

## Paddlers Brave High Waters To Complete Paddlepalooza

by Irena Granaas

About 80 one- and two-man watercraft braved the high waters and strong currents of the Clinton River June 15 to vie for glory, prizes or just plain adventure during the 2013 Paddlepalooza.

"Paddlers" had the choice of three events:

- Two timed races – the single-person kayak race and the two-person canoe race, both eight miles long;

- The non-competitive Adventure River Paddle, an eight-mile, four-hour paddle.

All events started on the Clinton River from Auburn Hills' Riverside Park, and finished at the River Crest Banquet Center in Rochester Hills.

Winner of the one-person kayak race was Bob Olsabeck from Pontiac with a winning time of 1:31.01.

Winners of the two-person canoe race were Dave Fiddis and Violet Fiddis from Lake Orion. Their reported winning time was 1:16.31.

"Everybody finished," reported Auburn Hills Recreation Director Brian Marzolf.

"The water was higher than normal but that made things a little interesting."

Participants won trophies for first, second and third place for

each race class, and the winning craft for both the Kayak and the Canoe races received a \$100 gift certificate to Summit Shops. Gifts and prizes were given out throughout the day as paddlers reached the finish line.

"Most of the people walked away with raffle prizes, courtesy of our generous sponsors," said Marzolf.

The two cities, Auburn Hills and Rochester Hills, partnered on the event, but are also friendly rivals.

One of the newer elements to the annual Paddlepalooza is the Mayor's Cup Challenge, in which each city has a two-person canoe team vying to come in first for the Mayor's Cup trophy.

"This year the cup went back to Rochester Hills," conceded Marzolf.

Event sponsors included Genisys Credit Union, Whole Foods Market, Bass Pro Shops, the U.S. Army, Clinton River Canoe & Kayak, River Crest Banquet Facility, the Clinton River Watershed Council, Summit Sports, Moosejaw, Noodles & Company, Simple Adventures and the cities of Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills.

"We look forward to the 2014 Paddlepalooza," added Marzolf. "We're pretty confident the Mayor's Cup will be coming back to Auburn Hills."



Kayakers set out on the race course on Saturday.

Photo by Kevin Lent

## IAV Expands Growth with New AH Office

IAV Automotive Engineering, Inc. demonstrated the firm's solid commitment to the region with the grand opening of its satellite office in Auburn Hills.

The June 20 grand opening ceremony was attended by Auburn Hills Mayor Jim McDonald and Andy Ridgway, president of IAV Automotive Engineering.

The new office is located on the first floor at the Concorde Centers at the intersection of N. Squirrel and Featherstone roads, and will house about 40 IAV associates by the end of this year.

The new satellite office is de-

signed to be a key center for supporting customers in Oakland County.

"We are continuing to expand not only to be closer to our customers and meeting the growing needs of the industry, but also because we want to invest in the communities in which we work and live," said Ridgway. "IAV's sustained growth and expansion in Michigan has created this exciting opportunity for us."

"We are excited not only to expand, but to continue growing our company in the area and offering more opportunities for en-

gineers in the region to join our growing and passionate team."

According to company data, since opening its new headquarters in Northville in 2009, IAV has increased its sales by more than 50 percent every year, and the number of employees has more than doubled from 2011 to 2012. IAV expects to quadruple its revenue in 2013.

### Got News?

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## Chrysler, NHTSA Agree on Jeep Recall

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instances, deaths have occurred.

As a result of the agreement announced last week, Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall of the 1993-98 ZJ platform Jeep Grand Cherokee and the 2002-07 Jeep Liberty KJ platform vehicles, representing about 2.49 million vehicles, but Chrysler estimates only about 1.56 million of them are still on the road.

In a June 18 news release, Chrysler cited safety as a "paramount concern" and sums up, "Chrysler Group's analysis of the data confirms that these vehicles are not defective and are among the safest in the peer group. Nonetheless, Chrysler Group recognizes that this matter has raised concerns for its customers and wants to take further steps, in coordination with NHTSA, to provide additional measures to supplement the safety of its vehicles."

In a document obtained recently by the *Oakland Tech News*, Matthew W. Liddane, Chrysler vice president – Vehicle Concepts, Integration, Functional Sciences & Regulatory Affairs, responds to Frank Borris II, NHTSA director, Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), Office of Enforcement, with a clear statement of Chrysler's position and what steps the automaker has agreed to take.

In the document, Liddane states Chrysler's position that most of the crashes identified as reasons for a recall are "high-speed, high-energy collisions" that in most cases "would not have been prevented by taking any reasonable countermeasure steps."

He added that the same results would have occurred in similar makes and models under the same conditions.

He further added that "During the discussions between our

staffs, we mutually identified an opportunity to incrementally improve the performance" of some of the subject vehicles in some types of low-speed rear-impact crashes.

While Liddane makes it clear that Chrysler still "does not agree that the risk of fuel leakage in low-speed impacts" for any of the vehicles in question "constitute a safety-related defect within the meaning of the federal safety laws," Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall of these units to offer owners of the affected ZJ and KJ platform Jeeps an upgrade to the rear structure of the vehicles by adding a trailer hitch "to better manage the crash forces" in low-speed impacts.

Owners will receive written notice of an opportunity to bring their Jeep in for a free inspection of the vehicle's rear structure, and, if the vehicle has no trailer hitch, a Chrysler trailer hitch will be installed free of charge, "provided the condition of the vehicle can support proper installation."

A Chrysler trailer hitch will also be installed if the vehicle is equipped with an aftermarket unit, again if the vehicle's condition supports proper installation. For any vehicle with an original equipment trailer hitch installed, the area around the hitch will be inspected, and if an installation problem is found, it will be resolved free of charge.

Jeep Grand Cherokee (WJ platform) model years 1999-2004 are not part of the safety recall; however, Chrysler has agreed to issue a customer satisfaction notice to owners, with an offer to inspect aftermarket trailer hitches for sharp edges or other puncture risks, and if necessary, replace them.

Chrysler plans to begin notifying dealers and owners of the voluntary recall in July.

## GM Quality Best Overall, Says JD Power Survey

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Silverado at a time when all the factors such as lifecycle were working in their favor.

"But as Ford goes forward, I believe they will do better. And tech systems will be more similar as people start to do what they know works."

Ford Quality Communications Manager Wes Sherwood said in an exclusive interview that Ford was first to face the issue of hi-

tech in cars and that the next iteration of My Ford Touch will be much better than the current system.

"We've also done surveys of our buyers," Sherwood said. "Our information shows that buyers with My Ford Touch are happier than buyers without the system."

"This situation is like when someone has used a calculator his whole life. He might have some problems when he switches to Excel because he has to

learn how to use the system. But he won't go back to a calculator, he just wants Excel to get better."

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