

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

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Stonington

Newsletter #4



Mike Dassatt's SAVING GRACE [Holland 32; 450-hp, 460 Ford] and Lindsay Durkee's BLACK DIAMOND [Holland 32, 454 Chevrolet] it was even closer this time at the midpoint. SAVING GRACE got the win, but it came at the cost of a blown head gasket.

STONINGTON – 0430 came early on the morning of the Stonington Lobster Boat Races (Sunday 9 July). I made the Searsport dock at 0530 and Travis Otis' FIRST TEAM, Ed Upham's BLACK MAGIC and my CINDY JEN headed down the bay for the races. Fog was not too bad all the way to Stonington, but I am sure it kept some at home. We arrived at the Town Dock just after 0800 and that worried the race committee a little. Most venues do not think that they could run the races without me, but that is not true. I will say that it does make their life easier and one less thing to worry about when running these races is good. Once the computer and printer were set up sign ups were in full swing.

Jeff Eaton and crew had agreed to take over the races after last year. He had run the races more than 15 years ago and made some significant changes. He brought back the dance on Saturday night, which was packed, moved sign-ups back to the Town Dock, brought in a number of vendors for food and collected a vast amount of prizes.

Sign-ups were steady and when done we had 71 entrants. I am sure that more would have been there had there been no fog.

There first three races were for Work Boats under 24 feet in length. Seven boats were on the line for Work Boat Class A (16-

feet and under with outboards up to 30 hp, Operator 16 years and younger) and jumping instantly into the lead at the drop of the flag, Haven Ciomei's ESSIE GRACE [Holland 14; 25-hp Yamaha] from Deer Isle lead the others to the finish line with a speed of 26.3 mph. She was followed over the line by Landin Douglass' GRAY GHOST [Corson 14; 25-hp Yamaha] from Brooksville, followed by Allan Morgan's SHIT HAPPENS [Holland 14; 25-hp Yamaha] from Stonington. All the way from Freeport Mason Vintinner's SCREAM TIME [Corson 16; 90-hp Mercury] showed the way to the finish line in Work Boat Class B (Inboards, outboards or outdrives, 31 to 90 hp) with a speed of 42.7 mph. Joe Grego's JOE WHO [MFG 16½'; 60-hp Yamaha] came across in second and third went to Jeff Douglass at the helm of GRAY GHOST [Corson 14; 25-hp Yamaha]. It was another win for Nathaniel Robertson's DADDY DIDN'T BUY IT [Passamaquoddy 24; 250-hp Yamaha] of Jonesport in Work Boat Class C (Inboards, outboards or outdrives, 90-hp and over) with a speed of 39 mph. Noah Williams' RED RIDER [Wayne Beal 23; 150-hp Yamaha] of Deer Isle took second and Blake Zlotkowski's HARD 2 GET [Mitchell Cove 22; 115-hp] got third.

Next up was the John's Bay Boat Co. Race, which had three

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The winner of Work Boat Class A was Haven Ciomei's **ESSIE GRACE** [Holland 14; 25-hp Yamaha] of Deer Isle with a speed of 26.3 mph.



A blown tire on the way to the race did not stop Mason Vintinner's **SCREAM TIME** [Corson 16; 90-hp Mercury] of Freeport from taking the first position in Work Boat Class B with a speed of 42.7 mph.

boats on the line. When they reached halfway the advantage went to Ben Weed's **EMMA & ANDREW** [John's Bay 44; 700-hp Caterpillar] over Vance Bunker's **SARI ANN** [42' Johns Bay Boat; 660-hp Volvo]. **SARI ANN** continued to gain and slipped across the finish line in first. Third went to John Williams' **KHRISTY MICHELLE**.

There were only three boats in the five Gasoline classes, each in a separate class so they were run together each getting the win in their respective classes. For the first time, Mike Dassatt brought out **SAVING GRACE** [Holland 32; 450-hp, 460 Ford] and it was wondered how she would fair against Lindsay Durkee's **BLACK DIAMOND** [Holland 32, 454 Chevrolet], identical boats and about the same horsepower. As they neared the midway mark it was close with **SAVING GRACE** in front by a boat length and getting the win with a real close finish. **BLACK DIAMOND** won Gasoline Class C (V-8, 376 to 525cid, 24 to 29 feet); **SAVING GRACE** won Gasoline Class D (V-8, 376 and over, 28 feet and over) and a distant third came the winner of Gasoline Class A (4 & 6 cylinder 24 feet and over) **CINDY JEN** [34' Clinton Beal, 1964; 292 Chevrolet] skippered by Alonzo Alley.

