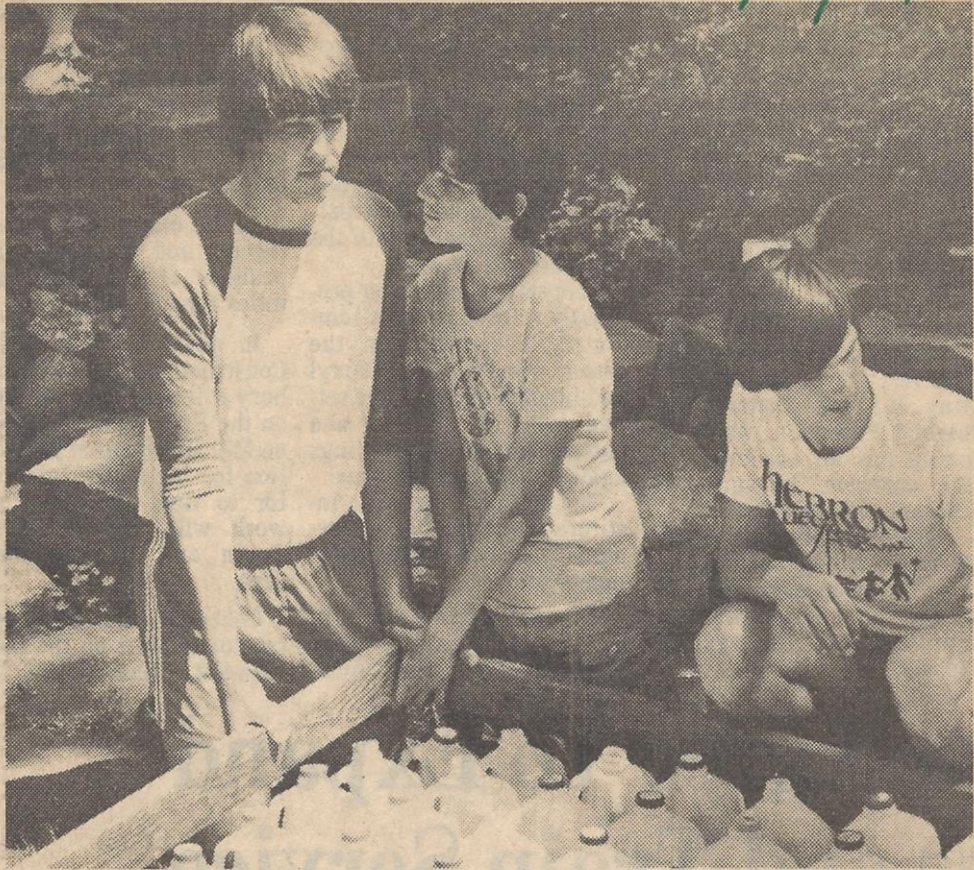


7/21/79



Milky Way

From left, Sea Explorers Daniel Turner, David Elly, and Rick Elly begin to make the frame for the entry in the Aug. 4 Essex Raft Race. The hull of the raft, called the 'Milky Way,' is made entirely from plastic gallon milk containers (Van Nes Photo).

Essex Explorers To Sail On Raft of Milk Containers

ESSEX — Entries in the annual raft race Aug. 4 are likely to be kept afloat by just about anything, but some youths in town have come up with an original hull material for their raft — gallon-size plastic milk bottles.

Three members of the group — all Sea Explorers, an organization of teenage sailing enthusiasts, — lined up their collection of bottles Friday in the West Hills Road yard of Explorers David and Rick Elly.

The Explorers have been scouting around for bottles for three months and are gathering materials to make a plywood frame and deck for the contraption, designed to fit 14 crewmen.

"We're making everything out of stuff we've found and trying not to spend any money," Rich, raft committee chairman, said.

The boys have figured out that the bottles, when semi-submerged, will support 2,275 pounds of weight, but to give some extra support, styrofoam also will be used in the hull, the youths said.

A used sailboat sail will be hoisted up on some yet-to-be-determined type of mast and four sets of oars will be attached to the deck to augment to sail, the creators said.

The Explorers have given in to temptation and named the craft "Milky Way."