

Regatta Review

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NEW GOLD CUP WEB SITE

I've completely redesigned the website for the 100th Anniversary Gold Cup, and I hope you like it. The most interesting new info is the listing of Reserved Seating tickets (now available!).

There's more to come on the web site ... next up is a Fan Guide with details about pit passes, accomodations, parking, etc.

Also, we're using new software for our newsletter distribution and while we hope there's no glitches in the transition, let us know if you experience trouble.

TWO-TIME GOLD CUP WINNER DANNY FOSTER TO SPEAK AT MPR MEETING

This Wednesday, April 7th, Danny Foster will speak at the Marine Prop Riders monthly meeting. Don't miss your chance to hear the stories this two-time (1947, 1948) Gold Cup winner has to tell! The meeting is at Pampa Lanes in Warren in the basement meeting room at 8pm. Pampa Lanes is on Van Dyke, between 13 and 14 Mile roads. See <http://www.pampalanes.com> for directions.

DETROIT SELECTED AS RACE SITE OF THE YEAR FOR 2003

Hydro-Prop, the national group that presents unlimited hydroplane racing throughout North America has honored the Detroit River Regatta Association as "The Race Site of the Year" for the 2003 Chrysler-Jeep Superstores APBA Gold Cup held here last August.

Tom D'Eath, DRRA president said "Hydro-Prop really should have presented us with about 200 trophies, one for each of our volunteers who worked so hard to make this event the success that it was."

Organized in six short weeks, the 2003 Gold Cup thrilled race fans when the Cooper family's unlimited, powered by a vintage Allison aircraft engine, defeated a field of turbine-powered craft to capture boat racing's ultimate prize.

"2004 is the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Gold Cup" continued D'Eath, "and we are planning an even greater event for this July". "The award we really want to win will be given by the fans when they line the banks of our River to watch the greatest racing in the world."

With a fleet of classic Gold Cup hydroplanes being brought back to the River to recreate some of racing's greatest moments and an exciting Sweepstakes event featuring the most powerful automotive powered hydroplanes in the world all leading up to the 2004 Chrysler-Jeep Superstores APBA Gold Cup Race, July 15-18 is going to be an exciting time to be on

the shores of the Detroit River.

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN OUR FOUNDERS CLUB AS A CHARTER MEMBER

You can still become a Charter Member with a \$100 donation through April 15th. Charter Members receive a limited edition "Charter Member" lapel pin. I'm honestly envious when I see someone wearing one of these pins!

You can still become a member of the Founders Club after April 15th, but Charter Membership is a limited-time offer.

DRRA BOOSTER BUMPER STICKERS ARE AVAILABLE

Support the DRRA by getting your DRRA Booster bumper sticker today! \$5 through the DRRA office (contact info below).

LAST CALL FOR "LETTERS OF INTENT" BY VINTAGE OWNERS

We can only accommodate a limited number of vintage boats, and will be choosing among those who submit a letter of intent by April 15th. If you wish to be included and haven't sent in your letter, do it now!

SPECIAL GOLD CUP RATES FOR 2004 AT THE MARRIOTT RENAISSANCE

The Detroit Marriott Renaissance has set aside a block of rooms for us at the terrific rate of \$89, good from July 15 through the 19th. To get the special rate you must mention the "Gold Cup."

The Marriott Renaissance is located on the Detroit River in the heart of the Renaissance Center and is a short 5-minute drive to the course.

The hotel can accommodate those requiring secured parking for oversize vehicles/trailers.

FYI, the rack rate for rooms (single or double, standard room) is \$200 for the month of July 2004.

You can make reservations via their toll free direct number: 800.352.0831 and find the hotel's info on the web at: <http://marriott.com/property/propertyPage/DTWDT>

MISS BUDWEISER'S FAREWELL TOUR - 2004

Press release from Joe Little and Anheuser-Busch:

From Joe Little: There is nothing like a champion retiring at the top of his or her game. Miss Budweiser has had such a storied history since my father began the team more than 42 years ago. Twenty-three world championships, 14 APBA Gold Cup victories and 136 wins later,

Miss Budweiser is recognized as the leader on and off the water.

We understand that this was very difficult for our friends at Anheuser-Busch. Although this is a tough time for the team, we thank Anheuser-Busch and the Budweiser brand for their unwavering commitment to the sport, its events and our team for more than four decades. We're excited about celebrating Miss Budweiser's farewell tour on the water this season, and we hope to bring home one last championship for Bernie Little, our team, race fans everywhere and Budweiser.

From Anheuser-Busch, Inc: Anheuser-Busch has supported unlimited hydroplane racing and the Miss Budweiser team for more than 40 years. Before his passing last year, Bernie Little was a leader in this sport, and we worked together to help the sport succeed and to make Miss Budweiser the most recognized team on the water.

We constantly evaluate our marketing programs and have decided to reallocate our resources and not renew our series, team and event sponsorships after this season. Based on our long-standing relationship with the sport of hydroplane boat racing and the Miss Budweiser team, this was a very difficult decision. We wish the series and Miss Budweiser team members well in the future.

MISS BUDWEISER SHATTERS WORLD SPEED RECORD FOR KILOMETER RUN Detroit News staff reports and wire services

OROVILLE, CA -- Dave Villwock and the Miss Budweiser team shattered the kilometer world speed record for an unlimited hydroplane Saturday on the Thermilito Afterbay, setting a new world record of 220.493 miles per hour. Saturday's run beat the old record by 22.323 m.p.h -- which had stood for 42 years.

The team made history just shortly after 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time, as Villwock piloted the Miss Budweiser on the first leg of the run to an average speed of 213.437 mph and to an average speed of 227.550 mph on the return leg, resulting in the new world record of 220.493 mph. Villwock peaked the Miss Budweiser on the return leg at a top speed of 229 mph before the boat's rudder and propeller failed, leaving the Miss Budweiser damaged and dead in the water.

"Dave Villwock is lucky to be standing back on shore," said Joe Little, president of Hydroplanes, Inc., owner of the Miss Budweiser. "Losing a propeller and the rudder at 227 mph is an extremely serious problem."

It was similar to an event at the Columbia Cup in 1982, when the Miss Budweiser with Dean Chenoweth driving lost the rudder and prop, resulting in a blowover which killed Chenoweth.

Driver Dave Villwock said: "I'm glad I cleared the timing run, setting the record before the equipment failed. The team had worked extremely hard over the last couple of months preparing the boat for the run, working to put every variable on our side, but at 229 mph,

we're putting all of the equipment at the extreme ragged edge and with the damage to the boat, we'd of had a hard time trying to make another run this weekend if we wouldn't have set the record."

The previous record of 198.17 mph was set in 1962 by Roy Duby in the Miss U.S. I, in Guntersville, Ala., the same year that the late Bernie Little began his foray into Unlimited Hydroplane racing that would eventually produce the most successful team in the history of the sport.

"Our goal today was to set a new record that would stand for more than 42 years and I believe we did that," Joe Little said. "Dave and the team did an outstanding job as they always do. This is one team that has broken a lot of records over the years and I'm thrilled that everyone is safe and that we could add one more record into the pages of history as we begin our final season of competition."

Calm waters and a nearly still wind provided the Miss Budweiser team with a perfect three-mile course to break the kilometer record.

"The weather was the one key factor we knew we couldn't control and fortunately it cooperated with us today," Villwock said. "It was one of those things where we felt like the moon and stars would be in alignment for a short time and we had to take advantage of that window."

The Miss Budweiser team has had several other firsts, including the first team to top 130 mph, 150 mph & 160 mph in competition. In 1999, Dave Villwock and the Miss Budweiser team set the world lap speed record of 173.384 mph during competition in San Diego.

Dave Villwock is entering his 12th season of competition and eighth in the cockpit of the Miss Budweiser. Villwock boast the most victories of any Miss Budweiser driver in history. He has seven World Championships, 41 career wins and five APBA Gold Cups to his credit.

The Miss Budweiser team is the most successful team in Unlimited Hydroplane racing history. The team has entered 360 races in 41 seasons, finished in the top three 234 times and finishing first 136 times. The team has won the prestigious APBA Gold Cup 14 times and has captured 23 World Championships. The Gold Cup is the oldest motorsports trophy in history, and will celebrate its 100-year anniversary in 2004.

[There is a short video of the end of the run on the Hydro-Prop web site:
<http://www.hydroprop.com/news/040331.htm>]

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer