



Hope Floats: Teams Sign Up for Dragon Boat Races on the Hudson River

Cappelli Enterprises Becomes New Event Sponsor

Peekskill, NY (April 30, 2007) - Dragon Boat racers are getting ready to take to the Hudson River and vie for trophies and medals on Saturday, August 4, 2007 during Peekskill Celebration 2007, the Hudson Valley's largest festival. Business, civic and community organizations have already recruited teams, which launch from scenic Riverside Green Park.

For the first time, Cappelli Enterprises will sponsor the event. "We're pleased to be this year's sponsor of the Dragon Boat races, which have become a major event in the Hudson Valley region," said Louis Cappelli, President of Cappelli Enterprises, based in Valhalla. "The celebration attracts people of all ages from throughout the area and is a natural way for the community to connect with the natural beauty of the Hudson River."

Squads that have registered hail from Guide Communications, Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Metro-North Railroad, Peekskill Recreation Department, Peekskill Rotary Club and Wheelabrator Westchester. The Lakeland, Hendrick Hudson and Peekskill Education Foundations will field a combined team, as will ITI Strategies-Ultimate Collision, which has won the event the last two years.

At Peekskill Celebration 2007, teams will race in three divisions: Women's, Open (may have women paddlers) and Mixed (at least eight women paddlers). Each crew consists of sixteen paddlers, a steersperson and a drummer. Minimum age to participate is 14 and everyone must wear a flotation vest.



All teams will race three times, including two heats and a final. The fastest of the two heat times will determine the appropriate placement of teams. Races of 500 meters generally last two minutes.

In the spirit of fostering good-natured competition, specialty divisions may be created that group together teams with a natural theme, such as pitting rookie

squads against each other, for instance, or squaring off teams within a particular field or industry.

Synchronization, technique and a positive attitude help propel successful Dragon Boat racing teams. Passed down from ancient China, the pastime is gaining popularity in the United States. The long, narrow boats (41 feet by 45 inches) weigh 550 lbs. and are stable. Though racing requires skill, once paddlers are in stroke and the craft builds momentum, everyone contributes to the team no matter how big or small, young or old.

22DRAGONS, a Montreal-based boat club that also operates race events, will oversee the event. The firm provides boats, personnel, instruction and training for every team, including at least one practice session on the water. The company ensures safety, fairness and fun for everyone.

The \$1,000 entry fee per team is used to offset the cost of running the entire production, which receives instrumental help from the Peekskill Yacht Club and Commodore Tony Masi. In addition to storing the boats for two weeks prior to race day, volunteers at the club also provide training for participants and patrol the waters during the event.

About Peekskill Celebration 2007

Now in its 11th year, the annual Peekskill Celebration is the largest festival in the Hudson Valley. Attracting over 30,000 people from the metropolitan New York City area, the festivities highlight the vibrant City of Peekskill and its maritime heritage. Run by a not-for-profit corporation committed to strengthening community ties, the events celebrate family, food, fireworks, music, crafts, Dragon Boats and more. Venues include stunning Riverfront Green Park, Charles Point Park and historic downtown Peekskill.

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