

Regatta Review

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YOU'RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL SCREENING OF "MADISON" THE MOVIE!

Motive Marketing in collaboration with the Detroit River Regatta Association and the Roostertail Entertainment Complex cordially invites you and a friend to a FREE advance screening of MADISON, April 14th @ 6:00pm. This is the next film to star Jim Caviezel (The Passion of the Christ, Frequency, The Count of Monte Cristo), which will begin in limited release nationwide on April 22nd. [Ed. It does not appear that Detroit is on the list of markets for the April 22nd release. With good attendance it will expand to more markets.]

MADISON is a father-son action drama based on the inspiring true story of the tiny, dying river town of Madison, Indiana and it's legendary comeback race for the Gold Cup in hydroplane boat racing. Led by a talented cast and combined with a powerful underdog story, this film is poised to become a family classic in the ranks of MIRACLE, REMEMBER THE TITANS, and HOOSIERS.

Motive Marketing will be screening MADISON in selected cities to leaders in the community like yourself for an exclusive FREE first look at the film! Meet cast members from the film and hydroplane pilots from the historic 1971 Gold Cup race portrayed in the film. View actual unlimited hydroplane crafts, and take your picture with the actual Gold Cup which will be on display, courtesy of the Detroit River Regatta Association. For more info on the film and this event please visit:

<http://www.madisonmoviedownloads.com>

<http://www.madisonthemovie.com>

<http://www.gold-cup.com/news/05/madisoninvite.html>

[Click here for maps to the theatre](#)

Due to the *expected high demand* and *limited seating*, tickets will only be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To RSVP call our event coordinator, Michelle DeLand at (586) 774-0980 or email her at mdeland@aol.com and let her know how many tickets you will need (limit of 2 per member). Guests must RSVP by 3pm, Tuesday, April 12th. [Ed. Don't wait - RSVP now!] Tickets will be available for pickup at the DRRA offices beginning Monday.

The screening will be held Thursday April 14th (doors open 6pm). The location of the screening is the Main Art Theatre, 118 North Main St., Royal Oak MI, 48067.

Sincerely,

Jamie Avera - Motive Entertainment

Bill Rands - Detroit River Regatta Association

Michael Schoenith - Roostertail Entertainment Complex.

ANOTHER EVENT COMING UP FOR LOCAL GOLD CUP FANS - MAY 4TH

On Wednesday May 4th, the Grosse Pointe War Memorial will present a program titled "GOLD CUP HYDROPLANE RACING - The First 100 Years". There will be a slide show, photo collections, racing memories new and old, and more. Seating is limited and is \$20 per person.

Among the speakers will be Detroit's own Danny Foster (see story about Danny's career below).

For more information visit:

<http://www.gold-cup.com/news/05/gpwarmem.html>

ATTENTION NM, GNH, AND GP OWNERS AND DRIVERS

This is your last chance to send in your letter of intent to race in the 3rd Annual Silver Cup Sweepstakes race. Your letter must be received by May 1st to be considered.

For entry information visit:

<http://www.gold-cup.com/news/05/entrant1.html>

DRRA VOLUNTEER MEETING BEING PLANNED

A Volunteer meeting is in the planning stages, for sometime in mid-May. We'll let you know when and where, once the plans have been finalized.

DANNY FOSTER: THE FIRST SUPERSTAR

By Fred Farley - APBA Unlimited Historian

Danny Foster was to the 1940s and '50s what Bill Muncey was to the 1960s and '70s and what Chip Hanauer was to the 1980s and '90s. Foster was Unlimited racing's first superstar in the years following World War II.

He is the power boat inductee for 2005 into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in Novi, Michigan.

Danny's first boat racing contact was with the California Gold Cup class of the 1930s. The Gold Cup Class was a forerunner of the post-war Unlimited Class and prohibited engines larger than 732 cubic inches in piston displacement.

In 1938, Foster served as riding mechanic with driver Dan Arena of the Hispano-powered MISS GOLDEN GATE. Foster and Arena finished second in the 1938 APBA Gold Cup race at Detroit. The winner was the Italian Count Theo Rossi in ALAGI, powered by an Isotta-Fraschini engine.

Foster's Unlimited driving career began in 1946. His first appearance behind the wheel of a

Thunderboat was at the President's Cup in Washington, D.C., with Albin Fallon's MISS GREAT LAKES. Danny won all three heats and decisively outperformed the favored Guy Lombardo in TEMPO VI.

This was the first victory by an Allison-powered boat and the first of many competitive triumphs by Foster, who quickly established himself as the top driver of his day.

He was National High Point Champion in 1947 with MISS PEPS V, owned by the Dossin brothers of Detroit. With this craft, a rebuilt pre-war campaigner, overpowered with an Allison engine, Foster won his first Gold Cup on the extremely rough water of Jamaica Bay, New York.

Although sponsored by Pepsi Cola, MISS PEPS V didn't carry her product's full name into competition because commercial sponsorships were frowned upon. But this situation would soon change.

In 1948, Danny made it back-to-back Gold Cups -- this time with MISS GREAT LAKES at Detroit in a race that is recalled as one of the most destructive in history. Boats crashed, burned, and sank on a day when all that could possibly go wrong seemingly did. Foster was the only entrant out of 22 that could go the full 90-mile distance.

Even at that, MISS GREAT LAKES barely made it back to the pits following the last heat -- before itself sinking at dockside while Foster was receiving the trophy!

In the ensuing years, Danny continued to make his presence felt with the likes of SUCH CRUST, DELPHINE X, HORNET, GALE II, WHA HOPPEN TOO, and MISS GREAT LAKES II. To his credit, Foster managed to finish first or second at one time or another with almost every boat that he drove between 1946 and 1955.

Foster replaced his friend Lee Schoenith in the cockpit of GALE II during the 1952 campaign. With Schoenith away, serving in Korea, Danny won the Silver Cup on the Detroit River.

The following year, Lee was having a difficult day with GALE II at the Silver Cup. After a disappointing third-place in Heat One, Schoenith asked Foster to step in as a relief driver. Danny scored a decisive victory in the next heat, beating Bill Cantrell in SUCH CRUST V and Joe Taggart in SLO-MO-SHUN V, and put GALE II back into contention. Schoenith then reclaimed the cockpit and went on to win the race.

Foster had the kind of season in 1955 that most drivers only dream about. That was the year that he teamed with bandleader Lombardo as pilot of TEMPO VII, an Allison-powered craft that the press labeled as "The Sweetest Boat This Side of Heaven." Foster and Lombardo had raced against each other for years; together, with crew chief Roy Duby and under the sponsorship of Decca Records, they were an inspired combination.

After being forced out of the 1955 Gold Cup at Seattle due to an on-board fire in the first

heat, TEMPO VII could hardly do wrong. Danny won the Copper Cup at Polson, Montana, the Silver Cup at Detroit, the President's Cup in Washington, D.C., the International Cup at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and the Governor's Cup at Madison, Indiana. The victories did not come easy. Indeed, Foster had to defeat one of the most competitive fleets in Unlimited history that season. Included were Bill Muncey in MISS THRIFTWAY, Chuck Thompson in MISS PEPSI, Jack Bartlow in MISS U.S., Don Wilson in DORA MY SWEETIE, Cantrell in GALE IV, and Schoenith in GALE V.

It is interesting to compare Foster's driving with that of the budding superstar Muncey, who had only just landed his first competitive ride in the Unlimiteds. At Detroit and Washington, the veteran Foster clearly outperformed the rookie Muncey. In the Final Heat of the latter event, Bill appeared en route to an easy win after Danny had spun out in the first turn.

But Foster rebounded quickly and took off after the rest of the field. He passed one boat, then another, and caught up with the frontrunning MISS THRIFTWAY. Foster and TEMPO VII roared past Muncey as if he were tied to the dock and sprinted on to the checkered flag and victory.

After 1955, Foster had few worlds left to conquer. From then on, he was mainly a relief driver or a shore mechanic. Over the next decade, he saw occasional action with MISS U.S. I, MISS SUPERTEST II, GALE VII, and MISS SMIRNOFF.

His last victory was in a secondary race for the Ponderosa Trophy at the 1965 Lake Tahoe World Championship Regatta with MISS SMIRNOFF. Danny was substituting for his friend Cantrell who had been injured at a race in Madison, Indiana.

Long retired from the competitive arena, Danny Foster -- "The Old Pro" -- is remembered as being one of the better of the best in the water sport of kings.

His recent election to the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America is a fitting tribute to one of racing's all-time greats.

Previous Hall of Fame inductees in the power boat category include Bill Muncey, Gar Wood, Dean Chenoweth, Bill Cantrell, Ron Musson, Bernie Little, Chip Hanauer, Tom D'Eath, Mira Slovak, and Ted Jones.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer