

SUNDAY JUNE 8 1980

**8:AM
SHARP**

**RAIN
or
SHINE**

The 11th
**GREAT annual
DELAWARE
RIVER**



Raft Race

**START SMITHFIELD BEACH, PENNA.
5 MILES NORTH OF THE DELAWARE WATERGAP**

**FINISH MARTINS CREEK, PENNA.
24 MILES DOWNSTREAM AT PP&L BEACH**

FOR INFORMATION

**CALL: BILL BOLTE (201)-383-7197
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OR WRITE: D.R.R.R. P.O. BOX 93 WHARTON, N.J. 07885

HOSTED BY THE HIGH LIFE SKI CLUB OF NEW JERSEY

THE GREAT ELEVENTH ANNUAL DELAWARE RIVER RAFT RACE

THEY SAY THE MOST EXCITING THING THAT HAPPENED ALONG THE DELAWARE IN 1734 WAS THE FLIGHT OF EBENEZER SCROGGINS FROM A SCREAMING BAND OF IROQUOIS INDIANS. WHEN LAST SEEN, THEY WERE BOBBING DOWNSTREAM ON 50 GALLON KEGS OF BEER FROM SCROGGINS' TAVERN AND TO THIS DAY HIS FATE IS UNKNOWN.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS TRADITION, THE GREAT DELAWARE RIVER RAFT RACE IS HELD EACH YEAR ON RAFTS CONSTRUCTED OF 55 GALLON STEEL DRUMS. THERE ARE TWO CLASSES: A- LONG, SLEEK AND SOPHISTICATED AND B- DOUBLE ROWS OF DRUMS AND USUALLY SLOWER THAN A RAFTS.

SATURDAY'S RAFT INSPECTION DRAWS CROWDS GATHERED TO WATCH THE LINES OF RAFTS ARRIVING. THE WIDE VARIETY OF CRAFTS REFLECTS THE CREATIVITY AND INGENUITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS. EACH YEAR COMPETITION INCREASES AND PRODUCES MORE AND MORE INNOVATION. OF COURSE, HUCK FINN WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US AS THIS IS BASICALLY A "FUN" RACE.

ONLOOKERS CAN BUY BEER, RAFT RACE T-SHIRTS AND PENNANTS WHILE ENJOYING THE MOUNTING DRAMA OF THE PRERACE FESTIVITIES. AT THE END OF THE DAY THE SIGHT OF APPROXIMATELY 80 RAFTS LINED UP ALONG THE SHORE IS AWESOME INDEED. MANY PEOPLE STAY OVERNIGHT AT NEARBY CAMPGROUNDS WHERE THE FUN GOES ON INTO THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING.

AT 8 O'CLOCK SHARP ON SUNDAY MORNING, THE GUN SIGNALS THE FABULOUS LE MANS START. AS THE CREWMEN SCRAMBLE DOWNHILL TO THEIR RAFTS, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SCREAM THEIR APPROVAL. PADDLEWHEELS, OARS AND SAILS COME TOGETHER IN A LOG-JAM OF RAFTS AS EACH VIES FOR A BREAK INTO THE OPEN WATER. THE NEXT 24 MILES WILL BE THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME FOR MOST OF THESE RAFTERS. THE PERILS OF UNSEEN ROCKS AND WHITE WATER RAPIDS AWAIT THEM, BUT THEY PLUNGE ONWARD WITH ENTHUSIASTIC DETERMINATION.

COUNTLESS SPECTATORS LINE THE ROUTE, JAMMING EVERY BRIDGE AND OVERLOOK, TO CHEER ON THEIR FAVORITES. IT'S A CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE, FULL OF FRIVOLITY AND EXCITEMENT. THE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP ARE POSTED AT VARIOUS CHECKPOINTS TO KEEP TRACK OF ANY MISHAPS AND TO RELAY INTERMEDIATE TIMES TO THE COMPUTER AT THE FINISH LINE.

AS THE FIRST RAFT PULLS INTO VIEW, CHEERS SWELL AND EVERY ONE RUNS TO GREET THEIR CONQUERING HEROES. WITH BLISTERED HANDS THEY ACCEPT THEIR TROPHIES AND PRIZES, WHILE THE LOSERS ARE CONSOLED BY THE THOUGHT THAT "THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR", AS WELL AS A CERTIFICATE PROCLAIMING THAT THEY COMPLETED THE RACE.

