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DOWN with the SHIP

Jennifer Rice photo

It doesn't take long before the cardboard boat of the YWCA of Aurora's We Can Do It boat capsizes, spilling its two boaters into Mastodon Lake at Phillips Park during the Fox Valley United Way's What Floats Your Cardboard Boat Race. **PAGE 5**

FVUW kicks off campaign with Cardboard Boat Race



Jennifer Rice photo

Members of Caterpillar stand next to their cardboard boat, the ECO-CAT, which was constructed entirely of cardboard and made to look like a miniature of the CAT earthmoving equipment. The boat finished in 2nd place in the business category with a time of 3:45.

By Jennifer Rice
Managing editor

You wouldn't think a lake, a few hundred people and lots and lots of cardboard would equate to a good time, but then you didn't attend the recent Fox Valley United Way's (FVUW) 10th annual What Floats Your Cardboard Boat race held Aug. 18 on Mastodon Lake in Phillips Park.

On that beautiful, sunny day, 22 decorated cardboard boats, built and manned by area businesses, organizations and individuals, competed for trophies and bragging rights as they made their way to the finish line.

"So many people make this event possible," said FVUW Executive Director Michael Myer. "It's such a unique and wonderful event."

A few cardboard boats sunk, but that's all right, because the race honors the best sinking with the Most Spectacular Sinking award. This year, that award was rightfully earned by the Pink Positive Engine 10, built by the Aurora Regional Fire Mu-

seum. Racing in the community category, the pink cardboard fire engine capsized within a minute after launching.

But it was able to redeem itself when it raced in the Last Chance Race, a category, which is open to all losing, yet seaworthy vessels. With only two boaters instead of its original three, the Pink Positive Engine 10 stayed afloat and crossed the finished line with dry participants.

Much to the delight of spectators, three other vessels sunk on Mastodon Lake, including the United Wave Machine, manned by Gandi Falcon, the Circus Circus boat, manned by the Falcon family and the We Can Do It boat, manned by the YWCA.

The Circus Circus vessel lasted a measly 9/10 of a second — barley enough time for participants to get situated into the boat. The two women aboard the We Can Do It boat managed a few paddles before it tipped on its starboard side, spilling the women into the lake. The United Wave Machine, well, it circled a few times before its large, decorated top capsized the vessel.

Division	Organization Name	Boat Name	Time
Mechanical	Fox Valley United Way	LIVE UNITED	1:49
	Fox Valley Labor News	The Lucky Labor News	2:34
	SPARK: Early Learning Initiative	SPARK	2:51
Business	Caterpillar	ECO-CAT	3:45
	Village Ave Hardware	Screw Driver	4:04
	Old 2nd Nat'l Bank	Second to None	3:58
	Rush Copley Medical Center	Promises Promises	4:42
Junior	Boy Scout Troop 35	St. Rita's Revenge	5:31
	Girls Scouts of No. Ill.	Atlantic Cruise Girls	6:39
Community	Aurora Fire Dept.	Chief Complaint	2:18
	Aurora Regional Fire Museum	Pink Positive Engine 10	Sunk
	Sci-Tech Museum	Sci-Tech Shuttle	5:14
	Gandi Falcon	United Wave Machine	Sunk
Non-Profit	Red Palm Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Mops	SS Carl Russell	3:26
	The Falcon Family	Circus Circus	Sunk
	Family Counseling Service	The Subconscious	4:57
	Wood House	Big Top Hosed	4:42
	Hope for Tomorrow	Servamin' Eagle	5:52
	Aurora Township	The Township Terror	5:13
	Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Ill.	Lewis and Clark - Searching For a Cure	2:34
	YWCA of Aurora	We Can Do It	Sunk
	Open to all seaworthy vessels	SS Carl Russell	2:53
	Open to all seaworthy vessels	SS Carl Russell	2:53
Last Chance Race			
Best in Race, Human Powered			
Best in Race, Mechanical Powered			
Team Spirit Award			
Audience Choice			
People's Choice			
Most Spectacular Sinking			
Aurora Fire Department			
Fox Valley United Way			
Circus Circus			
Wood House			
Second to None			
Pink Positive Engine 10			

Prior to the race, Mission Possible Chaplain Gary Baer joked that he was pretty sure Noah wouldn't get on any of these arks. Baer was invited to bless the fleet prior to their takeoff. He prayed that God bless the boats, even if they weren't seaworthy; bless the boaters, even if they can't swim and the rescue team, well, just in case.

The event kicked off the FVUW's campaign season and celebrated the organizations that work together to make a difference for those in need in the Fox Valley. Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner said the people involved in this year's race were making it possible that the FVUW can meet the needs of the people in our community.

"Sometimes we forget there are people in need; that have trouble feeding their families or are near homelessness. But the Fox Valley United Way makes sure that no one in our community is left behind," Weisner said.

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