



SO MUCH THE RACING THAT DRUMS SPECTATORS, BUT THE ODD CHANCE THAT A HORSE MIGHT BURST HIS SEPTEMBER 3-5, CLINTON, AR.

ALABAMA

Be master races *June 17-20.* The **Alabama Sports Festival XXII** happens in Huntsville's Von Braun Center—remember Werner Von Braun, father of the rocket, especially the one that made WW II London so Well, he just loved him a nice d body, and Alabamans do, too, ring more than 8,000 athletes competing in 22 amateur Olympic events, like archery, wrestling, possibly cursing in German. 467-0422.

ing for kickbacks *July 16-18.*

In 1928 some businessmen were ing around Mobile Bay, trying d the elusive big one. Suddenly, g one struck—not a fish, heav- y, but a cunning plan to leech yf cash out of local saltwater nen. Thus the **Alabama Deep Sea ; Rodeo** on Dauphin Island was ed, bestowing money, prizes, en a boat on some of the 300 pants. 251-471-0025.

like a proletariat *July 17.* In session of empathy with the g of Third World sweatshop s, a thousand people show up ns for the **Casa Mud Volleyball tent**, where 100 teams play on yf ankle-deep red mud, sym- y sharing the pain of laborers y for free without coffee n brick-making pits of blood- l for 36 hours at a stretch. You

on ahead to Burns Park and swap beer cans, beer advertising memora-bilia, and hot dogs. 501-666-1334.

Duck you too *August 14.* There are tons of ducks around our little cabin, so when we've had enough *Shipmates* or *Cheaters*, sometimes we lean out the window and get to talk-ing to them, yacking it up like a couple of beeping mallards. Hence we're all over the **27th Annual Cache River Regional Duck Calling Contest** in Brinkley, where competitors bleat out 90 seconds of feed calls, come-back calls, and more. 870-734-2262.

Engine Stalin *August 21.* Is it wrong that a chaos fest like the **6th Annual Ozark Demolition Derby** in Springdale

has more regulations than we can shake a severed arm at? 1) First 48 cars get in. 2) No drinking. 3) No hearses. 4) Only one battery allowed, dammit! 5) Any American make is acceptable. 6) Except Chryslers, Jeeps, trucks, buses, vans, or convert-ibles. Good gravy, can't a man demolish other men in peace? 877-927-6336.

Didn't this happen in The Ring? *September 3-5.* At the **19th Annual National Championship Chuckwagon Race**, 20,000 people will witness the excitement and tragedy of the Snowy River Race, a thrilling horse event that includes "two downhill runs and a plunge into the river." Should we call someone about this?

Best Hot Dogs

Ritzzy Lunch | *Darkenburg, WV 304-622-3600* This local fave, famous for its Baker's Nights, hit the hoity-toity heights with a mention in *Gourmet*. But a mere \$1.75 still gets you two chili-splattered dogs, fries, and a drink. And don't forget the slaw.

PJ's Hot Dog Haus | *Erlanger, KY 859-337-3010* Faithfully served on an egg bun and topped with onions, vivid green relish, and tomato slices, this lean, dense, Chicago-style all-beef dog (\$2.25) provides love at first bite.

Skin-Itzashoe's | *Anderson, SC 864-225-9229* Frank freaks storm this '40s-style luncheonette, where one item—and one item only—gets served on a nice steaming bun with an option of chili slathered on top (for the same price: \$1.28). Throw in a side of chips, *sauces* and slaw, or a candy bar. Yes, they consider candy a *side order*.

Mu-Way Weiners | *Macon, GA 478-743-6593* A family operation since 1916, Mu-Way lets you sink your canines into a *Strambled Dog* (\$3.19) that peers up at you from under a waterfall of chili and beans.

Pat's | *Kingsport, TN 423-246-9761* The east Tennessee franchise (begun here) won an award from President Bush—proving again that franks make the world safe for democracy. The \$1.39 dog (with pure-beef chili) has yet to be voted out!

Lucky Dogs | *New Orleans, LA 504-523-9260* One member of this classic chain of weenie-shaped carts always happens to roll up just when you need one. Like when it's late and you just poured out of a bar on Bourbon Street so soused you can't walk—until you down one of these spicy, smoked babies.

James Coney Island | *Houston, TX 713-973-9143* Go to the dogs in style with an all-beef pup on a poppy-seed bun: maybe the Jalapeño (\$2.89), the Cheese Coney Island (\$1.59), or how about the plain old Plain with mustard or ketchup (\$1.09)?

Chris' Hot Dogs | *Montgomery, AL 334-265-6850* Chris' was once a hangout for Hank Williams; now, everyone from the governor on down shows in here for

Beer as folk *August 28.* When we aren't hunting tame pigeons on our sprawling estate, we do love a stiff libation—hands off, buddy, we mean a cold beer! So we're visiting the **7th Annual Dauphin St. International Beer Festival** at taverns all over Mobile.

Thousands of beer aficionados (alcoholics) and casual observers (ambulance-chasing lawyers) quaff 52 brews from Japan, Holland, Ireland, and the Czech Republic, plus domes-tics and microbrews. 251-208-7540.

ARKANSAS

Friend or fuse *July 3.*

We'll see you at the **18th Annual World Champi- onship Cardboard Boat Race and Fireworks** on Greens Ferry Lake in Heber Springs. Yes, we were a little confused last year . . . we

were tossing fireworks from our boat like alms to the poor when this broad's refrigerator carton—and we do mean broad, she'd just won the watermelon-eating contest—catches fire! Lesson learned: This year, bring grenades instead. 501-362-2444.

I love brew *July 10.* We'd love to check out the **28th Annual Sizzle 'n' Sweat Beer Can & Breweriana Show** in Little Rock, but we'll be too busy sobbing, cursing God, the usual. Why? It might just remind us of that nice girl, Breweriana. (Boy, did we sizzle 'n' sweat!) R.I.P. Breweriana!

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