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MEDIA ADVISORY

MRE 'Dog Day Afternoon' & '.05-K Bridge Run' set for March 24, 2001

The third annual “.05-K Eastport Bridge Walk/Run” begins at the crack of noon on Saturday, March 24. If history repeats itself, this challenging athletic contest is bound to be over several grueling moments later. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the Maritime Republic of Eastport, will benefit neighborhood non-profit organizations like the SPCA.

Cindy Fletcher-Holden, the MRE’s “Prime Mistress,” describes the strenuous course all the way across the Eastport drawbridge as “a slight rise, followed by a slight decline, with a convenient water stop halfway over.”

All runners, joggers and walkers alike are welcome to enter. Registration will take place on the lawn at Eastport Elementary School lawn beginning at 10:30 a.m. The entry fee of \$15 will include an “Awesome T-Shirt,” on a first-come, first-served basis as long as the limited supply of T-shirts lasts.

After the race, runners and viewers alike are invited to head to the nearby Eastport Elementary School for the third annual “Eastport Dog Day Afternoon,” an event celebrating the official mascot of the Maritime Republic: the marina retriever.

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There will be demonstrations by members of the Colonial Newfoundland Club, a Frisbee demo by Frank Montgomery and Ray Lowman and their dogs, and the Anne Arundel County Police K-9 unit featuring “Bubba,” a police dog whose recovery from a life-threatening illness was assisted by proceeds from last year’s event.

A panel of judges, including MRE’s Ambassador to the Mainland Ellen Moyer and Annapolis Mayor Dean Johnson, will award prizes for the best dog trick, best-dressed dog, best dog vocalist, best dog kisser, hairiest dog, smallest dog, biggest dog, best dog-and-human “snack catch,” and for the dogs and owners who look most alike.

Dogs and their humans will gather at the Eastport Elementary School on 6th Street and Chesapeake Avenue as soon as the bridge run is over. Contests will begin at 12:30 p.m. There’s a \$10 entry fee, plus an additional \$2 registration fee for each contest or trick your canine pal and you enter.

Retrievers demonstrating especially keen digging instincts will be recruited by Kevin Brooks, Commandant of the Canine Corps of Engineers, to dig the proposed canal connecting the headwaters of Spa Creek with the headwaters of Back Creek, thus turning the Eastport peninsula into its own independent island.

For more information, visit the official web site at TheMRE.org.

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