

Advertisement

Blind, deaf teams at no disadvantage in the Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race

Updated: Jun. 05, 2014, 3:32 p.m. | Published: Jun. 05, 2014, 2:32 p.m.

1/13





2013 Portland Rose Festival dragon boat races



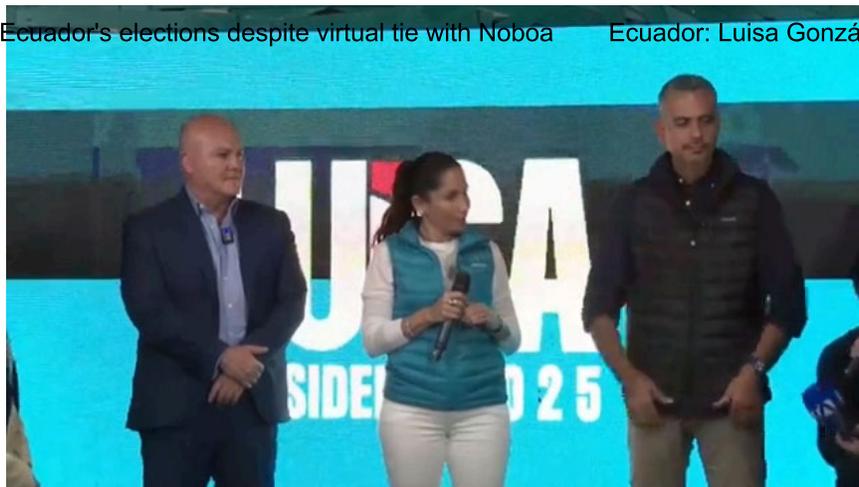
By [Jamie Hale](#) | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

Portland's dragon boat races attract people of all stripes. There are the trained athletes, the casual exercisers, the stay-at-home parents, the business professionals, the senior citizens, the teenagers and, of course, the deaf and the blind.

Lack of hearing or sight doesn't mean squat in the dragon boat community. It's a sport that requires steering and direction from the tiller of the boat – something the blind boats need a hand with – but the rest of the crew needs little help when it comes to racing.

Advertisement

declares victory in Ecuador's elections despite virtual tie with Noboa Ecuador: Luisa González declares victory i



Deaf and blind teams have been racing in the [Rose Festival's Dragon Boat Race](#) for more than a decade, said race director Tom Crowder. This year, two blind teams will compete under the moniker Lethally Blind, while a team of deaf rowers will compete as Sound Waves.

"The big challenge is that all 20 paddlers be in time and they do a great job of that," Crowder said.

Without sight to [coordinate with their teammates](#), the crews on the Lethally Blind boats use their other senses. They can feel the boat around them, gliding through the water, and they can feel their paddles too, pushing through the river – their comrades breathing and rowing in unison around them.

Of course, they can also listen to the drummer at the end of the boat, who pounds out a rhythm to row to. That's the big issue for the deaf team, who must utilize sight and feeling to keep in time with their crew.

It all goes to show that the blind and deaf can perform just as well as anybody else. While it's obviously useful to utilize all of the senses, it's by no means necessary for the Dragon Boat Race.

There will be 71 teams in all participating in the 2014 race, which will take over the Willamette River **this Saturday and Sunday**. Each team will be given four opportunities to race, with the fastest boats in each of the three divisions taking home the top prize.

RECOMMENDED

[Puppy Bowl 2025 free live stream, TV channel and actual start time; where to watch streaming on demand anytime](#) Feb. 9, 2025, 10:07 a.m.

[A dragon awakens and The Slants perform at Lunar New Year parade](#) Feb. 8, 2025, 6:46 p.m.

Competing right up there with the trained athletes and the business professionals will be the deaf and blind dragon boat teams, rowing to the finish line with no disadvantage.

* * *

ROSE FESTIVAL DRAGON BOAT RACE

When: June 7 and 8, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Tom McCall Waterfront Park ([see it on a map](#))

Admission: Free to watch

--Jamie Hale

If you purchase a product or register for an account through a link on our site, we may receive compensation. By using this site, you consent to our [User Agreement](#) and agree that your clicks, interactions, and personal information may be collected, recorded, and/or stored by us and social media and other third-party partners in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#).

Around the Web

Wall Street is Furious: This New AI is Beating Their Best Traders

FX Market Insights | Sponsored

Download

2024 Senior SUV Is A True Head Turner (You'll Love The Price)

SUVs | Top Searcher Now | Sponsored

Learn More

MD: Building Muscle After 60 Comes Down To This 1 Thing

Apex Labs | Sponsored

Blood sugar above 100? Discover this cinnamon trick!

Family & Health | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Where the Bay Area's Best & Brightest Live

Explore spacious studio, one-, and two-bedroom layouts featuring contemporary finishes and smart tech for elevated living.

Irvine Company Apartment | Sponsored

Military strategy game criticized for being 'too realistic'

History Strategy Game | Sponsored

[Play Now](#)

Unbeatable Prices on Temu

TEMU | Sponsored

[Shop Now](#)

New Small Electric Car for Seniors (The Price May Surprise You)

Rank Searches Now | Search Ads | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Cardiologists: Teaspoon On an Empty Stomach Slims Waist from 36 To 22

Health Wellness Journal | Sponsored

[Watch Now](#)

Sleeper Train Vacations at Unbeatable Prices (Take a Look)

Train Packages | Top Search Now | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Rob Lowe: "I Can't Believe I Fell for This So-Called 'Healthy' Dog Food!"

Ultimate Pet Nutrition | Sponsored

Japanese Endocrinologists Warn Reason Behind High Glucose Levels in US

Sugar Reverse | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)

Bob's Red Mill store closing

[OregonLive.com](#)

Miss Manners: Pedestrian needs a snappy comeback for walking group that hogs the path

[OregonLive.com](#)



▼ About Us

[Our Journalists](#)

[About OregonLive.com](#)

[Contact The Newsroom](#)

[Technical Support](#)

[Search Our Archives](#)

[Advertise With Us](#)

[Subscribe to The Oregonian](#)

[Subscriber Services](#)

[Digital Subscription FAQ](#)

[Delivery Opportunities](#)

[Accessibility Statement](#)

▼ Subscriptions

[The Oregonian](#)

[eNewspaper](#)

[Email Newsletters](#)

▼ Already a Subscriber

[Manage your Subscription](#)

[Place a Vacation Hold](#)

[Make a Payment](#)

[Delivery Feedback](#)

▼ Read More Top News

[Today's Top News](#)

[Politics](#)

[Crime](#)

[Business](#)

[Commuting](#)

[Weather](#)

[Education](#)

[Homes & Gardens](#)

[Letters to the Editor](#)

[Video](#)

[Environment](#)

[Tom Hallman](#)

[Special Sections](#)

[Here is Oregon](#)

[Sports](#)

[High School Sports](#)

[Ducks](#)

[Beavers](#)

[Trail Blazers](#)

[Timbers](#)

[Thorns](#)

[Recruiting News](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Travel](#)

[TV & Movies](#)

[Eat, Drink, Cook](#)

[Comics](#)

[Archives](#)

▼ Your Regional News Pages

[Portland](#)

[Washington County](#)

[Clackamas County](#)

[Clark County](#)

[Pacific Northwest](#)

▼ Follow Us

[Email Newsletters](#)

[News on Alexa or Google Home](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[RSS](#)

▼ Mobile

[iPhone, Android apps](#)

[Tablet apps](#)

▼ More on OregonLive.com

[Place an Ad](#)

[Autos](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Sponsor Content](#)

[Post a Job](#)

[Your Privacy Choices](#)  [Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Ad Choices](#)

ADVANCELOCAL

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#), (updated 8/1/2024) and acknowledgement of our [Privacy Policy](#), and [Your Privacy Choices and Rights](#) (updated 1/1/2025).

© 2025 Advance Local Media LLC. All rights reserved ([About Us](#)).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Advance Local.

[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

YouTube's privacy policy is available [here](#) and **YouTube's terms of service** is available [here](#).

[Ad Choices](#)