

# Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

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Bass Harbor

Newsletter #3



Mike Bernier's HALF DOZEN [OEM 42; 700-hp Volvo] and Nick Hadlock's MISTER E. [Calvin Beal 44; 750-hp John Deere] battling in Class N.

BASS HARBOR – At 0500 on the morning of the race, I stood on the Town Dock in Bernard and was surrounded by dense fog. It looked ominous, but a couple of fishermen said that it would lift about the time we were to start. As I was doing the sign-ins people, who came in by car, said that it was lifting all around us. There is no rain day for this race, Colyn Rich, who heads the race committee, said it was going to happen no matter what. We joked about shortening the course until you could see both ends of the course or just drawing the prizes and going home. Fortunately, Mother Nature allowed us to get them in.

The Bass Harbor races are one the venues racers like to go to. In the past they have come from all around Penobscot Bay and down as far as Jonesport and today was no different. Despite the dense fog racers came from Deer Isle, Islesboro, Jonesport, Milbridge, Stonington and Vinalhaven. As I was finishing the sign ups we could see across the harbor and out to the finish line. There was hope! As we made our way out to the finish line, I finished adding in the late arrivals and we had 40 entrants, which was really good. Once on the barge at the finish line, the middle of the course had pretty dense fog. We could see across the course, but we could not see the starting line. Fortunately, it slowly lifted, but it looked like

it could come back in at any moment.

There were just two boats in the Work Boat Classes, one in Class A (Skiffs 16-feet and under with outboards up to 30 hp, Operator 18 years and younger) and one in Class C (Inboards, outboards or outdrives 91hp and over), so they were run down together each getting the win in their respective classes. The winner of Class A was Hunter Oakes in his 13-foot Boston Whaler with a 25-hp Yamaha from North Haven. The winner of Class C was Nathaniel Robertson's DADDY DIDN'T BUY IT [Passamaquoddy 24; 250-hp Yamaha].

Next up were the Gasoline Classes. There has not been very good participation so far this year mostly due to boats not being ready. We have not seen any of the big, loud racers yet and by the rumours floating around the racing scene we may not. Of the five gas classes there was just one boat entered, Roy Hadlock's EMPTY POCKETS [Crowley 28; 350 Chevrolet] and that was in Class B (V8, Up to 375 cid, 24 feet and over).

The Diesel Classes were next and there was no entrants in just Class O (Non-working boats, any length, any horsepower). However, there were several with just one or two entrants and where possible we combined races. The only entrant in Class A (up to

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**Nathaniel Robertson's DADDY DIDN'T BUY IT [Passamaquoddy 24; 250-hp Yamaha] came up from Jonesport to win Work Boat Class C.**

235 hp, 24-31 feet) was Jacob Kirby's BARE BOTTOM [BHM 25, 220-hp John Deere] so he ran down with Class B (up to 235 hp, 32 feet and over). There were three boats on the line for Class B and it was a battle of the 210s. Wayne Rich's RICH RETURN [38' Robert Rich; 210-hp Cummins] led the competition up the course with Daniel Closson's NEVER ENOUGH [Newman 36; 210-hp Cummins] right on his stern, for second. Placing third was Brian Gordius' SUN DANCER [Stanley 36, 210-hp Caterpillar]. Three boats were on the line for Class C (236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet) and all the way from Jonesport Roy Fagonde's LAST DESIGN [E. Libby, Jr., 31; 300-hp Caterpillar] took the top spot. He was followed over by Pat Hanley's MICHAEL ALLAN [Mitchell Cove 32; 300-hp Cummins] in second and Ryan Mitchell's HANNAH PEARL [BHM 28; 265-hp John Deere] third. Class D (236-335 hp, 34 feet and over) had two boats entered and they ran down with Class C. The winner of Class D was Shawn Stanley's MISS MARGO [Mitchell Cove 35; 300-hp John Deere] and second went to Colyn Rich's RICH ENDEAVOR [Osmond 37; 430-hp Cummins]. Class E (336 to 435 hp, 24-33 feet) had three boats entered and it was going to be a close one between Danny Eaton's DESTINY [Crowley 28; 420-hp Yanmar] and Randy Durkee's AUDREY MAY [Holland 32; 425-hp Cummins] and it did not disappoint. As they came up the course DESTINY had the advantage, but as they neared the line AUDREY MAY kept gaining, but fell just short. Colyn Rich, who was starting the races, said he did think it was a fair start and called for a rerun. On their second run it was another close one right to the line and the judges all agreed it was too close to call so they both got first. Third went to Jim Gordius' HOLEMJEN [Mitchell Cove 32; 375-hp John Deere]. There was just one entrant in Class F (336-435 hp, 34 feet and over), Winfred Alley's FAITH MELLE [Libby 34; 425-hp Cummins] so he ran down with the two boats in Class G (436 to 550 hp, 28-35 feet). David Osgood's SPLIT SECOND [Crowley Beal 33; 550-hp D-8 Volvo] came over from Vinalhaven and was the boat to beat in Class G and it was a good race between she and FAITH MELLE, but at the line it was FAITH MELLE by two boat lengths. SPLIT SECOND took first in Class G and second went to George Lawson, Jr.'s MISS BETH III [Mitchell Cove 35; 550-hp John Deere]. There were four boats on the line for Class H (436 to 550 hp, 36 feet and over) and when the flag dropped Willie Coombs' MELYNDA M. [Wayne Beal 36; 500-hp FPT] from Prospect Harbor