Next up was the Wooden Boat Races. **CINDY JEN** was the only one in Class A (Any hp, up to 35'11") and **EMMA & ANDREW** [John's Bay 44; 700-hp Caterpillar] was the only entrant in Class B (Any hp, 36' and over). They were sent down together with each getting the win in their class.

Richard Quinn's **PRIORITIES** [Novi 28'; 210-hp Cummins] was signed up for the next two races, Novi Class and Diesel Class A (Up to 235 hp, 24 to 31 feet). Since he was the only one in the Novi Class he would run down for that win, but Ed Upham's **BLACK MAGIC** [Nauset 27; 135-hp Perkins] from Searsport got the win in Diesel Class A. Also running down with them was the only entrant in Diesel Class B (Up to 235 hp, 32 feet to 39 feet 11 inches), which was Brantley Ciomei's **SEA TRIALS** [Osmond 32; 220-hp John Deere]. There was one entrant in Diesel Class C (236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet), Roy Fagonde's **LAST DESIGN** [E. Libby, Jr., 31; 300-hp Caterpillar], and he raced down against the two boats in Diesel Class D (236 to 335 hp, 34 feet to 39 feet 11 inches), which was won by Dan Carter's **OUTNUMBERED** [Duffy 35; 300-hp John Deere] with Robin Dunham's **SAMANTHA ERIN** [Duffy 35; 315-hp Cummins] second. Danny Eaton's **DESTINY** [Crowley 28; 420-hp Yanmar] has been given Randy

Durkee's **AUDREY MAY** [Holland 32; 425-hp Cummins] a run for her money in Diesel Class E (336 to 435 hp, 24 to 33 feet), but to date just has not been able to get by her. Most knew that this was going to be one of the races to watch and it did not disappoint. When they hit the midway point **DESTINY** had a half a boat length lead over **AUDREY MAY** and held it all the way to the finish line getting her first win of the year. Third went to Ron Eaton's **GLORY BOUND** [Wayne Beal 28, 420-hp FPT]. Eight boats were on the line for Diesel Class F (336 to 435 hp, 34 feet to 39 feet 11 inches) and no one was surprised when they saw Winfred Alley's **FAITH MELLE** [Libby 34; 425-hp Cummins] leading all eight contenders to the finish with a speed of 40.1 mph. Second went to Royce Fifield's **CALYPSO** [Crowley Beal 33; 420-hp Cummins] followed by Bennett Gray's **BABA BUOY** [South Shore 34; 300-hp Caterpillar]. The only entry in Diesel Class G (436 to 550 hp, 28 to 35 feet) was David Osgood's **SPLIT SECOND** [Crowley Beal 33; 550-hp D-8 Volvo] from Vinalhaven so she ran up with Diesel Class H. split second lead the field to the finish, but who was going to get the win in Diesel Class H (436 to 550 hp, 36 feet to 39 feet 11 inches)? Willie Coombs' **MELYNDA M.** [Wayne Beal 36; 500-hp FPT] has been the dominate boat in Diesel Class H, but today she was bested by Jeremy Tyler's **ALL IN** [Northern Bay 38, 510 hp Volvo] as they finished one-two. Third went to Jeremiah McDonald's **MARGARET ANN** [Calvin Beal 36; 550-hp Nanni]. For the last couple of years there has been a battle between Gary Genthner's **LIL' LISA MARIE** [Mussel Ridge 28; 600-hp FPT] and Chris Smith's **MISTY** [Crowley Beal 33; 650 hp Scania] with **LIL' LISA MARIE** being the dominate boat in Diesel Class I (551 to 700 hp, 28 to 35 feet). With the drop of the flag **LIL' LISA MARIE** was off with **MISTY** right on her transom, but just could not catch her. Third went to Colby Oakes' **TRIPLE X** [Mitchell Cove 35, 650-hp Scania]. Heather Thompson's **GOLD DIGGER** [Wayne Beal 36; 675-hp Scania] was the boat to beat in Diesel Class J (551 to 700 hp, 36 feet to 39 feet 11 inches), but she has only signed up once so far this year, which was at Moosabec. There were four boats at the starting line and Scott Keenan's **DEAR ABBIE** [Northern Bay 38, 700 hp Volvo] got the win with a speed of 34.8 mph. Second went to Jason McDonald's **HARD GOINS** [Holland 38, 670-hp Cummins] and third was Eric Robbins' **SLEEPLESS NIGHTS** [Calvin Beal 36; 675-hp Scania]. It has been good to see the return of Nick Wiberg and **WITCHING HOUR** [North-