IT'S BEEN A DAY TO REMEMBER - GRUELLING YET SATISFYING, DIFFICULT YET EXHILARATING - A NATURAL HIGH. THE THRILL OF VICTORY; THE AGONY OF DEFEAT - THE CHALLENGE OF THE GREAT DELAWARE RIVER RAFT RACE HAS BEN MET!

THE GREAT ELEVENTH ANNUAL DELAWARE RIVER RAFT RACE

P.O Box 93, Wharton, N.J. 07885

May 7, 1980

Dear Connecticut Rafter,

On behalf of myself and the Delaware River Raft Race Committee, we cordially invite you and your crew to come down and watch the 11th Annual Delaware River Raft Race. I have inclosed a flyer which synopsizes the events and atmosphere of this Race. You will note that although the Race takes place on Sunday, it is actually a weekend event with the fun and excitement starting on Saturday when the rafts arrive for inspection.

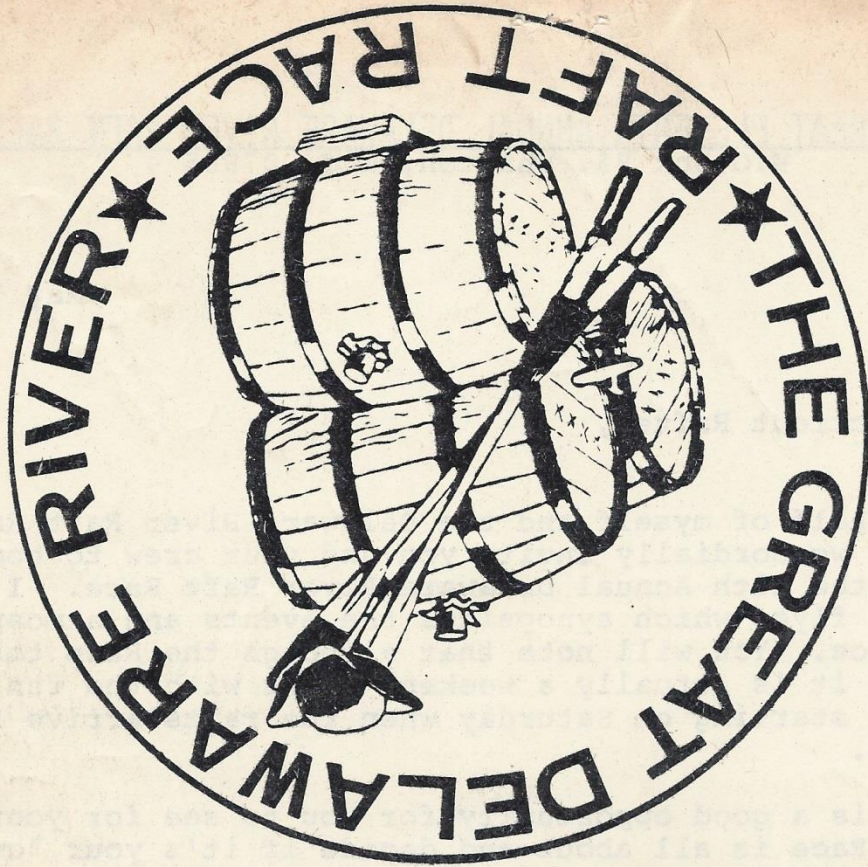
This is a good opportunity for you to see for yourself what this Race is all about and decide if it's your "cup of tea" or "mug of beer" as the case may be!!!! Although many of our rafts qualify for your Race, because of the difference in rules, the opposite is not necessarily true. Your raft may therefore not qualify. However, I am hoping that your visit will persuade you to build a raft, or modify your present one, to qualify in both Races.

As a rafter, you no doubt want to be at the beach on Saturday. This is the best time to get a close-up look at the rafts, talk to their crews, and perhaps get some new ideas for your own raft.

We seek to foster competition among the various rafting groups and see rafting become an ever-growing and widely recognized sport. The Delaware Race has become more competitive every year, with marked improvement in raft design, engineering and innovation. If you seek a real challenge in rafting, then this is the Race for you! So come on down and join the fun.

Bill Bolte

Bill Bolte, Chairman
Delaware River Raft
Race Committee



DELAWARE RIVER RAFT RACE
P.O. BOX 93
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