

## Regatta Review

Issue #13 - June 27 2004

### ON A SAD NOTE - THE LOSS OF A LEGEND

We have been informed that racing has lost a great racer with the passing of Bill Sterrett Jr. on Saturday, after an accident which occurred while testing a friend's Vintage hydroplane in Owensboro, KY.

Along with everyone else, the Detroit River Regatta Association would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Sterrett family and friends. He will be deeply missed.

The Messenger-Inquirer of Owensboro has an article which begins:

*Champion hydroplane driver Bill Sterrett Jr., 57, died from injuries he suffered Saturday when the hydroplane he was piloting broke up on the Ohio River near English Park.*

*Sterrett, who lived in Owensboro, had been piloting a hydroplane that belonged to longtime friend Travis Hickman of Woodbury, Tenn., according to Capt. David Oberst, assistant chief of the Owensboro Fire Department. The fire department responded to the accident at 12:08 p.m.*

*Several friends and family members were at the river at the time of the accident. River of Music Party activities were also taking place on the English Park grounds above where the accident happened.*

*The hydroplane hit rough water and nose-dived, destroying the boat. Another boater pulled Sterrett from the water, Oberst said.*

*Sterrett was taken by ambulance to Owensboro Medical Health System's emergency room, where he died, Daviess County Deputy Coroner John Thayer said. The likely cause of death was blunt force trauma, Thayer said.*

*Oberst said one of Sterrett's crew members told him the river was choppy and was even worse in the aftermath of a towboat and barge.*

*Sterrett's wife, Janet, was out of town at the time of the crash but was returning to Owensboro on Saturday afternoon after being notified of the accident.*

*Sterrett Jr. followed in his legendary father's footsteps and was himself a champion hydroplane driver.*

For more: <http://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/kentucky/7307419.htm>

## EVANSVILLE REPORT - JUNE 27 2004

From <http://www.hydropage.com>:

### Thunderboats Final

- U-1 Dave Villwock Miss Budweiser 1st
- U-3 Mitch Evans Master Tire 2nd
- U-8 J.W. Myers Llumar Window Films 3rd
- U-100 Greg Hopp Miss Johnstone Supply DNF

### Thunderboats Heat 3

- Lane 1 U-1 Dave Villwock Miss Budweiser DNF
- Lane 2 U-3 Mitch Evans Master Tire 1st
- Lane 3 U-8 J.W. Myers Llumar Window Films 2nd
- Lane 4 U-100 Greg Hopp Miss Johnstone Supply 3rd

Heat 3 for the Thunderboats was dominated by the U-3 Master Tire and the U-8 Llumar. Just after the start of the race the U-1 Miss Budweiser returned to the pits. Villwock was feeling a vibration when he tried to accelerate and decided not to risk the equipment. Mitch Evans drove the Master Tire to it's 2nd win of the weekend.

### Thunderboats Heat 2

- Lane 1 U-100 Greg Hopp Miss Johnstone Supply 3rd
- Lane 2 U-3 Mitch Evans Master Tire 1st
- Lane 3 U-8 J.W. Myers Llumar Window Films 4th\*\*
- Lane 4 U-1 Dave Villwock Miss Budweiser 2nd
- Lane 5 U-19 Jimmy King Empire Contractors DNF
- \*\*Penalized for lane infraction

Heat 2 saw some terrific racing! The U-19 finally seemed to have ironed out the motor problems and was able to start the race. The U-3 Master Tire jumped out in front at the start with the U-8 Llumar and the U-1 Miss Bud close behind. The lead switched hands between the U-8 and the U-3 before Master Tire, driven by Mitch Evans, pulled away for the win. The helicopter judge ruled after the heat that the U-8 had been penalized for a lane infraction and pushed back to last. The U-19 lost power early on and did not finish.

### Thunderboats Heat 1

- Lane 1 U-1 Dave Villwock Miss Budweiser 1st
- Lane 2 U-8 J.W. Myers Llumar Window Films 3rd
- Lane 3 U-3 Mitch Evans Master Tire 2nd
- Lane 4 U-100 Greg Hopp Miss Johnstone Supply 4th
- Lane 5 U-19 Jimmy King Empire Contractors DNS

The first heat of thunderboat racing went off without a hitch. The U-19 Empire Construction, with Jimmy King driving, was the first to leave the pits. King was followed by the U-100 Miss Johnstone Supply, the U-1 Miss Budweiser, the U-3 Master Tire, and the U-8 Llumar. The U-19 failed to make the first lap, however, dying in turn 1. The lanes for this heat were chosen prior to the start. Miss Budweiser, being top qualifier, chose lane 1. Lane 2 was chosen by the U-8, lane 3 went to the U-3, the U-100 had lane 4 and the U-19 was slated for

lane 5. The start was clean with 3 of the 4 boats within a boat-length. The remainder of the 3-lap preliminary heat saw the Master Tire chasing the Miss Budweiser to the checkered flag. Lumar stayed close to the leaders for the first lap, falling back several boat lengths by the end of the heat. The Miss Johnstone Supply rounded out the field with a fourth place finish.

