

Ducks be dam'd: 21st annual Duck Dam Race returns Sept. 19

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LAKE PLACID — The Rotary Club of Lake Placid's 21st annual Duck Dam race is back on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The action takes place on the Chubb River near Lisa G's restaurant, 6125 Sentinel Road. A record-breaking 2,250 rubber ducks will launch from Jack's Dam, each vying to be the first across the finish line just down the river.

“This whole thing started as a fundraiser, but it’s really grown into a big community event,” said Rotarian Kathleen Thompson, who’s one of the Dam Duck Race committee members. “There’s a lot of connection that happens at the event. We have a lot of fun as well, you can enter to win a prize if you’d like and you can definitely stuff your face with Lisa G’s food at a really reasonable price.”

Ducks for the race can be purchased on-site or in advance through a Rotarian, at Lisa G’s, Terry Robards Wine & Spirits or the UPS Store Lake Placid. Ducks are \$10 for one or three for \$25. People can also email to rotarylakeplacid@gmail.com before Sept. 17 with their first/last name, phone number and number of tickets they’d like.

The luckiest of the ducks will receive some serious prizes — including a \$1,500 grand prize for the first one across the finish line, \$300 for second and \$200 for third, along with numerous other place and style prizes donated by local businesses up for grabs.

It’s an afternoon of fun extending well beyond the duck race. There will be dinner, live music by Spring Street, a photo booth, children’s activities, lawn games and competitions for both kids and adults.

Children can look forward to entertainment with a lasso activity, hula hoop contest as well as professional clown, Vicaro Merriloons.

Adults can compete in a cornhole tournament benefiting the Lake Placid Bark Park — a planned dog park between the show grounds and North Elba Athletic Fields — and their own hula hoop contest with additional cash and donated prizes.

The event gets underway at 4 p.m., with a corn hole tournament beginning at 4:30 p.m., dinner starting at 5 p.m. and the duck race itself scheduled for 6 p.m.

Proceeds benefit numerous community projects and programs in Lake Placid, including educational programs like robotics and literacy, healthcare, emergency services, local food pantries, bus shelters, the future Bark Park and many others.

The race has raised multiple tens of thousands of dollars each of its past few years, according to Thompson. It’s the club’s biggest annual stand-alone fundraiser.

She attributed its long-running success to an “always fabulous” response from local businesses sponsoring the event, and community members who seem to buy more and more ducks each year. All 2,000 ducks sold out last year, leading Rotarians to increase this year’s field — its biggest yet.

A buffet-style barbecue dinner provided by Lisa G's is \$15 per person, with kids less than 10 years old eating for free. Dinner tickets can be purchased on-site starting at 4 p.m.

The event is rain or shine. More information is available at damduckrace.com.