

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

Published by *Maine Coastal News*

2023

Pre-Season

Newsletter #1

Ready for Another Season?



Another year of great racing is just about ready to get underway!

Yes, we are just days away from the first race of the season at Boothbay this Saturday 17 June. This will be followed the next day by the Rockland races. I know that the weather forecast is calling for rain, but remember how often they are wrong. There has been a number of people who have said that they were planning to attend saying that Boothbay and Rockland are one of their favourite races of the year.

The Maine Lobster Boat Racing Association held its Annual Meeting and Banquet back in October. This is where any major changes take place, but the members voted for no changes. They also held a short meeting at the Maine Fishermen's Forum in Rockland back in March, but due to a huge snowstorm few were able to make the meeting, but those that did got to see a slide show of some of the racers back into the late 1980s.

During the winter there were a few rumours floating around, some of which we could substantiate. The Gasoline Classes have been shrinking the last several years and now there are only a few competitors in the top classes. Mark Davis' DOWNEAST NIGHTMARE [Mussel Ridge 28; 1,000-hp Chevrolet] was the top racer. The Engert's THUNDERBOLT [South Shore 30; 621 ci Chevrolet] came out twice last year, but had issues and was unable to complete a race. Shawn Alley's LITTLE GIRL [Calvin Beal 28], has yet to receive his engine from the engine builder. Shawn was hoping to have it before now so he could at least race at Moosabec Reach, but it is not looking good. Mark Freeman of York, owner of FOOLISH PLEASURE [30' Custom Riley Beal; 650-hp 455 Stroker] was hoping to have a new and more powerful engine installed this winter, but

we have not heard if that happened. Jeremy Saxton came out a couple of times last year with the VOOP [Duffy 30; 502 Chevrolet] and hopefully he will make more races this year. We are hearing that Steve Johnson of Long Island has the LYNN MARIE again and that he is putting in a big gas engine. That would certainly stir the pot.

In the diesel classes it is expected that Jeremy Beal will be back out with MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II [Wayne Beal 32; 1,000-hp Isotta], the holder of the title for the fastest diesel lobster boat at 68.3 mph. Unfortunately, Glen and Cameron Crawford, owners of WILD WILD WEST [West 28; 1,000-hp Isotta], say they do not think they will be out this year. The engine is out of the boat and needs to be put back together and the boat needs some TLC. Time is their biggest enemy. Andrew Taylor, owner of BLUE EYED GIRL [Morgan Bay 38, 900-hp Scania], was a dominate boat last year, but that could be threatened by a new boat. Alfred Osgood of Vinalhaven took delivery late last fall of a Wayne Beal 36 with hard chines powered with a 1,400-hp MAN. Right out of the box she was doing just over 50 mph. Another threat could be Ryan Lemieux of Cutler who finished off a Young Brothers 38, which has been lengthened and widened, powered with a 1,000-hp Caterpillar. She went in a few weeks ago and is going well. Chris Smith of Richmond, owner of MISTY [Crowley Beal 33; 650 hp Scania], supposedly has repowered with a bigger engine.

Like most years there are some changes, but until we see them actually out on the race course we do not believe all we hear. So it is off to Boothbay to see just what is really new for this year.

MEESA

FPT
POWERTRAIN TECHNOLOGIES

2023 MAINE LOBSTER BOAT RACING



SCHEDULE

17 JUNE Boothbay Harbor Ashlee Lowery (207) 808-9230	1 JUNE Moosabec Reach, Beals Island/Jonesport Roy Fagonde (207) 610-4607	30 JULY Harpowell Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104 Kristina York (207) 449-7571	19 AUGUST Long Island Lisa Kimball Amy Tierney	14 OCTOBER Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet Robinson's Wharf, Southport Jon Johansen (207)-223-8846
18 JUNE Rockland Nick O'Hara (207) 542-4348 Mike Mayo (207) 542-1879	9 JULY Stonington Jeff Eaton (207) 598-0488	12 AUGUST Winter Harbor Chris Byers (207) 963-7139	20 AUGUST Portland Katie Werner	All Races: Sign-up 8 to 9 AM Races Start 10 AM Exception: Long Island: Sign up 10 to 11 AM, Start 12 PM. Listen on VHF Channel 10
25 JUNE Bass Harbor Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288	23 JULY Friendship Robin Reed (207) 975-9821	13 AUGUST Merritt Bracket, Pemaquid Brent Fogg (207) 350-7712 Sheila McLain (207) 677-2100		