

# Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

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2021

Pre- Season Update

Newsletter #1



Where did the spring go? Many racers are still scrambling trying to get their boats finished and sea trialed. They now have just two days before the first race of the season, which will take place at Boothbay this Saturday (19 June) followed the next day by Rockland.

Due to the pandemic last year was not easy for race organizers as there were a number of obstacles that they had to overcome to satisfy the powers to be. Of the usual 11 races held each year, we were only able to hold six of them. We even held the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony at Robinson's Wharf on Southport Island, albeit a small gathering of mostly just the winners.

Already there is a lot of great anticipation about the upcoming 2021 races. At the Annual Meeting and Banquet held last October there were no changes made to either the rules or classes. A tentative schedule was also introduced with all 11 events penciled in and over the winter all confirmed that they planned to run this year.

There still could be some minor changes so be sure to confirm the event is on and what the guidelines might be, especially if you are signing up to race.

I have made a change for racers who compete in multiple events. When you sign-up for your first race of the year you will not need to sign up again for any other race in 2021. HOWEVER, you will still need to come to the sign-up booth and say you are there and pay the entry fee. Theoretically this will make signups a little quicker.

Over the winter there was more talk about new boats, old boats coming out again and repowers than usual. Always the big question is can anyone break the speed records. The Gasoline record of 72.8 mph set by Galen Alley in FOOLISH PLEASURE at Stonington in 2011 is probably safe again this year. However, the Diesel record of 60.6 mph set by Cameron Crawford's WILD WILD WEST [West 28, 1,000-hp Isotta] set at

Bass Harbor in 2016 will likely fall. She only made two of the races last year, but we know she was unofficially doing over 63 mph at Jonesport. They have been working on her trying to get her race ready and plan on being at Boothbay.

Last year we hoped to see Alfred Osgood's STAR-LIGHT EXPRESS, [Northern Bay 36, 900+-hp Mack], the former MOTIVATION, but delays kept her on the hard for the 2020 season. Will she make an appearance this year? The last thought was that she might make an appearance at Stonington.

An interesting race could be Diesel Class K as there will be four Northern Bay 38s (Andrew Taylor's BLUE EYED GIRL; David Myrick's JANICE ELAINE; Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA and Ira Guttill's MYSTERY MACHINE) out all with about the same hp. JANICE ELAINE and LA BELLA VITA were both repowered this winter and now have 815-hp FPT. This should be a very close race as each of them will be right around 50 mph.

There are several new boats coming out and in the Diesel Class there are a couple to watch. Roger Kennedy of Kennedy Marine Engineering in Steuben built a Crowley 36 this winter and named her WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT. Even though she has a basic interior one can bet that she will be more than competitive in her class. The last time I talked with Roger he was still trying to find more speed, but one can bet he will have found it by Boothbay. Jeremy Beal of Wayne Beal Boat Shop in Jonesport is building a Wayne Beal 32 and we know he is always competitive. He finished her about three weeks ago and she was shipped to Kennedy Marine Engineering for final engine hookups. Jeremy was hoping that she would be ready for Boothbay.

The Gasoline class has been dominated by Shawn Alley's LITTLE GIRL [28' Calvin Beal Jr.] over the last several years. After blowing his engine in 2019 and running with an older performance engine the rest of that year he opted not to race last year. He was looking to either find another motor or rehab the blown one.

We hear that he has found an engine and will add some of the pieces from his blown motor to give her more horsepower, but probably will not be ready until the Moosabec races.

Shawn could have a couple of challengers for the top gasoline racer since FOOLISH PLEASURE will be coming back racing this year. She was purchased by Mark Freeman of York, who put a Chevrolet race engine in and has been testing her out. Mark Davis has purchased one of Jeremy Beal's NIGHTMAREs [Mussel Ridge 28, ex-Wayne Beal 28] and has put a big gasoline engine in her. The rumours say she is running about 50 mph and would put her right in the mix for the top gasoline racer. Another one in the mix will be a Bruno 35, which Steve Johnson has put his race engine in. This is the same engine that had a mishap last year before the Portland races when she fell off a ramp and was severely damaged. There could be quite a battle for the top spot.

As for new boats, Doug Dodge of Beals Island has finished his wooden 28-foot powered with a 350-gas engine. Doug was planning to be at Boothbay for the first race of the year, but there has been rumours that he might not be. Hopefully, there is a change of plans and he gets her over and brings her out as many want to see just how fast she is.

There is no question that all eyes are on Steve Johnson of Long Island as we know he has a turbine engine, with 2,380-SHP, which he is putting into a Crowley 33. No one is sure how this is going to work, but you can be guaranteed that this could be the year's show stopper! We do know that parts are being custom made for this project and hopefully she will be ready for Saturday's race. What class he is racing in? – Steve is always in a class of his own!

Over the last few weeks a number of racers say they are planning to be at the first race of the year in Boothbay. With the pent-up energy of those who have been locked up over the last year, this year could be one of the best we have ever had.!

# 2021 MAINE LOBSTER BOAT RACING



## SCHEDULE

<p><b>19 JUNE</b> Boothbay Harbor Ashlee Lowery (207) 808-9230</p>	<p><b>3 JULY</b> Moosabec Reach, Beals Island/Jonesport Roy Fagonde (207) 610-4607</p>	<p><b>25 JULY</b> <b>Harpwell</b> Amanda Peacock (207) 756-3104 Kristina York (207) 449-7571</p>	<p><b>21 AUGUST</b> Long Island Lisa Kimball (207) 332-3968 Amy Tierney (207) 317-1576</p>	<p><b>16 OCTOBER</b> Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet Robinson's Wharf, Southport Jon Johansen (207)-223-8846</p>
<p><b>20 JUNE</b> Rockland Nick O'Hara (207) 542-4348 Mike Mayo (207) 542-1879</p>	<p><b>11 JULY</b> Stonington Cory McDonald (207) 664-4525 Genevieve McDonald (207) 266-5113</p>	<p><b>14 AUGUST</b> Winter Harbor Chris Byers (207) 963-7139</p>	<p><b>22 AUGUST</b> Portland Katie Werner (207) 807-1832</p>	<p><b>All Races:</b> Sign-up 8 to 9 AM Races Start 10 AM</p>
<p><b>27 JUNE</b> Bass Harbor Colyn Rich (207) 479-7288</p>	<p><b>18 JULY</b> Friendship Robin Reed (207) 975-9821</p>	<p><b>15 AUGUST</b> Merritt Bracket, Pemaquid Brent Fogg (207) 563-6720 Sheila McLain (207) 677-2100</p>		<p><b>Exception:</b> Long Island: Sign up 10 to 11 AM, Start 12 PM.</p>