

"Youthful Offenders," whose crew rowed from dilapidated automobile seats, was neck in neck a good deal of the race with "Ding A Lings" a craft closely resembling a small rickety porch hanging off a summer cottage.

Beer, by case and keg, greeted the crews as they landed. A driving rain, which began about an hour and a half after the starting horn went off at 11 a.m., was generally ignored.

Participants, already soaked by perspiration and the buckets of river water they poured on themselves to cool down, didn't seem to notice the rain as they beached their crafts and headed for a giant party on the island.

Hundreds of pleasure boats wove in and out of the race, causing choppy waters and minor collisions.

But the Coast Guard, its auxiliary and state and local police in a score of boats patrolled the race carefully. Race committee co-chairman Kenneth Fischburgl said he felt this was the most carefully organized raft race so far.

Deep River First Selectwoman Lorraine Wallace,

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