

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

Published by *Maine Coastal News*

2020

Pre-Season

Newsletter #1



One of the best battles last year between KIMBERLY ANN and MISS AMITY.

It looks like we have made it through another winter and the Maine lobster boat racing season is fast approaching, just three and a half months away. First, we will have a brief meeting at the Maine Fishermen's Forum at the Samoset Resort in Rockport this Saturday (see details below).

The Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, which was held at Robinson's Wharf on Southport Island on 19 October, was brief and with very few issues or changes. Last year's sponsors (Elite Airways; New Hampshire Motor Speedway and Scania (Mack Boring) were thanked and expected to be back for the 2020 season. Even before the meeting we had Liferaft Services of York and D.C. Air of Winter Harbor sign up as new sponsors for 2020. I also have others that are interested, but more on that later.

There are no class or rule changes for this season. However, there is a minor change to sign ups. When a racer signs up, he will receive a schedule of the day's events. To eliminate confusion, we are going to mark on this sheet the races he is signed up for with the hope that this will eliminate problems on the race course.

The last item on the agenda was the 2020 schedule, which is:

JUNE

- 20 Boothbay Harbor Lobster Boat Races
- 21 Rockland Lobster Boat Races
- 28 Bass Harbor Lobster Boat Races

JULY

- 4 Moosabec Reach Lobster Boat Races
- 12 Stonington Lobster Boat Races
- 19 Friendship Lobster Boat Races
- 26 Harpswell Lobster Boat Races

AUGUST

- 8 Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races

- 15 Long Island Lobster Boat Races
- 16 MS Harborfest Lobster Boat Races (Portland)
- 16 Merritt Brackett Lobster Boat Races (Pemaquid)

OCTOBER

- 17 Awards Banquet & Dinner (Robinson's Wharf, Southport)

You will note that there are two races on 16 August: the Merritt Brackett Lobster Boat Races in Pemaquid and the MS Harborfest races in Portland. We were hoping that the Merritt Brackett Lobster Boat Races could be moved to the weekend before, but the town declined, so the two races will run the same day.

Rumors have been flying around most of the winter surrounding the upcoming racing season. Last fall, Cameron and Glenn Crawford, owners of WILD WILD WEST [West 28, 1,050-hp Isotta] did some engine tuning and have her up over 60 mph. Just how fast has not been said. The biggest news is Tom Clemons of Harpswell has sold MOTIVATION [Northern Bay 36, 1,000-hp Caterpillar] minus the engine to Alfred Osgood out on Vinalhaven. We are hearing that Alfred will be putting the big Mack in her. The bigger question is what will Tom be racing? In other news there is a Mitchell Cove 35 with a big Cummins generator engine on a V-drive coming out, but maybe not quite ready this year, Wayne Beal of Wayne Beal's Boat Shop in Jonesport is getting a Wayne Beal 32 powered with a Cummins and his son, Jeremy, will be repowering MARIA'S NIGHTMARE with a Cummins. Tim Toppins of Toppin's Diesel & Marine in Columbia Falls, is having a Mitchell Cove 35 finished off with a Scania engine and she will be out. Gary Genthner of Round Pond has purchased a Mussel Ridge 28 and he is expected to racer her.

We had an excellent season last year with the most boats ever competing and this one is shaping up to be even better!

Meeting at the Maine Fisherman's Forum at the Samoset Resort in Rockport this Saturday morning (7 March). This will be held in the Stevie Johnson Wedding Chapel (also known as the Golf Club).

The meeting will only take a few minutes to complete, but I have some very interesting Maine commercial fishing photographs from the collections at the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport.