



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

ABAMA

he master races June 17-20. The **ama Sports Festival XXII** happens luntsville's Von Braun Center—remember Werner Von Braun, er of the rocket, especially the ; 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 peting in 22 amateur Olympic- events, like archery, wrestling, ossibly cursing in German. 467-0422.

■ **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 domestic and microbrews. 251-208-7540.

ARKANSAS

■ **Friend or fuse July 3.** We'll see you at the **18th Annual World Championship Cardboard Boat Race and Fireworks** on Greers 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!) Rite around 1

on ahead to Burns Park and swap beer cans, beer advertising memorabilia, 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 talking 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

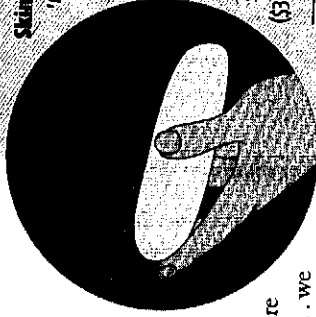
has more regulations than we can shake a severed arm at? 1) First 48 cars get in. 2) No drinking. 3) No hearses. 4) Only one battery allowed, dammit! 5) Any American make is acceptable. 6) Except Chryslers, Jeeps, trucks, buses, vans, or convertibles. Good gravy, can't a man demolish other men in peace?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

Ritz Lunch | Oak Ridge, WV 304-62-3600 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 859-331-3010 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 Thrasher'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*.

Nu-Way Weiners | Macon, GA 478-743-6593 A family operation since 1916, Nu-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