

AeroMarine Research

TBPNews - Performance Report

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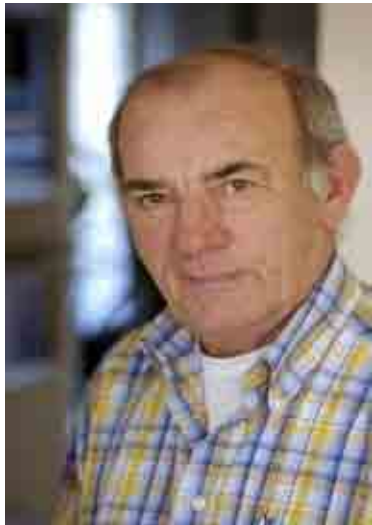
>>>> **Tunnel Boat Performance News** >>>>> (over 5000 members!)
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***** TBPNews *****

1) "Flying Dutchman" Van der Velden - World F1 Champ/Legend Dies



Switzerland – 28 December 2006 – One of the cornerstone's of the sport of power boating racing died yesterday when Dutch native Cees Van der Velden lost his battle to cancer which ended his 40 year association with the sport.

The native of Nistelrode, Holland entered boat racing in 1966 at the age of 23. In his 24 years of racing, Cees won 7 World Championships missing a possible 8th in 1976 because of an accident. The original "Flying Dutchman" joined the catamaran class in 1970 and in just two seasons won his first World Title while defeating legend in Renato Molinari of Como, Italy his teammate at the time, in a Molinari designed boat. After racing with Team Mercury for 4 years, Cees joined Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) in the winter of 1974.

Cees, was now free to design and race his own boats at OMC and relished in this environment. Van der Velden was in his prime in the 1970's winning the ON class titles in 1974, 1975 and 1979, while winning the Continental ON titles in 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1979. He also captured the Continental OZ title in 1977, 1978, 1980 and 1981.

When the sport changed and OMC moved to the V-8 class for the 1981 opening U.I.M. F1 World Championship season, Cees was right there in the thick of it, fighting old rival Molinari at the very first race in Como, Italy in July of that year, taking 2nd place. Two years later, he would win the race in 1983 and finish either 2nd or 3rd in the World Championship fight the first four years the title was held. His 8 career wins marks him 6th all-time in the U.I.M. F1 drivers victory column.

He went on to be a U.I.M. Commissioner and work on the appeals board into this 2006 season. Cees is widely known for his safety innovations. He helped develop the first power steering system for pilots, worked on the first survival capsule, and explored adjustable sponsons as well as wings and even brakes that were innovative but not always right for their time.

A true, racer, boat builder, technician, official and innovator Cees gave and we have all benefited from it.

Check out details at: www.f1boat.com

***** TBPNews *****

2) Gillman Wins 4th F1 World Championship:



No one who attended the opening round of the 25th Anniversary season of the U.I.M. F1 World Championship at the Grand Prix of Qatar, could have imagined that this years long struggle for supremacy on the water would come down to a dramatic 50 lap shootout, 8 months later at the Grand Prix of

Sharjah.

When the smoke cleared, it was the American Scott Gillman standing tall and capturing his 4th World Title in 10 years. His championship gave the Emirates Team their most dominate season in their brief history of the sport. Rather than proving he was fastest, as he showed in 2005, by leading every race but failing to capture the title. This time around, he was consistent, finishing with a win at the Grand Prix of China, while reaching the podium 4 different times in the six races to take the title with 69 points.

Gillman pulled off a real gamble at his home Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi where he switched boat hulls from his older DAC to a new BABA boat. He would eventually finish 2nd in the race before electing to switch back to the DAC for the season finale in Sharjah. The 47 year-old has now taken the title two of the last three seasons. His four titles have now moved him into 2nd place all-time along with 22 wins and 51 podiums in just 86 career starts.

Defending World Champion Guido Cappellini of the Tamoil Team lost the title despite winning half the races taking wins at the Grand Prix's of Portugal, Como and Abu Dhabi. His failures to finish at the opening round at Doha along with another mechanical miscue at Sharjah spelled disaster for his run at his 10th championship. His 65 points were enough for 2nd in the title ledger.

Check out details at: www.f1boat.com

***** TBPNews *****

3) ChampBoat Series Announces 2007 Schedule



ChampBoat Grand Prix Series, North America's premier powerboat racing series, announced details for the 2007 ChampBoat Grand Prix Series and the all new Champ 2 Championships.

During the high profile mid-town Manhattan luncheon during NASCAR's grand week, the ChampBoat Series laid out plans for new events, new management and new sponsorship promotions including state of the art on-water sponsor signage, corporate box suites and new and improved HD television production. The series schedule grows again in 2007 with several

new events, and the return of many classic events.

2007 ChampBoat Grand Prix Series

May 19-20 ChampBoat Masters Augusta, GA 1/2 C
Jun 23-24 Bay City River Roar Bay City, MI 1/2/3 C
Jun 30-July 1 Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta Pittsburgh, PA 1 TBC
Jul 21-22 Grand Prix at Minneapolis Aquatennial Minneapolis, MN 1/2 C
Aug 4-5 Bud Light Grand Prix of St. Louis St. Louis, MO 1/2 C
Aug 18-19 Belterra Casino Grand Prix of Kentucky Warsaw, KY 1/2 C
Sept 2-3 Roar of the Rockies Windsor, CO 1 C
Sept. 15-16 Grand Prix of New York New York, NY 1 C
Sept 29-30 Grand Prix of Connecticut TBA 1 C
Oct 13-14 Grand Prix of Savannah Savannah, GA 1 TBC
Nov 3-4 Grand Prix of Florida TBA 1 TBC

Check out details at: <http://www.champboat.com>

***** TBPNews *****

4) Mike Allen Named U-7 Unlimited Boat Driver



39-year-old New Orleans native Mike Allen has been hired as the driver of the U-7 Unlimited Hydro.

This will be Allen's rookie year in the Unlimited Hydro class, but he is already a three-time inductee into the American Power Boat Association's Hall of Champions. Mike Allen may not be a well-known name in Unlimited Hydroplane racing circles, but his name is very familiar within the Inboard racing ranks across North America. Through the 1990's, Mike with his father,



Billy Allen, established themselves as true contenders in the Inboard flatbottom classes winning several national high point and north American championships in both the Super Stock and KRR flatbottom racing classes. In 2001 Allen found new success in the 5 Litre Hydroplane class and by 2002, dominated this highly competitive hydro class winning the Eastern Divisionals, Summer Nationals, and UIM World Championship title. He was also the 5 Litre National High Point Champion of the APBA.

Possibly the strongest piece in Mike Allen's arsenal will be his 15+ years experience racing flatbottom-style powerboats. While few flatbottom drivers have attempted the transition to Unlimited Hydros, their success is legendary. Most notable is the current driver of the U16, Dave Villwock. George Stratton and George Woods were also K-Boat racing champions before switching to the Unlimited Hydro class. And each holds memorable rankings in the Unlimited Hydroplane history books.

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5) ZapCat Racing to make UAE Debut



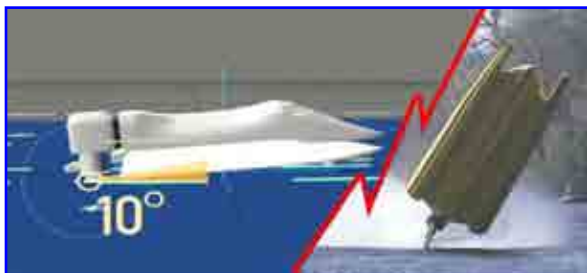
The UAE may be the new frontier for the new Zapcat Powerboat Racing Series as early as next season.

Alan Linnitt, Managing Partner from Zapcat Racing, is currently in the UAE to set up the series' new office here and recruit new faces for the sport of powerboat racing. Zapcat boats are 4x2 metre catamarans with 50hp engines capable of going up to speeds of 100kph. The UK-based series took off as recently as 2001 and has seen a sudden surge in other countries such as Norway, Finland, Sweden, Portugal and Spain.

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6) Powerboat Racing on TV

*** **"Thrill Zone: Extreme Powerboats"** - National Geographic powerboat show.



Author Jim Russell (Jimboat) is powerboat design technical consultant on a new National Geographic special for "Thrill Zone" series...**Watch our website for the Next Show scheduled.**

Details at: (channel.nationalgeographic.com)

Watch for other show dates on AR's website! www.aeromarineresearch.com/NatGeo_thrill-zone.html

*** **"Champ Boat Grand Prix Series"** - on SPEED Channel - Check for next show at: www.champboat.com or at: www.speedtv.com

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