

Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

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Merritt Brackett - Pemaquid

Newsletter #9



Andrew Taylor's BLUE EYED GIRL [Morgan Bay 38, 900-hp Scania] and Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT] battling for the win in 801-hp and over, 28 to 39' 11" race.

PEMAQUID: For a couple of months before the Merritt Brackett Lobster Boat Races in Pemaquid it was announced that sign-ups would not be at the restaurant at the state park, but across the harbor at the Pemaquid Co-op. I arrived there just before 0800 and found the race committee all set up and ready. Initially, sign-ups were slow, but they certainly picked up and in the end they had 56 racers entered. Surprisingly, there were several that made the voyage from Winter Harbor to compete here, which is dedication. One boat that we have not seen a lot this year is Andrew Taylor's BLUE EYED GIRL, but he was here. He has been a dominate boat for a number of years and he was here to continue that domination.

It should also be noted that this is the only non-points race on the circuit. They also run different classes, which makes it interesting as many have to race others they do not usually compete with.

We finally had everything ready and headed out to the starting line about 1100. As usual the skiff races were like herding cats, but amazingly the judges were able to get finishes for almost all of them. One thing I did notice is that most of the entrants were real working skiffs with pot haulers. In the first race, Clamdigger and Lobster Pickers: Outboards 25 hp and under. Skiffs 16-feet and under. Age 18 and under, there were five boats on the line. With the

drop of the flag you could hear the engines scream as they headed for the finish. Jumping right into the lead was Devon Carter's LITTLE THING [14' aluminum; 25-hp Yamaha] winning by several boat lengths. He was followed over by Riley Carter in second and Blake Feltis' SKID MARK [12' Carolina Skiff; 30-hp Yamaha] in third. There were nine boats on the line for race 2 (Clamdigger and Lobster Pickers: Outboards up to 70 hp. Skiffs over 16-feet) and it was no surprise to see David Noyes' ZIPPIN [Corson 14; 60-hp Johnson] screaming up the course for a first place finish. Blake Feltis finished second and third went to James Fawcett's JIMBO [16' aluminum; 40-hp Yamaha]. Mason Vintinner's SCREEN TIME [Corson 16; 90-hp Mercury] has been the boat to beat this year, but at Pemaquid he would be in the unlimited class. Well, that did not matter as he flew up the right side of the course for an easy win. Jacob Noyes' ZIPPIN' TOO [Corson 15; 90-hp Nissan] was second followed by Spencer Winters' THE BIRD [Mako 17; 150-hp Johnson] in third.

It is a sad state of affairs, but there were no gasoline powered boats entered, so we skipped right to Race 7 (Diesel 175 hp and under, 24-feet and over). Three boats were entered and leading the way to the finish was Gregory Carter's LITTLE R & R [Seaway

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Devon Carter's LITTLE THING [14' aluminum; 25-hp Yamaha] winning the first race of the day with a speed of 20 mph.



David Noyes' ZIPPIN [Corson 14; 60-hp Johnson] screamed up the course for a first place finish in the second work boat class.

26; 140-hp Yanmar]. Caleb Sooke's WET DREAM [Repc 30; 165-hp Cummins] crossed the finish line in second and Joe Lane's SPIRIT OF 76 [Webbers Cove 34; 120-hp Detroit] took third. In the second diesel race (Diesel 176 to 210-hp, 24-feet and over) Bob Poland's C-GIRL [Flower's 33, 200-hp John Deere] jumped right into the lead and never looked back. Second went to Scott Poland's REVA J. [33' Poland; 200-hp Volvo] and in third was Ben Collyer's RAGNAROK [Duffy 34; 192-hp Volvo]. Next up was Diesel 211 to 250-hp, 24-feet and over and this race has been dominated by Don Drisko's MERGANSER [33' Calvin Beal Jr.; 230-hp Yanmar] for a number of years and today was no different. Second went to Hunter Prentice's OUTALINE [BHM 25; 240-hp Volvo]. It has been a couple of years since we have seen Raymond Carter's WHO'S BUYN [Flower 33; 300-hp John Deere], but he was here to show everyone his boat was still the one to beat in Diesel 251 to 350-hp, 24 and over. She was facing off against Mariana Feltis' MATT & PAT [Stanley 36; 300-hp 3116 Caterpillar], which just did not have enough to get by for the win. In Diesel 351 to 450-hp, 28 to 39 feet 11 inch and under it was Jake Dugas' GUILTY PLEASURE [Mitchell Cove 32; 380-hp Cummins] jumping right into the lead for the win. Darrell Fawcett's CRUSTACEAN FRUSTRATION [BHM 31; 430-hp Volvo], placed second and third was Josh Harvey's RUNNING LATE [Repc 37; 435-hp Caterpillar]. Five boats were on the line for Diesel 451 to 650-hp, 28 feet and over and the pre-race favorite after their performance at Winter Harbor the previous day would be Tucker Johnson's RIJO [Mussel Ridge 28; 550-hp Cummins]. As they came off the line Gary Genthner's LIL' LISA MARIE [Mussel Ridge 28; 600-hp FPT] was just leading David Osgood's SPLIT SECOND [Crowley Beal 33; 550-hp D-8 Volvo] up the course as they finished one-two. Third went to Zach Geyer's THUNDERSTRUCK [Mitchell Cove 35; 500-hp Caterpillar]. RIJO seemed to have an issue and finished in fifth. Next up was Diesel, 651 to 800-hp, 28 feet and over and there were two boats on the line Shawn Clemons' MEAN KATHLEEN [Wayne Beal 36; 700-hp Scania] and Spencer Dyer's THE CHAIN [Holland 38; 410-hp Sisu]. MEAN KATHLEEN slowly worked out in front and went on for the win. In Diesel 801-hp and over, 28 feet and over would determine who would be the dominate boat of the day as it pitted BLUE EYED GIRL against Jeff Eaton's LA BELLA VITA [Northern Bay 38; 815-hp FPT]. It was close as they came up the left

side of the course, but then LA BELLA VITA slowed, her engine having thrown a code and she went to idle. Now came those over 40 feet. The first of these races, Diesel up to 650-hp, 40 feet and over, saw two boats lined up for start, but KENNEBEC [Tug 42'; 450-hp], owned by Tucker Phinney, did not have much of a chance against Zach Stotz's ZELLA SUE [John's Bay 40; 500-hp Volvo]. Four boats were on the line for Diesel 651 to 800 hp, 40 feet and over. This should be a battle between Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere] and Chip Johnson's FIVE STARS [Calvin Beal 42; 750-hp Renault-Mack] and it was. Both jumped out in front with ALEXSA ROSE in the middle and FIVE STARS to the right. They were bow to bow all the way to the finish line when FIVE STARS surged ahead for the win. Third went to Adam Gamage's TORI LYN [Young Brothers 40; 750-hp John Deere]. The last diesel race was Diesel 801-hp and over, 40 feet and over, which had just one entry, Tom Clemon's 4 LADIES [Wesmac SW46; 1,000-hp Caterpillar]. Running with her just for fun in the Novi Class was John Albaum's BELUGA [Leblanc 24; 220-hp Suzuki].

Three boats came to the line for the wooden boat race, which was won by MERGANSER, with second going to ZELLA SUE and third to REVA J.

There were no entrants in the Gasoline Free-for-All so it was onto the Diesel Free-for-All. Six boats came to the line and the question was if LA BELLA VITA did not have a repeat issue would she be a threat to BLUE EYED GIRL? With the drop of the flag, BLUE EYED GIRL, running right next to LA BELLA VITA got a slight lead, but did not seem to gain much more the rest of the way down the course with LA BELLA VITA back right on her transom.

Five boats came to the line from the Diesel Free-for-All for the Fastest Lobster Boat Race and the top two were exactly the same. They were followed over by MEAN KATHLEEN, ALEXSA ROSE and FIVE STARS.

Next up will be the final weekend for lobster boat racing for the 2023 season. Saturday, the races are at Long Island and Sunday Portland. Sign-up for Long Island will be on the ferry dock starting at 1000 with a 1200 start. You can also sign up for Portland when signing up for Long Island. For those that did not sign up at Long Island for the Portland races the sign-up will be on PATIENCE, a big black Novi owned by Tom Werner, located on the finish line.



Giving it his all, is Eben Wilson of East Boothbay in RIPPAAH [Sturdy 14; 25-hp Yamaha], which placed fourth in the second work boat race.



It was no surprise to see Mason Vintinner's SCREEN TIME [Corson 16; 90-hp Mercury] flying up the course in the lead in the third work boat class.

We know that Steve Johnson has been working on LYNN MARIE and the talk is she should break 60 mph. There could be a great race in the offing if Jeremy Beal's MARIA'S NIGHTMARE II makes an appearance.

FINAL RACE RESULTS

MERRITT BRACKETT LOBSTER BOAT RACE RESULTS
13 August 2023

Race 1 – Clamdigger and Lobster Pickers: Outboards 25 hp and under. Skiffs 16-feet and under. Age 18 and under: 1) *Little Thing*, Devon Carter (20 mph); 2) ---, Riley Carter; 3) *Skidmark*, Blake Feltis; 4) *Dillon James*, Dillion Harvey; and 5) *Sadie*, Dalton Taylor. Race 2- Clamdigger and Lobster Pickers: Outboards up to 70 hp. Skiffs over 16-feet: 1) *Zippin'*, David Noyes (33 mph); 2) ---, Blake Feltis; 3) *Jimbo*, James Fawcett; 4) *Rippah*, Eben Wilson; 5) *Braley Mae*, Zach Gamage; 6) *Dirty Deeds*, Spencer Gamage; 7) ---, Gavin Parlin; 8) *Foggy Bottom*, Nate House; and 9) *Killer Bs*, Jared McLain. Race 3 – Clamdiggers and Lobster Pickers: Inboards or outboards – 71-hp and over, Skiffs 16 feet and over: 1) *Screen Time*, Mason Vintinner (42 mph); 2) *Zippin' Too*, Jacob Noyes; 3) *The Bird*, Spencer Winters; 4) *Trick or Treat*, Eben Lord; *No position given*: ---, Quintin Esparza; ---, Brent Fogg; ---, Tyler McFarland; 4 *Winns*, Ron Pottle; *Crusher Claw*, Josh Ward; *I Think So*, Todd Kelley; and *Mariah*, Mariah Koughan.

Race 4- Four and six cylinder gas, 24 feet and over: No entrants. Race 5 – Gas V-8 any cu. in. and under, 24-feet and over: No entrants. Race 6 Gas V8 Modified: No entrants.

Race 7 – Diesel 175 hp and under, 24-feet and over: 1) *Little R. & R.*, Gregory Carter (19 mph); 2) *Wet Dream*, Caleb Sooke; and 3) *Spirit of 76*, Joe Lane. **Race 8 – Diesel 176 to 210-hp, 24-feet and over:** 1) *C-Girl*, Bob Poland (20 mph); 2) *Reva J.*, Scott Poland; and 3) *Ragnarok*, Ben Collyer. **Race 9 – Diesel 211 to 250-hp, 24-feet and over:** 1) *Merganser*, Don Drisko (28 mph); and 2) *Outaline*, Hunter Prentice. **Race 10 – Diesel 251 to 350-hp, 24 and over:** 1) *Who's Buyn*, Raymond Carter (24 mph); and 2) *Matt & Pat*, Mariana Feltis. **Race 11 – Diesel 351 to 450-hp, 28 to 39 feet 11 inch and under:** 1) *Guilty Pleasure*, Jake Dugas (28 mph); 2) *Crustacean Frustration*, Darrell Fawcett; 3) *Running Late*, Josh Harvey; and 4) *Sheila & Ivy*, Bill McLean. **Race 12 – Diesel 451 to 650-hp, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Lil' Lisa Marie*, Gary Genthner (39 mph); 2) *Split Second*, David Osgood;



Gregory Carter's LITTLE R & R [Seaway 26; 140-hp Yanmar] heading up the course in the lead in Diesel 175-hp and under race.



