

## Regatta Review

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Issue #92 – July 6, 2009

THE CHRYSLER JEEP SUPERSTORES APBA GOLD CUP - JULY 10-12, 2009

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### \*\*\* EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR RACEWEEK

We have a complete info page on our web site with links to details about tickets, parking, and much more. There are also links to the fliers for the Unlimiteds Detroit party at Jack's (Tuesday) and the Legends celebration (Friday). You can also find more information about the showing of Madison - The Movie on Saturday.

See: [http://www.gold-cup.com/raceweek\\_info\\_2009.php](http://www.gold-cup.com/raceweek_info_2009.php)

### \*\*\* DECK 2 DECK - FANTASY UNLIMITED HYDROPLANE RACING

A new fantasy league for Unlimited Hydroplane fans has started, you can find it at: <http://www.deck2deck.us>

### \*\*\* JEAN THEORET RECOVERING WELL

Jean Theoret flipped the U-37 going into turn 1 in Madison on Saturday and was quickly transported to the hospital. News that he had been stabilized soon arrived, and as of Sunday he is doing much better, "walking and talking", and that is good news indeed.

Rumour has it that the boat is being repaired and that it should be ready for Detroit, and maybe Jean will be too.

A slideshow of the flip can be found on the KNDU page:  
<http://www.kndu.com/Global/story.asp?S=10643883>

### \*\*\* MADISON REGATTA RESULTS

MADISON, Ind. --- Dave Villwock (Seattle, Wash.) continued his winning ways by notching his 57th career victory by winning the 59th annual running of the Madison Regatta Indiana Governor's Cup Sunday.

Villwock (Auburn, Wash.), piloting the U-16 Miss Elam Plus notched a perfect weekend by posting the top qualifying speed and winning every elimination heat to set up for his championship run. This was his

eighth Indiana Governor's Cup win on this Ohio River course-the most of any unlimited driver.

"An old pr man once told me this was a grand slam," said a jubilant Villwock. "We won the fastest qualifying, we won every elimination heat and we won the race championship."

With competition from Jeff Bernard (Kent, Wash.) in the U-5 Formulaboats.com to Villwocks left and the U-7 Graham Trucking boat of Jay Michael Kelly (Payallup, Wash.) on the right, it looked like Villwock would have a battle on his hands. But after a tight first lap, the fluorescent orange boat pulled away to clinch the victory.

Although Villwock's victory was almost never in doubt, a battle was ensuing for the right for a podium finish. Behind Villwock was Kelly who usurped his teammate and last year's Madison winner Bernard for second place.

But finishing third was hometown Madison boat the U-1 Oh Boy! Oberto driven by Steve David (Lighthouse Point, Fla.). He placed third.

David, who was running in fourth throughout the race, caught a break when the U-3 Miss Chrysler Jeep sustained engine problems just feet from the finish line. With the U-3, driven by Jimmy King (Wales, Mich.) dead in the water, the U-1 managed to speed by to come in third.

Rounding out the field was Jeff Bernard in the U-5 and Greg Hopp (Snohomish, Wash.) driving the U-100 Shoreline Propellers.

King who was just feet away from third place was unable to finish the race.

Now with another Indiana Governor's Cup in hand, Villwock hopes to carry the momentum to next week's 100th running of the Chrysler Jeep Superstores APBA Gold Cup in Detroit.

- Results of the Indiana Governor's Cup -  
Place, Boat, Driver, Final Heat Average

1st U-16 Miss Elam Plus, Dave Villwock (Auburn, Wash.) 138.054  
2nd U-7 Graham Trucking, Jay Michael Kelly (Payallup, Wash.) 136.515  
3rd U-1 Oh Boy! Oberto, Steve David (Lighthouse Point, Fla.) 130.713  
4th U-5 Formulaboats.com, Jeff Bernard (Kent, Wash.) 121.434  
5th U-100 Shoreline Propellers, Greg Hopp (Snohomish, Wash.) 118.424  
6th U-3 Miss Chrysler Jeep, Jimmy King (Wales, Mich.) DNF

\*\*\* BOB SCHROEDER REMEMBERED

\*\*\* BY FRED FARLEY - ABRA UNLIMITED HISTORIAN

Unlimited hydroplane racing has lost another of its most celebrated participants. Bob Schroeder, one of the sport's top drivers of the 1950s and 1960s, passed away on June 29, 2009.

He is survived by his wife Reta and son Robert, Jr.

"Rapid Robert" from Buffalo, New York, stepped up to the Unlimited level in 1957 after a successful 225 Cubic Inch Class Limited career with a series of boats named MY AMBITION.

Bob's first Unlimited ride was arguably his best. This was the WILDROOT CHARLIE, the former GALE IV, with which he finished second and fourth in National High Points in 1957 and 1958. Schroeder purchased the hull from Joe and Lee Schoenith of Gale Enterprises.

WILDROOT CHARLIE could always be counted upon to make the front-runners work for it. With Bob driving, the CHARLIE came back to haunt its former owners--the Schoeniths--by finishing ahead of them in National Points and in nearly every race in which they competed against each other.

Bob's crew chief in the early years was his father Edwin "Pop" Schroeder who is himself a racing legend as the builder of numerous Limited inboard hulls.

The Schroeders went with a new Les Staudacher-designed Unlimited in 1959 and 1960. This was the MISS BUFFALO, a very rough-riding craft, which failed as a competitor.

As driver of the Schoenith's GALE VII in 1961, Bob saved the life of SUCH CRUST IV driver Fred Alter at the President's Cup Regatta in Washington, D.C.

The right sponson of Alter's hydroplane sheared off along with the entire right side of the boat during Heat 2-A. Fred was hurtled out of the driver's seat, bounced onto the Allison engine, and was thrown back into the cockpit. As Alter struggled to free himself from the rapidly sinking CRUST, a nearby patrol boat remained inexplicably motionless.

Fortunately, Bob Schroeder, who had been running 200 yards astern of Alter at the time of the crash, shut off his own boat, leaped aboard the quickly submerging SUCH CRUST IV, and rescued the stricken Alter.

Bob supported Fred on the sponson of the GALE VII, while a Coast

Guard 40-footer finally moved in from a quarter mile away.

History records Schroeder as the first driver in competition of a Bernie Little-owned Unlimited hydroplane in 1963. This was the famous 4-seater TEMPO, a glorified pleasure boat that Little used to take celebrities and journalists for rides at the races. The following year, Bob became the first in a long line of MISS BUDWEISER drivers.

In 1967, Schroeder introduced Atlas Van Lines, Inc., to the Thunderboat sport. The craft was the former MAVERICK and had seen its better days. Nevertheless, with Norman Manson as the owner and Bob as the driver, the very first AVL boat did its sponsor proud, touring the entire circuit with stock equipment, taking fifth-place in the Gold Cup at Seattle, and placing ninth in a field of 23 boats in National High Points.

Schroeder took one last sentimental journey as an Unlimited pilot in 1974 with Paul Sawyer's ALTER EGO. Sawyer himself had never raced the boat and rejected all offers to buy. He finally gave it to Schroeder because Bob was "like family." (Paul was in fact Bob Schroeder, Jr.'s godfather.)

Schroeder ran it in a few races as the unnamed CU-22, powered by an Allison. He finished 8th at both Detroit, Michigan, and Dayton, Ohio.

Although retired from driving, Bob never strayed far from the sport that he loved. He frequently attended the races at Detroit and assisted in the production of the hydroplane-themed MADISON movie, which was filmed in 1999.

At an antique Gold Cup exhibition in Toronto, Ontario, in 1984, Schroeder raised many eyebrows when he test-drove Gar Wood's legendary MISS AMERICA X, 38 feet of mahogany, powered by four giant Packard V-12 engines.

Boat racing mourns the loss of one of its most respected competitors.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer

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- Mail: DRRA - 17640 E. Nine Mile Road - Eastpointe MI - 48021

- Phone: 586.774.0980

- Web: <http://www.gold-cup.com>

- Email: [moreinfo@gold-cup.com](mailto:moreinfo@gold-cup.com)

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