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Cardboard boats take to the seas off Cape

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Skippers fought the wind and paddled for glory Saturday during Cape Coral's 17th cardboard boat races.

More than a 1,000 people cheered them on and marveled at the creative cardboard contraptions that resisted sinking for the most part.

Cape resident Gerri Decker toured the boats on display at Four Freedoms Park, which overlooks the Bimini Basin. This was her third trip to the races.

"It's fun. I like looking at what people go through to make a boat," Decker said.

All the boats were made from cardboard, glue and paint.

A group of engineering students from FGCU used six cases of Liquid Nails, said hydrology assistant professor Kristoph Kinzli. They built a Viking ship that won them the top Spirit Award.

Kinzli thanked sponsors such as Thomas Marine and Advanced Solar for their help with materials and transportation for the ship, which was rowed by 12 students sporting two-horned hats.

Olivia Powell, 11, was a solo paddler and ready to go back on the water in her floatation jacket to try for a win. Earlier she'd tried but lost to another competitor.

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Gallery: See photos from Saturday's Cardboard Boat Regatta in Cape Coral.

IF YOU GO

What: Cardboard Boat Regatta's Dock-Dog competition. Dogs get a running start and leap into a pool of water to fetch an object.

When: Today from 11 a.m. to about 3 p.m.

Where: Four Freedoms Park, 4818 Tarpon Court, Cape Coral

Admission: Free to watch.

Parking: \$5

Info: 898-9725 or capecoralregatta.com

"I was trying to go around the buoy, but I went the other way because of the wind," Powell said.

But it was fun trying to win in the All Aboard After School boat, she said.

The event is a fundraiser for the sponsoring Cape Coral Rotary Club.

Food and other vendors ringed the park with their tents.

Nikki Timberlake sold a dozen "thinies" in the first three hours of the event.

Thinies are made of cloth and hold squeaky toys for dogs. They look like skunks, fox, squirrels and rabbits.

"I call them roadkill because they have no stuffing," joked Timberlake, owner of Pawsotively Purrfect.



PHOTOS BY TERRY ALLEN WILLIAMS/
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Above, Fast Eddie Kipfer leads his Viking crew toward the finish line during the annual cardboard boat races Saturday at Four Freedoms Park in Cape Coral.

Left, Jessica Sawyer, 18, laughs as she walks her Ida Baker High School team's boat to shore Saturday after it capsized during the annual cardboard boat races.