



## *Every Salt for Himself*

Hoist the mains'l, run up the jib, batten down the hatches and secure the mizzen mast . . . or something. It's the start of the Connecticut River Raft Race in Deep

River and it's every salt for himself. Each craft had its own peculiar means of propulsion and each was manned

by its own curious crew of sailors, some of whom had been to sea before (Courant Photo by Anthony Bacewicz).

# *A Summer Celebration and 50 Floating Riddles*

By TOM CONDON

"Are we going to jockey for position?", someone asked Jay Shea, captain of "Cirrhosis of the River."

"We were, but too many people are running ashore to the bathroom. We tapped the keg too early."

An adjoining raft had not been completed yet. "Nails. I need nails. Who's got nails," a man shouted.

They had nails, unfortunately, on another raft. Trying to secure a beam to his

bow, a man named Joe pounded a foot wide hole in his deck.

"Way to go, Joe," his crew chorused.

The weather and the Coast Guard tried to stop it, but the third annual Connecticut River Raft Race went off Saturday almost as scheduled.

A kaleidoscopic collage of about 50 rafts were in the water off Deep River just before noon for the five mile run to Essex. The rafts, from eight to 32 feet, had to be completely homemade and

showed it.

### **Team T-Shirts, Too**

There were decks resting on inner tubes, barrels, styroform and wood. Sails were constructed of everything from old parachutes to taped plastic bags.

Some rafts had paddlewheels powered by mounted bicycles or ropes. One had a treadmill which revolved when four people stood on top of it some ten feet over the water, balanced on a handrail and

walked.

Musicians played drums and horns on the rafts as hundreds watched from the shore. Many of the crews had team T-shirts, such as the stunning blonde wearing the colors of "Howard's Hustlers."

Asked what her rafting specialty was, she answered, "I am supposed to serve as a distraction."

Just before the start, word went around

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