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**Rowing / Around the Island Row set for Monday morning** [Hide Details](#)

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The 39th annual Bud Tarbotton Memorial North Wildwood Beach Patrol **Around The Island Row** will begin at 8 a.m. Monday at 1st and Surf Avenues in North Wildwood.

The 20-mile race for doubles crews in lifeguard surfboats goes in a counterclockwise direction around **Wildwood Island**. The finish line is in the ocean at 15th Avenue beach in North Wildwood.

The Margate Beach Patrol crew of alumnus Carl Smallwood Jr. and current lifeguard Chris Graves won last year's race in 2 hours, 32 minutes.

This year's race has 21 entries.

"It's always exciting, especially since there are at least seven former winners in the race this year," North Wildwood Beach Patrol captain Bill Ciavarelli, the race director, said. "There's also some first-time competitors. We're looking at good conditions for the rowers, with temperatures in the low 70s."

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

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# Lifeguard races / Longtime pals reunite to win 20-mile row

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Terry McGovern and Darrick Kobierowski win the Around the Island Row in North Wildwood about 20 years after they last worked as rowing partners.

Darrick Kobierowski and Terry McGovern's dominant performance made the Bud Tarbotton Memorial North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row seem pretty much a race for second place Monday.

Their win was all the more surprising considering they hadn't rowed together in about 20 years, other than some practices this summer.

Kobierowski, a Wildwood lifeguard, and McGovern, a Wildwood Crest guard, won the 39th annual, 20-mile race around Wildwood island in 2 hours, 48 minutes, 38 seconds. McGovern, a two-time previous winner of the race, and Kobierowski, a one-time previous winner, topped everyone by more than two minutes. Both rowed with different partners during their previous Island Row wins.

"We built a good lead about a third of the way into the race," McGovern, 40, the stern, said. "We had a good start and settled in nicely. We just stayed focused and tried to build the lead."

Avalon's Erich Wolf and Shane McGrath made a good run in the final seven-mile ocean sprint to finish second in 2:51:53. The lifeguard alumni crew of Carl Smallwood Jr. and B.J. Fox, winners

of the race in 2008 and 2009, finished third in 2:52.06.

"It felt good all the way around," Kobierowski said. "After 25 or 50 strokes, we were out front very early. This is about my eighth time in this race, and I've had a few learning experiences. Anybody I know has to learn what you put your body through in order to win it. It's good to win this race because it takes a lot of savvy, experience and commitment."

The race began just before 8 a.m. at 1st and Surf Avenues and went in a counterclockwise direction until the finish line in the ocean at North Wildwood Beach Patrol headquarters at 15th Avenue beach.

Kobierowski and McGovern rowed together as Wildwood Crest lifeguards in the early 1990s. McGovern is a 21st-year guard, 20 of which have been spent in the Crest. He won the Tarbotton Around The Island Row with Brendan Cunningham in 2011 and 2012. Kobierowski is a 20-year guard, with five spent in Wildwood, three in Wildwood Crest and 12 in Stone Harbor. He won the race in 2001 for Stone Harbor with Tom Lake.

"Darrick and I have been friends a long time," McGovern said. "We tried to get in the boat (to practice) once a week this summer, in addition to our competing on the beach (in lifeguard events such as the South Jersey Lifeguard Championships held Friday in Ocean City). It feels great to win, and it's really nice to row with an old friend."

Wolf and McGrath were in sixth place rounding the final turn in the Cold Spring Inlet at the bottom of Wildwood but ended up in second.

"When you pass a boat in the ocean, you get momentum, and then you do it again and get more momentum," Wolf, 28, said. "The ocean is the toughest aspect of the race. With the tide moving pretty fast through the whole race, things were pretty fast in the back bay, and it was hard to catch anyone. In the ocean, it was into the wind and a northeast chop, and it slowed the race down. Once we were in the ocean, we could pass some of the boats."

McGrath has finished second twice in the race, the other time with Craig Whitehead in 2011.

Smallwood, a Margate lifeguard alumnus, is a four-time winner of the race. He won last year with Chris Graves, a current Margate lifeguard.

Smallwood and Fox have rowed together often over the years. They were second to Ocean City's Dylan Kosten and Matt Garbutt on July 21 in the summer's second-oldest long race, the Upper Township Beach Patrol Multiple Sclerosis Six-Mile Bay Row.

"Wildwood Crest (McGovern and Kobierowski) had a fast start, and our strategy was to keep our race plan and catch them in the ocean," said Fox, 41, a former lifeguard for Atlantic City and Longport. "We thought they might burn out in the ocean, but it didn't happen."

Cape May alumnus Jim Wadlow, a two-time winner of the race, flew in a week ago to row with Cape May guard Geoff Rife. They finished fourth in 2:53.21.

Ventnor alumni Dennis Funk and George Miller, 62 and 63, respectively, were fifth in 2:56.01. Funk and Miller have won the race four times.

Contact Guy Gargan: 609-272-7210 [ggargan@pressofac.com](mailto:ggargan@pressofac.com)

## RESULTS

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

1. Wildwood-Wildwood Crest (Darrick Kobierowski-Terry McGovern) 2:48:38;
2. Avalon (Erich Wolf-Shane McGrath) 2:51:53;
3. Margate alumnus-Atlantic City, Longport alumnus (Carl Smallwood Jr.-B.J. Fox) 2:52:06;
4. Cape May-Cape May alumnus (Geoff Rife-Jim Wadlow) 2:53:21;
5. Ventnor alumni (Dennis Funk-George Miller) 2:56:01;
6. Wayne MacMurray-Bill Kindle (Upper Township-Wildwood alumnus) 2:57:12;
7. Cape May (Chris Vittese-Anthony Onimus) 2:57:43;
8. Avalon (Craig Whitehead-Justin Codey) 2:59:13;
9. Cape May-Cape May alumnus (Steve Kowalik-Ed Giordano) 2:59:55;
10. Ventnor alumnus-Ocean City (Tom Sher-Sean McCann) 3:00:13;
11. Margate alumni (Jim Swift-John Swift) 3:03:10;
12. Upper Township alumnus-Sea Isle City alumnus (Jim Gibbons-Kevin Larkin) 3:03:22;
13. North Wildwood (John Livingstone-Tim Regan) 3:03:50;
14. Wildwood (John Preston-Nate Dirvin) 3:04:52;
15. Margate (Shane Dixon-Hunter Pizagno) 3:07:36.