



August 2010

## Front Row Seats: Being Part of the Action

One of our newer MPR members, Paul Poledink, sent us some thoughts regarding the goals of increasing participation in hydroplane racing in general and the Marine Prop Riders in particular. In his words...

Let me start by commenting on a thought which struck me every time I passed by the MPR sign for the months I had it stored in my garage. In addition to the MPR and APBA logos, the script reads **"Be a part of the action!"**. I have been part of boating action since high school as a builder of marine transmissions, high speed runabouts and straight line racing (quarter mile stuff). No turns, but the action gets pretty hairy those last few feet and then especially the shutdowns.

For the last several years I attended all the local hydroplane races with a pit pass and became more and more interested in becoming "part of the action". Fortunately, I was able to do this a year ago February by acquiring the **White Lightning** vintage hydro from Tony Kallio. Tony encouraged me to join the MPR in order to get any help I might need as I was restoring the boat, that the club would be very helpful. If I had not been so lucky to acquire the boat, I don't think I would have pursued the idea of being part of the action.

So what did I do at the Quake, to continue to be part of the action? Friday was spent doing odd jobs as the need arose. Moving stuff, carrying stuff, putting up banners, putting up the tents on the judge's stand, carrying more stuff, moving more stuff, wandering around, and finally going home.

Saturday was different. MaryAnne Wilson said they needed a scorer for the day. She said you really get to see this part of the operations close up while performing a necessary job. Jennifer Grigg was most gracious in letting me know the ins and outs of the scoring process, one which up to this point just seemed to "happen". And, you get a front row seat for the races. Now it may be that after you have been scoring races for a while it becomes old hat and somewhat less than exciting, but for newcomers to this particular aspect of racing, it was enlightening as well as enjoyable. I'll tell you where I'm going with this after the next paragraph.

Sunday was also different. It was suggested I help out as turn judge with Mario. I spent the hazy afternoon on a pontoon boat with Mr. Maraldo observing the various heats. Talk about a front row seat. And a first class mentor. Again, having heard of the difficulty at times in getting turn judges for some of the races, I now appreciate the unpleasant physical aspects of sitting out in the lake for hours in the sun, but what a seat to see the race, especially the lineup at the start, the jockeying for lanes, and then the flying wedge moving en masse toward the starting line. So here's my two cents worth.

If we were to aggressively pursue the idea of increasing MPR membership, especially trying to attract more non-boat owners or drivers, we need to have a method of including them in these kinds of race activities if they are going to sustain their membership and continue their participation. Doing what I did on Saturday and Sunday (yeah, Friday too) would definitely be worthwhile experiences for any new members. They were for me.

Paul Poledink



# MEETING MINUTES

## Marine Prop Riders – General Meeting – July 7th 2010 – Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** at Crash Landing, Madison Heights, called to order by Eli Whitney at 7:45 P.M. No 50-50 drawing this month - no tickets available.

**General announcements:** Eli reported that Tim Hueston was in attendance at the Gold Cup Race – appeared to be in favorable health and spirits. Guest: Ed Krupinski.

**Approval of Minutes:** of June 2, 2010 General Meeting. Motion to approve by Ray Dong. Seconded by Red Mathis. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mario Maraldo was not in attendance due to extensive boat preparation for Valleyfield. He relayed the information that there was a modest increase in fund balance. Full report at next meeting.

**Membership Report:** Membership stands at 96 as reported by Cadi Reiss.

**Publicity:** Brian Reed announced that news and highlights of the Gold Cup and the Quake on the Lake will appear in the forthcoming newsletter.

**Entertainment:** Ray Dong announced the deferment of entertainment for this meeting to concentrate on the logistics for the upcoming Quake on the Lake.

### Race Reports:

**Walled Lake Thunder** Todd McQuade announced that the race made money this year and planning discussions are taking place for next years 4th Walled Lake Thunder. Dates, June 11-12, 2011. Ray Dong commented that club participation was good again this year, with everyone pitching in and doing everything necessary for a successful race. The organizational aspects should serve as the model for next year's event.

