

Winners of the 2018 Wooden Boat Challenge Boat Building Competition

First Place:

Cody Keithan and Bruno Borzoni, Belfast, ME - Building Time 1:50:32

Building Points $\frac{3}{4}$ Workmanship Points $\frac{3}{4}$ Water Race Points $\frac{3}{4}$ Total = 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ points

Cody Keithan, owner of K Construction of Belfast Maine, has had his heart and soul in the carpentry world for 20 years. Cody and his crew build beautiful custom homes on the mid coast. Cody first saw the boat building competition nearly 4 years ago while volunteering with the Belfast Rotary but wouldn't compete until 2016. In his first competition, his team posted a respectable time of 2HR 45M. After that he was hooked. In 2017, Cody and his partner, Bruno, took the official Belfast and unofficial World Records with a time of 1HR 22M 58S. They went on to the Nationals in Georgetown that fall and won National champions breaking the world record time at 1HR 29M 36S.

Tied for Second Place:

Keane McLaughlin and Craig McLaughlin, Summerville, SC - Building Time 3:16:10

Building Points 8 Workmanship Points 3 Water Race Points 2 Total = 13

After taking a two year break, the McLaughlin brothers returned to compete in their 5th Boatbuilding Challenge. They participated in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Georgetown WBBC, where they placed second each time. In 2014, they participated in the Beaufort, NC WBBC once again receiving a second place scoring. When the brothers are not building boats or spending time on boats or thinking about boats, Keane is a landscape architect and Craig owns and operates a graphic design/advertising firm. Both brothers live in Charleston, SC.

David Sippe and Jackson Sippe, Charlotte, NC and Boone, NC - Building Time 2:14:47

Building Points 2 Workmanship Points 6 Water Race Points 5 Total = 13

A third year competitor, David has construction in his blood. Owner of an industrial construction company, David enjoys boating, fishing and old house restoration. He was first introduced to Georgetown when working on a project at Winyah power plant over 15 years ago. He loves the town so much that he and his family decided to purchase a house on Front Street that they are slowly renovating. Jackson, also a third year competitor, will again join his father in the competition. When not boat building, Jackson enjoys sailing, banjo playing and all things computers.

SPECIAL AWARDS

REVERSE TRANSOM AWARD

Jack Weeks and Jeff Arliss – Kingston, NY and New Paltz, NY

Jack, a retired family doctor, is a timber farmer and now runs a small wood business. He was instrumental in getting the Wooden Boat Building Challenge (WBBC) to come to Kingston, NY. He has been a lifelong friend of the WBBC organizer and master of ceremonies, Rob Dwelley. Jeff is an active hand surgeon currently practicing in Kingston. His hobbies include woodworking and rock climbing. Along with Jack, he is a part of "TEAM CADUCEUS".

BLOWOUT AWARD

Keane McLaughlin and Craig McLaughlin – Summerville, SC

(See second place tie above)

COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES

Marshall, Rigel and Aiden Jessen – McClellanville, SC

It wouldn't be a Georgetown Wooden Boat Challenge without the Jessen family. Marshall, an 18-year veteran of the Challenge and a powerful rower, took first place in 2002, 2005 and 2006 with his teammate, George Heyle. Since then, Marshall has been participating in the Challenge with his son, Rigel, and in the past few years he has had some extra help from Rigel's younger brother, Aiden. Marshall's wife, Camie, is always in the cheering section with her camera.

MOST CALK USED

David Scott and Scott Hillger – Sinking Spring, OH and Hillsboro, OH

Back for their fourth year! David is an Engineering Technology Instructor at Ohio Valley CTC. Husband of one, father of four, grandfather of eleven, David's goal for the Challenge is to build in under two hours and to not crash into anyone during the rowing race this year. Scott, married to David's youngest daughter, is a husband of one, father of one and grandfather of none. He is a lead machinist at PAS Technologies. He says about this year's Challenge, "We hope to improve on both time and quality. We are also looking into bumpers for my partner's rowing."

FAST SOLO BUILD

Alex Poole- Georgetown, SC - Finished the boat by himself in under 4 hours 3:59:35

Alex is a 32-year old cabinet maker, born & raised in Georgetown. After attending USC, he moved back home and started his cabinet making business. He has competed in several Georgetown Challenges. He and Willie French traveled to Maine and competed in Belfast's inaugural challenge and beat all the local teams' times by over an hour. Alex has chosen to build alone this year, in order to showcase his talents and build a boat that highlights craftsmanship over speed.

TENACIOUS AWARD (and most improved rowers)

Bryce Becker and Shelby Freeman – Newport, NC and Swansboro, NC

Bryce has lots of experience when it comes to building boats, and has traveled to each location to compete in the Challenge. He is a volunteer firefighter and spends on-call time saving the trees, so others can cut them down for him to build boats. He likens himself to a Honey Badger for their fearlessness and ability to eat almost anything. Shelby, also a volunteer firefighter, got started in boat building when she was offered food in exchange for her help with building a couple of Scout boats one weekend with Tom Russell. Ever since she has been hooked on building boats. She picked up her first power drill so she could be like her big sister with curled hair, but soon ended up with bangs because her hair got stuck in the drill. Both have made it their mission to beat their coach Bobby Staab.

ROAD WARRIOR AMBASSADORS (of the Wooden Boat Challenge)

Bryce Becker and Shelby Freeman – Newport, NC and Swansboro, NC

You will see these two competing in a Wooden Boat Challenge near you.

MOST EQUIPMENT TO ROW

Fred Hoelscher and Sean Hoelscher – Georgetown, SC and Myrtle Beach, SC

Fred is a sailing instructor for the SC Maritime Museum's Youth Sailing Program. He has participated in the Challenge numerous times with his son, Sean, and with other partners. He came out out of retirement for one "last" boat. Sean is a landscape architect and has participated in the Challenge many times. Sean, along with his partner Clint Goode, won the World Championship in 2011. He, too, has come out of retirement to build one "last" boat with his father.