cram and Jim Sigmund (Brigantine); 10. Rick Greco and Jack Wisgo (WC) 3:05.34; 11. Tom Fredericks and Skip Feraco (WC) 3:05.39; 12. Dan McGuinn and Steve McGuinn (W) 3:07.02; 13. Shawn Daley and Tom Foley (B) 3:08.37; 14. Jim Cras and Steve Markle (A) 3:11.08; 15. Matt Kelm and Mike McGrath (Longport)

3:12.21; 16. Bob Amsler and Chris Denn (Ocean City) 3:14.17; 17. Dave Frankel and Tedd Frankel (Atlantic City) 3:17.46; 18. Keith Jackson and Mike Made (Cape May Point) 3:18.42; 19. Shane Doyle and Chris Mowery (Sea Isle City) 3:21.08; 20. Mat Donahue and Linda Kelley (NW) 3:21.56; 21. Tom Reynolds and Ed Schneider (W) 3:23.03; 22. Jason Iannotti and Roy Mangel (L) 3:25.21; 23. Ed McGinley and Pat Murray (W) 3:28.40; 24.

Joe Galone and Joe Markman (A) 3:29.57; 25. William Bartholomew and Cory Willis (Harvey Cedars) 3:31.30; 26. Martin Hagan and Jeff Peterson (NW) 3:32.47; 27. Greg Einhorn and Kevin Gross (NW) 3:36.02; 28. Pam Hasse and Derek Wanner (CMP) 3:41.00; 29. Bill Auty and Brian Haigh (NW) 3:55.46; 30. Dwayne Boyes and Laurent Lassance (Stone Harbor) 4:10.00; Jim Gibbons and Chris McCann (W) did not finish.



Brian Cunniff

**WILDWOOD CREST'S** Bick Murphy (left) and Max Bilkins (right) pause for a drink after winning their fourth Around the Island Row as a crew.

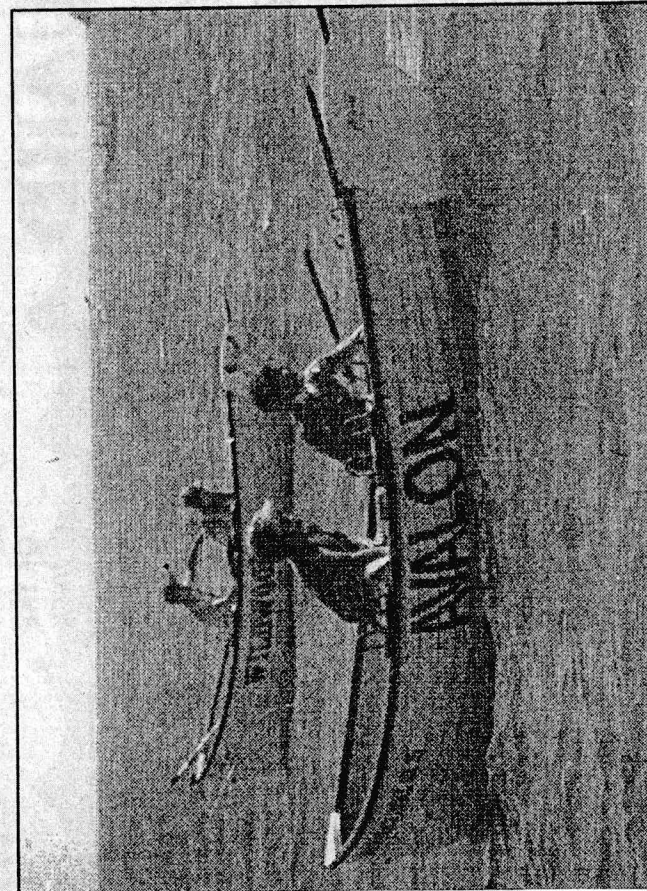
1995

# Past champions of the Around the Island Row

The following is a complete list of the past champions of the Around the Island row, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Wildwood Crest's Max Bilkins has won the event six times, more than any other competitor. A handful of other accomplished rowers, including Bilkins's current crewmate Bick Murphy, have won the Around the Island Row more than once. Ventnor's Dennis Funk and George Miller, who won the event in 1987, still hold the record time of 2:56.06.