**Waterford/ Quake on the Lake** MaryAnne Wilson announced that the Quake was “ready to go”. She proceeded to review the changes necessary to accommodate the requests of the park authorities to help preserve the park's environment. Motor homes will be located in the boat launching area, a shuttle will be running continuously during the two day event, tow vehicles will have free access to the park for the weekend, spectators will be limited to the cold pit area, race teams only in the hot pits. The hospitality tent will be open to race teams only. Much discussion, clarification, and comments ensued regarding these changes and others. John Grigg asked for clarification of the security measures for equipment left in pickup truck beds. The rationale for all changes was provided as necessary. Volunteer help was requested for the busy Friday setup, e.g., the judges stand etc. Also, help on Saturday A.M. to assist Region 6's Steve Spieczak to establish the course itself – inflating buoys, setting up electronics, etc. Mary Anne noted that **Jimmy Johns** will be providing lunches for the race officials during the two day event. Thanks to our sponsors. **Allied Waste** will provide a Winners Circle setup.

**APBA Racing News** None

**IRC Racing News** None

**Old Business:** MPR members provided boats for two recent Independence Day parades. Thanks to Bob Dabrowski, Royce Richards, and John Grigg for their Waterford parade participation, and Paul Poledink for his Milford parade participation. MPR members also provided clean-up / fix-up help to the organizers and volunteers of the Gold Cup race venue over the last several weekends. Such work is necessary as long as economic conditions remain stagnant.

**New Business:** A possible board meeting may be scheduled in the Waterford area to meet with Quake members and sponsors to show our appreciation for their participation in the Quake racing activities.

**Next Meeting:** August 4, 2010 at the Crash Landing @7:30 P.M.

**Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn by John Grigg @ 8:50 P.M. Seconded by Stephanie Nettke. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by Paul Poledink for Tony Kallio

# THE NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 4TH!

**7:30 p.m.**

— ***Crash Landing, on Dequindre between 11 Mile and I-696 in Warren*** —

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## **MPR Members Are World Champs!**

**Congratulations to the MPR boat owners that came out on top at the ‘Triple Crown’ race held in Cambridge Maryland - these teams brought home the honors for the US Summer Nationals, Canadian Nationals and UIM World Championship titles!**

**The Y-1 *Fast Eddie Too* owned by Jim Sechler and driven by Dan Kanfoush.**

**The A-52 *Fat Chance Too* owned by Royce Richards & George English, driven by Tom Thompson.**

**Be sure to congratulate them when you see them!**

## **Upcoming Events Schedule**

*Race dates and upcoming events (\*\* for MACH series events):*

<b>Hampton VA - Eastern's for T,S,E,JSS</b>	<b>August 13, 14 &amp; 15, 2010</b>
<b>Celina OH - NA Championship, Governor's Cup</b>	<b>August 28 &amp; 29, 2010**</b>
<b>Wheeling WV - Vintage</b>	<b>September 3, 4 &amp; 5, 2010</b>
<b>Stony Creek MI -</b>	<b>(postponed to 2011)</b>
<b>Hillsboro OH - Rocky Fork State Park</b>	<b>September 18 &amp; 19, 2010**</b>
<b>Alum Creek OH - (race)</b>	<b>September 25 &amp; 26, 2010**</b>
<b>Perrysburg OH - Fall meeting - Region 6</b>	<b>October 23 &amp; 24, 2010</b>
<b>MPR 2010 Awards Banquet</b>	<b>November 13, 2010</b>
<b>Detroit MI - 2011 APBA Annual Meeting</b>	<b>January 26 - 29, 2011</b>



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

August is coming, the dog days. Hot and humid. Been that around the area now for a couple weeks already, and racing action has heated up with the weather. While not in Region 6 technically, Madison, Indiana's annual Unlimited Hydro regatta also saw some inboards in competition. It was a battle of attrition, as Elizabeth Wolfe driving the Desperado (NM-93), sponsored by Trafficade (Dennis Johnson), emerged as the overall winner. Second went to Joe Kreitzer in Cadi Reiss's One Way (GNH-515), third to Tony Black in Tom Newman's NM-100. Deel Me In (GNH-8), the Tennessean (GNH-33), and Mike Movinski's NM-116 suffered some setbacks, but these were hardly the fault of the crews and owners, who made great efforts to compete at this famous facility.

I say facility, I have seen the movie and other videos, heard all the stories. Well, this was my own first time at Madison, and what a show overall and what fabulous community support and interest. Wow! Both shorelines were lined with people, picnics, and parties, all having a great time. To add to the moment, the community roared it's approval as the Madison owned Miss Madison (Oh Boy Oberto) driven by Steve David took the championship trophy for the headline H1 Unlimiteds. We'd love to go back there next year, and the word to us is that inboards will likely be part of Madison again!

Just in the books: the 101<sup>st</sup> Gold Cup, hosted by the DRRA at the classic Belle Isle course on the Detroit River. A slew of Unlimiteds took to the water on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. What is apparent this year is the parity of speed among most teams, except for Elam/ Qatar (Dave Villwock) and Oh Boy Oberto (Steve David), who are a roostertail or two ahead of the others. This parity provides the setting for some really competitive qualifying heats, culminating in the Gold Cup. Villwock dominated the final, third straight Gold Cup victory. One aside, though, someone ask Tom and Mike Webster if the divers found their prop in front of Section E of the grandstands? It was last seen spinning in the air and sinking into the river. Also at the Gold Cup were numerous Vintage inboard hydros, ranging from T- boats (T 59 Scraps / Lisa Bruce / Tom Franken and T 2 Gilday / Noonan ex-Airborne and Dick Harris) through the GNH Irishman (Bill Fisk) and GP's of Bill Gmeiner and Tom Bertolini, among the many boats from all over , especially Region 6. Mark Hoderek and friends competed in their SLT's, having a good time for most, except the unnamed rider who got a dunking in the river in the final. Hot and humid, the dip in the river must have felt OK! Many Region 6 racers wandering the pits, Joe Flynn, Mark Burghardt, Kent and Andy Keogh, Dennis Macy, Kevin Klosterman, Steve Weber, Teddy Dudley among them, plus our own Cal Phipps doing his SuperCal act driving Dave Bartush's Spirit of Detroit U 13 ( a home town crowd favorite), good to say "Hey" to each. Mark Weber and Tom Bertolini put on a heck of a show!

One not so good show was the wreck of the U 37; Bill Shumacher's yellow beauty got totaled in a bout with the Roostertail Club's seawall, driver J. W. Meyer broke some foot bones, but no other injury. Close call, the driver kept driving instead of giving up, and managed to turn the boat away from a direct frontal impact closer to the pits. While the boat looks totaled, and debris was thrown in the air, no onlookers were injured. Whew! Hat's off to J. W. and get well soon!

Some intrepid 5L's ventured to Marietta for some racing with the Superleague, but the river got the best of some, I have heard. Hope the showing leads to more action for inboards in Region 6, I am hearing more interest along the Ohio River Valley, including Northern Kentucky. Watch and see, let it happen if it is going to happen.

Next up, Waterford's Quake on the Lake 11. That's right, 11 years now, the race is gaining brand recognition, evidenced by comments and questions received by 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade entries, like Paul Poledink in Milford, Mich. and John Grigg, Racer Bob and Royce Richards in Clarkston, Mich. The Quake people (race preparations led by Mary Anne Wilson) are not afraid to tune up the event, trying different arrangements for campers and competitors. As at Syracuse, the park setting is great, but the park is also putting restrictions on parking, leading to some new arrangements. These are being tried out to prepare for next year's Inboard Nationals. Well, Mary Anne's take afterwards is that the new items are working, and will be tuned up for next year. This year's Quake seems to have set the stage for next year's #12 and the Nationals. Been awhile since they have been in Michigan (someone needs to check, but I recall the 1970 Nationals at Ford Lake, has there been any in the Wolverine state since?). They were cool, even on local TV live Sunday afternoon (watched up in Flint (GMI, now Kettering U) in between cramming for finals). A hat's off goes to the race committee, as many organizational details that have been troublesome in the past were dealt with successfully. As usual, Royce and

Kathy Richards treated all the racers very well, and a thanks comes back to them from us all. As for the racing action, see Tim Collins report. What his report does not say though is how much effort was put in by many of the racers to keep their equipment racing and how much stuff got broken. The carnage in the engine compartments in a couple classes was, well, messy. But, hard work and good attitude overcomes all that, which is easy to say until the sweat equity is put back into the race boats.

The next Region 6 Inboard race is Celina on August 28-29, with North American Champions being decided in several classes and MACH points in all classes scheduled.

I mentioned parades, guys, show off your boats whenever you can. Show off our club and our local races while you are at it. It's not that much time, and contacts derived can be well worth the effort. We displayed the One Way at a Gold Cup week party organized by the R/C racers of Unlimiteds Detroit, representing the Prop Riders, for a couple hours, had a good time, met some people we did not know plus some we did know. It was on the way to the race shop, so it was only about a block or two out of the way. We are all in this thing together, we need to act that way once in awhile. eli

## **Waterford Results - July 17, 18 2010**

37 boats showed up for the weekend in Waterford Michigan. The weather was windy and humid for the weekend, but all heats were run.

### **1 Litre**

7 boats attempted to run on Saturday but gremlins claimed 6 of them in the final. Keith McMullen Y80, Chris Ritz Y-2, Becky Wilson, Y-31, Joe Sovie Y-44, and Dan Kanfoush Y-1 all ran into problems and did not finish. Jeff Maurer Y-16 earned his first career victory. On Sunday, most boats stills struggled with the humidity, but Dan Kanfoush Y-1 won both heats with Joe Sovie taking both seconds.

### **2.5 Stock**

The Weekend belonged to Mike Monohan driving the S-9 Rewinder. Mike was dominate on the 1 mile course. Kent Henderson CS-00, Keith Anderson S-17, and Christina Wilson S-20 all showed some very good speed but didn't quite have enough power to beat the Barker team.

### **2.5 modified**

A small but very strong field of A boats. Dan Kanfoush driving the A-600 swept the weekend winning all 4 heats and missing the 1 mile record by less than 2 seconds. Tommy Thompson A-52 was a very close 2nd racing outside of Dan and staying in the roostertail most of the race . Buster Graham in the A-66, and Mike Monohan A-23 were up and down but also showed some very good power.

### **5 Litre**

Todd Liddycoat E-97 and Jim Martin E-43 battled for the wins all weekend long. Both boats seemed to do a lot of testing for next weeks triple crown race in Cambridge Maryland. Joe Sovie looked pretty good in the E-61, as did Stover Hire in the E-37

### **Grand National hydro**

Stevie Kuhr driving the GNH-8 Deel Me In was in its own class this weekend, he dominated all heats. Patrick Sankuer GNH-1, Joe Krietzner GNH- 515, John Griggs GNH-52, and Dave Archibale GNH-33 contributed to a loud and good show for the fans

### **Vintage**

The vintage boats had a good showing and definitely got to run a lot of times.

Race committee and volunteers did a great job. This race is turning into a pretty major event. The Stage with the bands all weekend long is starting to resemble Valleyfield. A huge carnival, and tons of vendors make it easy to provide family fun.

Submitted by: Tim Collins

## **“Volunteers are suckers, did you know they don’t even get paid?” ... Homer Simpson**

With apologies to Homer, the Marine Prop Riders did ourselves proud volunteering for 3 spectacular and successful races. All the parades, displays, mowing, trimming, painting and cleaning paid off. Led by Tom Levitt, the Dodge Pits and Judges Stand haven't looked this good in 20 years. Mary Anne and Todd had the Quake and Walled Lake operations streamlined also. I'm sure I'll miss a few names, the following people were key to our success. If I missed your name, pay yourself on the back. Thanks!

Turn Judges: Eric Pomber, Rich Falcinelli, Mario Maraldo, Tom Elston, James Jackson, Mike Horvath and Brian Brandt.

Pit Operations: Jim Gannon, Randy Roe, Rich Willim, Red Mathis, Jim Garza, Judy Roberts, Todd McQuade, Racer Bob Dabrowski, Mike Ambrogio, Sam Anspach, Paul Poledink, Cadi Reiss, Stefanie Nettke & Greg Walzcak, Eli Whitney, Jim Sechler, Bob Smith, Grant Ward and Eric Hindbaugh - one of our newer members showing leadership.

Special Kudos to Jim Gannon who helped immensely. Todd McQuade and Bob Wilson accepted my May challenge... they literally spent a couple hundred hours getting the Gold Cup and Quake sites ready. Bob in fact was appointed Pit Manager for Offshores at the Gold Cup. Great job fellas!

Finally, thanks to Unlimiteds Detroit volunteers Harvey Hoffmaster, Garl Clement, and Steve Mallard. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Remember the “Nationals” are but about 350 days away! Let's be ready...

- Ray Dong



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## 2010

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