It was another win for Nathaniel Robertson's DADDY DIDN'T BUY IT [Passamaquoddy 24; 250-hp Yamaha] of Jonesport in Work Boat Class C with a speed of 39 mph.

ern Bay 36; 815-hp], the former UNCLE'S UFO/MISS KATIE, and the racing between Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT] in Diesel Class K (701 to 900 hp, 28 feet to 39 feet 11 inches). There is not much difference between the two and the result is real close racing from start to finish. At halfway LA BELLA VITA had the edge by a boat length and held on for the win. There was no question that the fastest boat at Stonington was Jeremy Beal's MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II [Wayne Beal 32; 1,000-hp Isotta] from Jonesport entered in Diesel Class L (901 hp and over, 28 feet to 39 feet 11 inches). She would face off against James Nelson's LESS THAN KNOT [Libby 34; 1,000-hp Isotta], which is fast, but does not seem to be dailed in and thus did not have enough to get by MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II. There were three entrants in Diesel Class M(A) (40 feet and over, up to 500 hp) John Williams' KHRISTY MICHELLE [44' Johns Bay; 500-hp Cummins], Alan Knowlton's SEA URCHIN [Young Brothers 45, 425-hp John Deere] and Chris Pope's OLD SCHOOL [Holland 41; 380-hp Cummins] and when the flag dropped they came up the course bow to bow. However, just before midway you could hear one add more throttle and OLD SCHOOL slowly worked her way out in front followed by SEA URCHIN and then KHRISTY MICHELLE. One of the best looking boats has got to be Eric Beal's KIMBERLY ANN [Calvin Beal 42; 750-hp FPT] from Milbridge, the dominate in Diesel Class M(B) (40 feet and over, 501 to 750 hp). He jumped right into the lead with Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere] right on his stern. Third went to Fred Herson's BELLA GRACE [Sargent 42; 750-hp John Deere]. Another great battle this year has been in Diesel Class N (40 feet and over, 750 hp and over) between Dana Beal's NATALIE E. [Libby 41; 1,000-hp FPT] and Ryan Lemieux's OBSESSION [Young Brothers 40; 1,000-hp Caterpillar]. Today was no different and as they neared midway they were bow to bow with a slight advantage going to NATALIE E., which is how they finished.

The next race was the Gasoline Free-for-All and the three gas boats were on the line. This was going to be another great race between BLACK DIAMOND and SAVING GRACE and it did not disappoint. You could tell when the flag fell as the throttles got pushed the engine on SAVING GRACE screamed out her stacks. Up the course they came, side by side and it was so close we had to wait for the announcement, which stated the winner SAVING



Vance Bunker's SARI ANN [42' Johns Bay Boat; 660-hp Volvo] neck and neck with Ben Weed's EMMA & ANDREW [John's Bay 44; 700-hp Caterpillar] in the Johns Bay Boat Race.



Dan Carter's OUTNUMBERED [Duffy 35; 300-hp John Deere] battling Roy Fagonde's LAST DESIGN [E. Libby, Jr., 31; 300-hp Caterpillar] in a combined race. OUTNUMBERED won Diesel Class D and LAST DESIGN took first in Diesel Class C.



One of the best battles 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] with AUDREY MAY getting the win each time so far. As they neared halfway it was close, but DESTINY had the edge and would get the win this day.



Scott Keenan's DEAR ABBIE [Northern Bay 38, 700 hp Volvo] got the win in Diesel Class J with a speed of 34.8 mph.



Another great battle has been between Nick Wiberg's WITCHING HOUR [Northern Bay 36; 815-hp] and Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT].

GRACE with BLACK DIAMOND second. However, SAVING GRACE was smoking out the port exhaust pipe, meaning she had lost a head gasket. Fortunately it was not more serious than that and she was repaired a couple of days later and back out fishing.

There were nine boats on the line for the Diesel Free-for-All. No one was going to bet against MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II and it was a good thing as she jumped right into the lead and never looked back. The big question was who would get second and that went to LESS THAN KNOT followed by WITCHING HOUR. What happened to LA BELLA VITA? Just after the flag was dropped she powered up, but then the engine threw a code and slowed to almost a stop. Instead of heading for the finish she did a U-turn and headed back to the starting line for the next race.

Winning the Andrew Gove Memorial Cup – Fastest Working Lobster Boat is a big deal. Six boats were on the line for this race and the better would favour LA BELLA VITA. As the leaders hit the halfway point LA BELLA VITA was bow to bow with WITCHING HOUR and by the time they slid over the finish line it was WITCHING HOUR getting the win, with LA BELLA VITA second and FAITH MELLE third.

