

Regatta Review

Issue #43 - September 14 2006

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER THANK-YOU PARTY

The date for the annual volunteer thank-you party has been set. This party is open to 2006 volunteers as well as anyone that wants to become a new volunteer for 2007. See you there!

Date: Friday October 13, 2006

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Place: VFW Hall (Bruce Post)

Addy: 28404 E. Jefferson, St. Clair Shores MI, 48081

RSVP: 586.774.0980

THE SAN DIEGO RACE IS THIS WEEKEND

The final race of the 2006 season is this weekend in San Diego. Coverage of the event begins Friday on the ABRA web site: <http://www.abrahamhydroplanes.com>

Already posted is a pre-race audio interview titled "Drivers Dave Villwock and Steve David speak candidly with the media regarding the upcoming race in San Diego". See the "What's Inside" column.

Even newer are 2 point/counterpoint blog entries by Chip Hanauer and Sam Cole ... recommended reading:

Hanauer: Integrity is more important than money

Cole: No Conspiracy: Four heats equal seven races

STREAK AT THE CREEK! STONY CREEK - SEPTEMBER 24TH

The Rochester Elks #2225 and the Marine Prop Riders are holding an Inboard Hydroplane race at Stony Creek Metropark on September 24th from about 11:30am to 5:30pm. This is the inaugural "Streak On The Creek", come on out and show your support for the event and the Elks charities!

It's free to watch the race, there's just the \$4 Metropark vehicle entry permit. For more information see:

<http://streakonthecreek.com> (event info)

http://www.metroparks.com/parks/pk_stony_creek.php (park page)

Pit Passes may be available for about \$10, but no open-toe shoes are allowed in the pits so plan accordingly.

DRRA NAMES MARK WEBER AS NEW DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

The Detroit River Regatta Association (DRRA), promoter of the annual Chrysler-Jeep

Superstores APBA Gold Cup race on the Detroit River, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Weber as Director of Operations for DRRA.

"Our Vice President and race director, Tom Bertolini, and I are very excited to bring Mark Weber onboard," said DRRA President, Bill Rands. "Mark has truly unique experience as a racer, business manager and is a passionate supporter of the Gold Cup powerboat racing tradition in Detroit."

Weber succeeds Charlie Robertson who recently resigned from the DRRA for health related reasons. "We want to express our thanks and appreciation to Charlie Robertson, for her efforts in helping to successfully launch a number of new elements for our 2006 race, and extend our best wishes for her good health." said Bertolini.

"Bringing Mark on board is another step in the continuing development of the DRRA infrastructure to support our commitment to the fans, the Southeast Michigan community and to our sponsors," said Rands.

"The model the DRRA started last year will be carried forward," said Weber. "The event started to make a very positive turn and definitely had more of an event and entertainment feel to it. That is what we want and what the fans want. Our job is to help deliver a safe, exciting and fiscally responsible event to the community. We want to deliver a product to the river that the people want to see and will continue to support," said Weber.

"Volunteers are the backbone of the DRRA," said Weber. "We are very fortunate to have a strong volunteer group and excellent team leaders. The DRRA currently has 433 dedicated volunteers. I look forward to meeting them and to meeting with the team leaders as we finalize the wrap up of the 2006 event and look ahead to 2007 and 2008."

As the DRRA Director of Operations, Weber will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the DRRA, including administration, overseeing volunteer and team leader activities and working in conjunction with the DRRA marketing team on sponsorships and sales activities.

A third generation boat racer and native of the Detroit area, Weber competed as a driver in seven Chrysler-Jeep Superstores APBA Gold Cups in Detroit. He has also run three different businesses and directed nearly 50 races, serving as promoter of eight Inboard, personal watercraft and jet-boat races.

Weber recently turned over day-to-day-operations of Compass Pointe Marina in Fair Haven, Michigan to his business partner, but remains as a partner in the company.

Weber, 43, and his wife Lori, currently reside in St. Clair Shores, MI.

UPDATE ON CARL WILSON

For those of you that don't know Carl, he is one of the Vintage participants in APBA with his

boat TIGER which we have seen in the local vintage exhibitions at Detroit and Pontiac.

On his way to the famed Clayton Vintage Raceboat weekend, he began having difficulty and was convinced that he should let Tom & Jacq Bertolini take him to the hospital.

From Jacq (previously), "I found out this weekend that Carl is a very brave man. I was the one holding his hand as he was told that he has a maglignant brain tumor and that he would never drive his boat or car again. He was a rock. He was amazing. I admire him so much."

As of today: "The surgery went well, Carl has had the tumor removed and more recently the 61 staples were removed as well. He is home again and doing well, in good spirits with a good attitude, and feeling good. He will begin chemotherapy and radiation soon."

Carl, everyone here at the DRRA wishes you all the best in your recovery, and we hope to see you out and about soon!

WRAP-UP REPORT FOR THE JENNIFER WILLETTE BENEFIT GOLF OUTING

From Rory Willette, Jr.,

I'll try to wrap it up for you..... It was a HUGE success. Even with the rotten weather, we got everyone out and on the course once the weather finally did break. Due to the unbelievable support from everyone, we raised just over \$25,000 for her bills and rehabilitation. All that after we only had 5 weeks to plan this whole thing! There seems to be interest in doing this again next year, so I'm going to plan another one for around the same time in '07. Only this time I'll have all summer to plan it so it'll be even bigger and better, if that is even possible.

We have a web site set up that is updated every day that will keep everyone informed of her progress:

<http://www.carepages.com> (registration required)

CarePage Name: JenniferWillette

SOME SAD NEWS - DONALD NIEBERT PASSES AWAY

We're sad to report that on September 13th, Donald Niebert passed away. Donald had been involved with the Detroit race for 60+ years(!), spending many years on the security team. He was often seen manning the front gate to the Dodge Pits.

Visitation is Friday 1:30pm to 9pm at the Molnar Funeral Home, 14032 Northline in Southgate (734.285.1515). He will be laid in state on Saturday at 10:30am at the American Hungarian Reform Church, 9901 Allen Road in Allen Park. Services are at 11:00am.

The DRRA would like to extend our condolences to Donald's family, friends and security team partners.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer

