

## Regatta Review

**Issue #23 - March 16 2005**

**VOLUNTEERS: PLEASE RENEW FOR 2005 BY MARCH 31ST**

To assist us in managing our team of volunteers, we are asking all volunteers to renew their membership by March 31st. Please visit the Volunteer page and download the sign-up form, or call the offices at (586) 774-0980 to have them send you one.

**SPECIAL HOTEL RATES AT DETROIT MARRIOTT RENAISSANCE CENTER**

The Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center has a block of rooms available at a special rate of \$89 per night for Gold Cup week. The rooms are available Wednesday, July 13 - Sunday, July 17.

There are only 15 rooms available for each night so book early, as these rooms will fill quickly. The deadline for booking at these rates is June 19 but we expect to sell out soon. Remember that the All Star Game is on Tuesday, July 12 so rooms are at a premium in the City of Detroit and surrounding areas.

Please phone in for your reservation and mention that you are with the Detroit River Regatta Association, Gold Cup races for the \$89 block rate.

Call either 1-800-228-9290 or the hotel directly at 313-568-8000. Make sure you say you are with the Detroit River Regatta Association, Gold Cup.

**THE DRRA AND LOCAL REPORTER PAUL SCURLOCK WIN ABRA AWARDS**

\*\*\* From Barb Carper, DRRA Board of Directors

I was honored to accept the Race Site of The Year Award in Seattle on February 26 on behalf of the 300+ DRRA volunteer members. Detroit was recognized by the American Boat Racing Association for our work as a race site and as a contributor to the sport of unlimited hydroplane racing. The DRRA Board of Directors thanks ABRA for the honor, and sends special thanks to the DRRA volunteers who make our organization click - both on and off-season.

The ABRA also honored Paul Scurlock of the Detroit News as Best Sports Writer of the year. Paul has done so much to promote DRRA, the Gold Cup and unlimited hydroplane racing that we can't thank him enough. It's great to see that others recognize his efforts and honored him in this way.

Other awards included:

- Rookie of the year: J. Michael Kelly of Harvey Motorsports U-2
- Crew chief of the year: Erick Ellstrom of the Elam U-16

- Driver of the year: Dave Villwock of the Miss Budweiser U-1
- Owner of the year: Kim and Debbie Gregory of the Miss Emcor U-10
- Best local or national TV coverage: KIRO Television of Seattle
- Best local or national radio coverage: KONA Radio of Tri-Cities
- Sponsor of the year: Llumar Window Film, sponsoring the U-8
- Official of the year: Patton Family (Wes, Diane, Scott and Sue)
- Special contribution award: Sam Cole of Sacramento, elected inaugural Chairman of the ABRA Board of Directors
- Special contribution award: Fred Leland of Leland Racing in Seattle, represented by the U-99 and U-100

John Love and I attended the ABRA organizational meetings and are pleased to report that great progress was made organizing safety, competition rules, marketing and budgeting for the ABRA. The new consortium of sites and team owners is still learning how to work together in this new model that allows each site to choose whether APBA sanctioning is right for them.

The Gold Cup will be an APBA sanctioned event. The ABRA team owners guaranteed a fleet of at least eight competing boats. We're especially pleased that this includes the return of the 2003 Gold Cup Winners, Ed Cooper's U-3 team.

The 2005 racing season will kick-off in Evansville, Ind. June 24-26 and conclude the weekend of September 16-18 in San Diego, Calif. The schedule also includes stops in Madison, Ind. (July 1-3), Valleyfield, Quebec (Exhibition July 8-10), Detroit (July 15-17), Tri-Cities, Wash. (July 29-31), Seattle (August 5-7) and Nashville (Sept. 9-11).

Now back to Detroit -- I would like to officially introduce our new Operations Manager, Michelle DeLand. Michelle is responsible for the successful planning and execution of all operational aspects of the Gold Cup. She will be counting on team leaders and team members to support her in this effort. I know you'll enjoy working with Michelle as much as I have. She has experience in sports marketing and event planning and is a true hydro fan.

Michelle is assisted by Sharon Upton for administrative support and Dick Delsener who takes care of all of our ticket sales and ticket promotions. We're really lucky to have all three of them aboard. Stop in the office and introduce yourself if you get a chance.

To our volunteers - Thanks again for making the DRRA a valuable and respected facet of unlimited hydroplane racing. Your efforts are needed as much as ever and appreciated even more.

Best Regards,  
Barbara Carper  
DRRA Secretary-Treasurer

**ABRA ADDS MORE 'THUNDER' TO 2005 SCHEDULE**

When the 2005 unlimited hydroplane season gets under way not one, but two boats will be bringing "thunder" to the water.

The American Boat Racing Association has announced that a new hydroplane team will compete in all eight races this season and like Ed Cooper's piston-powered U-3, it is sure to make a lot of noise.

The U-7 will debut at the season opener in Evansville, powered by two supercharged big block V-8 engines and sporting a cutting- edge hull design. The boat is designed by Ron Jones Sr., one of the giants in the industry who designed the current Oh Boy! Oberto/Miss Madison. The boat is scheduled to be piloted by Wayne Howard and Gus Foster will serve as the crew chief while Tim Shaddock will be the team manager.

For the complete article see the [Madison Courier](#).

#### MORE NEWS ABOUT "MADISON" THE MOVIE

A number of Detroit hydroplane organizations are talking about getting together and having a special party to celebrate and watch the movie Madison somewhere near it's release date of April 22nd. More details as they become available.

New movie info can be found on the Madison movie's website:

<http://www.madisonthemovie.com/madison.html>

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer