

# Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

Published by *Maine Coastal News*

2023

Harpswell

Newsletter #6

## LA BELLA VITA Big Winner at Harpswell



Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT] heading for the finish line in the Fastest Lobster Boat Race. Directly behind him is Leif Albertson's ALL SET [Holland 38, 1,200-hp MAN].

HARPSWELL-What a day (30 July) for a lobster boat race. When I arrived at Harpswell there was bright sunshine and the only issue was a good cool breeze coming out of the nor'west. Due to these conditions there were probably several small boats that decided not to race as they would be running right into the wind and waves..

Sign-ups were out on the water off Mitchell Field where the finish line was. Boats arrived steadily for over an hour and when sign-ups were complete we had 36 racers entered. Again, there were several classes with either no one or one boat and they were combined with another class to speed up the event and make it more interesting.

There were no entrants in Work Boat Class A so Work Boat Class B with six boats came to the line. The wind was still going to be a factor and the race committee hoped that no one decided to try and see if their boat could fly. As they came up it was a real bumpy ride and many got air and well in the lead, not letting up at all on the throttle was Andy Correa [Boston Whaler 15; 70-hp Evinrude]. Second went to Matt Newberg's MARGARITE [Sea Pro 17; 90-hp Suzuki] followed by Charles Johnston [JBM 14; 25-hp Yamaha]. There were only three boats in Work Boat Class C one being the start boat, Dave Johnston's CASCO MISS, which had someone

else stand in while he raced. CASCO MISS was the favourite, but as they came up the course he was back in third. Coming over in first was Nick Mackmun's DAVY JONES followed by David Jordan's ROE MAROZ [21'; 115-hp Yamaha]. Dave said of his third place finish that he had forgotten and did not close the windows and a lot of water was coming in and he had to slow as his poor crewmember was getting drenched.

The first races combined were for the wooden boats. In Wooden Boat A was just Jon Johansen's CINDY JEN [34' Clinton Beal, 1964; 292 Chevrolet], skippered by Al Strout, and two entrants in Wooden Boat B, Mike Lane's PHYLLIS P. [John's Bay 41; 350-hp Caterpillar] from Cohasset, MA and Scott Dugas' SAND DOLLARS III [41' Johns Bay Boat; 700-hp Caterpillar]. The race committee only needed to pay attention to the two in Wooden Boat B as they headed for the finish line. SAND DOLLARS III had the advantage with PHYLLIS P. back a couple of boat lengths.

Since there were only three boats in the Gasoline Classes, all in separate classes, they were sent down together. The boat many were looking forward to seeing run, was Steve Johnson's LYNN MARIE [Sisu 26; 632 Chevrolet]. He got LYNN MARIE back last year and put the big gas motor in, which is the one that had an acci-

NEEFA

**FPT**  
POWERTRAIN TECHNOLOGIES



**Andy Correa [Boston Whaler 15; 70-hp Evinrude] gets a little air in Work Boat Class B with a speed of 39.9 mph.**



**It was the first time this year Steve Johnson brought out his LYNN MARIE [Sisu 26; 632 Chevrolet] and took first in Gasoline Class E with a speed of 41 mph.**

dent being offloaded from the ferry a couple of years ago. As they came up the course, first over was Jim Koehling's BROWNEYED GIRL [Duffy 26; 454-hp Chevrolet] in Class C. LYNN MARIE was close, but should have been faster, still got the win in Class E. After a few minutes CINDY JEN slipped over for the win in Class A.

It has been interesting that there has been very few racers entered in the first four diesel classes. There were no entrants in Class A, C and O. The wind was now calming down, but there was still a slight chop and that was flattening as the races went along. There was just one entrant in Class B, Isaac Mitchell's CAPTAIN LUE [Stanley Greenwood 30; 130-hp GM] and one in Class D, Mark Davis' WHISKEY GIRL II [Duffy 34; 300-Isuzu], so they came down together, both winning their respective classes. Three boats came to the line for Class E with the early favourite being Randy Durkee's AUDREY MAY [Holland 32; 425-hp Cummins]. Class F had two boats so they came down together and it was Scott Meryman's K. E. II [Northern Bay 38; 405-hp Cummins] jumping right into the lead and never looking back. Second went to Camero Murphy's BLUE DOLPHIN II [Crowley 36; 402-hp 3406 Caterpillar]. There was just one entrant in Class G, Tucker Johnston's RIJO [Mussel Ridge 28; 550-hp], so he joined the three boats in Class H. When the flag dropped on the start boat, Nick Martinez's PRETTY WOMAN [Calvin Beal 36; 510-hp Caterpillar] slid out in front and lead the others to the finish. Second went to Ben Perry's MISTRESS [Calvin Beal 38; 500-hp C9 Caterpillar] and Jeff Conant's ALLISON & MORGAN [Osmond 38; 450-hp Cummins] got third. There was only one entrant in the next four classes, I, J, K and L. They were all sent down together, but who would come over the line first? Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT] is fast, but would Leif Albertson's ALL SET [Holland 38, 1,200-hp MAN] be able to hold him off? As they neared the finish line it was LA BELLA VITA, winner of Class K, followed ALL SET, winner of Class L. Gary Genthner's LIL' LISA MARIE [] won Class I and Sean Clemons' MEAN KATHLEEN [Wayne Beal 36; 700-hp Scania] won Class J. Four boats were on the line for Class M(A) and the favourite was Chris Pope's OLD SHOOL [Holland 41; 380-hp Cummins]. He slowly worked his way out front and got the win with Alan Knowlton's SEA URCHIN [Young Brothers 45, 425-hp John Deere] taking second followed by PHYLLIS P. There were four boats on the line for Class