**Wayne Rich's RICH RETURN [38' Robert Rich; 210-hp Cummins] leading the competition up the course with Daniel Closson's NEVER ENOUGH [Newman 36; 210-hp Cummins] right on his stern.**

jumped into the lead and never looked back. Right on his stern was Josef Guptil's INDIAN OUTLAW [Northern Bay 38; 500-hp Cummins] from Jonesport followed by Broddie Eaton's FALLEN ANGEL [Calvin Beal 36; 530-hp FPT] from Stonington. There were two boats in Class I (551 to 700 hp, 28-35 feet) and one in Class J (551 to 700 hp, 36 feet and over) so they were run together. Colby Oakes' TRIPLE X [Mitchell Cove 35, 650-hp Scania] from North Haven led all others to the finish line for the win in Class I with Travis Lunt's STEPPIN UP [Mitchell Cove 35; 580-hp FPT] from Bass Harbor just behind him for second. Carroll Staples' GOOSE [Mitchell Cove 37; 650-hp Volvo] was just behind the other two for the win in Class J. Again, there were two entrants in Class K (701 to 900 hp, 28 feet and over) and one in Class L (901 hp and over, 28 feet and over) so they were run together. In Class L was Jeremy Beal's MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II [Wayne Beal 32; 1,000-hp Isotta] and no one was going to get by him unless he developed an engine issue. Now, the two entrants in Class K was Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT] and Nick Wiberg's WITCHING HOUR [Northern Bay 36, 815-hp] and this was going to be good race. When the flag dropped MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II jumped right into the lead on the left side of the course. LA BELLA VITA was on the right side and slowed then turned and headed back to the starting line. WITCHING HOUR after crossing the finish line headed back and the race was run again. This time LA BELLA VITA looked like he had the advantage about halfway up the course over WITCHING HOUR, but just barely. At the line it was LA BELLA VITA by a boat length for the win. First place in Diesel Class M(A) (40 feet and over, up to 500 hp) was Allan Knowlton's SEA URCHIN [Young Brothers 45, 425-hp John Deere] from South Thomaston followed by Boomer Carroll's SHADY LADY [Calvin Beal 42; 450-hp Cummins] from Southwest Harbor. Six boats were on the line for Class M(B) (40 feet and over, 501 to 750 hp) and no one was surprised when Eric Beal's KIMBERLY ANN [Calvin Beal 42; 750-hp FPT] from Milbridge got the win followed by Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere] from Stonington. Third went to Patrick Hanley's SOPHIE MACK [Young Brothers 40; 610-hp Volvo] of Bass Harbor. In Class N (40 feet and over, 751hp and over) three boats were on the line and it was all Dana Beal's NATALIE E. [Libby 41; 1,000-hp FPT] of Beals Island slipping over the line in first. He was followed by





One of the best battles so far this year has been between Danny Eaton's DESTINY [Crowley 28; 420-hp Yanmar] and Randy Durkee's AUDREY MAY [Holland 32; 425-hp Cummins] in Diesel Class E.



David Osgood's SPLIT SECOND [Crowley Beal 33; 550-hp D-8 Volvo] came over from Vinalhaven and took the top spot in Diesel Class G.

Bill Haass' 44 OVER [Mussel Ridge 42; 1,000-hp MAN] and then Jason Gordius' MISS BEHAVIN' AGAIN [Duffy 42, 800-hp Caterpillar].

There were no entrants in Wooden Boat A, under 36-feet, but there were two boats on the line for Wooden Boat B, which was won by Jon Johansen's SARI ANN I [40' Johns Bay Boat, 375-hp 3208 Caterpillar] from Winterport with second going to RICH RETURNS.

No one came out for the Gasoline Free-for-All, but there were seven boats on the line for the Diesel Free-for-All. There was no surprise to see MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II streaking up the left side of the course in first. The real battle was for second between LA BELLA VITA and WITCHING HOUR with LA BELLA VITA sliding over in second with WITCHING HOUR back just by a boat length in third.

The top three boats in the Diesel Free-for-All headed back down for the Fastest Lobster Boat Race with the same results.

The final race of the day was Bass Harbor's Fastest Lobster Boat with seven boats entered. The winner was GOOSE, followed by STEPPIN' UP and SOPHIE MACK.

The racers gathered on the Bernard Town Dock for lunch and prizes. While there I got in a great conversation with Nick Wiberg over the races. We talked about how to get more racers to compete, maybe a large year end prize; and changing the classes due to the new engines now on the market.

It is now onto Moosabec Reach this Saturday and we are all hoping the fog stays away.

## FINAL RACE RESULTS

### BASS HARBOR LOBSTER BOAT RACES

25 June 2023

#### WORK BOATS UNDER 24 FEET

**RACE 1 - CLASS A: Skiffs 16-feet and under with outboards up to 30 hp, Operator 18 years and younger:** 1) ---, Hunter Oakes. **RACE 2 - Class B: Inboards, outboards, or outdrives 31-90hp: No Entrants.** **RACE 3 - Class C: Inboards, outboards or outdrives 91hp and over:** 1) *Daddy Didn't Buy It*, Nathaniel Robertson.

#### GAS POWERED WORK BOATS 24 FEET AND UNDER

**RACE 4- Gasoline Class A: 4 & 6 cylinder 24 feet and over: No entrants.** **RACE 5-Gasoline Class B: V8, Up to 375**



Second in Diesel Class H went to Josef Gupitl's INDIAN OUTLAW [Northern Bay 38; 500-hp Cummins] from Jonesport.

**cid, 24 feet and over:** 1) *Empty Pockets*, Roy Hadlock. **RACE 6-Gasoline Class C: V8, 376 to 525 cid, 24 feet and over: No entrants.** **RACE 7 - Gasoline Class D - V-8, 376 to 540 cid, 28 feet and over: No Entrants.** **RACE 8-Gasoline Class E: Over 525 cid, 28 feet and over, Turbos/superchargers: No entrants.**

#### DIESEL POWERED WORK BOATS 24 FEET AND UP

**RACE 9- Diesel Class A- up to 235 hp, 24-31 feet:** 1) *Bare Bottom*, Jacob Kirby. **RACE 10- Diesel Class B- up to 235 hp, 32 feet and over:** 1) *Rich Returns*, Wayne Rich; 2) *Never Enough*, Daniel Closson and 3) *Sun Dancer*, Brian Gordius. **RACE 11- Diesel Class C- 236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet:** 1) *Last Design*, Roy Fagonde; 2) *Michael Alan*, Pat Hanley and 3) *Hannah Pearl*, Ryan Mitchell. **RACE 12- Diesel Class D- 236-335 hp, 34 feet and over:** 1) *Miss Margo*, Shawn Stanley; and 2) *Rich Endeavour*, Coyln Rich. **RACE 13- Diesel Class E- 336 to 435 hp, 24-33 feet:** 1) *Audrey May*, Randy Durkee; 1) *Destiny*, Danny Eaton and 3) *Holemjen*, Jim Gordius. **RACE 14- Diesel Class F- 336-435 hp, 34 feet and over:** 1) *Faith Melle*, Winfred Alley. **RACE 15- Diesel Class G- 436 to 550 hp, 28-35 feet:** 1) *Split Second*, David Osgood; and 2) *Miss Beth III*, George Lawson, Jr. **RACE 16- Diesel Class H- 436 to 550 hp, 36 feet and over:** 1) *Melynda M.*,



