

# Beach News

Vol. XIII, No. 1

January - April 1996

Santa Cruz, California

## 14 Years of Cheers for Chowder

### *Clam Chowder*



### *Cook Off 1996*

**"You  
say  
Boston.  
I say  
Manhattan."**

**Y**ou say potato. I say potahto. You say tomato. I say tomahto. You say Boston. I say Manhattan. We all say chowder down, dudes.

Whether red and brothy or white and creamy, this delectable winter warm-up stars in the 14th Annual Clam Chowder Cook Off at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on Saturday, February 24, 1996.

More than 60 teams from throughout California are expected to compete in the popular seaside culinary event—concocting strategies to win the top awards in both red (Manhattan) and white (New England) chowder categories. Divisions include Restaurant, Individual and Media.

Prizes are awarded not just for best tasting chowders, but for team spirit as well. That spirit is often shown off

through costumed chefs. Lobsters, mermaids, King Neptune and the "Clam Fairy" have made appearances in the past.

"Folks don't clam up when it comes to dressing up," said Boardwalk Promotions Manager Rich Dressler. "Chefs are not shy about showing some decorative mussel as well as tastebud-pleasing mussels."

Admission to the Boardwalk and Cook Off is free; visitors wanting to sample chowders may purchase \$5 tasting kits starting at 10 a.m.

That's also the time when chefs begin their often theatrical preparation of ingredients for their Cook Off entries. Many teams entertain and cook at the same time as they use their own portable stove and ingredients to make three gallons of chowder for individual or media entries (seven gallons if representing a restaurant).

Public sampling and voting for the popular People's Choice award starts at 1 p.m.

All of that food tasting can get a little fattening. To work off some of that delicious chowder, runners enter the annual Great Chowder Chase, a 4.5 mile race in the beach area on Sunday, February 25.

The men's division steps off at 8:45 a.m. and the women's race starts at 9:30 a.m. The \$16 entry fee (\$20 on the day of the event) includes one all-day unlimited ride pass to the Boardwalk, a \$17.95 value. Last year's event drew more than 1,000 runners.

Both the Chowder Chase and Cook Off raise funds for the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department, which cosponsors the events.

For more information about entering or attending the Clam Chowder Cook Off, contact the Boardwalk at (408) 423-5590. For details on the Chowder Chase, call Lisa McGinnis with the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department, (408) 429-3477.