

[← Back](#)

Lifeguard races / Wildwood Crest duo to defend island row title

August 18, 2013 Publication: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) Page: B7 Word Count: 527

The Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol crew of Brendan Cunningham and Terry McGovern will try to win the Bud Tarbotton Memorial North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row for a record third straight year Monday.

The 38th annual 20-mile race around Wildwood for doubles crews will begin at 7 a.m. with a floating start at 1st and Surf avenues in North Wildwood.

The Around The Island Row has had many repeat winners, and one crew, Max Bilkins and Bick Murphy of the Crest won in 1985, 1992-1993, 1995-1996, and 2005. But no crew has won the race three straight times.

"As far as I'm concerned, the last two years are in the past," McGovern, 39, said. "2013 is a new race, and we just want to go out and be the best we can be in the race. To win it, things would have to go our way. It's a new race, a new summer and with new crews."

The rowers go in a counter-clockwise direction around Wildwood island. The finish line is at the 15th Avenue beach in North Wildwood, in front of that town's beach patrol headquarters.

The crews first row through Hereford Inlet and under the Stone Harbor Bridge. Continuing

through the back bay to the Cape May Bridge, the crews then get to the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood. After a final turn, the race ends in the ocean as the boats go past Wildwood Crest and Wildwood to the finish line.

Cunningham and McGovern won last year in 2 hours, 38 minutes. The alumni crew of Carl Smallwood Jr. and B.J. Fox, the winners in 2008 and 2009, were second in 2:39.12. Ventnor's David Funk and Ventnor alumnus George Miller were third in 2:39.26.

Race director Bill Ciavarelli said Friday that the race has 23 entries this year, up from last year's 21.

"It's a good field, with a lot of veterans," said Ciavarelli, the North Wildwood beach patrol captain. "It should be a good race because we had four other crews last year within three minutes of the winning time. Our veterans really enjoy the race. It really helps when you've rowed it before."

Contact Guy Gargan: 609-272-7210 ggargan@pressofac.com

THE FOLLOWING TEXT WAS NOT PUBLISHED:

Some of the crews are a bit different this year. Smallwood will row with Margate's Chris Graves, while Fox will pair with David Funk.

Miller will compete with longtime rowing partner Dennis Funk, who is David's father. Dennis Funk didn't compete last year. Dennis Funk and Miller have won the race four times, most recently in 2006.

Two other crews likely to contend: Avalon's Erich Wolf and Craig Whitehead (fourth last year) and Cape May's Geoff Rife and Cape May alumnus Jim Wadlow (sixth in 2012).

Also back are Upper Township's Wayne MacMurray and Wildwood alumnus Bill Kindle (10th last year). Avalon's Matt Wolf will row with Jake Enright. Tom Sher and Tom Kresz will represent Longport. Ocean City has Dan Brady and Paul Boardman. Some of the other crews include Margate alumni Jim Swift and Joe Swift, the crew of Jim Gibbons, an Upper Township guard, and Kevin Larkin, a Sea Isle City alumnus, and the alumni crew of John Swift and Sean McCann.

Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ)

Date: August 18, 2013

Page: B7

Copyright, 2013, South Jersey Publishing Company t/a The Press of Atlantic City

[← Back](#)

Smallwood, Graves row to win 20-mile North Wildwood race

August 20, 2013 Publication: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) Page: D1 Word Count: 768

The crew of Carl Smallwood Jr. and Chris Graves competed at a blistering pace from start to finish in the Bud Tarbotton Memorial North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row on Monday morning.

The conditions were ideal, and several crews turned in fast times as they chased Smallwood, a Margate lifeguard alumnus, and Graves, a Margate Beach Patrol lieutenant, around Wildwood island.

But no one made a serious challenge.

Smallwood and Graves assumed the lead early in the 38th annual 20-mile race, and stayed in control as they won by at least 100 yards in 2 hours, 32 minutes.

Ventnor's David Funk, and B.J. Fox, a former Atlantic City and Longport guard, were second in 2:33.08. Third was Cape May's Geoff Rife and Cape May alumnus Jim Wadlow in 2:35.16.

