

## Regatta Review

Issue #12 - June 18 2004

### HYDRO DRIVER GUEST BARTENDER PARTY IN REVIEW

We had a great time at the JYC! Unlimited drivers in attendance were Danny Foster, Fred Alter, Mark Weber and Mark Tate. From other classes were Joe Tate, Beth Gilday, Todd Mazur, and more. The weather turned out great, many Casper model hydroplane races were held on "Lake Kosciuszko", and the silent auction had some really nice hydro items.

### ALL TICKETS AND PASSES ON SALE NOW

All ticket details are ready for viewing in our Fan Guide:

<http://www.gold-cup.com/fanguide/index.html>

General Admission tickets and a limited number of Waterworks tickets are on sale through [Ticketmaster](#).

All Reserved Seating tickets are available through the DRRA:

<http://www.gold-cup.com/fanguide/howto.html>

Details about Hospitality options can be found through the Fan Guide or directly:

<http://www.gold-cup.com/fanguide/hospitality.html>.

### WEB PAGE UPDATES

Be sure to visit our new History Gallery! Many stories by Fred Farley and others, as well as updated lists of Gold Cup winners and World Speed Record holders.

<http://www.gold-cup.com/history/>

An Events & (tentative) Schedule page has been posted at: <http://www.gold-cup.com/fanguide/events.html> "The four day Gold Cup event features the Gold Cup Unlimited Hydroplanes, along with a huge gathering of Vintage race boats and a Sweepstakes race of powerful auto-powered hydroplanes. Also, Julie Clark returns with her aerobatic T-34 and the MOPAR Air Show. As a special event, join us to celebrate "DANNY FOSTER DAY", Friday July 16th (raceweek). 12 noon at Sindbads. Meet & mingle with hydroplane legends."

A page for those interesting in Vendor/HydroMart and Sponsor opportunities is available at:

<http://www.gold-cup.com/vendor/>

### THE GOLD CUP HAS BEEN RESTORED! GOLD CUP CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

By Angelique S. Chengelis

The Detroit News (May 19 2004)

DETROIT -- With no financial concerns nagging race promoters and organizers, and a race weekend set in stone, the Gold Cup unlimited hydroplane race will celebrate its 100th anniversary on the Detroit River this summer.

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick described the race as a "treasure" for Detroit during a news conference Tuesday morning to promote what is being billed as The Race of the Century. The four-day Chrysler Jeep Superstores Detroit APBA Gold Cup will conclude with the featured unlimited race July 18.

"It's our jewel -- it's something that is important to us," Kilpatrick said, before unveiling a race poster and the recently refurbished Gold Cup trophy, designed by Tiffany & Co. It is the oldest trophy in motorsports. "Detroit is still the epicenter of the sport."

The city nearly lost the Gold Cup last year thanks to financial mismanagement by the all-volunteer Spirit of Detroit Thunderfest. The race promoters had incurred nearly \$500,000 in debt, and the Gold Cup, scheduled June 22, was canceled because of unpaid bills.

In a last-ditch effort to save the race, native-Detroiter Tom D'Eath, president and CEO of Detroit River Regatta Association and a three-time Gold Cup winner, with the help of race sponsor Chrysler Jeep Superstores, managed to produce enough funding for the race to be run late last August.

"We paid all the bills two weeks after the event last year," D'Eath said. "We guaranteed to Chrysler there would be no red ink. We're proud of the fact all our bills were paid within two weeks of the event."

And that's the reason why the 100th anniversary of the Gold Cup will be held on the Detroit River this summer. D'Eath is certain that with time to plan -- he had six weeks last year to pull off the race -- reduced ticket prices that range from \$25-\$250 for the four-day event and a guaranteed roster of boats in a variety of classes, this summer's event will be a success. The race weekend has been expanded by one day, beginning July 15.

"We obviously expect a lot more attendance than we did last year," D'Eath said. "(Last year) that date was not of our choosing, but this date is of our choosing. We're way better prepared this year. We would like to see several hundred thousand people down there, and we believe this event will bring them down there."

D'Eath said the goal last year was to break-even. Jim Schebil, president of the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Advertising Association, said making money is not the reason for Chrysler's participation in the Gold Cup.

"We're not doing it for the money," Schebil said. "We're doing it for the city of Detroit and the tradition. Yeah, we want to pay the bills, but it's not about the money. This is a tradition

that is 100 years old, and we want to keep it going. It's just that important to us and the city.

"It's nice to know there isn't going to be any controversy and the race is on."

#### NEWS FROM EVANSVILLE THUNDER

In a highly talked about move, Evansville has decided to drop their affiliation with Hydro-Prop and run their own event. A good number of Unlimited Lights are expected as well as the Cooper's Allison-powered U-3 Master Tire, Miss Budweiser, and possible a few others. Here is a local story:

Thunder field looking like five

By GORDON ENGELHARDT Courier & Press staff writer

June 18, 2004

Barring unforeseen circumstances, Bill Wurster confirmed that he will bring his U-8 LLumar Window Film to Evansville's Thunder on the Ohio June 25-27.

"We're going to be there regardless, whether Hydro-Prop is running it or whether it's what they call an outlaw race," Wurster said Thursday night. "It would make me very happy if it's a Hydro-Prop race, a race not only where the city or the sponsors have the advantage of national television coverage (on Speed Channel), which is very important."

Because Evansville is running as an independent, Thunder will not count in the season point standings and will not be televised by Speed Channel. However, Freedom Festival officials reiterated their stance at Wednesday's board meeting they will run the race independently of Hydro-Prop.

"We will be there unless something comes up that the sponsor says you better not," Wurster said. "The last thing (the sponsor, whom he would not identify) said to me was tell your crew not to unpack."

The U-19, which Wurster is leasing to Ron Jones Jr., also is expected to run at Thunder along with Fred Leland's U-100. That would put the field to five, joining Miss Budweiser and Ed Cooper Jr.'s Master Tire.

"I have a person in my shop (in Seattle) right now who is working diligently trying to get the (U-19) boat ready to take (to Evansville)," Wurster said. "I'm a great handshake guy. We'll sign the papers if they get the boat ready."

J.W. Meyers drives the LLumar; Wurster understands that Jimmy King has been contacted about driving the U-19, a hull which ran as the Miss Graham Trucking last year.

The U-19 and U-100 were negotiating with local sponsors on Thursday, but nothing was confirmed, said Freedom Festival vice president of marketing Jim Werner.

Jones and Leland could not be reached for comment.

## LIVE DETROIT RIVER CAM AT THE GREAT LAKES MARITIME MUSEUM

This is very cool! A live web camera located atop the former William Clay Ford pilothouse at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. Click on "Start Control" and use the scroll bars to pan and zoom.

<http://www.glmi.org/webcam/>

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer