

Forty crews set for today's row around the Wildwoods

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The boats will go under the Stone Harbor Bridge, head south, go under the Grassy Sound Bridge and continue through the back bay. The crews will then go under the Cape May Bridge, through the Cold Springs Inlet and head back up Wildwood to 15th Street. Today's forecast for rain could cause a change in plans.

"We wouldn't postpone until Monday at 7:30," North Wildwood Beach Patrol chief Tony Cavalier said. "We're going to try and go. A light rain isn't going to stop us. If we have to postpone, we'll go Tuesday morning. The wind controls. If it's really blowing, we'd

have to call it. The rain isn't a factor. Some of the rowers like the rain because of heat exhaustion."

Last year, the record-breaking winners were a builder and lawyer. Dennis Funk, the builder, and George Miller, both Ventnor Beach Patrol alumni, also won the South Jersey two-man boat title 1973-75. They will compete again today.

Last year, Funk and Miller powered to victory in a record time of 2 hours, 56 minutes, 6 seconds.

Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern of Longport could be a threat to win. The two were third

in 1983, second in 1984 and 1985, and second again last year in 2:58.15.

Kevin Murphy and Bob Kaehler Cape May, the South Jersey two-man boat champions this year, will be in separate boats today. Murphy will team with Ed Stinson while Kaehler pairs with old partner Marty Franco. Kaehler and Franco finished second in the island row in 1986, when the race was halted at the Cape May Bridge due to rough ocean conditions.

Other contenders:
• Cape May's Terry Randolph, who teamed with Franco for second in 1983, pairs up today with

Geoff Rife;
• Ron Kirk, of Ocean City, and Chuck Dunn;

• Chris Oves and Joe Sheffer of Ocean City, who were fourth last year;
• Bill Howarth of Ventnor and Jim Mason, who were fifth last year; and
• John Kelley and Stu Grant of Margate.

Not everyone competing fits the term "oarsman," because two women are competing. Dave Johnson will pair with Linda Kelley for Wildwood Crest and the husband and wife team of Sean and Joanne Carney will row for North Wildwood.

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Staff photo by Tom Kinner

City's Ron Kirk, left, and Chuck Dunn, winners of the North Wildwood Around the Island Row

1988

Rowing

AROUND THE ISLAND

The order of finish of the 13th annual North Wildwood Around The Island Row, held Monday, was: 1. Ron Kirk-Chuck Dunn Ocean City 2:59.34; 2. Funk-George Miller Ventnor alumni 3:00.00; 3. Bob Kaehler-Marty Franco Cape May 3:00.56; 4. Jim McDevitt-Paul Murray Ventnor 3:01.40; 5. Chris Oves-Joe Sheffer Ocean City 3:02.49; 6. Bill Howarth-Jim Mason Ventnor 3:03.40; 7. Vince Wiernicki-Joe Diamond Wildwood 3:04.23; 8. Bill Money-Kevin Corcoran Margate 3:04.28; 9. Tom Hewitt-Kevin Nagle Ventnor 3:05.11; 10. Rob Canavan-John Carroll Brigantine

3:06.15; 11. Scott Jones-Ed Harrold Ventnor alumni 3:06.40; 12. Mike McGrath-Don MacEachern Longport 3:07.00; 13. John Kelley-Stu Grant Margate 3:08.10; 14. Ted Chestnut-Steve Benner Avalon 3:09.14; 15. Terry Randolph-Geoff Rife Cape May 3:10.49; 16. Rich Demers-Ralph Atwell Cape May 3:12.39; 17. Jim Gibbons-Steve Stocks Wildwood 3:12.41; 18. Steve Sless-John Forkin Atlantic City alumni 3:14.58; 19. Tim Wierman-Mike Orstein Stone Harbor 3:15.42; 20. Steve Sassaman-Greg Jugla Wildwood 3:17.13; 21. Larry Murphy-Pat Chism Wildwood Crest 3:18.22; 22. Tom Frederick-John Lincke Wildwood Crest 3:19.12; 23. Darrin Ford-Rod Dougherty Avalon 3:20.40; 24. Paul Matterna-Jerry Bonsall Upper Township 3:21.58; 25. Hap Jennings-Grant Day North Wildwood 3:23.16; 26. Joe Dougherty-J.J. Nissley Avalon 3:24.25; 27. Bob Cwik-Dave Carpenter Cape May Point 3:25.13; 28. Linda Kelley-Dave Johnson Wildwood Crest 3:27.40; 29. Pat Moran-Larry Kozakowski Wildwood alumni 3:29.22; 30. Sean Carney-Joanne Carney North Wildwood 3:35.30; 31. Peter Romano-Sтивен Reich Cape May Point 3:39.55; 32. Joe Durkin-Tim Regan North Wildwood alumni 3:42.58; 33. Steve Maiocco-Jim Shiller Wildwood Crest alumni 3:47.40.

Ocean City crew cops island row

By GUY GARGAN
Correspondent

A.C. PRESS
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NORTH WILDWOOD — It was just visible to onlookers through a gloomy haze, but Ron Kirk and Chuck Dunn rowed together Monday in a relaxed and relentless victory cadence.

The Ocean City Beach Patrol oarsmen allowed no serious challenges en route to winning the 13th annual North Wildwood Around The Island Row. Their time was two hours, 59 minutes, 34 seconds.

Kirk and Dunn assumed the lead in the bay behind Wildwood and won by about 70 yards over defending champions Dennis Funk and George Miller, the star Ventnor alumni crew. Funk and Miller crossed the finish line in an even three hours.

