



2017 NATIONAL BOATBUILDING CHALLENGE

The National Boatbuilding Challenge is returning to Belfast on Saturday, August 19, 2017 during the Belfast Harbor Fest, sponsored by the Belfast Rotary Club. The competition was a huge success in Belfast in since 2007, and has been held in South Carolina for the past 25 years. The challenge involves two-person teams building a 12-foot wooden skiff in less than four hours followed by a rowing race. Teams are judged on how quickly they complete construction, the quality of the craftsmanship and their speed on the water in the two-man relay-rowing race.

The rules are simple:

- Teams of two compete to build a wooden boat in less than 4 hours
- Power and hand tools may be used, but not pneumatic tools
- All materials are provided except for oars (which must be handmade), and the transom, which may be glued but not cut
- All teams are provided with the plans ahead of time
- At the end of 4 hours the boats are judged on completeness and quality of craftsmanship
- Then the builders must have enough faith in their work to get into the boat and compete in a relay race in the harbor

For the \$100 entry fee, each team receives plans and building materials, a workspace and competes for First, Second and Third place prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 respectfully.

Teams provide their own tools, worktables and oars plus transom blank.

In the past teams have been comprised of boat builders, carpenters, doctors, nurses, mechanics, teachers, and retirees. We have had brothers, brothers-in-law, and spouses compete. Some have finished, many have not.

Although competitors are a mixed bag, it is recommended that a least one team member is familiar the safe operation of their tools and can read the plans.

The competition will begin at 11:00 am on Saturday, Aug. 19, at Steamboat Landing in Belfast.

**[For more information:
email us at belfastharborfest@gmail.com](mailto:belfastharborfest@gmail.com)**

[Boatbuilding application on second sheet](#)

Rules and Regulations

- Each team will consist of two boat builders.
- Each team will be assigned a space approximately 10' X 15'. All tools, tables and necessary building materials will be confined to this space.
- Each team will provide their own tools, both hand and power. A 20 amp electrical service will be supplied to each team. All tools must be in good repair with all guards and safeties in working order.
- Any power tool is allowed except for pneumatic tools and chain saws.
- Each team must bring their own sawhorses and worktable(s). No jig, pattern or automatic assembly mechanism may be used. You may make your mold ahead of time.
- Only manual caulking guns may be used to dispense adhesive and caulking material.
- Each team must bring two personal flotation devices (life jackets).
- The National Boat Builders Challenge Committee will supply all plans and building materials. The team must make the oars; however, they can be made before hand. Oarlocks will be supplied. Boat plans are available to teams as soon as their entry fee is received.
- The fee to reserve a workspace for the competition and receive the boat plans is \$100.00 payable to the Belfast Rotary Club and mailed to: PO Box 74, Belfast, ME 04915

National Boat Building Challenge in Belfast, Maine is based on the following:

1/3 - Speed of building the boat 1/3 - Quality of workmanship 1/3 - 2-man relay rowing race

Speed of building the boat

Each team will have a 4-hour time limit to build the boat. Each team will be awarded points for their standing against other teams for simple elapsed time. First place will receive 1 point, second place will receive 2 points, third place will receive 3 points, fourth place will receive 4 points, and fifth place will receive 5 points, and so on.

Quality of workmanship

Each team will be awarded points in the same manner as above, based on the quality of the workmanship. These points will be awarded at the sole discretion of the judges, taking into account adherence to the plans. All boats will be judged after 4 hours or after all the boats are complete, whichever comes first.

Relay rowing race

The race will be a relay on an even course with each team member rowing one leg each. The course will be short, with simple straight lines and one turn. The points for this portion of the competition will also be awarded in the same manner as the speed and quality portions of the Challenge.

We look forward to you becoming a boat building “Warrior” this summer in Belfast, ME! Mark Your

Calendar August 19, 2017 at 11:00 am Steamboat Landing, Belfast Setup 8:30 to 10:30 am

Team Name _____

Member #1 Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Daytime Telephone _____ **Evening Telephone** _____

E-mail Address _____

Current Occupation _____

Member # 2 Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Daytime Telephone _____ **Evening Telephone** _____

E-mail Address _____

Current Occupation _____

PERSONAL STUFF

On the **BACK** of this sheet please take some time and respond to the questions below:

- Please tell us a little of your history. Tell us something interesting, funny, and helps provide understanding of both of you as competitive boat builders. We will use this in the program. No limit on words here.
- Please give us some insight into what motivates you to enter a competition to establish a world record for boatbuilding and go on to compete in a national competition? No rules here, just speak your thoughts.

Sponsored by Belfast Rotary Club