Jake Dugas' GUILTY PLEASURE [Mitchell Cove 32; 380-hp Cummins] jumped right into the lead and never looked back winning the Diesel 351 to 450-hp race. To her right is Darrell Fawcett's CRUSTACEAN FRUSTRATION [BHM 31; 430-hp Volvo], which placed second.



Gary Genthner's LIL' LISA MARIE [Mussel Ridge 28; 600-hp FPT] leading David Osgood's SPLIT SECOND [Crowley Beal 33; 550-hp D-8 Volvo] up the course in the Diesel 451 to 650-hp, 28 to 39' 11" race. They finished one-two.



Shawn Clemons' MEAN KATHLEEN [Wayne Beal 36; 700-hp Scania] just getting separation from Spencer Dyer's THE CHAIN [Holland 38; 410-hp Sisu] in the Diesel 651 to 800-hp Diesel 28 to 39'.



Zach Stotz's ZELLA SUE [John's Bay 40; 500-hp Volvo] took first in the Diesel up to 650-hp, 40 feet and over race.



Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere] and Adam Gamage's TORI LYN [Young Brothers 40; 750-hp John Deere] in the Diesel 651 to 800 hp, 40 feet and over race.



How close was the finish in the Diesel 651 to 800 hp, 40 feet and over race? About 50 yards from the finish Chip Johnson's FIVE STARS [Calvin Beal 42; 750-hp Renault-Mack] looks like he is behind Matt Shepard's ALEXSA ROSE [Morgan Bay 43; 750-hp John Deere], but at the line FIVE STARS had the lead.

3) *Thunderstruck*, Zach Geyer; 4) *Fugitive*, Dexter Benner; and 5) *RiJo*, Tucker Johnson. **Race 13 – Diesel, 651 to 800-hp, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Mean Kathleen*, Shawn Clemons (35 mph); and 2) *The Chain*, Spencer Dyer. **Race 14–Diesel 801-hp and over, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Blue Eyed Girl*, Andrew Taylor (43 mph); and 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton. **Race 15 –Diesel up to 650-hp, 40 feet and over:** 1) *Zella Sue*, Zach Stotz (21.2 mph); and 2) *Kennebec*, Tucker Phinney.

Race 16 –Diesel 651 to 800 hp, 40 feet and over: 1) *Five Stars*, Chip Johnson (34 mph); 2) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Shepard; 3) *Tory Lyn*, Adam Gamage; and 4) *Ava Lucille*, Jason Lord. **Race 17 –Diesel 801-hp and over, 40 feet and over:** 1) *4 Ladies*, Tom Clemons (32 mph).

Race 18, Novi Boats: Exhibition) *Beluga*, John Albaum.

Race 19 – Wooden Boats, diesel or gas, 24-feet and over: 1) *Merganser*, Don Drisko (29 mph); 2) *Zella Sue*, Zach Stotz; and 3) *Reva J.*, Scott Poland.

Race 20 – Gas Free-for-All, 24-feet and over: No entrants.

Race 21 – Diesel Free-for-All, 24-feet and over: 1) *Blue Eyed Girl*, Andrew Taylor (45 mph); 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; 3) *Mean Kathleen*, Shawn Clemons; 4) *Five Stars*, Chip Johnson; 5) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Shepard; and 6) *4 Ladies*, Tom Clemons.

Race 22 – Fastest Lobster Boat Afloat, Must place 1, 2 or 3 in races 17 or 18 to qualify: 1) *Blue Eyed Girl*, Andrew Taylor (45 mph); 2) *La Bella Vita*, Jeff Eaton; 3) *Mean Kathleen*, Shawn Clemons; 4) *Alexsa Rose*, Matt Shepard; and 5) *Five Stars*, Chip Johnson.