

Regatta Review

Issue #2 - August 12 2003

The countdown to the Gold Cup race is under way!

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THE SILVER CUP SWEEPSTAKES FREE-FOR-ALL

The Detroit Yacht Club has offered the Silver Cup for presentation to the winner of the Sweepstakes / Free-For-All race, so we will be awarding TWO very prestigious trophies in another nod to history!

In the future the Sweepstakes will be open to all comers, but since many classes are already committed to race in Celina OH that weekend, this year's Sweepstakes is an invitational for the Unlimited Lights and Grand Prix classes. The ULs don't have to run per their rules, they can do anything they want to their piston power plants... basic rules are 17-27 feet long, with a maximum of 750cid.

THE "DETROIT INTERNATIONAL WATER SPEEDWAY"

The Mayor of Detroit is working on a proclamation to declare the portion of the Detroit River from the Belle Isle bridge to the DYC & Roostertail Restaurant as the "Detroit International Water Speedway".

STREAMING AUDIO DIRECT FROM THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Thanks to MLive.com, plans are under way to carry the Public Address audio over the Internet for fans that can't attend the race. The streaming audio will be in the Real Audio format and be available August 23rd & 24th covering all the racing action.

NEW NAME FOR OUR NEWSLETTER - THE "REGATTA REVIEW"

We have selected a new name for our newsletter from among the ideas submitted by our readers, the "Regatta Review". I regret that due to my loss of 3 weeks of incoming email, I can't thank each of you personally, so let me say it here: "Thank you!". Will the person that submitted "Regatta Review" please contact me at the subscription address below. I'll

recognize your name.

HOTEL DISCOUNTS: "GREAT RATES FOR GOLD CUPPERS"

The "Host Hotel for the 2003 Chrysler Jeep Superstores APBA Gold Cup" is the Omni Detroit Hotel at River Place. This is the closest hotel to the race course and is deluxe in every way. It feels like a small up-scale European hotel... very nice place, very nice price. The special rates on these rooms are \$89/night. For more information on this National Historic Landmark: http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/default.asp?h_id=45

Here's another special piece of good news from the Marriott Renaissance Center... their Jr. Suites, usually \$269.00/night are \$99.00 for DRRA "Gold Cup" attendees... that's a heck of a deal. Singles or doubles at the Marriott Renaissance, the Westin Town Center (Southfield) or the Crowne Plaza Pontchartrain are typically \$169.00-179.00 ... for Gold Cuppers the rates are about \$100.00 less. Note: any reservations at the Marriott for the special prices are good only for reservations made by 08/15/03.

The Best Western Georgian Inn is also offering a special rate (see below). The magic password to get the deal at all locations is "Gold Cup Races" or DRRA.

The Best Western Georgian Inn
31327 Gratiot Ave
Roseville, MI 48066
(586) 294-0400 Contact Person: Rita Jaijoka
Double Beds \$62.96 plus tax

The Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center
Downtown Detroit
(313) 568-8000 Contact Person: Karen Hadden
Double Beds \$69.00, parking extra (Secure parking for Big Rigs)

Crowne Plaza Pontchartrain
Two Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226-4416
(313) 965-0200 Contact Person: Debra Mancin
Double Beds \$79.00, plus parking \$17.00 per day

Westin Southfield
1500 Town Center
Southfield, MI.
(248) 827-4591 Contact Person: Cindy Bishop
Double Beds \$79.00

SUPPORT THE DETROIT RIVER REGATTA ASSOCIATION

Anyone can join the DRRA to support the Gold Cup event! The basic membership is \$25,

and the form is available on our "Volunteers" page. Working volunteers get a perk package that includes something like 2 event t-shirts and a cap, non-working supporters can request an event t-shirt as a memento. cThose wanting to support the DRRA and Gold Cup further can join our DRRA Founders Club. Charter memberships begin at \$100. For more information, see our DRRA Founders Club page.

"MISS CHRYSLER JEEP" AND THE GREGORY TEAM READY FOR MARK WEBER'S LAST TRY FOR THE GOLD CUP

Detroit Driver Comes Out of Retirement to Race His Favorite Boat on the Detroit River

DETROIT, MI, August 12, 2003 -- One of the winningest hulls in unlimited hydroplane racing, a co-world champion driver and a little hometown sibling rivalry set the stage for drama with the "Miss Chrysler Jeep" entry in the 2003 Chrysler Jeep Superstores Detroit APBA Gold Cup on the Detroit River August 22-24, 2003.

"Miss Chrysler Jeep", unlimited hydroplane U11, is sponsored by the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Advertising Association in this year's Gold Cup race. Chrysler Jeep Superstores is also the race title sponsor.

The boat is owned, prepared and entered by Kim Gregory of Las Vegas, Nev. It holds the fastest lap record on the Detroit River course, recently named the Detroit International Water Speedway.

Hometown co-world champion driver Mark Weber, of St. Clair, Mich., just couldn't turn down the challenge to go for the one victory that has eluded him, racing's gold standard "the American Power Boat Association (APBA) Gold Cup". Weber has won 11 national championships, 19 major titles, won in unlimiteds and shared the World championship. He will be facing a tough field, including his brother Mike Weber driving "Miss Detroit Yacht Club", also part of the Gregory team.

"Miss Chrysler Jeep is one of the winning hulls in the sport. I have a lot of seat time with it, it's very competitive and I am very confident", Mark Weber said. 1997 Co-World Champion Mark Weber is coming out of retirement to drive in this year's Gold Cup race. Weber is also owner of a marina in Fair Haven, Mich.

The boat had been driven by Chip Hanauer as "Miss Circus/Circus" and by another hometown driver, Canton, Mich.'s Mark Tate as the "Winston Eagle" and "Smoking Joe", before being bought by Gregory in 1998.

Weber has a solid history with the Gregory team, racing for it during the 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 seasons, always finishing the season among the top three in points. Gregory hired Weber away from the Budweiser team in 1998, and he won under the York Heating and Air Conditioning banner in the last race of the season. Weber raced with the boat until he retired from unlimited racing after the 2001 season. "I have driven 11 other unlimited boats in my career, but I have more seat time in "Miss Chrysler Jeep" than all the others combined", he

said. "I'd also like to lure Kurt Taverner, my old crew chief, to prepare "Miss Chrysler Jeep. This is going to be a one-race homecoming effort."

"Miss Chrysler Jeep" is an awesome sight almost 30 feet long and 15 feet wide, the boat weighs more than three tons, yet its 2,700-horsepower turbine engine can propel it over the water at speeds of more than 200 mph. "Miss Chrysler Jeep" has new sponsons, modifications at the rear end, and extensive skid fin modifications", Weber said. "I have all my notes from our set-ups for Detroit from past years. We have a lot of good set- ups and gears for the course. The new fuel restrictions throw a new wrinkle into the works, but we'll be very competitive."

Brother Mike Weber, a Detroiter now living in Georgia, will be driving the other Gregory boat, "Miss Detroit Yacht Club". Both boats are yellow, but Mark's "Miss Chrysler Jeep" can be distinguished by its yellow cowling over the turbine engine, while Mike's "Miss Detroit Yacht Club" has a blue engine cowling.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer