

## Press Release

**February 9 2004**

*Visit us at the 46th annual MBIA Detroit Boat Show!*

Confirmed Autograph Schedule:

Mark Tate: Feb 11th 6-9pm

Fred Alter: Feb 13th 6-9pm

Danny Foster: Feb 14th & 15th 1pm-4pm

**DRIVER BIOS:**

Mark Tate -

Mark Tate is a two-time APBA Gold Cup Winner. Mark won both his Gold Cup's here in his hometown on the Detroit River in 1991 as "Winston Eagle" and in 1994 with the "Smokin' Joes". Mark is a Five (5) time National High Points Unlimited Hydroplane Champion and he still holds the record for the fastest lap on the Detroit River - 170mph on a 2.5 mile course. These days, Mark is kept busy with his corporation headquartered in Canton, MI - Sun Coatings, an industrial teflon coating supplier for automotive, food packaging and molding manufacturing. Spare time still belongs to boating with his two sons now actively racing in limited classes and making them the 4th generation in hydroplane racing.

Fred Alter -

Fred Alter has been active in Hydroplane Racing since the 1940's. He has the distinction of having driven more hulls (boats) in competition than any other driver on record. Known to many as "Fearless Freddie", he earned that nickname through many exploits. Back in 1973, he drove the experimental Miss Lapeer - the first boat to use a Turbine engine. Although it took over a decade, most of the boats today use the turbine engine for their powerplant. Recently, many of the vintage hydroplanes were involved in filming the story of the 1971 Gold Cup held in Madison, Indiana. Fred not only drove a vintage craft for filming, but he earned a place in the Hollywood Stunt Men's Union for his driving exploits during filming. Fred remains active in his 'day job' as a bottling plant engineering consultant while indulging in his love for vintage watercraft. Just one of Fred's current projects is a vintage all-aluminum Unlimited Hydroplane which is planned to be in the water in July to help celebrate the Centennial APBA Gold Cup.

Danny Foster -

Danny & his childhood buddy Dan Arena, drove Dan's mother's 1935 Ford coupe towing their boat on a wooden trailer across the US from California to compete in his first Gold Cup in 1938. WWII intervened and Danny flew over 6000 hours as a fighter pilot. After the war, Danny returned to racing and garnered two (2) APBA Gold Cup Championships with back-to-back wins in 1947 and 1948. One of Danny's current projects is heading up the restoration

of the George Simon's Miss U.S., which still holds the world record for the fastest propeller-driven mile on water, set back in 1962 in Guntersville, Alabama. With a lot of tender loving care, this grand old lady will be back on the water for the Centennial Gold Cup celebration this July on the Detroit River.

#### General Info -

The APBA (American Power Boat Association) Gold Cup is officially called the APBA Challenge Cup. Designed by Tiffany's at the turn of the Century, it is the oldest motorsports racing trophy in competition today. The first time it was awarded in competition was 1904; so this year's race, which will be held July 15-18th, will be the Centennial Gold Cup. The race is presented by the Detroit River Regatta Association (DRRA) which was formed in 2003 to rescue the Gold Cup event for Detroit. This All-Volunteer organization achieved a six week miracle last summer with August's successful race. Currently, the trophy is in the hands of Tiffany's Jeweler's for a complete restoration funded by the DRRA and the Historic & Vintage Division of the APBA.

The DRRA is located at 17640 East 9 Mile Rd, Eastpointe, MI 48126.  
Contact Joe Schulte at 586.774.0980