

4th of July Cardboard Boat Race

Houston Yacht Club is so fortunate to have so many new members, and with these new members comes some explanation of events our Club has done for years that are now annual events.

One of these events is our Annual 4th of July Cardboard Boat Race. I could not tell you when this tradition started, I know I have been at the Cub for 36 years, and it was a tradition then.

The Race is just as it is called: The Cardboard Boat Race. This race is the major fundraiser for our Youth Sailing Program. The race course starts at the ramp next to the Beachcomber and proceeds around Pier 11 (main pier in center of harbor) and finishes at the Opti Floating Ramp.

But the race, is secondary to the boats and support of our Youth Program. The boats are designed and built by you, your family, your friends. The boats consist solely of cardboard, duct tape, paint, and perhaps some water seal! It is a great building and bonding with your kids to build the boat that will be raced. And don't forget to bring paddles and oars for propulsion! We have had some really unique and outlandish designs that have ended up winning. The rules and Notice of Race are attached. While it is common and customary for people to bring their building supplies to club and build the boat on the morning of the 4th in the Beachcomber, boats may be constructed in advance off site. Often, cardboard supplies will be on hand for your use. At 5:30 there is a very informal Skippers meeting with all the boats on the lawn. After the Skippers Meeting, this year, our very own Jack Cronan will hold the Calcutta for all to bid on, boat by boat, on who will win the race. (50% of those profits will go to RASA for the future benefit of our Youth Program and 50% to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners). Fun and creative awards will also be presented to competitors!

The race starts after the Calcutta. So, who can race??? Any and everyone. We start the race by age groups, but we encourage all ages to participate.

So, please start now with your plans and designs, and come and participate in one of the most fun events of the year. And after the race, we all relax at the pool, have a great Dinner that Richard and Jenna are planning, and prepare for the HYC Fireworks Show.

Hope to see everyone there.

Farley Fontenot
HYC Rear Commodore