

Regatta Review

Issue #46 - March 23, 2007

Hello to all our fans, volunteers and supporters for 2007!

Like most Winters, things were pretty slow for a few months and all of the sudden we have a ton of news for you.

*** THE 99TH RUNNING OF THE GOLD CUP

This year marks the 99th running of the Gold Cup. While the first race for the Cup was held in 1904 (in fact it was held twice in 1904), there were other years that it was not run at all... most notably during World War II. See the full history of past winners here:

<http://gold-cup.com/history/pastwnrs.html>

If everything works out, Friday's on-the-water schedule this year may run as late as 7:00 pm to allow those who work nearby to come out and get a taste of the event. We may run a limited class race, as well as a session of Unlimited Qualifying.

For 2008, the DRRA is already planning to expand the event in celebration of the 100th running of the Gold Cup.

*** POSSIBLE TEST SESSION ON THE DETROIT RIVER THIS JUNE

Tentative planning is under way to hold a test session / media function on the Detroit River on June 25th!

Four boats have verbally committed... the U-13 Spirit Of Detroit and both Formula hulls are fairly solid, and the U-37 Beacon Plumbing is a good possibility.

Nothing is set in stone yet, stay tuned for more info.

*** EDIBLES REX RETURNS WITH UPDATED FOOD PLANS

Improvements have been made to the concession & catering plans, most notably that the ticket process has been eliminated... no more standing in a ticket line then in a concession line to get your food or drinks.

The concession selections have also been tweaked, items that didn't fit the crowd have been eliminated and Edibles Rex will be bringing in individual concessionaires to broaden the available foods and present more of a festival feel.

*** US NAVY BRINGS 'CALENDAR FOR AMERICA' TO THE GOLD CUP AGAIN

The Navy was very impressed with our event last year and we will be a bigger part of their

Detroit plans this year.

Look for the opening ceremonies jet flyover, Navy bands, and the F/A-18 flight simulator.

For more info: "Navy Announces 2007 'Calendar for America'"

http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=27166

*** SPECIAL HOTEL RATES AT THE GREENFIELD INN (BEST WESTERN)

To accomodate our out of town guests we have set up a special rate at the Greenfield Inn Best Western hotel. Please call the hotel at (800) 342-5802 and reference the "Gold Cup race" to receive the special rate of \$76.00 for Single/Double rooms (plus tax).

The Greenfield Inn is located in Allen Park, just off I-94 at the Oakwood exit. Visit their web site for more hotel information.

Greenfield Inn Best Western

3000 Enterprise Drive

Allen Park, MI 48101

Toll Free: (800) 342-5802

Web site: <http://www.bestwesterngreenfield.com>

*** TWO CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT THE ABRA AWARDS BANQUET

The ABRA Awards Banquet was held Saturday night, March 10 2007, in Seattle Washington.

Mike Allen (New Orleans, La) captured the National Team Championship in the U-7 FormulaBoats.com team while Steve David (Lighthouse Point, Fl) was recognized for his second consecutive National High Point Driver Championship behind the wheel of the U-6 Oh Boy!, Oberto owned by the city of Madison, Indiana.

The U-37 Beacon Plumbing team owned by Billy and Jane Schumacher took home the lions' share of the awards. Billy and Jane Schumacher were awarded the Owner of the Year Award, Scott Raney was named Crew Chief of the Year, the U-37 team was named 'Crew of the Year' and Beacon Plumbing was given the Commercial Boat Sponsor of the Year.

Jennifer Willette of Madison Heights, Mich. was given a special recognition as one of the top fans of the year.

"We had some great racing on the water," said ABRA Race Chairman Sam Cole. "But we also had a terrible day on the Ohio River in Madison, Indiana when a driver rammed through our fans, injuring many.

"And that's why tonight we wanted to honor Jennifer with a special recognition as one of our

top fans of the sport." Willette was seriously injured in the accident.

"Our fans are as important to this sport as our race teams," added Cole. Marc Perrier also received a fan recognition award.

"We just want to show our support for both of these individuals. We want both of them to know we love them as much they love this sport," said Cole.

*** KNDU TRI-CITIES' VIDEOS - GREAT START FOR '07 MEDIA COVERAGE

KNDU-TV, winner of the 2006 ABRA Best Television Coverage award at this week's ABRA Awards ceremony, used its cameras in Seattle for some great video stories on the web. For interviews with officials, owners and drivers see:

http://www.kndu.com/Global/category.asp?C=78290&nav=menu484_4_4

*** NEW TEAM - OUR GANG RACING - WEST COAST RACES IN 2007

2007 will see the addition of a new boat to the unlimited hydroplane circuit out west this year. The U-17 Our Gang Racing team has formed a completely new team with new people and will also be bringing up a new driver to test and qualify in 2007.

Our Gang Racing is a group of Pacific Northwest individuals with wide-ranging skills and expertise that share a common passion for unlimited hydroplane racing. The Gang was brought together last year by Nate Brown, a veteran in the world of hydroplane racing, to share in the achievement of a lifetime goal: Design, construct, and competitively race an unlimited hydroplane and have fun at the same time.

"I have always felt I could run a team," said Nate, "and with the help of some key people from within and outside the sport, build a boat that will turn some heads. Over the years I have been able to meet people that I knew had similar goals and with their help and chemistry I know this is going to be something special."

Nate will be the regular driver this year and will also be qualifying a new driver Kip Brown.

For more on the team, visit: <http://www.ourgangracing.com>

*** OTHER NEW HULLS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction on the newest U-6 Oh Boy! Oberto/Miss Madison is a bit behind schedule, but crew chief Mike Hanson is still confident the team will be ready to race by Evansville.

"We'll be out there [Seattle] for about three weeks and the plan is to come back March 30 with the boat," Hanson said Monday. "That's the plan right now, but anything can happen." said Hanson.

Currently, about two-thirds of the lower hull has been completed and the rest of the shell

should be done by the end of the month. From there, the boat will return to Madison where Hanson and the U-6 team will finish putting it together.

Construction of the U-21 Freedom Racing Team's new hull is well underway. They have a lot of great construction photos on their web site: <http://www.u21racing.com>

The U-37 Schumacher Racing team is collecting materials to build a new boat for the 2008 season.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer