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# McGuinn, Joyce win Island Row in Wildwood for the first time

*By GUY GARGAN Staff Writer August 22, 2017 Publication: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ)  
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NORTH WILDWOOD - Wildwood lifeguards Steve McGuinn and Brandon Joyce have each rowed the Bud Tarbotton North Wildwood Beach Patrol Around The Island Row several times, but Monday was the first time they won it.

The two rowed to the lead early in the 20-mile, counterclockwise doubles race around Wildwood island and won by about 200 yards in 2 hours, 37 minutes, 41 seconds.

Ventnor's Pat Shober and Brett Hanson, in the race for the first time, took second in 2:39:31. The lifeguard alumni crew of Carl Smallwood Jr. (Margate) and B.J. Fox (Longport) finished third in 2:39:37. Fourth was Wildwood's Darrick Kobierowski (now an alumnus) and Terry McGovern in 2:40:12. Kobierowski and McGovern were three-time defending champions.

The Around The Island Row was held for the 42nd straight year, and the 50-year-old McGuinn said he has competed in about 28 of them.

"It's really cool to win," said McGuinn, who was the bow. "I've had seconds and thirds, and to finally win it is a special feeling. Brandon and I click together. We have the same type of stroke. We have more connection at the front end of the stroke. We use our crew knowledge.

"We had a really good ocean row (the final seven miles) and increased our lead."

McGuinn is a teacher and head coed crew coach at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia. Joyce, 27, is an assistant boys crew coach at Father Judge High School in Philadelphia.

McGuinn and Joyce won the doubles row at the Cape May County Lifeguard Championships on July 7. They also won the Upper Township Beach Patrol M.S. Six-Mile Bay Row on July 19, on McGuinn's birthday.

"We got into a good compatible base pace," said Joyce, 27, who was in his eighth island row. "I started training for this race in 2009. We've done well in the long and the short rows this year. Whenever I'm in the boat with Steve, I'm confident. I trust his course and his advice."

Shober and Hanson (both 20) got advice on how to row the race from Ventnor Beach Patrol chief Stan Bergman and lieutenant David Funk on Sunday. Shober is a rising junior rower at Syracuse University, and Hanson is a rising junior rower at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We learned from the best, Stan Bergman and Dave Funk," Hanson said. "Dave told me it goes fast, and that's for sure. We had good preparation, a good setup and the right equipment. I'll definitely do the race again."

Smallwood and Fox won the race in 2008 and 2009 and were fourth last year. "B.J. and I both have three kids, and it's getting harder and harder to do this race," said Smallwood, 46, referring to the time commitment required to train for it. "We row in the morning about four days a week."

Some apparent miscommunication at the beginning gave Kobierowski and McGovern a disadvantage. The race, scheduled for 8 a.m., began a bit early, and the Wildwood crew wasn't near the starting line. Kobierowski and McGovern had to row hard to make up ground and eventually reached second place before finishing fourth.

"We had 23 crews in the water and had an opportunity for a good start," race director Bill Ciavarelli, the North Wildwood Beach Patrol captain, said. "In other years, we've started early, including years that they (Kobierowski and McGovern) have won. We gave the five-minute

warning and the two-minute warning, and then started the race."

## Results

1. Wildwood (Steve McGuinn-Brandon Joyce) 2:37:41; 2. Ventnor (Pat Shober-Brett Hanson) 2:39:31; 3. Margate alumnus-Longport alumnus (Carl Smallwood Jr.-B.J. Fox) 2:39:37; 4. Wildwood alumnus-Wildwood (Darrick Kobierowski-Terry McGovern) 2:40:12; 5. Avalon (Craig Whitehead-Shane McGrath) 2:41:15; 6. Cape May alumnus-Cape May 2:41:28; 7. Cape May 2:42:47; 8. Longport 2:42:51; 9. Upper Township-Wildwood alumnus 2:44:00; 10. Margate 2:44:02.

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