Diesel Class I and J were combined as there was just one entrant in J. Colby Oakes' TRIPLE X [Mitchell Cove 35, 650-hp Scania] from North Haven won Diesel Class I.



The only entrant in Diesel Class J was Carroll Staples' GOOSE [Mitchell Cove 37; 650-hp Volvo].



From Lamoine, Bill Haass' 44 OVER [Mussel Ridge 42; 1,000-hp MAN] placed second in Diesel Class N.



The winner in the Diesel Free-for-All and Fastest Lobster Boat was Jeremy Beal's MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II [Wayne Beal 32; 1,000-hp Isotta] with second going to Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT] of Stonington.

Willie Coombs; 2) *Indian Outlaw*, Josef Guptill; 3) *Fallen Angel*, Broddie Eaton; and 4) *First Team*, Travis Lunt. **RACE 17- Diesel Class I- 551 to 700 hp, 28-35 feet:** 1) *Triple X*, Colby Oakes; and 2) *Steppin' Up*, Travis Lunt. **RACE 18- Diesel Class J- 551 to 700 hp, 36 feet and over:** 1) *Goose*, Carroll Staples. **RACE 19- Diesel Class K- 701 to 900 hp, 28 feet and over:** 1) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; and 2) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg. **RACE 20- Diesel Class L- 901 hp and over, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Maria's Nightmare II*, Jeremy Beal. **RACE 21- Diesel Class M(A) - 40 feet and over, up to 500 hp:** 1) *Sea Urchin*, Allan Knowlton; and 2) *Shady Lady*, Boomer Carroll. **RACE 22- Diesel Class M(B) - 40 feet and over, 501 to 750 hp:** 1) *Kimberly Ann*, Eric Beal; 2) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Shepard; 3) *Sophie Mack*, Patrick W. Hanley; 4) *Mister E.*, Nick Hadlock; 5) *Half Dozen*, Mike Bernier; and 6) *Defiance*, Jeremy Gilley. **RACE 23- Diesel Class N - 40 feet and over, 751hp and over:** 1) *Natalie E.*, Dana Beal; 2) *44 Over*, Bill Haass; and 3) *Miss Behavin' Again*, Jason Gordius. **RACE 24. Class O. Non-working boats, any length, any horsepower: No entrants.**

**RACE 25- Wooden boat, up to 35 feet 11 inches: No entrants.** **RACE 26- Wooden boat, 36 feet and over:** 1) *Sari Ann I*, Jon Johansen; and 2) *Rich Returns*, Wayne Rich.

**RACE 27- Gasoline Free for All: No entrants.**

**RACE 28 - Diesel Free for All:** 1) *Maria's Nightmare II*, Jeremy Beal; 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; 3) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg; 4) *Kimberly Ann*, Eric Beal; 5) *Triple X*, Colby Oakes; 6) *Goose*, Carroll Staples; and 7) *Fallen Angel*, Broddie Eaton.

**RACE 29- Fastest Lobster Boat:** 1) *Maria's Nightmare II*, Jeremy Beal; 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; and 3) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg.

**RACE 31- Bass Harbor's Fastest Lobster boat:** 1) *Goose*, Carroll Staples; 2) *Steppin' Up*, Travis Lunt; 3) *Sophie Mack*, Patrick W. Hanley; 4) *Miss Beth III*, George Lawson, Jr.; 5) *Rich Endeavour*, Coyln Rich; 6) *Holemjen*, Jim Gordius; and 7) *Rich Returns*, Wayne Rich.