

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 4 Photos and one logo-image attached

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## BELFAST ROTARY HARBOR FEST AUGUST 19-21 FEATURES BOATBUILDING, RACES, FOOD AND MORE

Belfast Rotary Club's 15<sup>th</sup> annual Harbor Fest Friday, Aug. 19, Saturday, Aug. 20 and Sunday, Aug. 21, will fill the Belfast waterfront with a live and silent benefit auction kicking off the event on Friday evening at the new United Farmers Market building on Front Street.

The free three-day celebration of the city's maritime history and traditions will include the National Boatbuilding Challenge competition, this year with \$1,750 in cash prizes, a harborside exhibit of classic boats, tours of the Front Street Shipyard, the Come Boating! rowing regatta, the 5K "Bug Run" road race, a blueberry pancake breakfast, live music, food trucks, children's activities and the popular Sunday morning Cardboard Boat Race.

"Belfast Harbor Fest is back, bigger and better than ever," said the Rotary Club event's long-time chairperson Duke Marston. "As many as eight National Boatbuilding Challenge teams will be competing for a \$1,000 first prize. Touch-A-Truck is back, as are kids activities, the Boat Gear Swap and blueberry pancake breakfast and Cardboard Boat Race. Harbor Fest is a celebration for Belfast and anyone who is here during the event. Rotary is sure everyone will have a very good time."

The live and silent "Evening By the Bay" auctions begin at 5:30 at the new United Farmers Market building at 15 Front Street. This year's auctions, proceeds of which will benefit the Waldo County Technical Center's student fund, feature restaurant and experiential gift certificates, and artwork including Sandy Dolan's original oil painting "Summer Breeze," the 2022 Harbor Fest's chosen graphic.

Saturday is anchored by the National Boatbuilding Challenge, beginning at 11 a.m. Pairs of builders race the clock and each other to finish and race 12-foot skiffs built from scratch in less than four hours. Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 are sponsored by John and Pat Carrick, Mathews Brothers and an anonymous donor. Boatbuilding starts after the 5K "Bug Run" race (sponsored by First National Bank and First National Wealth Management) starting on the hill above Steamboat Landing and ending at the Boathouse where the blueberry pancake breakfast will be held (sponsored by Nordic Aquafarms). Saturday is also the day for free Front Street Shipyard tours at 11 a.m. and noon. An all-day Adventure Boat and Outdoor Equipment Show, Come Boating!'s 21st annual harbor rowing regatta, music at the Steamboat Landing gazebo, food trucks and children's activities.

Belfast Harbor Fest concludes Sunday morning with the Cardboard Boat Race (sponsored by Front Street Shipyard), complete with the always popular "Best Sinking" award, followed by a lobster bake gala to benefit Waldo County Habitat for Humanity.

The Rotary Club's Marston thanked the event's dozens of sponsors, exhibitors, vendors and boatbuilding participants, including major sponsors First National Bank, First National Wealth Management, City of Belfast, Front Street Shipyard, Nordic Aquafarms, Down East Credit Union, United Farmers Market, Mathews Brothers, Waldo County General Hospital, Bangor Savings Bank, Viking Lumber, Blueberry Broadcasting, Hamlin's Marine, Robbins Lumber Company, Hammond Lumber, K Construction, Varney Agency, Cold Mountain Builders, Coyote Moon, Penobscot Bay Tractor Tug Co., Viking Lumber, J Black Printing, Cornerspring Montessori School and Belmont Boatworks. For more information about Harbor Fest, go to [belfastharborfest.com](http://belfastharborfest.com).

Belfast Rotary Club, founded in 1925, is one of Maine's largest and most active clubs. Its members meet in person or by Zoom Wednesdays at noon at the Shrine Club in Belfast. The Club raises funds year-round through activities such as the Belfast Harbor Fest, annual charitable golf tournament event, 5K road races and pancake breakfasts. Its more than \$140,000 in yearly gifts include support for seven food pantries, year-end holiday clothing and toys to 200 children and \$80,000 in scholarships for local college-bound high school students. For more information on membership or to make a tax-deductible donation in support of the Club's year-round service programs, go to [belfastrotary.org](http://belfastrotary.org).

## LOGOS, PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



Going bananas at the Belfast Harbor Fest Cardboard Boat Race.  
PHOTO COURTESY PHIL CARTHAGE, BELFAST ROTARY CLUB



Having a whale of a good time afloat during the Belfast Harbor Fest Cardboard Boat Race.  
PHOTO COURTESY IRWIN SANTACRUZ



A team builds a 12' skiff at Belfast Harbor Fest's 2021 National Boatbuilding Challenge.  
PHOTO COURTESY MICKEY SIROTA, BELFAST ROTARY CLUB



Crowds at Harbor Fest's 2019 National Boatbuilding Challenge.  
PHOTO COURTESY MICKEY SIROTA, BELFAST ROTARY CLUB