There was just one race left, Fastest Boat Afloat, and again no one was surprised to see MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II leading the rest up the course. She was followed by LA BELLA VITA and then WITCHING HOUR.

After lunch and the prize ceremony on the town dock, the day of racing came to an end. Jeff Eaton and his crew, did an incredible job. Mid-week people were still talking about just how good the races were this year and that will likely translate into more racers coming next year. Jeff is already planning for a bigger event with a huge prize and I am sure he is going to get it.

FINAL RACE RESULTS

STONINGTON LOBSTER BOAT RACES
9 July 2023

WORK BOATS UNDER 24 FEET

Race 1 - CLASS A Skiffs 16-feet and under with outboards up to 30 hp, Operator 16 years and younger: 1) *Essie Grace*, Haven Ciomei (26.3 mph); 2) *Gray Ghost*, Landin Douglass; 3) *Shit Happens*, Allan Morgan; **No position given:** ---, Carson Parker; ---, Makoa Woolsey; *Jaws*, Julie Anna Jones; and *White Lightning*, C. J. Gray. **Race 2 – CLASS B Inboards, outboards or**

outdrives, 31 to 90 hp: 1) *Scream Time*, Mason Vintinner (42.7 mph); 2) *Joe Who*, Joe Grego; 3) *Gray Ghost*, Jeff Douglass; and 4) *Trouble*, Reagan Anderson. **Race 3 – CLASS C Inboards, outboards or outdrives, 90-hp and over:** 1) *Daddy Didn't Buy It*, Nathaniel Robertson (39 mph); 2) *Red Rider*, Noah Williams; and 3) *Hard 2 Get*, Blake Zlotkowski.

Race 4 – Johns Bay Boat Co. Race: 1) *Sari Ann*, Vance Bunker (23.2 mph); 2) *Emma & Andrew*, Ben Weed; and 3) *Khristy Michelle*, John R. Williams.

GAS POWERED WORK BOATS 24 FEET AND UP

Race 5 – Gasoline Class A – 4 & 6 cylinder 24 feet and over: 1) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen. **Race 6 - Gasoline Class B - V-8 up to 375 cid, 24 feet and up: No entrants.** **Race 7 - Gasoline Class C - V-8, 376 to 525cid, 24 to 29 feet:** 1) *Black Diamond*, Lindsay Durkee. **Race 8 – Gasoline Class D – V-8, 376 and over, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Saving Grace*, Mike Dasset (33 mph). **Race 9 - Gasoline Class E - V-8, Over 525cid, 28 feet and over, superchargers/Turbos: No entrants.**

Race 10 - Wooden Boat Race (Any hp, up to 35'11"): 1) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen. **Race 11 - Wooden Boat Race (Any hp, 36' and over):** 1) *Emma & Andrew*, Ben Weed.

Race 12 – Novi Class: 1) *Priorities*, Richard Quinn.

DIESEL POWERED WORK BOATS 24 FEET AND UP

Race 13 - Diesel Class A - Up to 235 hp, 24 to 31 feet: 1) *Black Magic*, Ed Upham; and 2) *Priorities*, Richard Quinn. **Race 14 - Diesel Class B, Up to 235 hp, 32 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Sea Trials*, Brantley Ciomei (19.5 mph). **Race 15 - Diesel Class C, 236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet:** 1) *Last Design*, Roy Fagonde (34.9 mph). **Race 16 - Diesel Class D, 236 to 335 hp, 34 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Outnumber*, Dan Carter; and 2) *Samantha Erin*, Robin Dunham. **Race 17 - Diesel Class E, 336 to 435 hp, 24 to 33 feet:** 1) *Destiny*, Danny Eaton (40.4 mph); 2) *Audrey May*, Randy Durkee; and 3) *Glory Bound*, Ron Eaton. **Race 18 - Diesel Class F, 336 to 435 hp, 34 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Faith Melle*, Winfield Alley (40.1 mph). 2) *Calypso*, Royce Fifield; 3) *Baba Buoy*, Bennett Gray; **No position given:** *Addie & Alden*, Brian Tripp; *Holly Lynn II*, Nick Haskell; *Islander II*, Jason Barter; *Southern Comfort*, Avery Waterman; and *Wicked*, Justin Boyce. **Race 19 - Diesel Class G, 436 to 550 hp, 28 to 35 feet:** 1) *Split Second*, David Osgood (26.2 mph). **Race 20 - Diesel Class H, 436 to 550 hp, 36 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *All In*, Jeremy Tyler; 2) *Melynda M.*, Willie Coombs; 3) *Margaret Ann*, Jeremiah Mac-



A shot of Mike Dassatt's SAVING GRACE [Holland 32; 450-hp, 460 Ford] smoking out of left bank due to a blown head gasket. No worries the gasket has been replaced and she is back fishing.