YEAR	CREW	BEACH PATROL	YEAR	CREW	BEACH PATROL
1995	Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy	Wildwood Crest	1985	Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy	Wildwood Crest
1994	Steve Mogck and Jim Wadlow	Cape May	1984	John Millar and Tom Morrison	Ocean City
1993	Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy	Wildwood Crest	1983	John Herron and Ron Kirk	Ocean City
1992	Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy	Wildwood Crest	1982	Tom Morrison and Rick Shoyer	Ocean City
1991	Bob McGinty and Cliff Murray Jr.	Ventnor	1981	Dan O'Malley and Pete Soderman	Avalon
1990	Chuck Dunn and Ted Evans	Ocean City	1980	Dave Kerr and Dan O'Malley	Avalon
1989	John Kelly and Stu Grant	Margate	1979	Max Bilkins and Dave Koper	Wildwood Crest
1988	Chuck Dunn and Ron Kirk	Ocean City	1978	Max Bilkins and John Greenwood	Wildwood Crest
1987	Dennis Funk and George Miller	Ventnor	1977	Jim Troy and Harry Zander	North Wildwood
1986	Dan O'Malley and Bill Sieck	Avalon	1976	Jim Troy and Harry Zander	North Wildwood

Wednesday, August 30, 1995 - Gazette Leader - Page 7



Brian Curran

AT LEFT, AVALON'S Mike Cras and Craig Whitehead take a well-deserved break after finishing eighth in the Row. Behind them are Joe Slater and Tom Killian of Wildwood, who finished in seventh place. At right, Ventnor's Scott Jones and Jim Mason edge Margate's John Kelly and Chris Oves for third place in a photo finish.



# Bilkins, Murphy team up again for rowing victory

The Wildwood Crest lifeguards with the Around the Island Row for the fourth time.

By GUY GARGAN  
For The Press

1995

**NORTH WILDWOOD** — "Bilkins and Murphy" is a phrase synonymous with the North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row, and now even more so.

Veteran Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol lifeguards Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy won the annual 21-mile row around Wildwood for the fourth time on Thursday morning. The Crest stars charged from third place in the backbay to grab the lead, and won in two hours, 57 minutes, 48 seconds.

Bilkins and Murphy took over first place just before the Cape May Bridge, with the counter-clockwise race about two-thirds over. From there, they steadily ran away from the field, and won by about 20 boat-lengths over Bob Garbutt Jr. and Jim Wadlow.

Ventnor alumni standouts Scott Jones, 40, and Jim Mason,

46, came on to get third, finishing 12 boat-lengths behind Garbutt and Wadlow. Jones and Mason put on a finishing sprint that just barely overtook John Kelley and Chris Oves.

For the 43-year-old Bilkins, a 24-year guard, it was his 15th race around the island in the event's 20-year history, and his sixth victory. He won the race with John Greenwood in 1978 and won again with Dave Koper a year later.

But his four wins with Murphy, a 36-year-old, 150-pound sternman, will be the most remembered. The pair's other wins in the Around The Island Row were in 1985, 1992 and 1993.

"Winning this race never gets old," Bilkins, whose first name is pronounced 'Mox,' said. "I feel so fortunate to be in good health and to be able to row in this race. As long as I enjoy doing it and I'm able to, I'll continue. It also helps to have a good partner, and I think I have the best. I credit Bick for this because he's a marathoner and he's so in tune

□ See Row, Page D6

## Row: Crest duo victorious for 4th time

(Continued from Page D1)

with how to train."

The race began at 7:10 a.m. at 15th Avenue beach as 31 two-man boats got a floating start and headed north.

Bilkins and Murphy stayed back at first, and Wildwood brothers Dan McGuinn and Steve McGuinn took the early lead. The McGuinns led Romolo Forcino and Joe Taylor of North Wildwood entering the Hereford Inlet at the top of Wildwood.

At the Stone Harbor Bridge, it looked like it might be a two-boat race as Wildwood led by eight lengths over Garbutt and Wadlow, who rowed in a Cape May boat. After 15 more boat-lengths, North Wildwood led the Crest.

"We didn't really want to lead in the beginning, especially since the other boats follow us and hang around us (because Bilkins and Murphy are the foremost experts on how to row the many-faceted race)," Murphy said. "I started to get a little tentative at the Rio Grande Bridge because I wanted us to start picking people off, and we weren't. We kept the pressure on and felt the wind going (against the rowers). Then one time I turned around and I saw the stem of the Wildwood boat, and I couldn't believe we were that close."

Garbutt (an Ocean City lifeguard) and Wadlow (of Cape

May) briefly had the lead in the bay. The pair were actually the most interesting story of the day. "I saw Jim at the women's tournament in Wildwood last night (Wednesday) and I wished him luck because I thought he was rowing with Kevin Murphy," Garbutt said. "But Murphy wasn't rowing (due to an operation this past winter) and we decided to team up. The first time I ever rowed with Jim was going out to the starting line today. We had no finesse at all but we pulled hard the whole way."

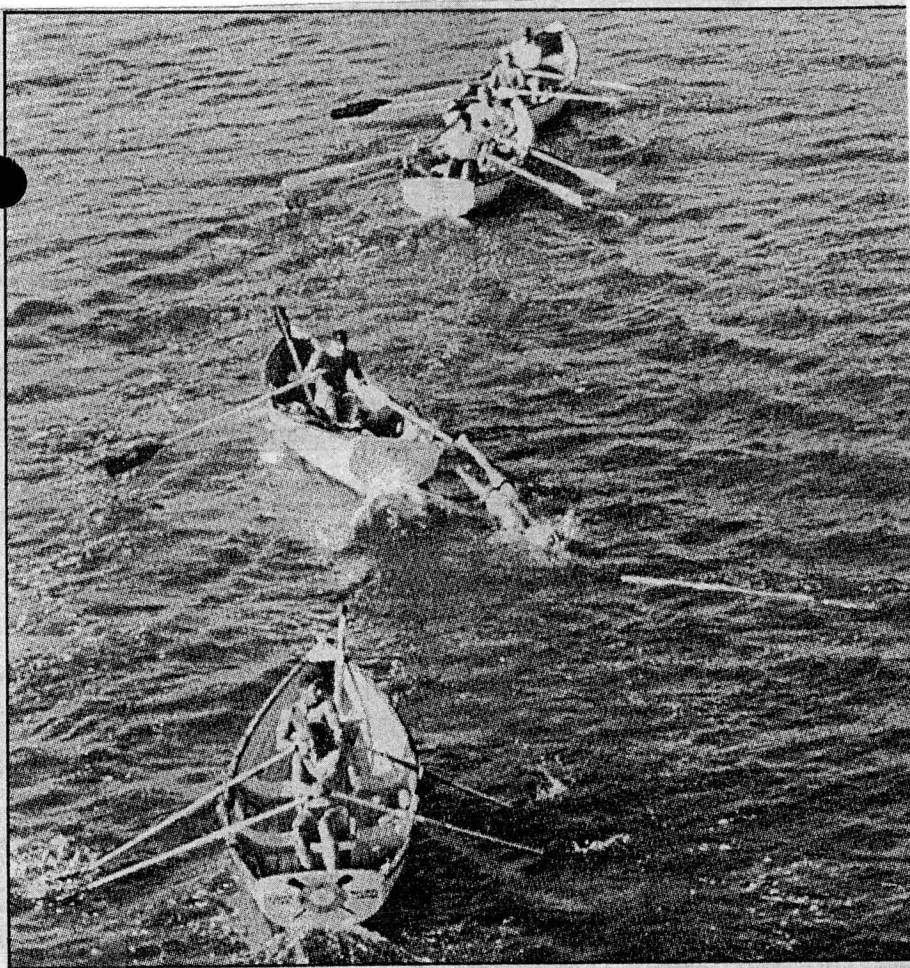
The McGuinns made a good showing but faded to 12th. "We started to fade at the rocks (the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood Island)," Dan McGuinn said. "We were trying to hold on and make a move in the ocean but we didn't keep the lead. When we got into Wildwood (three miles from the end) I didn't think we were going to finish."

Meet record holders Dennis Funk and George Miller, both 44, overtook Forcino and Taylor to grab fifth place.

### RESULTS

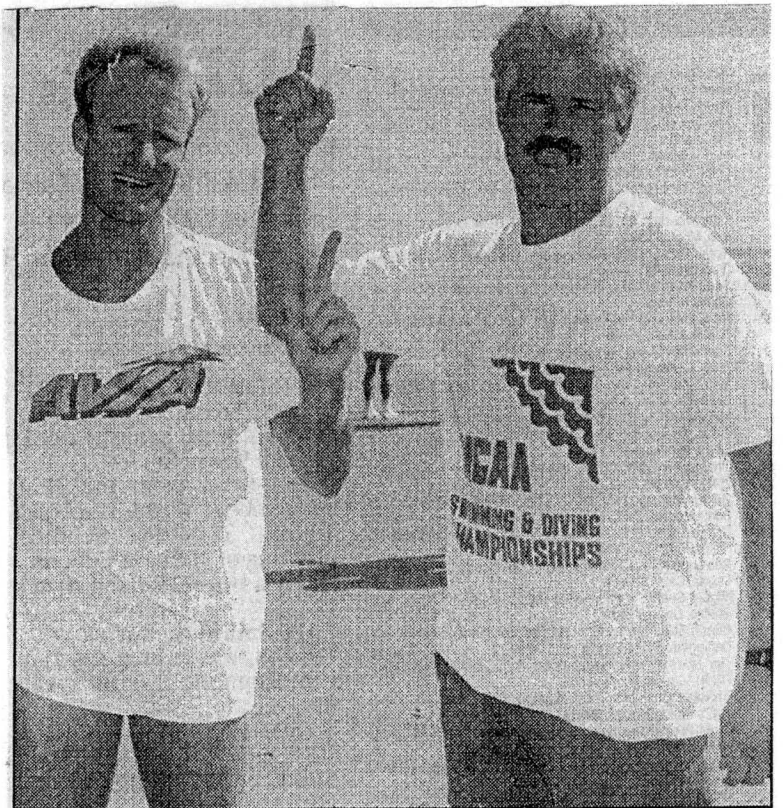
1. Max Bilkins-Bick Murphy, Wildwood Crest 2:57:48; 2. Bob Garbutt Jr.-Jim Wadlow, Ocean City-Cape May 2:59:18; 3. Scott Jones-Jim Mason, Ventnor Alumni 2:59:56; 4. John Kelley-Chris Oves, Margate Alumni-Ocean City Alumni 2:59:57; 5. Dennis Funk-George Miller, Ventnor Alumni 3:01:03; 6. Romolo Forcino-Joe Taylor, North Wildwood 3:03:44; 7. Joe Slater-Tom Killian, Wildwood 3:04:08; 8. Craig Whitehead-Mike Cras, Avalon 3:04:22; 9. Jim Sigmund-Joe Cram, Brigantine 3:05:11; 10. Jack Wisgo-Rick Greco, Wildwood Crest 3:05:34; 11. Tom Frederick-Skip Feraco, Wildwood Crest 3:05:39; 12. Dan McGuinn-Steve McGuinn, Wildwood 3:07:02; 13. Shawn Daly-Tom Foley, Brigantine 3:08:37; 14. Steve Markle-Jim Cras, Avalon 3:11:08; 15. Mike McGrath-Matt Kelm, Longport 3:12:21; 16. Bob Amisler-Chris Denn, Ocean City 3:14:17; 17. Dave Frankel-Tedd Frankel, Atlantic City 3:17:46; 18. Mike Mader-Keith Jackson, Cape May Point 3:18:42; 19. Shane Doyle-Chris Mowery, Sea Isle City 3:21:08; 20. Matt Donahue-Linda Kelly, North Wildwood 3:21:56; 21. Ed Schneiders-Tom Reynolds, Wildwood 3:23:03; 22. Jason Iannotti-Roy Mangel, Longport 3:25:12; 23. Pat Murray-Ed McGinley, Wildwood 3:28:40; 24. Joe Markman-Joe Galone, Avalon 3:29:57; 25. William Bartholomew-Cory Willis, Harvey Cedars 3:31:30; 26. Jeff Peterson-Marty Hagan, North Wildwood 3:32:47; 27. Greg Einhorn-Kevin Gross, North Wildwood 3:36:02; 28. Derek Wannan-Pam Hasse, Cape May Point 3:41:00; 29. Brian Haigh-Bill Auty, North Wildwood 3:55:48; 30. Laurent Lassance-Dwayne Boyes, Stone Harbor 4:10:00; DNF — Chris McCann-Jim Gibbons, Wildwood





Press photo by Tom Kinnemanc

ne Avalon boat loses an oar and then more during the Around the Island Row.



Press photo by Tom Kinnemanc

Bick Murphy, left, and Max Bilkin of Wildwood Crest celebrate their fourth victory in the Around the Island Row.

**BILKINS, MURPHY TEAM UP AGAIN FOR ROWING VICTORY**

Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) - Friday, August 25, 1995

Author: GUY GARGAN For The Press

"Bilkins and Murphy" is a phrase synonymous with the North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row, and now even more so.

Veteran Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol lifeguards Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy won the annual 21-mile row around Wildwood for the fourth time on Thursday morning. The Crest stars charged from third place in the backbay to grab the lead, and won in two hours, 57 minutes, 48 seconds.

Bilkins and Murphy took over first place just before the Cape May Bridge, with the counterclockwise race about two-thirds over. From there, they steadily ran away from the field, and won by about 20 boat-lengths over Bob Garbutt Jr. and Jim Wadlow.

Ventnor alumni standouts Scott Jones, 40, and Jim Mason, 46, came on to get third, finishing 12 boat-lengths behind Garbutt and Wadlow. Jones and Mason put on a finishing sprint that just barely overtook John Kelley and Chris Oves.

For the 43-year-old Bilkins, a 24-year guard, it was his 15th race around the island in the event's 20-year history, and his sixth victory. He won the race with John Greenwood in 1978 and won again with Dave Koper a year later.

But his four wins with Murphy, a 36-year-old, 150-pound sternman, will be the most remembered. The pair's other wins in the Around The Island Row were in 1985, 1992 and 1993.

"Winning this race never gets old," Bilkins, whose first name is pronounced 'Mox,' said. "I feel so fortunate to be in good health and to be able to row in this race. As long as I enjoy doing it and I'm able to, I'll continue. It also helps to have a good partner, and I think I have the best. I credit Bick for this because he's a marathoner and he's so in tune with how to train."

The race began at 7:10 a.m. at 15th Avenue beach as 31 two-man boats got a floating start and headed north.

Bilkins and Murphy stayed back at first, and Wildwood brothers Dan McGuinn and Steve McGuinn took the early lead. The McGuinns led Romolo Forcino and Joe Taylor of North Wildwood entering the Hereford Inlet at the top of Wildwood.

At the Stone Harbor Bridge, it looked like it might be a two-boat race as Wildwood led by eight lengths over Garbutt and Wadlow, who rowed in a Cape May boat. After 15 more boat-lengths, North Wildwood led the Crest.

"We didn't really want to lead in the beginning, especially since the other boats follow us and hang around us (because Bilkins and Murphy are the foremost experts on how to row the many-faceted race)," Murphy said. "I started to get a little tentative at the Rio Grande Bridge because I wanted us to start picking

people off, and we weren't. We kept the pressure on and felt the wind going (against the rowers). Then one time I turned around and I saw the stem of the Wildwood boat, and I couldn't believe we were that close."

