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## Racing for dirt

Posted by [Staten Island Advance](#) June 01, 2007 3:28PM

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What's a can of dirt worth to you?

For some, it's worth racing over.

Tomorrow at noon, four wind-powered yachts from New York will race against five New Jersey yachts for a dressed-up coffee can filled with dirt taken from Fort Wadsworth in the Staten Island Decision race.

But it's more than that. The can of dirt is meant to represent the debatable legend that a sailboat race between New York and New Jersey was held 300 years ago to determine which state would stake claim to Richmond County. "We all accept this controversy, but rather than dig up history, let's re-create the race," said Michael Fortenbaugh race organizer, the commodore of the North Cove Marina in Manhattan. □

--Contributed by Caitlin Hogan



US Coast Guard photo

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Robert O'Brien, Captain of the Port of N.Y. and N.J., shovels a little bit Staten Island into a can, held by Michael Fortenbaugh, Commodore of North Cove Marina in New York City, as U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Scott Graham, Deputy Commander of Sector New York looks on.