

Regatta Review

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THE GOLD CUP TO BE TELEVISED SEP 18TH ON OLN... THIS SUNDAY!

The Gold Cup is scheduled to air on the Outdoor Life Network Sunday, Sept. 18 at 4 pm Eastern and Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6 pm Eastern. The show will include Thunder on the Ohio (Evansville, Ind.) and Madison Regatta race highlights, and full-coverage of the Chrysler Jeep Superstores APBA Gold Cup (Detroit).

For the rest of the television schedule see the bottom of the News page at <http://www.abrahamhydroplanes.com>.

LLUMAR WINS NASHVILLE - TWO IN A ROW!

1st U-8 LLumar Window Film (Jean Theoret)
2nd U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto (Steve David)
3rd U-13 Spirit of Detroit (Terry Troxell)
4th U-16 Miss Elam (Dave Villwock)
DNF U-3 (Jimmy King)

One lap penalties made the LLumar Window Film and the U-3 (The trailer boat) the only legal starters. The LLumar Window Film was close behind the U-3 coming out of turn 2 on the final lap when the U-3 threw a propeller, giving the LLumar Window Film the win of its namesake Music City HydroFest. Gotta love it for the LLumar team and Bill Wurster, but at the same time feel for the U-3's mechanical problem.

A LETTER FROM THE U-8 LLUMAR TEAM

[Received before their win in Nashville this past weekend.]

Hello Detroit Race Fans.....

We almost did it in Detroit.....and next year we hope to win the Gold Cup!

But we won the Seattle Seafair Race.....and here is the happiest bunch of racers you will ever see.....almost sinking.....but happy. Jean Theoret has proven to be "Rookie no more" he is now known as the "Canadian conqueror".

Here is a tidbit for you.....until now, Detroit's Race site was the only race I've heard the Canadian anthem. We are about to change that.

Thank you Detroit for all your support! Miss ya already!

Thayer Cueter

Events International
U-8 Racing Team - Miss LLumar Window Film

ELAM IS THE SEASON CHAMPION

At the Nashville awards ceremony the U-16 Miss Elam team was notified that the National Championship of the 2005 ABRA season was theirs, earning the right to be U-1 next year.

THE "MADISON" MOVIE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD

The long awaited moment... the movie MADISON has just been released on DVD!

DVD FEATURES:

- * Making-of Featurette
- * Widescreen Presentation
- * Audio: English 5.1 Surround
- * Subtitles: English, Spanish, and French

<http://www.madisonthemovie.com>

<http://www.sonypictures.com/homevideo/madison>

BILL RANDS AND THE DRRA WOULD LIKE TO THANK MANY PEOPLE

From Bill Rands:

I wanted to take a moment and mention the tremendous efforts of the Marine Prop Riders and Unlimiteds Detroit on behalf of the DRRA this summer. They represent a vital support for the Gold Cup race and are immensely appreciated by all of us at DRRA.

These organizations raised \$1500 at benefits this summer for the DRRA, with \$700 coming from the party at the Jefferson Yacht Club and \$800 raised at the Emerald Theatre showing of MADISON.

Our thanks go to Ray Dong, Tom Farrell, Nancy Spanich, Harvey Hoffmaster, Steve Garey, Mario Maraldo, Henry Kosciuszko, Bill Miller, and all those that worked behind the scenes or donated items for the auction, for their untiring efforts.

BILL RANDS ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ABRA

Bill Rands has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Boat Racing Association.

We're excited about this because it shows that the ABRA feels we worked well together for the 2005 Gold Cup race, and it pulls the two groups that much closer together.

WORLD CHAMPION HYDROPLANE RETURNING IN 2006

One of Unlimited hydroplane racing's most recognizable boats will be back on the water in 2006.

Kim Gregory, of Las Vegas, Nevada, has confirmed the purchase of the T3 Miss Budweiser, a previous world champion, and will race on the American Boat Racing Association circuit in 2006. This former Miss Budweiser hull made her racing debut in 1989 and last ran in 1996 with drivers including Jim Kropfeld, Tom D'Eath, Chip Hanauer, Mike Hanson and Mark Evans.

Gregory and wife Debbie run USA Racing Team and had raced the U-10 Miss Emcor on the circuit in 2004 and prior and won the 2004 Gold Cup in Detroit. A name for the new boat and a driver have not been confirmed yet. "We'll be spending the balance of the year searching for a national sponsor," Gregory said, further clarifying that USA Racing Team purchased the T3 and equipment from Joe Little with no association to the Miss Budweiser name. Gregory also stated he is returning to unlimited hydroplane racing because he is pleased with the direction the sport has been moving in and the amount of positive publicity he has seen about the American Boat Racing Association in 2005.

VINTAGE HYDROPLANE PHOTOS AT UNLIMITEDS DETROIT WEB SITE

Jeff Dunn of Unlimiteds Detroit has been doing a terrific job of posting vintage hydroplane photos to their web site, and the new photo gallery is searchable by boat, driver or owners name, date, etc. Some are previously unposted photos, others are improved scans of photos that were scanned years ago.

For some of the most recent additions, see Hank Kosciuszko's collection:

<http://www.unlimitedsdetroit.com/photos.cfm>

FRED ALTER DAY - IN REVIEW

On the Friday of raceweek a celebration was held at Sindbad's in honor of Fred Alter. The flyers handed out that day are copied here for your enjoyment:

* "Fearless" Fred Alter

Fred has been active in Hydroplane Racing since the 1940's. He grew from a pit lizard hanging around Kean's Harbor to a crew member, driver, boat owner, official and unlimited racing commissioner. He has the distinction of having driven more hulls (boats) in competition than any other driver on record.

Known to many as "Fearless Freddie", he earned that nickname through many exploits. A limited class racer with the late Bill Muncey and Ronnie Musson in the 1950's, Fred got his first chance to drive an unlimited racer in 1955 in Bill Stroh's Miss Detroit. Ray Crawford, an Indy 500 driver, wanted no part of Unlimited powerboat racing after just one heat in the boat.

Fred got his chance. He drove a competitive race and drove everything from clunkers to race favorites for the next 20 years.

Fred's racing days are best remembered when he was at the helm of Jack Schaefer's unwieldy blue monster, Such Crust III, the first twin-engine three-pointer. At times, Fred seemed to go up into Lake St. Clair in his battle to get the thundering monster to turn around. Yet by the time the rest of the fleet neared the Naval Armory, Alter would be in their roostertails. "I may not win, but I'm spectacular;" he would joke with his crew. He was spectacular enough to be nicknamed "Fearless".

In the 1957 Silver Cup Race on the Detroit River, Fred was thrown out of George Simon's Miss U.S. while leading Gold Cup winner Jack Regas in Hawaii Kai. "Fred shot out of Miss U.S. like a rocket;" Regas said. "He hit the water and tumbled like a rag doll." Regas drove to Alter's aid only to be greeted by "Thanks, Jack" as Fred swam back to the Miss U.S., climbed in and drove back to the pits. The doctors and Simon said Fred and the boat were through for the day.

He did an encore four years later in the President's Cup in Washington only this time there wasn't enough left of his Such Crust IV to drive back. The two accidents did more for Alter and his fellow drivers than all of his victories or daring feats on the water. He became a crusader for driver safety. Bright colored helmets to make the driver more visible in the water, the use of smoke flares and the stopping of a race when a driver was in the water became mandatory.

In 1973, he drove the experimental Miss Lapeer - the first boat to use a turbine engine. Although it took over a decade, most of the boats today use a turbine engine for their powerplant.

He went on to be the Unlimited Racing Commissioner, developed the kit boat to enable low budget teams to step up to a more competitive hull, founded the "Pioneers of Powerboating", an arm of the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, to preserve the history of the sport and brought the "Hall of Fame" award to Detroit to honor those who have contributed so much to the sport.

Recently, many of the vintage hydroplanes were involved in filming the story of the 1971 Gold Cup held in Madison, Indiana. Fred not only drove a vintage craft for the filming, but he earned a place in the Hollywood Stunt Men's Union for his driving exploits during filming. Fred remains active as a bottling plant - engineering consultant while indulging in his love for vintage watercraft by completing one of the original Unlimited Hydroplane kit boats.

For all that he has done and continues to do for the sport of powerboat racing today we celebrate "FRED ALTER DAY".

* Fred Alter - Major race wins

- 1956 Indiana Governor's Cup - Madison, IN - U-2 Miss U.S. 1
- 1957 Detroit Memorial - G-22 Such Crust III
- 1958 International Cup - North Carolina - U-2 Miss U.S. 1
- 1965 South Shore Trophy - Lake Tahoe - U-70 Such Crust IV

* Fred Alter: The boats

Fearless Freddie has driven more different Unlimited hulls than any other driver. In a 20-year career, Fred drove 21 boats under 27 different names for these owners:

U-5 Miss Detroit (2)	55	Bill Stroh
G-22 Such Crust III (2)	56-57	Jack Schafer
U-2 Miss U.S. 1 (1)	56	George Simon
U-2 Miss U.S. 1 (2)	57-58	George Simon
U-79 Nitrogen	58	Samuel F. DuPont
U-56 Gave VI (2)	59-60	Joe Schoenith
U-70 Such Crust IV (2)	61	Jack Schafer
U-70 Such Crust IV (3)	62&65	Jack Schafer
U-99 Mariner Too (1)	63	Jim Herrington
U-80 Blue Chip (1)	64	Dick Gordon
U-80 Blue Chip (2)	65	Dick Gordon
U-8 Miss Dixie-Cola	66	Laird Pierce
U-8 Parco O-Ring Miss(1)	67-68	Laird Pierce
U-99 Mariner Too (2)	67	Jim Herrington
U-13 Miss Budweiser II (1)	69	Bernie Little
U-77 Miss Owensboro	69	Bill Sterett
U-5 Miss Schweppes	69	Joe Schoenith
U-1 Miss Bardahl (5)	69	Ole Bardahl
U-13 Miss Budweiser II (2)	70	Bernie Little
U-5 Towne Club	71-72	Fred Alter
U-44 Gale's Roostertail (3)	73	Joe Schoenith
Pizza Pete (2)	73-74	
Miss Cauffiel of Toledo	73	
Atlas Van Lines (6)	74	
The Roostertail	74	
U-99 Miss Lapeer (2)	73	Jim Herrington
U-64 Miss Vernors (1)	75	Jerry Kalen

SOME SAD NEWS TO PASS ALONG

The DRRA would like to extend our deepest sympathy to DRRA worker Richard Delsener for the recent passing of his Mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer