

Regatta Review

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE DRRA TO ALL OUR READERS AND FANS!

Everyone involved with the DRRA would like to wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Happy Roostertails to all!

VOLUNTEERS - RE-REGISTER NOW FOR THE BEST DEAL

DRRA volunteers: Sign up before December 31st for the early-bird special (\$25, after that it is \$35). The 2007 sign-up form is available on our web site in the Volunteers section, or call the offices ASAP (586.774.0980).

Anyone may join the DRRA to volunteer their support of the Gold Cup event! Would you like to help present Detroit's most exciting motorsport event? Do you like to work with the public, or want to lend your special skills behind the scenes? Working volunteers will receive the perks package which includes two event t-shirts, cap, race program and poster, as well as a pit area credential.

First time volunteers get the \$25 rate any time of the year, so if you're interested but the holidays have you under a crunch, not a problem.

DRRA PLANNING FOR 2007 - RACING CLASSES ANNOUNCED!

Planning for the 2007 race is well under way. Our new Director of Operations, Mark Weber, is completing annual tasks ahead of schedule and streamlining the operations.

Already finalized are the classes that will be attending in '07:

- * The Unlimiteds - racing for The Gold Cup
- * Grand National Hydroplanes - automotive big-block power!
- * 5 Litre limited hydroplanes - stock small-block power makes this one of THE most competitive classes in the APBA. We have had 25 teams reply with interest in attending, and can run up to 10 boats in a heat... it should be exciting!
- * Superlight Tunnels - nicknamed Inflatables for their rigid (permanently inflated) 'canoes', with framing and a tarp between them for the riders. We expect to have 10 or more, all running at the same time.
- * Vintage Race Boats - Continuing with the DRRA mission, a wide contingent of Vintage boats will run exhibition laps.

The GNH's have raced here in recent years in the Sweepstakes race, some qualified as

Unlimited Lights and were here last year too.

The 5 Litre and Superlight Tunnels are returning classes to the event, though it has been some years for each.

NEW POLICY CHANGE REGARDING COOLERS

By decision of the Board of Directors, beginning in 2007, NO coolers will be allowed into the Reserved Seating areas.

We recognize that allowing coolers has been popular with our fans and want to assure you that we have not made this decision lightly. There were a number of serious issues discussed by the board, with security and liability among them.

We hope you understand that times have changed, and sometimes difficult decisions have to be made.

AMERICAN BOAT RACING ASSOCIATION - SEASON SCHEDULE

The 2007 ABRA racing season kicks off June 29th:

- * Evansville, Indiana (June 29-July 1)
- * Madison, Indiana (July 7-8)
- * Detroit, Michigan (July 13-15)
- * Tri-Cities, Washington (July 27-29)
- * Seattle Washington (August 3-5)
- * San Diego (Sept. 14-16)

The Unlimiteds will not return to Valleyfield Quebec because of the safety concerns for drivers and spectators at that very small venue.

NEWS FROM THE U-6 MISS MADISON / OBERTO WEB SITE MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!! (10/20/06)

Yes eager fans, it is now official! The U-6 Miss Madison/Oh Boy! Oberto unlimited racing team is building a new boat! It is not clear at this point as to when the boat will be ready.

Speculation points to the 2008 season. Our thanks to all who helped make this possible, including Larry and all of our supporters at Oberto!!

FREEDOM RACING TEAM TO BUILD NEW BOAT Competitive hull to replace U21 devastated by fire

Freedom Racing Team elevated the level of competition on the American Boat Racing Association national series with a surprise announcement that a new hull is being built to

replace the charred U21.

The new boat will be a cross between the 2005 National Champion Miss Elam Plus U16 and the 2006 Gold Cup and UIM World Champion Beacon Plumbing/Miss Seattle U37. It will be ready to race next summer.

Esteemed boat builder and designer Dale Vanwieringen outlined the project with Freedom Racing Team owners Jeffrey Michael Johnson and Kevin Aylesworth and Crew Chief Kevin Braun in their San Diego homeport.

Johnson said although the U21 team's rookie season on the Unlimited hydroplane tour was enjoyable, it will be more fun to hit the water with a competitive boat in 2007. "We want to be a contender next year with a shot at winning on Sunday afternoon," Johnson said. "We want to put our driver in the best piece of equipment on the circuit, and attract sponsors with a winning program on and off the water."

Brian Perkins will drive the new U21. He replaces Aylesworth in the cockpit, who escaped the devastating blaze that burned the U21 at Seattle's SEAFAIR race in August. The spectacular footage captured national media headlines.

It will take about the same amount of time to build a new boat as it would to repair the charred U21, Vanwieringen told the team. And the number of significant changes that would need to be made to get the existing hull to "fly" correctly on the water and win races would be nearly as costly as constructing a truly competitive boat from scratch.

Vanwieringen's credentials are impressive. He has been building boats since 1982, when he worked with Jim Lucero on the legendary Atlas Van Lines boats. He was involved in the construction of all of the Budweiser boats since then (now racing as FormulaBoats.com U5 and U7), the U37 reconstruction that helped earn owner Billy Schumacher three major victories in 2006, the powerhouse Miss Elam Plus U16, and Ed Cooper's piston-powered U3.

A resident of Seattle, Vanwieringen will be making frequent trips to the San Diego U21 shop to supervise the crew this off-season. The boat will be completed early enough to test before the kick-off race of the ABRA tour in late June (Evansville, Ind.).

Vanwieringen is also working on the new Oh Boy! Oberto U6 boat being built for National Driver Champion Steve David and the City of Madison, Ind.

The cornerstone of Freedom Racing Team is its "When We Race, Children Win" campaign, in which a percentage of all sponsorship dollars are donated to children's charities. Since its inception, more than \$100,000 has been raised for Children's Hospital San Diego and other charities in race host cities. The U21 has raced to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation. In Seattle, the team raises funds and awareness for the Hydrocephalus Research Guild of Children's Hospital.

To this perseverant team, giving back to the community and promoting the sport on the

shoreline is as important as performing on the race course. Sponsors are being sought to partner on this exciting endeavor for the 2007 national tour.

DRRA NAMES 2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS Rands to Chairman; Bertolini Becomes President/CEO

The Detroit River Regatta Association (DRRA) has announced the election of new officers and directors of the non-profit organization that promotes the annual Chrysler-Jeep Superstores American Power Boat Association Gold Cup Races on the Detroit River.

William C. Rands of Grosse Pointe will become chairman of the DRRA board of directors. A long-time race supporter, team sponsor and community business leader, Rands joined the DRRA board in the fall of 2003, serving as Vice President in 2004 and President in 2005 and 2006.

"It has been an honor to serve as President of the DRRA as it grows and evolves and it is a great pleasure to welcome Tom Bertolini to the new position of President/CEO as we prepare for the 2007 and 2008 races," said Rands.

Tom Bertolini of New Baltimore, will become DRRA President/CEO and Race Director. Bertolini, a Detroit area construction contractor and a leading figure in Vintage powerboat racing nationally, joined the DRRA board in the fall of 2003. He served as co-race director for the 2004 event before becoming Vice President and race director in 2005 and 2006.

"Thanks to the support of the community, our volunteers and sponsors like the Chrysler Jeep Superstores, we are able to develop new ideas and attractions for our fans and sponsors," said Bertolini. "Our objective is to make Detroit the premier race on the circuit and to provide our fans and the community with an outstanding event year after year."

Mike Whaling, an attorney and title company officer from St. Clair will continue as Secretary of the DRRA.

Mark Crowley, of Troy, a CPA Consultant will continue as DRRA Treasurer.

Additional members of the Board of Directors are attorney Doug Bernstein of Bloomfield Hills; volunteer leader Jim Kiefer of Howell, and Chrysler Jeep dealer Jim Schebil of Plymouth.

The DRRA recently announced the appointment of veteran driver and APBA Race Official Mark Weber of St Clair Shores as Director of Operations.

SOME SAD NEWS TO REPORT

It is with a sad heart that we inform you that Brian Keogh passed away on Sunday, November 12th. He was working around the house, became ill, collapsed and died a short

time after that.

Brian was an alumnus of APBA, Marine Prop Riders and Unlimiteds Detroit. He was a former owner and driver in the Unlimited and Limited Inboard classes.

Keogh was active as an Unlimited owner off and on between 1976 and 1993. His first boat was Gene Benning's former JUSTA-PEST III, which he campaigned under various names, including SUCH CRUST I, COLUMBIA CLIPPER, and KISW MISS ROCK.

Brian qualified as an Unlimited driver at the 1978 Madison Regatta with Jim McCormick's former RED MAN II. At the wheel of this craft, sponsored by DETROIT RADIOGRAPHICS, Keogh finished fifth in the 1979 Spirit Of Detroit Regatta on the Detroit River.

With Jack Schafer, Jr., as driver, Brian was the last man to attempt automotive power in the Unlimited Class with the Ford- powered MISS EXIDE in 1993.

The family is still recovering from the shock and in lieu of flowers or other donations, the family has set up a Memorial Trust fund for Brian's youngest son, Robbie, 14 years of age:
Brian Keogh Memorial Fund
22704 Carolina
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Our prayers are with the family.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer