

# ASNE-Sikaflex Ultimate Build-A-Boat Challenge

Harborfest @ Norfolk, VA | June 8-9, 2024

## General Event Info

1. This year is the **28th Annual** ASNE-Sika Ultimate Build-A-Boat Challenge. Affectionately known by most as the “**Quick-n-Dirty Boatbuilding**”
2. Safety is #1. Fun is a close 2<sup>nd</sup>.
3. Sponsorships. Sponsorship money offsets the cost of materials, and any net proceeds support ASNE’s Engineering Scholarship Fund and STEM Grants to local organizations.
  - **ASNE** – American Society of Naval Engineers, Tidewater Section  
Organizes the boatbuilding event, provides all building material, prizes, etc.
  - **SIKA CORP** – provides around \$4,000 worth of Sikaflex 291 marine adhesive!
  - **FestEvents** – Organizes Harborfest, provides us with the construction site, electric power, life jackets, drinking water, ice, etc. They also pay for the event tee shirts and some awards.
  - **Corporate Sponsorships** are awesome! We couldn’t do it without them.  
Our build site at Harborfest provides fantastic visibility for our event and for the sponsors who support it. Corporate Sponsorship levels are inexpensive (\$100, \$500, and \$1,500) and a great value. Feel free to share the attached sponsor form with your company, or others who might be interested in advertising and a great cause!
  - **Individual Donations** are also greatly appreciated. Our cost to run this event is about \$250 per team, but through corporate sponsorships and individual donations... this competition is FREE for the builders! If it’s in your heart to donate \$25/\$50/\$100 to help offset some of the cost, we welcome any amount and will put it to good purpose. Use the attached sponsorship form. Your contributions are tax deductible.
  - **NOTE: If you’d prefer to pay for Corporate Sponsorship or Donation by credit card rather than check, we now have an easy online option at [www.asne-tw.org](http://www.asne-tw.org).**

## Forms

1. Team applications with basic contact information, boat name... this secures your spot.
2. Design/Sketches are DUE to me no later than Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Location

1. Town Point Park, adjacent to the Half Moon Cruise Center
2. Load your gear from the Half Moon circular lot. Then park in the garage @ \$5/Day.

## 2024 Event Schedule

### **THURSDAY June 6<sup>th</sup> – Material Staging**

**11:00 – 1:00 2-3 Volunteers needed to off-load and stage materials.**

### **SATURDAY June 8<sup>th</sup> – Building & Outfitting Event**

**8:30 Arrival for teams. Gather materials, set up (come early, there's plenty to do)**

9:30 Boat Building Pre-Event Briefing

10:00 Boat building starts.

4-Hour construction time... This is just a guide & you will be allowed to finish.  
No limit on breaks... the clock stops for breaks.

2:30 (Notional) Building Event complete, times posted.

3:00 (Notional) Teams and support crews paint, outfit and decorate boats.

9:00 HARBORFEST FIREWORKS – Our roped off build area is a great vantage point for fireworks. Bring your family, friends, and a few cold ones.

### **SUNDAY June 11<sup>th</sup> – Reception & Race Event**

**10:30-12:00 Set Up Tents, Tables and Chairs for the Lunch Reception**

**12:30 ARRIVAL FOR TEAMS**

**12:30-2:30 Reception w/ Lunch... Sponsors, Builders, and Volunteers  
Sandwiches ~ Salads ~ Beer ~ Wine ~ Soft Drinks**

2:00 Teams cut cable/wire ties, ready boats for race, check the launch ramp.

2:00 Judges final inspection to ensure zip ties are snipped, fasteners removed.

2:30 Race Briefing, pick up PFDs (we will need to share from heat to heat).

**2:30 Parade of Boats... Proceed in hull number order to the Mercury Dock**

**3:00 – 4:30 Boat Launch & Race Heats**

Heat 1 – Boats 1-6

Heat 2 – Boats 7-13

Heat 3 – Boats 14-20

Final Heat – First and second place boats from first three Heats.

4:30 Final Heat complete, boats out of the water, return to building area.

**4:30 Awards, SIKA trophies, pictures, press interviews, autographs, etc.**

**5:00 Break down and clean up the building site.**

**EVERYONE... PLAN ON STAYING UNTIL THE SITE IS CLEAN... ~ 6:00pm.**

## GENERAL INFO & BUILDER TIPS

### Construction Methods (These are the most common, list is not all-inclusive)

- “Stitch-and-glue” technique
- Joint techniques... Lap joints, Filet joints are most typical.
- Use ¼-inch drill bit for zip tie holes.
- Chin logs, use 1x2 lumber at stress points.
- Paddles...2x2 for paddle shafts // OR // 1x2 w. cross-section leveraged for lighter paddle.
- Blades... Run shaft full length of blade for strength. Be sure to paint the blades.
- Zip ties – Seal the zip tie holes / “Knobs” on outside (away from knees and elbows)
- Snip the zip tie loops Sunday prior to race. **DO NOT PULL THE ZIP TIES THROUGH.**
- Decorating starts after your construction is done; does not count toward building time.

### Materials provided to you

- (3) sheets of 4’ X 8’ X 4mm luan plywood
- (4) 2” X 2” X 8’ dimensional lumber
- (6) 1” X 2” X 8’ dimensional lumber
- Sikaflex-291 Marine Adhesive and caulk guns (unlimited). Average 8-10 tubes per team.
- Cable / Zip ties (unlimited)
- Citrus-based hand cleaner (removes Sikaflex)
- Rubber gloves
- Two sawhorses per team (teams assemble these on Saturday morning)
- Wire cutters

### Recommended Tools / Materials To Bring

- **10X10 TENT – FOR SHADE... VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**
- CIRCULAR SAW
- ELECTRIC DRILL and ¼” DRILL BITS (holes for zip-ties)
- JIG SAW for cutting shapes, like paddle blades.
- LATEX PAINT - If you don’t paint it, the wood will fall apart during the race. Always fun for the crowd, but you might not get the results you want. Suggest buying “OOPS” paints from Home Depot or Loews. Wacky colors that customers return for cheap.
- Package of cheap, disposable Paint Brushes and disposable plastic paint buckets
- SAFETY GLASSES
- CLAMPS... lots of clamps! Quick release clamps are very efficient.
- Measuring and marking implements
- Extension cords, 3-prong. 2 recommended, unless using cordless power tools.
- Work Gloves for paddling.
- Bailer!! (Clorox Bottle works great)

# BOAT BUILDING // Tips and Q&A // 2024

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## Rules

1. Two people per team. Construction and Race participants must be the same. Teams may recruit extra help for design and decoration phases.
2. Team members must be at least 18 years old. (Parental Waiver required ages 16-17).
3. Boats and propulsion must be built from materials provided.
4. NO TABLE SAWS. You are allowed to bring portable tools only.
5. Full size patterns/templates are not permitted; sketches and drawings are encouraged.
6. Type III PFDs will be provided and must be worn during races. If you have your own, please bring them, as they are always in short supply.
7. Shoes will be worn at all times during the contest.
8. Safety glasses must be worn when power tools are being used.
9. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed during the contest (ok while decorating)
10. Frequent breaks are strongly encouraged and will NOT be counted toward building time.
11. Allotted building time is 4 hours. This is a GUIDE and not strictly enforced. You WILL be allowed to complete construction of your boat. Just be safe.
12. Team Captain will notify the judge when his team has completed construction.
13. Judges will stop all unsafe practices.

## Award categories:

- **FASTEST BUILT.** To be eligible for this prize, the boat must cross the finish line.
- **BEST DESIGN** – at the discretion of the judges.
- **MOST WHIMSICAL** – at the discretion of the judges.
- **BUILDER’S FAVORITE** – each builder gets one vote.
- **RACE FINISH.**
  - Three heats.
  - A final Championship Heat between the top two finishers of each heat.
  - **Course approx. 100 yards, clockwise around a buoy, and return 100 yards to finish line.**
  - The course runs parallel to the quay wall, in the Elizabeth River.
  - Boats are to round the buoy turning clockwise “toward” the quay wall and crowd.
  - Boats will line up abreast and start simultaneously according to the following...  
READY – 3 short horn toots | followed by START – one LONG horn BLAST.

## Awards

1. Sikaflex-291 trophies for winners of the categories described above.
2. Medals for all participants
3. Power Tools, Hand Tools, and Other Prizes for all participants... based on sponsorship dollars available.

## Miscellaneous Tips and Guidelines

1. **Bring a 10 x 10 TENT.** This may be the best advice that I can offer you.
2. **Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!!!** Water, Gatorade, and Ice will be provided. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage, but absolutely no alcohol during construction phase.
3. **Feel free to proudly display your company or school banner at your build site.**
4. **For beginners... strongly recommend** (1) building a prototype, full or small scale; and (2) Practice paddling together. Rent a canoe, practice starting, paddling in synch, and turning. You'll need to make a 180-degree turn. Most races are won or lost on the turn ☺.
5. Site cleanliness is very important, a scrap box will be provided on site, keep your space picked up. Paint cans go home with you. Used paint trays, rollers and brushes can go in the designated trash cans that have heavy plastic bag liners only, not the scrap box.
6. Each team will be assigned a hull number for identification purposes. Paint numbers on each side of your boat, numbers will also be displayed on your sawhorses.
7. Launch site; boats will be staged on Mercury Dock (the wooden wharf just off the quawall) prior to the race, Heat 1 first and Heat 2 second. The boats for each race will be passed to a float adjacent to the wharf and launched into the river from the float. Reverse this process for recovery.
8. During the race, gloves and bailers are recommended.
9. Parking is readily available in any of the downtown parking garages (\$5 per day)
10. Photo ops and fan interaction opportunities abound. Be Friendly. Have Fun. Let fans know what the event is all about. Breaks do NOT count against your time.
11. T-shirts will be provided to team members and volunteers. You're encouraged to wear them on Sunday day, unless you are dressing in theme.
12. Invite friends to provide spirited moral support, take pictures, paint, and help with carrying boats to and from the launch site.
13. Please let us know if you want to keep your boat; you can take your boat with you Sunday after the race or pick it up Monday morning before 8:00, otherwise it will not be so carefully placed in the dumpster.

## Contact:

*Please do not hesitate to call me with questions.*

*Mike D'Amato*

ASNE-Sika Ultimate Build-A-Boat Challenge

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