Donald; 6) *First Team*, Travis Otis; **No position given:** *Aliyah & Ivy*, Tyler Torrey; *Daddy's Gem*, Jason Clough; and *Fallen Angel*, Broddie Eaton. **Race 21 - Diesel Class I, 551 to 700 hp, 28 to 35 feet:** 1) *Lil' Lisa Marie*, Gary Genthner (41.1 mph); 2) *Misty*, Chris Smith; and 3) *Triple X*, Colby Oakes. **Race 22 - Diesel Class J, 551 to 700 hp, 36 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Dear Abbie*, Scott Keenan (34.8 mph); 2) *Hard Goin's*, Jason McDonald; 3) *Sleepless Nights*, Eric Robbins; and 4) *Quickstep*, Kevin Glover. **Race 23 - Diesel Class K, 701 to 900 hp, 28 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton (44.4 mph); 2) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg; and 3) *Calixto*. **Race 24 - Diesel Class L, 901 hp and over, 28 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Maria's Nightmare II*, Jeremy Beal (45.7 mph); and 2) *Less than Knot*, James Nelson. **Race 25 - Diesel Class M(A), 40 feet and over, up to 500 hp:** 1) *Old School*, Chris Pope (27.4 mph); 2) *Sea Urchin*, Allan Knowlton; and 3) *Khristy Michelle*, John R. Williams. **Race 26 - Diesel Class M(B), 40 feet and over, 501 to 750 hp:** 1) *Kimberly Ann*, Eric Beal (40.6 mph); 2) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Sheppard; 3) *Lisa Marie*, Bob Dutra; **No position given:** *Bella Grace*, Fred Hersom; *Catch 22*, Johnson Boyce; *Emma & Andrew*, Ben Weed; and *Mainely Texas*, Darrell Williams. **Race 27 - Diesel Class N, 40 feet and over, 750 hp and over:** 1) *Natalie E.*, Dana Beal (40.1 mph); 2) *Obsession*, Ryan Lemieux; 3) *Terrie J.*, Todd Pinkham; **No position given:** *Bounty Hunter IV*, Robert Jones, Jr. *Faye Renea*, Ben Hardy; and *Miss Brooks*, Josiah Rhys. **Race 28. Class O. Non-working boats, any length, any horsepower: No entrants.**

Race 29 - Gasoline Free for All: 1) *Saving Grace*, Mike Dassatt; 2) *Black Diamond*, Lindsay Durkee; and 3) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen.

Race 30 - Diesel Free for All: 1) *Maria's Nightmare II*, Jeremy Beal; 2) *Less than Knot*, James Nelson; 3) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg; DNF) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; **No position given:** *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Shepard; *All In*, Jeremy Tyler; *Dear Abbie*, Scott Keenan; *Faith Melle*, Winfield Alley; *Triple X*, Colby Oakes.

Race 31 - Andrew Gove Memorial Cup - Fastest Working Lobster Boat: 1) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg; 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; 3) *Faith Melle*, Winfield Alley; **No position given:** *Bounty Hunter IV*, Robert Jones, Jr.; *Fallen Angel*, Broddie Eaton; and *Triple X*, Colby Oakes.

Race 32 - Fastest Boat Afloat: 1) *Maria's Nightmare II*, J. Beal (54.3 mph); 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton (45 mph); 3) *Witching Hour*, Nick Wiberg; and 4) *Bounty Hunter IV*, Robert Jones, Jr.



All three entrants in Diesel Class M(A), John Williams' KHRISTY MICHELLE [44' Johns Bay; 500-hp Cummins], Alan Knowlton's SEA URCHIN [Young Brothers 45, 425-hp John Deere] and Chris Pope's OLD SCHOOL [Holland 41; 380-hp Cummins] came up bow to bow, but about halfway OLD SCHOOL pushed the throttle down and began to gain separation for the win. Second went to SEA URCHIN.



There has been some interesting racing between Ryan Lemieux's OBSESSION [Young Brothers 40; 1,000-hp Caterpillar] and Dana Beal's NATALIE E. [Libby 41; 1,000-hp FPT] and Sunday was no different. They were bow to bow at the midway point, but NATALIE E. slipped over the finish line first for the win.



Jeremy Beal's MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II [Wayne Beal 32; 1,000-hp Isotta] heading for the win in the Diesel Free-for-All and would also win Fastest Boat Afloat.