M(B) and it was a close battle for first, which was won by Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere] with second going to Wayne Clemons' TEMPTATION [Young Brothers 40; 730-hp MAN] followed by SAND DOLLARS III. Three boats were on the line for the final diesel class, N, and the bets were on Andy Johnson's WHISTLIN' DIXIE [Holland 40; 1,000-hp Caterpillar]. For years she was the boat to beat in Diesel Class N and today was no different as she showed the way to the finish. Second went to Chip Johnson's FIVE STARS [Calvin Beal 42; 750-hp Renault-Mack] and third was Tom Clemons' 4 LADIES [Wesmac SW46; 1,000-hp Caterpillar].

Two boats came to the line for the Gasoline Free-for-All. Missing was LYNN MARIE, which we learned had an issue with her exhaust manifolds and was shooting flames out. CINDY JEN had nothing for BROWNEYED GIRL, who got the easy win.

There were nine boats on the line for the Diesel Free-for-All and this was going to be a good race between LA BELLA VITA and WHISTLIN' DIXIE for the top spot. As they came up the course it looked close, but LA BELLA VITA had the advantage and was increasing her lead. They finished one-two with third going to ALL SET.

Next up was the Slowest Boat Race, which means the one that comes in last is the winner. CAPTAIN LUE and CINDY JEN would face off and CAPTAIN LUE took the honours of Slowest Boat with a speed of 10 MPH.

CAPTAIN LUE was also given the win in the Novi Race.

Next came the Fastest Lobster Boat Afloat and it was LA BELLA VITA, followed by WHISTLIN' DIXIE and BROWNEYED GIRL.

BROWNEYED GIRL was the only entrant in the Fastest Harpswell Gas Working Lobster Boat and sailed down by himself for the win.

The final race of the day was Fastest Harpswell Diesel Working Lobster Boat with five boats on the line. The winner was WHISTLIN' DIXIE, followed by MEAN KATHLEEN and 4 LADIES.



In Diesel Class E. Jake Dugas' GUILTY PLEASURE [Mitchell Cove 32; 380-hp Cummins] is following Randy Durkee's AUDREY MAY [Holland 32; 425-hp Cummins] to the finish line in Diesel Class E.



Now this one is moving a lot of water.

## FINAL RACE RESULTS

### HARPSWELL LOBSTER BOAT RACES

30 July 2023

#### WORK BOATS UNDER 24 FEET

**Race 1 - Class A, Skiffs 16 feet and under, Outboard up to 30 hp, operators up to 16 years old: No entrants.** **Race 2 - Class B, Inboard, Outboard or Outdrive, 31 to 90 hp:** 1) ---; Andy Correa (39.9 mph); 2) *Margariette*; Matt Newberg (29 mph); 3) ---, Charles Johnson (29 mph); 4) *Miss Diane*, Ron Barrett; ) 68+1; Robert Johnson; and DNS) *Screen Time*, Mason Vintinner. **Race 3 - Class C, Inboard, Outboard or Outdrive, 90 hp and over:** 1) *Davy Jones*, Nick Mackmun (32.2 mph); 2) *Roe Maroz*, David Jordan; and 3) *Casco Miss*, Dave Johnston.

**Race 4 - Wooden Boat Race A, Any hp., up to 35 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen (15.2 mph). **Race 5 - Wooden Boat Race B, Any hp., 36 feet and over:** 1) *Sand Dollars III*, Scott Dugas (26 mph); and 2) *Phyllis P.*; Mike Lane.

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

**Race 6 - Class A, Four and Six Cylinder, 24 feet and over:** 1) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen. **Race 7 - Class B, V8, Up to 375 cid, 24 feet and over: No entrants.** **Race 8 - Class C, V8, 376 to 525 cid, 24 feet and over:** 1) *Brown Eyed Girl*, Jim Koehling (34 mph). **Race 9 - Class D, V8, 376 cid and over, 24 feet and over (Non-working racer): No entrants.** **Race 10 - Class E, V8, Over 525 cid, 28 feet and over, Turbos/superchargers, Alcohol and Nitrous:** 1) *Lynn Marie*, Steve Johnson (41 mph).

