



Atlantic Veneer Mill Outlet Beaufort National Boatbuilding Challenge

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The traditions of Spring will soon be arriving in Beaufort and again, for the eleventh year, the Beaufort Boatbuilding Challenge will enliven the Waterfront under the big tent on Saturday, May 5th. Since its inception eleven years ago, the Challenge has grown to become one of the largest crowd draws on the Beaufort Waterfront. Held the same weekend as the N.C. Maritime Museum's Wooden Boat Show, Beaufort is flooded with boat enthusiasts and spectators.

Our 501c (3) organization is the NC Boatbuilding Heritage Foundation with a mission to promote and preserve the boat building heritage of North Carolina and to provide scholarships to deserving students who wish to pursue the skills of boat building. With the success of the prior Challenges, we have been able to provide eleven scholarships to students at two different colleges over the past five years: Carteret Community College Marine Technologies Program and Cape Fear Community College Wooden Boat and Boat Manufacturing Program.

We are also excited about the high school participants in the Challenge, as we believe participation will peak the interest of students in disciplines of both carpentry and boat building. We hope to have at least one team from each of the 3 high schools this year. Additionally, we had will have four or five teams of middle school, cub scouts and girl scouts. The excitement of these youngsters is truly infectious!

As in the past, at the starting whistle, eighteen to twenty two-person teams go at it, full speed, to build a 12-foot Carolina Bateau rowing skiff in less than four hours. But speed must be accompanied by craftsmanship and seaworthiness for a team to be a winner. The rowing race inevitably packs the Boardwalk as participants demonstrate their rowing ability (sometimes swimming ability!) in their newly crafted vessels. The top three teams will receive cash prizes and be named the winners of the Beaufort Challenge and also qualify for the national championship.

The total budget for the event including scholarships is over \$20,000 and covered by donated funds, materials and services. Our expenses include the materials for the boats, the tent rental, the awards dinner, tee shirts and hats, cash prizes, sound system rental, etc. No salaries are paid and all organizers are volunteers, using their own resources.

Please consider helping us make this event better than ever? Sponsorship levels start from \$100 and range up to our major Event Sponsor, the Atlantic Veneer Mill Outlet at the \$10,000 level. For sponsors who contribute \$250 and above, we will again set up a downtown store window display with a repetitive video with sponsors names that run for the entire month in advance of the May 5th Challenge. Our Sponsor Board will also again be erected a month in advance in the highly visible John Newton Park adjacent to the Dockhouse Restaurant to share with all who has contributed \$250 or more.

Please help us with your donation while showing your support for our community. Beaufort and boat building is a match and this event serves to promote and preserve the boat building bloodlines of the Beaufort area and simply have fun!

More information may be found on our website: www.beaufortchallenge.com

Thank you,
Jack King and Susan Sanders
Organizing Committee Chairmen
252-241-4485