For the veteran Kirk and Dunn, a relative newcomer, it was the first trip to victory lane in this year's South Jersey lifeguard competition season. Kirk and John Herron had won the 21-mile

island row in 1983.

"The cloud cover really helped me because it kept the heat from being a problem," Kirk said. "We felt really good in the bay. Our stroke was really together. We were trying to keep our strokes per minute to about 24 to 26. I thought it would be good if we could under stroke the other crews."

Thirty-four two-man boats got a floating start at the 15th Street beach in North Wildwood at 9:20 a.m. In the race's first mile, a crucial incident occurred.

Funk and Miller collided with Rob Canavan and John Carroll in the Brigantine boat and both crews lost precious seconds. Canavan and Carroll recovered to finish 10th.

"We couldn't get separated or untangled from Brigantine," Miller said. "We were riding the swell. We were almost last after the accident. We had to row through the field. We just decided

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Row

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to go after them one at a time. It was probably one of the greatest races we ever rowed."

The crews turned into the Hereford Inlet and the Cape May team of Bob Kaehler and Marty Franco led by about 15 feet. Kirk and Dunn were battling the Longport duo of Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern for second.

The scene was about the same at the Stone Harbor Bridge, but in the back bay, Longport made its move. At the West Wildwood train trestle, McGrath and MacEachern had a two-boat lead over Cape May, with Ocean City, the Ventnor team of Bill Howarth and Jim Mason, and Funk and

Miller close behind.

But Kirk and Dunn began their long strokes to victory. At the Rio Grande Bridge, they had first place by 60 yards over Howarth and Mason. McGrath and MacEachern had faded to fifth and eventually came in 12th.

"Ron doesn't like to stop," Dunn, a 1986 Ursinus College graduate said. "He doesn't like to give an inch. I wanted to make sure that he drank enough fluids during the race. I took a liking to rowing five years ago. Ron and I have rowed together since about June."

Kirk and Dunn led by 100 yards at the Cape May Bridge. Kaehler and Franco, eventually third in 3:00.56, were behind them. Funk and Miller, their earlier woes behind them, were 25 feet behind the Cape May crew.

"After the accident, we were lucky to pull up and be competitive in the bay," Funk said. "It's long race. We really kept our heads and I was really happy about that."

Kirk and Dunn rounded the turn and enjoyed a favorable ocean current during the final stretch run up Wildwood island.

"This feels better than 1983 because we didn't win otherwise this year," Kirk said. "We (Kirk and Herron) won every race in 1983."



CITY of NORTH WILDWOOD

CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Ref

BEACH PATROL

13TH Annual Row Around The Island Race - 8/29/88

ORDER OF FINISH

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>BEACH PATROL</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CREW</u>
1	Ocean City	2:59:34	Ron Kirk + Chuck Dunn
2	Ventnor	3:00:00	Dennis Funk + George Miller
3	Cape May	3:00:56	Bob Kachler + Marty Franco
4	Ventnor	3:01:40	Jim McDevitt + Paul Murrey
5	Ocean City	3:02:49	Chris Oves + Joe Sheffer
6	Ventnor	3:03:40	Bill Howarth + Jim Mason
7	Wildwood	3:04:23	Vince Weermicki + Joe Diamond
8	Margate	3:04:28	Bill Money + Kevin Corcoran
9	Ventnor	3:05:11	Tom Hewitt + Kevin Nagle
10	Brigantine	3:06:15	Rob Canavan + John Carroll
	Ventnor	3:06:40	Scott Jones + Ed Harold
12	Longport	3:07:00	Mike McGrath + Don MacEachern
13	Margate	3:08:10	John Kelley + Stu Grant
14	Avalon	3:09:14	Ted Chestnut + Steve Benner
15	Cape May	3:10:49	Terry Randolph + Geoff Rife
16	Cape May	3:12:39	Rich Demers + Ralph Atwell
17	Wildwood	3:12:41	Jim Gibbons + Steve Stokes
18	Atlantic City	3:14:58	Steve Sless + John Farkin
19	Stone Harbor	3:15:42	Tim Wierman + Mike Orstein
20	Wildwood	3:17:13	Steve Sassaman + Greg Jugla
21	Wildwood Crest	3:18:22	Larry Murphy + Pat Chism
22	Wildwood Crest	3:19:12	Tom Frederick + John Lincke
23	Avalon	3:20:40	Darrin Ford + Rod Dougherty
	Ventnor Upper Twp	3:21:58	Paul Mattera + Jerry Bonball
25	North Wildwood	3:23:16	Ken Jennings + Grant Day



UNDER UP FINISH
CITY of NORTH WILDWOOD
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

<u>RACE</u>	<u>BEACH PATROL</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CREW</u>
26	AVALON	3:24.25	J.J. NISSLEY JOE DOUGHERTY
27	CAPE MAY POINT	3:25.13	BOB CWIK & DAVE CARPENTER
28	WILDWOOD CREST	3:27.40	LINDA KELLEY & DAVE JOHNSON
29	WILDWOOD (ALV.)	3:29.22	PAT MORAN & LARRY KOZAKOWSK
30	NORTH WILDWOOD	3:35.30	SEAN & JOANNE CARNEY
31	CAPE MAY POINT	3:39.55	PETER ROMANO & STEPHEN REKH
32	NORTH WILDWOOD	3:42.58	JOE DURKIN & TIM REGAN
33	WILDWOOD CREST	3:47.40	STEVE MAIOCCO & JIM SHILLER
34	NORTH WILDWOOD	DID NOT FINISH	JOE McMAHON & GREG BRAD
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"1988"