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

**Race 11 - Class A, Up to 235 hp, 24 to 31 feet 11 inches: No entrants.** **Race 12 - Class B, Up to 235 hp, 32 feet to 39 feet 11 inches: No entrants.** **Race 13 - Class C, 236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet 11 inches. No entrants.** **Race 14 - Class D, 236 to 335 hp, 34 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Whiskey Girl*, Mark Davis. **Race 15 - Class E, 336 to 435 hp, 24 to 33 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Audrey May*, Randy Durkee (28.3 mph); 2) *Captain Crunch*, Rob Lamarre (26 mph); and 3) *Guilty Pleasure*, Jake Dugas. **Race 16 - Class F, 336 to 435 hp, 34 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *K. E. II*, Scott Merryman (26 mph); and 2) *Blue Dolphin II*, Cameron Murphy (25.5 mph). **Race 17 - Class G, 436 to 550 hp, 28 to 35 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Rijo*, Tucker Johnston (33 mph). **Race 18 - Class H, 436 to 550 hp, 36 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Pretty Woman*, Nick Marti-



Scott Merryman's K.E. II [Northern Bay 38; 405-hp Cummins] got the win in Diesel Class F with a speed of 26 mph.



Second in Diesel Class F went to Cameron Murphy's BLUE DOLPHIN II [Crowley 36; 402-hp 3406 Caterpillar].



The winner of Diesel Class G was RIJO [Mussel Ridge 28; 550-hp], owned by Tucker Johnston of Freeport.



Parker Poole's NEW LEDGE [Stanley 44; 304-hp 871 Detroit] storming up the course for a fourth place finish at a speed of 10.8 mph.



Diesel Class M(B) won by Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere]. Second was Wayne Clemons' TEMPTATION [Young Brothers 40; 730-hp MAN].

nez (24 mph); 2) *Mistress*, Ben Perry (18 mph); and 3) *Allison & Morgan*, Jeff Conant. **Race 19 - Class I, 551 to 700 hp, 28 to 35 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Lil' Lisa Marie*, Gary Genthner (37 mph). **Race 20 - Class J, 551 to 700 hp, 36 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *Mean Kathleen*, Sean Clemons (24 mph). **Race 21 - Class K, 701 to 900 hp, 28 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton (44 mph). **Race 22 - Class L, 901 hp and over, 28 feet to 39 feet 11 inches:** 1) *All Set*, Leif Albertson (27 mph). **Race 23 - Class M (A), 40 feet and over, up to 500 hp:** 1) *Old School*, Chris Pope (26 mph); 2) *Sea Urchin*, Allan Knowlton (21 mph); 3) *Phyllis P.*; Mike Lane (18 mph); and 4) *New Ledge*, Parker Poole (10.8 mph). **Race 24 - Class M (B), 40 feet and over, 501 to 750 hp:** 1) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Sheppard (34.2 mph); 2) *Temptation*, Wayne Clemons (28.8 mph); and 3) *Sand Dollars III*, Scott Dugas (21 mph). **Race 25 - Class N, 40 feet and over, 751 hp and over:** 1) *Whistlin' Dixie*, Andy Johnson (38.4 mph); 2) *Five Stars*, Chip Johnson (35.4 mph); and 3) *4 Ladies*, Tom Clemons. **Race 26 - Class O. Non-working boats, any length, any horsepower: No entrants.**

**Race 27 - Gasoline Free-for-All:** 1) *Brown Eyed Girl*, Jim Koehling (37 mph); and 2) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen (12 mph).

**Race 28 - Diesel Free-for-All:** 1) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton (44.8 mph); 2) *Whistlin' Dixie*, Andy Johnson (37 mph); 3) *All Set*, Leif Albertson; 4) *Mean Kathleen*, Sean Clemons; 5) *Lil' Lisa Marie*, Gary Genthner; 6) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Sheppard; 7) *4 La-*



Andy Johnson's WHISTLIN' DIXIE [Holland 40; 1,000-hp Caterpillar] for years was the boat to beat in Diesel Class N and today was no different.

*dies*, Tom Clemons; 8) *Rijo*, Tucker Johnston; and 9) *Whiskey Girl*, Mark Davis.

**Race 29-Slowest Boat:** 1) *Captain Lue*, Jessie Mitchell (11.6 mph); and 2) *Cindy Jen*, Jon Johansen.

**Race 30-Novl Boats:** 1) *Captain Lue*, Isaac Mitchell.

**Race 31 - Fastest Lobster Boat Afloat:** 1) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton (44.1 mph); 2) *Whistlin' Dixie*, Andy Johnson (38 mph); 3) *Brown Eyed Girl*, Jim Koehling; 4) *Mean Kathleen*, Sean Clemons; and 5) *Whiskey Girl*, Mark Davis.

**Race 32 - Fastest Harpswell Gas Working Lobster Boat:** 1) *Brown Eyed Girl*, Jim Koehling.

**Race 33 - Fastest Harpswell Diesel Working Lobster Boat:** 1) *Whistlin' Dixie*, Andy Johnson (41 mph); 2) *Mean Kathleen*, Sean Clemons (32 mph); 3) *4 Ladies*, Tom Clemons (30 mph); 4) *Temptation*, Wayne Clemons; and 5) *Whiskey Girl*, Mark Davis.