"I've never had the lead most of the way in this race before," Graves, 31, the stern, said. "We were able to dictate our race and row the way we wanted to row. It feels great to win it again."

Graves won the Around The Island Row in 2010 with Greg Smallwood, Carl's brother. Graves was in the bow in 2010.

"In the stern in a long race, I liked the fact that I didn't have to check for the course," Graves said. "We've been training for this race since mid-July."

Smallwood, 42, has an even deeper history in the race than Graves. He first rowed around the island in 1991 and has missed "only a year or two" since then, he said. He has won the race three other times, with Margate chief Rich Kugel in 2002, and with Fox in 2008 and 2009.

"It still feels great to win," Smallwood said. "The race has a lot of variables, and it was a tough field. Chris trained hard for this, and he deserves it. Chris did a great job with tempo. For the most part we maintained. Ventnor (Funk and Fox) made a move on us the first 10 minutes of the ocean (with seven miles to go), but we were able to open it up again."

Graves and Smallwood aren't new partners. They won the first three Hammer Rows from 2006 to 2008 in the Seaview Harbor section of Egg Harbor Township.

Wildwood Crest's Brendan Cunningham and Terry McGovern were trying to become the first crew to win the race three years in a row, but they placed fourth in 2:35.58. Their time was more than two minutes faster than their winning time of 2:38.0 from last year.

"We fell back a little in the bay," Cunningham, 25, said. "The last two years we were able to make a move to get ahead, but today Margate got out and stayed out."

Funk won the Around The Island Row in 2003 with brother Andrew Funk. Last year, David Funk was third in the race with Ventnor alumnus George Miller.

"B.J. and I have trained since mid-June for this," Funk, 35, said. "In the ocean leg, there was a tailwind and a flat ocean, so it was tough to make a move."

Four-time overall winners Dennis Funk, 61, and Miller, 62, were seventh in 2:38.06 and won the alumni division. Funk is the father of David, Ashton and Andrew Funk. Miller has rowed the race 29 times, all but last year with Dennis Funk.

"We passed three boats in the ocean. That's pretty good for guys our age," Miller, the stern, said.

Wadlow flew in from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Sunday. He hadn't rowed with Rife since last year's Around The Island Row when they placed sixth.

"We'll take it," Wadlow, 47, a two-time winner, said of their third-place finish. "Geoff and I have been in the boat four times in three years, so to get top-three is pretty good."

The event honors the late Tarbotton, who founded the race in 1976 while a member of the North Wildwood City Council.

Contact Guy Gargan: 609-272-7210 ggargan@pressofac.com

RESULTS

Active lifeguards listed by their beach patrol, and lifeguard alumni listed by their former beach patrols.

1. Margate alumnus-Margate (Carl Smallwood Jr.-Chris Graves) 2:32.00; 2. Ventnor-Atlantic City/Longport alumnus (David Funk-B.J. Fox) 2:33.08; 3. Cape May-Cape May alumnus (Geoff Rife-Jim Wadlow) 2:35.16; 4. Wildwood Crest (Brendan Cunningham-Terry McGovern) 2:35.58; 5. Avalon (Erich Wolf-Craig Whitehead) 2:37.18; 6. Wildwood (Brandon Joyce-Steve McGuinn) 2:37.41; 7. Ventnor alumni (Dennis Funk-George Miller) 2:38.06; 8. Upper Township-Wildwood alumnus (Wayne MacMurray-Bill Kindle) 2:38.12; 9. Sea Isle City alumnus-Upper Township (Kevin Larkin-Jim Gibbons) 2:39.32; 10. Cape May (Steve Kowalik-Ed Giordano) 2:41.02; 11. Margate alumnus-Ocean City (John Swift-Sean McCann) 2:41.08; 12. North Wildwood (Pete Lees-Shawn Stamm) 2:43.45; 13. Wildwood (Ed Schneider-Tom Killian) 2:44.43; 14. Longport alumnus-Ventnor alumnus (Tom Kresz-Tom Sher) 2:44.50; 15. Margate alumni (Jim Swift-Joe Swift):46.14.

Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ)

Date: August 20, 2013

Page: D1

Copyright, 2013, South Jersey Publishing Company t/a The Press of Atlantic City