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## Contestants do whatever floats their boats

By MITCH MITCHELL  
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ARLINGTON - A cross section of North Texans braved threatening skies Saturday to revel in the waters of Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in the biggest Cardboard Boat Regatta organizers can remember.

A record 129 boats entered this year's regatta, with a record 54 in the youth category. The Maypearl school district sponsored 14, and 34 were backed by schools in the Fort Worth, Arlington and surrounding districts.

Organizers estimate that more than 2,500 people attended, up from 2,000 last year, said Amy Walker, the River Legacy Foundation's fund development director.

"We sold out of pizza and ice cream," Walker said. "This has been the biggest turnout that we've had in the five years since I've been connected with the event."

The big draw was the fun the regatta delivered. But the chance to help the River Legacy Foundation continue its program of education and park improvements also provided satisfaction.

"I know the programs they are involved in, and they benefit everyone in the entire city," said Gary Daley, owner of Randol Mill Pharmacy and sponsor of more than a dozen boats. "People would pay to do something like this, not even knowing they were benefiting River Legacy, and they have a great time besides."

It will be a few days before it is known whether the fundraiser met the \$70,000 goal.

The Barbie Girls, a team sponsored by the pharmacy, won a second-place trophy. The team consists of 10 Lamar High School seniors who plan to give their 4-year-old boat to younger friends so they can continue the tradition.

"This is just a good way to get out in the sun with your friends," said team captain Lindsey Bauman, 17.

The regatta provided more than just racing fun. Derek and Deneb Hall of Hall Commercial Roofing like to participate in the nonboating activities. The firm has taken first place in the tug of war the past two years, the Halls said.

"We have a lot of roofers - big boys - on our team," Derek Hall said.

Most of the children in The Boys Crew boat attend Ousley Junior High School in Arlington, and most are members of the school orchestra, said team captain Dorothy Davies, 12.

"My friends didn't think our boat would even float," she said. "But this boat is a lot stronger than the one we started out with the first year."

Regatta winners

Youth

Admiral's Pride

1. Sinko De O'Mayo, Maypearl school district
2. Flaming Chicken, Haltom City Children's Courtyard

3. Super Split, Little Elementary

Rah! Rah!

5th Grade Rocks, Pope Elementary

Titanic

5th Grade Rocks, Pope Elementary

Fastest Finish, Youth

Guppy

1. CCY Water Colors, Willow Grove Children's Courtyard

2. The Need for Speed

3. Flaming Chicken, Haltom City Children's Courtyard

Dolphin

1. Snake Eyes, Al-Hedayah Academy

2. Super Split, Little Elementary

3. Hillbilly Machine, Maypearl school district

Whale

1. Butler Vikings, Butler Elementary

2. Blue Bird, Bates Container

3. Lego My Boat, Country Day School of Arlington

Adult

Legacy Award, Best of Show

Da Boat V, Bell Helicopter

Admiral's Pride

Guppy

1. Water Dogs, Harris Packaging

2. Carcharias, Arlington High School Engineering Club

3. C.L.A.R.C., Tarleton State University

Dolphin

1. Politically Correct, Young Men of Arlington

2. F.O.B., Bowie High School Winston Science Team

3. Survivor, Harris Packaging

Whale

1. X-elation, General Motors

2. Barbie's Boat

Class II

1. Magic Carpet Ride, Randol Mill Pharmacy

Most-Honorable Mention

SOS Tub

Rah! Rah!

The Burninator, The Home School 4-H

Judges Award

1. Magic Carpet Ride, Randol Mill Pharmacy

2. Whoposa, Sam Houston High School Interact Club

People's Choice

Mighty Blue Jay, Veda Knox Elementary

Titanic

USS Chuck Norris, Tarleton State University

Fastest Finish, Adult

Guppy

1. Prairie Dog, North Texas River Runners

2. C.L.A.R.C., Tarleton State University

3. CCY Eliminators, Children's Courtyard

Dolphin

1. Politically Correct, Young Men of Arlington

2. General Lee, Tarleton State University

3. Milestone, The Parks at Treepoint

Whale

1. Happy Medium II, Bates Container

2. Da Boat V, Bell Helicopter

3. T-Boat, First Baptist, BSA Troop 57

Class II

1. Red Baron, Randol Mill Pharmacy

2. Magic Carpet Ride, Randol Mill Pharmacy

3. Miss Kim II, Harris Packaging

Corporate Challenge Winners

1. Harris Packaging

2. General Motors

3. Schrickel, Rollins & Associates

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