Garbutt (an Ocean City lifeguard) and Wadlow (of Cape May) briefly had the lead in the bay. The pair were actually the most interesting story of the day. "I saw Jim at the women's tournament in Wildwood last night (Wednesday) and I wished him luck because I thought he was rowing with Kevin Murphy," Garbutt said. "But Murphy wasn't rowing (due to an operation this past winter) and we decided to team up. The first time I ever rowed with Jim was going out to the starting line today. We had no finesse at all but we pulled hard the whole way."

The McGuinns made a good showing but faded to 12th. "We started to fade at the rocks (the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood Island)," Dan McGuinn said. "We were trying to hold on and make a move in the ocean but we didn't keep the lead. When we got into Wildwood (three miles from the end) I didn't think we were going to finish."

Meet record holders Dennis Funk and George Miller, both 44, overtook Forcino and Taylor to grab fifth place.

## RESULTS

1. Max Bilkins-Bick Murphy, Wildwood Crest 2:57:48; 2. Bob Garbutt Jr.-Jim Wadlow, Ocean City-Cape May 2:59:18; 3. Scott Jones-Jim Mason, Ventnor Alumni 2:59:56; 4. John Kelley-Chris Oves, Margate Alumni-Ocean City Alumni 2:59:57; 5. Dennis Funk-George Miller, Ventnor Alumni 3:01:03; 6. Romolo Forcino-Joe Taylor, North Wildwood 3:03:44; 7. Joe Slater-Tom Killian, Wildwood 3:04:08; 8. Craig Whitehead-Mike Cras, Avalon 3:04:22; 9. Jim Sigmund-Joe Cram, Brigantine 3:05:11; 10. Jack Wisgo-Rick Greco, Wildwood Crest 3:05:34.
11. Tom Frederick-Skip Feraco, Wildwood Crest 3:05:39; 12. Dan McGuinn-Steve McGuinn, Wildwood 3:07:02; 13. Shawn Daly-Tom Foley, Brigantine 3:08:37; 14. Steve Markle-Jim Cras, Avalon 3:11:08; 15. Mike McGrath-Matt Kelm, Longport 3:12:21; 16. Bob Amsler-Chris Denn, Ocean City 3:14:17; 17. Dave Frankel-Tedd Frankel, Atlantic City 3:17:46; 18. Mike Mader-Keith Jackson, Cape May Point 3:18:42; 19. Shane Doyle-Chris Mowery, Sea Isle City 3:21:08; 20. Matt Donahue-Linda Kelly, North Wildwood 3:21:56.
21. Ed Schneiders-Tom Reynolds, Wildwood 3:23:03; 22. Jason Iannotti-Roy Mangel, Longport 3:25:12; 23. Pat Murray-Ed McGinley, Wildwood 3:28:40; 24. Joe Markman-Joe Galone, Avalon 3:29:57; 25. William Bartholomew-Cory Willis, Harvey Cedars 3:31:30; 26. Jeff Peterson-Marty Hagan, North Wildwood 3:32:47; 27. Greg Einhorn-Kevin Gross, North Wildwood 3:36:02; 28. Derek Wanner-Pam Hasse, Cape May Point 3:41:00; 29. Brian Haigh-Bill Auty, North Wildwood 3:55:48; 30. Laurent Lassance-Dwayne Boyes, Stone Harbor 4:10:00; DNF - Chris McCann-Jim Gibbons, Wildwood.

**Caption:** (1) The Avalon boat loses an oar and then more during the Around the Island Row. Color photo (2) Bick Murphy, left, and Max Bilkin of Wildwood Crest celebrate their fourth victory in the Around the Island Row. Staff photo(s) by Tom Kinnemand

**Edition:** All

**Section:** Sports

**Page:** D1

**Dateline:** NORTH WILDWOOD

**Record Number:** 9508250164

*Copyright (c) 1995 The Press of Atlantic City*