



## Bull supports police and fire departments

### The Starboard hosts annual Dewey tradition

For the 15th year, The Starboard's bull stormed after hundreds of people, chasing them down the coastline of Dewey Beach July 9 in a comical and always exciting parody of the famous running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain.

In reality, the bull did more loping than storming, and it actually was not a bull at all, but two men in a bull costume: bull front man Garrett Walsh and bull back Chris Williams.

"It's organized chaos," Master of Ceremonies Michael McDonnell said of the spectacle.

The Running of the Bull originated with McDonnell, Mike Howard and Andrew Brady in 1997 when they rented a bull costume and chased 35 people down the beach. The event steadily grew and continues to grow, now drawing more than 1,000 people to The Starboard.

"Each year is more incredible than the year before, and this year it was huge," says The Star-

board owner Steve "Monty" Montgomery.

Through the sale of Running of the Bull T-shirts and bandanas donated by Montgomery, The Starboard raised \$6,000 to be divided equally between the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company and the Dewey Beach Police Department.

"The funds raised this year will go toward supplies for our fire department and to help purchase a new Tahoe for our Dewey K-9 Unit, for a dog purchased for our police with funds from past year's bull running," Montgomery said. "The generosity of our Starboard people is appreciated as these public servants all help us in so many ways. Now it's our day to help them out!"

Murmurings of "ole! ole!" become chants, calling "Papa Mike" McDonnell to center stage where he stands beside a bust of his hero, Papa Ernest Hemingway, and reviews rules that cover

everything from how the group will cross Route 1 to "no swimming" and the need to respect the Starboard's neighbors throughout all of Dewey Beach.

The enormous crowd grows quiet as New York City fireman Jim Lee plays "God Bless America" on the bagpipes. Heads bow, hats are removed and voices then join with LauraLea singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

House Majority Leader Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth Beach, counts down to the start of the event with the assistance of Dewey Beach commissioners Zeke Przygocki, Rick Solloway and Jim Laird. The race is on and, for blocks, beachgoers cheer the bull and the people it chases.

Returning, the bull enters the bullring and prepares to confront its nemesis, Matador Kenny G. After several charges, the bull finally falls to the matador's sword - only to rise again to a cheering crowd, with a promise to return next year.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
**MASTER OF CEREMONIES** and Running of the Bull founder Big Papa Mike McDonnell prepares to take the stage.



Counting down to the Running of the Bull are (l-r) Dewey Beach Commissioner Zeke Przygocki, House Majority Leader Pete Schwartzkopf, D-Rehoboth, Dewey Beach Commissioner Rick Solloway and Dewey Beach Commissioner Jim Laird.



Celebrating a successful confrontation are (l-r) 2011 Matador Kenny G, bull front man Garrett Walsh and bull back Chris Williams.



The bull is cheered as it chases hundreds of people down the beach.



Selling donated shirts and scarves to raise money for firefighters and police are (l-r) Chuck Snyder, Mali Belcamino, Shannon Kimble and John Hazzard of Rehoboth Beach Fire-Rescue.  
 At left, the bull is coming!