

#### 17th Baltimore Kinetic Sculpture Race Spectator's Guide

### **Race Day**

As with any human-powered dash for glory, times overlap and are approximate—racers are unpredictable! The race carries on in any weather in which it is safe to carry on.

The rescheduled race shares some of its route with the 13th annual <u>Tour Dem Parks, Hon</u>' bicycle ride. Please share the lanes with our two-wheeled friends!

**9:00–10:30 Pre-Race:** See sculptures in unsullied glory, but don't disturb frantic pilots. See "Getting to AVAM".

**10:30–10:59 Opening Ceremony & Launch:** Celebratory speeches and telepathic Sister Euphonia O'Blivion blesses "de feet" of the Kinetinauts. Arrive early to see it up close.

11:00 LeMans Launchgong at AVAM.

**11:01–11:15 Federal Hill:** The racers climb steep Federal Hill. (Anyone can make a sculpture; the human-powered part is hard.) Some sculptures break down before they get this far (seriously). This is a great place to photograph sculptures with the city skyline. Sculptures return shortly along Key Highway after the southern loop.

Running Late? From I-95 take exit 55 onto Key Highway to street parking along Fort Avenue or Lawrence Street.

**11:15–12:15 Southern Loop and around the Inner Harbor:** The sculptures pass Inner Harbor landmarks, into Harbor East, and Fell's Point. Tip: Park 2 hours free in Whole Foods' garage on Aliceanna Street if you get lunch there.

**12:00–1:30 Splashdown! Canton Waterfront Park:** The sculptures go down a boat ramp into the harbor. Watch unseaworthy sculptures sink. There's lots of street parking within a few blocks. This is the most popular spectator site. Get food from <u>Absolutely Perfect Catering</u> and <u>Miss Twist</u>.

**1:30–1:45 Up the Hill to Patterson Park:** This goes quickly, and you don't want to miss...

**1:45–3:45 Patterson Park Sand & Mud:** The mud is on a hill—easier for spectators, harder for racers. Enjoy food trucks <u>Green Bowl</u>, <u>Sláinte on Wheels</u>, and <u>Miss Twist</u>. There's street parking around the park perimeter. <u>Station North Tool Library</u> hosts a Pit Stop & Tool Haven (including welding) near the sand.

**4:00–4:45 Back to the Finish:** Kinetinauts are exhausted and sculptures spread out down Lombard Street in Butcher's Hill back through the Inner Harbor. Fort Avenue on the southern loop usually has open street parking. Each team breaks through a huge banner on Covington Street to finish at AVAM, where parking will be challenging with a nearby 1:30pm Orioles game.

**4:30–6:00 Dinner:** You should eat. <u>Miss Twist</u> truck serves ice cream at AVAM. If you're clean consider <u>Rusty Scupper</u> seafood across the street (reservations recommended). Ten-minutes' westward walk to Light Street in <u>Federal Hill</u> with two dozen diverse local restaurants. Big tourist restaurants line the Inner Harbor north bank.

**6:00–7:00 Awards Ceremony:** Even as a spectator, you'll be tired—imagine how the racers feel! Cheer on the winners in the AVAM Sculpture Barn.



# **Kinetic Awards**

**ACE.** The highest race challenge is the ACE. ACE pilots can't swap or have propulsion assistance at any time, can't get out to push or pull especially at the water exit, sand, or mud. Teams going for ACE have a green number tag and an ACE judge follows mercilessly to ensure they adhere to all rules.

Art: Coveted award for best artistic design, reflected in color, humor, costumes, theatrical appeal, and kinetic motion.

Best Pit Crew: Each sculpture requires support crew; this is for the most supportive or best decorated.

Engineering: Awarded to the most ingenious technical design tackling the rigors of the race.

Golden Dinosaur: Awarded to the most memorable breakdown or first to break down.

**Golden Flipper:** Awarded to the sculpture with the most interesting water entry. Each year you'll likely see at least one sculpture flip over!

Grand Mediocre Champion: #1 of all awards, for finishing in the middle (after time penalties).

**Next-to-Last:** Award for the penultimate sculpture finishing with just one behind them.

Sock Creature of the Universe: Each sculpture must have a sock creature; this goes to the best. Speed: Award for the fastest sculpture completing the entire course, after any time penalties.

Worst Honorable Mention: Awarded to the Sculpture whose half-baked theoretical "engineering" did not deter its Pilot(s) from the challenge of the race.

# **Kinetic Glossary**

**AVAM:** The American Visionary Art Museum is founder and sponsor of the East Coast Championship Kinetic Race.

**Bush League:** Sculptures that complete the entire course except the water entry.

**Checkpoints:** To prevent unauthorized shortcuts, teams stop at license plate checkpoints.

**Hobart Brown:** The Ferndale, California artist and Glorious Founder made the first raceable Kinetic Sculpture in 1969 and spread Kinetics around the world. We miss his crazy enthusiasm.

**Kinetic Chickens:** Volunteers who keep the race on track and answer public questions.

**Kinetic Grand Championship:** Our Baltimore race is a qualifier for the Humboldt County, California Grand Championship—42 miles over 3 days over Memorial Day Weekend. Sculptures cross 2 miles of Humboldt Bay and down a huge sand dune called Dead Man's Drop.

**Kinetic Kops:** Officers issue tickets to sculptures when they break rules (and occasionally when they don't). Each ticket carries a time penalty. Kinetic Kops are known to accept bribes to overlook all but ACE and safety infractions.

Kinetinauts: Fearless artist-engineer-pilots.

Le Mans Start: Pilots  $\vartheta$  crew start atop Federal Hill; at the gong, they run down to their vehicles.

**Volunteers:** Folks who have a lot of fun and make the race happen! Join the email list at <u>KineticBaltimore.com</u>.

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#### Getting to AVAM

**Parking:** Street parking on race day is hard to find. You can pay to park at the Rusty Scupper Marina lot just across Key Highway, or several other lots and garages a few blocks west, or many on the north side of the Inner Harbor. Prices vary considerably—see <u>Parkopedia.com</u> for details.

**MARC and Amtrak trains** run weekends from DC and elsewhere to Penn Station, then taxi or Circulator Purple (below). See <u>mta.Maryland.gov/marc-train</u> and <u>Amtrak.com</u>.

**Charm City Circulator:** Free pleasant buses every 15 minutes 9am–9pm! Purple Route from Penn Station to Science Center near AVAM; Orange and Green Routes to Fell's Point; Banner Route from Inner Harbor past AVAM to Fort McHenry. See maps  $\vartheta$  info at <u>CharmCityCirculator.com</u>.

**Light Rail:** If flying to BWI, or driving in, you can take a train to Camden Yards, a pleasant 20 minute walk to AVAM. Park free at Falls Road or Lutherville to the north near I-83; or Cromwell/ Glen Burnie near I-97 to the south. Light Rail meets Amtrak at Penn and BWI stations. See <u>mta.Maryland.gov/light-rail</u>

# **Attractions near AVAM**

- 1. **AVAM:** The American Visionary Art Museum hosts intuitive, self-taught work by artists compelled to create. Exhibitions change annually. Now showing "The Visionary Experience: Saint Francis to Finster". The gift shop is an experience unto itself. Open 10am–6pm: <u>AVAM.org</u>
- 2. Hon Fest: uniquely celebrating the working women of Baltimore with music and glamour all weekend <u>honfest.net</u>
- Maryland Science Center: Exhibits about dinosaurs, health, space, and physics; IMAX and planetarium, mini golf for kids. Open 11am–5pm Sundays: <u>MDSci.org</u>
- 4. **National Aquarium:** Sharks, rays, jellyfish, dolphins, Australian Outback, and tiny colorful poisonous frogs. Buy advance tickets to enter 9am–5pm: <u>Aqua.org</u>
- USS Constellation (1797 frigate), USS Torsk (1944 submarine), USCGC Taney (1936 cutter), 7-Foot Knoll Lighthouse. Open 10am–5pm (4pm for Taney): <u>HistoricShips.org</u>
- 6. **Urban Pirates**: Reserve ahead at <u>UrbanPirates.com</u> for family adventure cruises all day Sunday.
- Baltimore Museum of Industry: 1910 pharmacy, 1886 bank, steam tugboat, historic vehicles, WWII flying boat bomber. 10am–4pm: <u>TheBmi.org</u>
- 8. Fort McHenry: in 1814, the star-shaped fort 2 miles south of AVAM down Francis Scott Key Highway and Fort Avenue inspired our national anthem; open 9am until special Flag Day 6pm Navy twilight tattoo ceremony <u>nps.gov/fomc</u>
- 9. **Charm City Food Tours:** Buy advance tickets for Fell's Point, Federal Hill, Little Italy, Lexington Market, or Mount Vernon: <u>BaltimoreFoodTours.com</u>



Wear something absurd! Many folks wear goofy outfits (see below) and you should too. Ransack your attic, or go to a thrift or vintage store (like DeBois Textiles on Washington Avenue in Pigtown) for an ideal Kinetic Outfit. If you dress well, find a KineticBaltimore photographer (in a bright yellow shirt), and your fabulous photo may appear in this year's website coverage or next year's Spectator's Guide!

# Spectate from One Spot...

Since the sculptures navigate 14 miles through the city, the easiest way to spectate is to pick a spot and watch them pass by. Parking is plentiful along some stretches (especially the purple morning and orange afternoon routes on the map). There are sometimes last-minute route changes. However, most spectators brave the crowds at AVAM, Canton Waterfront, or Patterson Park, where sculptures and spectators congregate.

# ... Or Follow Along

If you have time and energy, following the race lets you see a lot more action. But you need a plan. Some means of transport are:

- Bike or roller blade: Big human-powered sculptures aren't super-fast. If you're physically fit and can ride 14 miles on city streets, you'll likely keep up. Ride carefully and watch for rough roads. Bring a bike lock. Bike repairs & supplies are available at race partner <u>Race Pace Bicycles</u> 410-986-0001 at 1410 Key Highway (see map).
- Water taxi: The water taxi docks at 12 spots around the harbor 10am–11pm. Adult day passes are \$14, \$7 for kids 3–10. Key stops are #4 Rusty Scupper (next to AVAM), and #16 Canton Waterfront Park. Allow an hour from #4 to #16—about right to see the start and water entry. Get map and tickets at <u>BaltimoreWaterTaxi.com</u> or on a boat.
- Automobile: You can park, spectate, then drive to the next spot. As crowds grow every year, parking is increasingly hard to find—arrive early. If you can parallel park and navigate the city, this can be a good option. Read parking signs carefully and bring coins or a credit card for meters.

# Post Your Photos & Videos!

Facebook: Like AVAM and friend Fifi the Pink PoodleInstagram: Follow the avam & use #KineticTwitter: @TheAvamKinetic Forum: KineticBaltimore.com/ksr/forum



#### The Sculptures

- 1. **Kraken Upcycle** After 7 years, UMBC returns with a 4-pilot 13-foot tall sea monster.
- ACE Stripes with 4 pilots, this is 2015's first of four African adventure theme entries from Baltimore's Jemicy School, which last year won 3 ACEs plus Worst Honorable Mention.
- 3. ACE Cheetah Cheetah Pumkin Eatah has 1 pilot.
- 4. ACE Safari Hon is another 1-pilot Jemicy entry.
- 5. ACE Snake Rattle & Roll also has 1 Jemicy pilot.
- PLATYPUS Lost (in Space) (Personal Long-range All-Terrain Yacht Proven Un-Safe) is David Hess' phenomenal 8-pilot award-winning entry every year since 2005 when it won Grand Champion.
- 7. **Rainbow Fish** commemorates the children's book and comes from Baltimore's St. Paul's School, whose *Fire* won **Best Engineering** in 2014.
- The Next To Last Samurai are 2 time-traveling Edoperiod Samurai, from Baltimore's Make Believers team (see also #35), who've won 17 awards racing every year since 2002, including 2007's Grand Champion.
- Bush Squirt of the Chesapeake from the STEM Old Mill Middle School South has 4-pilots. As a bush-league entry, it will bypass the water.
- 10. **Kit Kat Clock Club** For their 8th race, Tony Walker's 2014 *Swan Song of Betsy Patterson* (winner of **Best Costumes**) has turned into a Kit Kat Clock with hypnotizing eyes and a band of crazy cats.
- 11. **AMS Turtle** from Arbutus Middle School has 2 pilots and a teenage mutant ninja theme.
- 12. **Space Shuttle Disco(very)** With 2 pilots from Vienna, Virginia, they put the Disco in Discovery—which lifted the Hubble Telescope into orbit.
- 13. ACE Baberham Lincoln features a funerary sexy president commemorating the 150th anniversary of his assassination and the 25th of Artex Fine Art Services. The team raced fabulous entries from 2005 to 2008, then mysteriously disappeared for 6 years.
- 14. Bush Scorpio in Space is Columbia's Oakland Mills High School mascot come to life.
- 15. **Unless...** cites the last page of Dr. Suess' The Lorax. It's sponsored by the Baltimore Forestry Board, Baltimore Tree Trust, Blue Water Baltimore, Tree Baltimore, Treekeepers, Weed Warriors, the Office of Sustainability, and Union Craft Brewery. Bearing live trees, they'll plant one with a time capsule in Patterson Park.
- 16. **Seusscycle** is a 3-pilot, 80-pound entry of Baltimore City College. Their theme song is "Stray Cat Strut".
- 17. **Flying Burrito** is a giant winged tubular comestible from Baltimore, built of cheap bikes, slotted angle steel, beans, rice, and guacamole.
- 18. **Ballet Mobile** comes from its namesake Howard County <u>organization</u> making ballet house calls throughout Maryland, and features a twirling ballerina on top.
- 19. **Guppy** is a 1-pilot entry also from St. Paul's School, built by a student using spare parts.
- 20. **Anuli the Articulated Giraffe** commemorates the reticulated calf born in 2013 at the Baltimore Zoo. She's from the Soda Quackers of Pennsylvania, who raced 2014's *Sweet Wynona Whale*.
- 21. **Paranoid Planetary Prober** has 2 pilots from Crofton and Odenton, and their theme song is the Beastie Boys' *Intergalactic*.

- 22. ACE Agogosaurus is the 4-pilot hinged dinosaur master of all terrain that also raced in the 2012 Kinetic Grand Championship in Humboldt, California. Brandon is back in Baltimore hoping to achieve its fourth consecutive ACE.
- 23. **Shamu Crew** is a 4-pilot whale built by students mostly taking engineering classes at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda. They last raced *Anemone Antics* in 2010.
- 24. ACE Bikes for the World has 4 pilots from Boy Scout Troop & Venture Crew 52 of Chevy Chase spreading word about the <u>organization</u> making affordable used bicycles and parts available in developing countries.
- 25. **Tick Tock the Croc** is 35 feet of Barrie-inspired carnivorous reptile. Last year it swept **Grand Champion**, **Art** & **People's Choice**. Now the 6-pilot crocodile has new propellers and added bling. Look for a giant splash at Canton!
- 26. **Cosmic Fifi** takes the iconic jubilant French poodle on an interstellar journey from AVAM. Her pink tulle coat will be protected by a heat shield reflective suit of space age material. Fifi has participated in every race since 2001.
- 27. **BumpoStar Galactica** is AVAM's deep space mammoth with electric fur and light-up tusks.
- 28. **Rookies** with 2 pilots is the latest entry from the Dumpster Divers of Philadelphia, represented in every Baltimore race since 1999.
- 29. A Dog at the Races with 6 pilots comes from the Takoma Park team who raced 2014's *Good Dog & The Big Itchy Flea Circus* to win Pilots' Choice.
- 30. **Love You Harbor** has a recycling theme, sponsored by Metcalf Art and Harbor Magic Hotels.
- Menace is the all-new 6-pilot 4th vehicle arising from 2007 champion team Goes to Eleven, who in 2014 won Next-to-Last and Sock Creature of the Universe with Toyboxers. It's hand-built, down to the wheels.
- 32. **1800** Lbs: Beyond the Hon'derdome portrays post-apocalyptic Baltimore on 12-foot wheels. This spectacular tricycle was *Loose Cannon* in 2012 & 2013, and *Cornography* in 2014 when it won Best Pit Crew. It now has hydraulic wheels and a custom transmission. It's Team 1800 Lbs' 9th consecutive year.
- 33. **Bush Alpha Centaur-y** is a sparkly space pony exploring Earth disguised as a modified bicycle, made of discarded theater props, textiles, some elbow grease, lots of sparkles, and bit of everything nice. From Jeff Ferree and Megan Boye, artists based in Orlando, Florida.
- 34. **Shogunna Ride** hosts Samurai Sailor Moonbeam and Sailor Mars defending Baltimore from joint deterioration, oncoming traffic, and potential destruction of the solar system. It's from the Make Believers, who created #8 and 2014's Astral Plane.
- 35. **Bush Swing Low** is a chariot from the Kinetic Sculpture Club at Charles Flowers High School in Springdale, and sponsored by Clinton Metal recyclers.

#### Thanks!

The Kinetic Sculpture Race is very grateful to many organizations and individuals, including state delegates Luke Clippinger, Brooke Lierman, and Shelly Hettleman; the Mayor's Office; Baltimore City Police Department; Baltimore City Fire Department; Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts; Department of Recreation and Parks and Permit Office; and Tour Dem Parks, Hon!