

# Six Drivers Are Charged As They Leave Raft Race

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HADDAM -- A crackdown on drunken drivers and a cocaine arrest highlighted the police activity at this year's Connecticut River Raft Race.

State police set up a checkpoint at Route 9A and Dock Island Road between 3 and 5 p.m. Saturday to monitor traffic leaving the terminus of the raft race in Haddam Meadows State Park.

Within the span of two hours, police made six arrests for driving while intoxicated.

At 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Haddam Meadows, a Westbrook man was arrested on numerous narcotics charges after being caught in possession of cocaine on state property by two constables.

David Doerrer, 34, of Route 145, Westbrook, was charged with posses-

sion of cocaine, possession of narcotics paraphernalia, possession of a hallucinogenic and possession with intent to sell. His court date was set for Aug. 16.

Those charged with drunken driving were: John McMahon, 38, of Haddam Neck Road, East Hampton; Robert Trapp, 19, of 5 Lyonsdale Road, Newington; Daniel Tibert, 25, of 257 Main St., Ivoryton; and Michael Brophy, 35, of 101 W. Main St., East Hampton. They are scheduled to appear Aug. 30 in court.

Also charged with drunken driving during the two-hour crackdown were Irving Fertman, 35, of 9 Pine Croft Road, Norwich; and Donald Meyer, 21, of 117 Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook. They are scheduled to appear Aug. 16 in court.

first place finish, for the fourth year in a row, was won by the America raft oared by nine employees of Norelco-Phillips Park in Essex.

The winning raft also secured a record for completing the race in 18 minutes 21 seconds, the quickest run since the race moved to Hurd Park-Haddam Meadows course in 1981. The America raft was also first in the "outer limits" class of rafts built for competition with an aim to win the race.

The second place finisher with a time of 23 minutes 22 seconds was the EB Exterminators raft, named for the EB Exterminating Company of Moodus and oared by a 15 member crew. The raft, in the medium "cruising" class, was the first to finish in its class.

Less than one minute behind, completing the race in 24 minutes, was the small "Seat of My Pants" raft, entered by a group of Westport residents. The fourth

ten minutes behind schedule.

The sleek "outer limits" class rafts actually ran a slightly longer course, starting further upriver from Hurd Park as a small handicap in the competition with the larger and heavier rafts. Race Committee timekeeper Charlene Maddocks said these rafts were given a longer course, of about five miles, to keep an element of competition in the race.

A large crowd had gathered along the river banks as the rafts began to cross the finish line. The Coast Guard had closed the river to private craft along the race route, though many boaters apparently arrived early and anchored to enjoy the race.

All of the rafts, including several giant craft in the "Horrendous" class with full decks and at least fifteen crew members, had completed the race by around 1:30 p.m.

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