

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, October 4, 2024.

According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, this weekend marks the 40th year of Port Townsend's annual Kinetic Sculpture Race. Held this coming Saturday and Sunday, the event welcomes kinetic racers to make sculptures and don costumes in keeping with the theme of this year's race, which is "kook-off" — that's spelled with a K.

"Everyone loves food, so we thought we could have a cook-off theme, but make it kooky," said Ric Peregrino, who chairs the event. One theme already chosen for this year's race is "Macaroni Salad and a Cockroach" The fittingly named "Kook-Off" theme also serves for the art contest and parade on the first day of the event. Parade entrants line up tomorrow at the U.S. Bank parking lot between 10 to 11am, before proceeding northeast on Water Street around noon.

There's no cost to enter the parade and all ages are welcome to participate, whether you're walking, pedaling, pushing or pulling your entry. Marching or dancing groups, large or small floats, wearable art, or even puppets — all are welcome as long as they're original creations and builds, propelled down the street by people, battery, or element power only, and free of gas motors. No commercial, political, or religious messages, no distribution of flyers; nothing discriminatory or offensive is allowed.

Awards will be given to the kids and adults judged "Most Kreative" (for best art) and "Most Kinetically Inclined" (for the best use of moving parts). To enter, email entry forms to info@ptkineticrace.org before tomorrow at 10am. Winners will be announced by 3pm tomorrow during the float-test portion of the Kinetic Skulpture Race, which will be in front of the American Legion Hall on Water Street. Entries may remain displayed at the Pope Marine Park, on the patio bricks between the Pope and Cotton buildings, until 6pm Sunday.

After the parade, racers must complete a brake test while heading downhill on Monroe Street, followed by a flotation test by driving into the bay at the Salmon Club by the Northwest Maritime Center. As this is often the first time many of these skulptures have been float-tested, it should be amusing to see which sculptures can actually float.

Saturday's activities will wrap up with the Rosehips Kween Koronation Ball, starting at 8pm at the American Legion Hall. Kinetic racers, "local krazies", and other attendees aged 21 years and older are invited to arrive dressed in kostume, to vie for the coveted Rosehips Krown. Admission for the dance is \$10 each, collected at the side door on Water Street; no kameras or video equipment allowed.

The race will kontinue on Sunday with its street, sand, and mud portions. Participating skulptures will gather on Water Street in front of the American Legion Hall at 10am, then proceed uphill on Monroe and Lawrence Streets. At Aldrich's Market, participants will head toward a "kwiksand kourse" at Fort Worden State Park before pedaling hard through the mud of "The Dismal Bog" at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. In closing, they'll go back down San Juan Avenue and head uphill to Uptown via Walker and Lawrence streets before proceeding back down Monroe Street to the finish line at the American Legion Hall.

Each skulpture and pilot must pay a registration fee of \$20.24, with each additional team member also charged \$20.24. Awards are given to each participant, but the most highly prized award is the "Mediocrity Award" for the skulpture that finishes in the middle of the pack. No crew members may operate under the influence, and all spektators must stay clear of skulptures in motion.

To donate, to volunteer, to enter art or a skulpture, to become a kween candidate, or to get a route map, or volunteer as krew, visit <https://ptkineticrace.org/>.

One final note: Jefferson County Public health tells us that the recreational shellfish beaches in Port Townsend Bay, Kilisut Harbor, Mystery Bay, and the eastern shore of Marrowstone Island are now closed for butter and varnish clams only; other shellfish are now safe to harvest except at the portion of Chimacum Tidelands/Irondale Beach Park south of the mouth of Chimacum Creek.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact to us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.