Now the boats move to Madison for the July 4th weekend event.

#### MOTOWN SWEEPSTAKES - COMPETING FOR THE SILVER CUP

The Motown Sweepstakes, presented by the Old Time Detroit Hydro Racers, is a race burdened by few rules where participants "run what you bring". This event is designed for hydroplanes from 17 to 27 feet long with automotive engines up to 750 cubic inches of displacement, and can reach speeds of 160 mph. As in 2003, the Silver Cup will be awarded to the Sweepstakes winner.

#### PURCHASE TICKETS AND PASSES ONLINE DIRECTLY FROM THE DRRA

Within just a day or two, all Reserved Seating, Pit Credentials and Parking Passes will be available online, direct from the DRRA. Watch our home page or Fan Guide for the link.

#### WILL-CALL AND CREDENTIAL PICKUP IS AT REMOTE SHUTTLE LOT #1

The Will Call trailer for Tickets and Credentials will be located in Remote Shuttle Parking Lot #1 right off Jefferson, at the West end of Water Works Park. The second Remote Shuttle Parking Lot is to the East at Jefferson and Lycaste, in front of the Chrysler Factory. See the Course Map in our Fan Guide for a diagram.

Will call and credential pickup will be available July 13 through July 17th, hours TBD. Bring confirmation #, I.D. and credit card used for purchase.

#### "MISS CHRYSLER JEEP" AND THE HARVEY TEAM READY TO RUN

Detroit Native Mark Tate Goes for His Third Gold Cup

Seeking a run at centennial glory for the oldest trophy in motor sports, the Jim Harvey-owned U-2 hydroplane will compete as "Miss Chrysler Jeep" at the 2004 Chrysler Jeep Superstores Detroit APBA Gold Cup on the Detroit River, July 15-18. The Gold Cup is celebrating it's centennial anniversary at the 2004 event, known as "The Race of the Century."

The boat is owned by Jim Harvey of Seattle, Wash. "Miss Chrysler Jeep" will be driven by Detroit native Mark Tate, who has driven the boat before, most recently in 2000. Tate is returning in 2004 for a shot at what would be his third career Gold Cup victory.

"We're ecstatic about having a hometown driver racing a hometown boat under the Chrysler Jeep Superstores' name," said Jim Schebil, president of the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Advertising Association. "Jim Harvey and Mark Tate are two of hydroplane racing's premier names. The chance to win 'The Race of the Century' with an incredible team is too good to

pass up."

Tate has been involved in hydroplane racing for more than 20 years. In that span he won two Gold Cups and was named National High Points champion four times. Tate also owns the qualification lap speed record on the Detroit International Water Speedway course, going 180.087 mph in 1993. He comes from a family of hydroplane racers as both Tate's grandfather and father raced. Tate's wife Sandy has hydroplane racing experience as do his two sons Andrew (14) and Brent (12), who have both been racing for four years.

As an unlimited hydroplane crewman, crew chief and owner, Harvey's boat racing career has spanned three decades. His expertise covers every phase of hydroplane racing from hull design and construction to race setup. Harvey's prestigious career highlights include being a two-time National Champion, "Crew Man of the Year", "Crew Chief of the Year", and the Unlimited Racing Commission's "Man of the Year."

The 2004 Chrysler Jeep Superstores Detroit APBA Gold Cup features unlimited hydroplane boats with 3,000 horsepower engines reaching top speeds of more than 200 mph and covering the length of a football field in less than a second.

The title sponsor is the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Advertising Association with participation from DaimlerChrysler AG. The CJSAA is made up of the 41 independently owned Chrysler Jeep Superstores in Southeastern Michigan from Monroe to Fowlerville and from Clinton to Port Huron.

#### THE UNLIMITED NEWSJOURNAL

A long time print magazine with news and rumors about Unlimited Hydroplane racing, the UNLIMITED NEWSJOURNAL now has a web site. For all the news & rumors you'll still have to subscribe, but they do provide some on their web site:

<http://www.unlimitednewsjournal.com>

#### THE BLUEWATER INTERNATIONAL HYDROFEST IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Bluewater International Hydrofest in St. Clair is seeking volunteers to work security during their event, August 20-22.

Anyone interested in volunteering for security can e-mail Bill Scharnweber ( [skinnybill65@yahoo.com](mailto:skinnybill65@yahoo.com) ) or call him at 810.326.3772 after 6:00pm. We need daytime security on any of the 3 days or all three would be appreciated. The Hydrofest web site is <http://www.bluewaterhydrofest.com> and phone is 810.326.0600. Any other volunteers would be appreciated too.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer