

# Begonia Festival Takes Off

Full fun took off with the Begonia Festival and its "Capitola Takes Flight" theme. The weekend's events drew visitors from across the state, including Danville, Fresno, Orange and Stockton. One pair of Monday's rowboat racers even hailed from Honolulu, Hawaii.

Competitors and onlookers packed the beach Saturday morning for the sand sculpture contest.

"Swine Flew," a sculpture of a flying pig, took the grand prize. It was created by a group from Los Altos Hills. Prizes were also awarded in five categories based on the size of the group.

The crowds returned Sunday to watch the nautical parade, which grew to nine entries this year.

The Riverview Rascals scored a three-peat, taking the top spot for the third year in a

row. The group's Red Baron float featured a biplane that rose and descended by mechanical lifts. Once again, the \$1,000 grand prize donation went to the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Santa Cruz.

Casa Finkle took second place for its "precocious paradise pelican," earning \$750 for Pack Your Trash. Two "fish" sat in its bright beak and the white-begonia-covered body rocked from side to side.

The Outlaw 36 Gang placed third with its Capitola airport shuttle, complete with wheels that turned. Jacob's Heart will receive its \$500 prize.

### A Bit of Drama

The Windmill House's entry added a bit of comedy and drama to the parade. Fashioned as Captain Hook's flying pirate ship from Disney's "Peter Pan," the float's flying

Peter doll first landed in the lagoon. Then the float nearly missed sailing under the Stockton Street Bridge, until several of the kayakers helping to guide it added their weight.

Floats must pass under the bridge to be eligible for competition.

Cal Poly's "When Pigs Fly" easily made it under the bridge, but capsized on the

other side, disqualifying it from competition but hardly dampening the group's enthusiasm.

A full listing of event winners is available at the event website, [www.begoniafestival.com](http://www.begoniafestival.com). ■



**Above:** Cal Poly alumni celebrated on their float, dubbed "When Pigs Fly," before it capsized in the lagoon. **Below:** Onlookers crowded along and within Soquel Creek to get a view of the nautical parade.

