

# Maine Lobster Boat Racing Newsletter

2014

Moosabec Reach

Newsletter #3



Matthew Merchant's CHIX DIG IT and Jeff Strout's NEVER ENOUGH going at it Diesel Class N.

MOOSABEC REACH – As last week was coming to an end there was a lot of talk centering round the Moosabec Reach lobster boat races that were scheduled for 5 July. Plans were made, boats were being tested and then Mother Nature changed everything. As Hurricane or Tropical Storm, Andrew made his way up the East Coast it became evident that the weather for 5 July was not going to be good, high winds and rain. On Saturday, race organizer Erick Blackwood made the decision to postpone the races one day, which was forecast to be sunny with a light southwest breeze.

The forecast was right, the overcast sky cleared, but the wind was a little stronger than expected out of the sou'west and the temperature was about 70. Driving down to Jonesport from Route 1 you could see tree limbs broken off and even a number of trees blown down. Erick added that there was a lot of damage and the power had gone out for much of the area on Saturday and some of those customers were not expected to be back on line for a couple of days. Sign up was steady and in the end there were 66 boats entered: 17 in the work boat (three of which were in the Recreational Race); 6 in the Gasoline Classes; and 43 in the Diesel Classes. They were down 18 boats over last year, but this was probably due to cancelling the races on Saturday because of the

weather and/or because it was Sunday.

New boats signed up for this event. They were: in Class A Work Boats, McKenzie Mills' MOUSE TRAP, which was a homemade 15-footer with an 18-hp outboard; and Noah Tobias Carver's DAWN TREADER, 16-foot Starcraft, 25-hp Mariner. In Work Boat Class B, Daniel Gray's 19-foot Eastporter, 70-hp Yamaha; and Mathew Drisko's GROUND KEEPER, 22-foot Novi, 90-hp Johnson. In Work Boat Class C was Sidney Look's K. O. B. EXPRESS, 23-foot Novi, 115-hp Mercury. In Gasoline Class A James Robinson's MISS KITTY, a North Atlantic 24, 6 cylinder Chevrolet. In Diesel Class A, Arlin Alley sold UNCLE'S ANGELS [28-foot Robert Rich, 292 Chevrolet] and purchased a Cape Dory 28, powered with a 210-hp Cummins and renamed her SHELL SHOCKED. In Diesel Class F, Darren Graham's SEADUCTION, Crowley 36, 365-hp FPT; and Sid Merchant's MORGAN & STANLEY, Repco 37, 430-hp Cummins. In Diesel Class H, Oscar Beal's PAPA'S PRIDE, Wayne Beal 36, 500-hp FPT. In Diesel Class M Stephen Geel's HAKUNA MATATA, Libby 41, 700-hp C12 Caterpillar; and as mentioned in the last newsletter, Colin Alley sold AMANDA JOY & LOGI BEAR, now JOY FRANCES, and now has a 40-foot Novi, 3208 375-hp

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**Roger Kennedy's WTF running the Reach for the win in Diesel Class I.**



**Shawn Alley's LITTLE GIRLS got a new engine and did well. She won Wooden Boat Race, Gasoline Class D and took second in the Gasoline Free-for All.**

Caterpillar. In Diesel Class N, Patrick Feeney of Cutler built a new FRAID KNOT over the winter. She is a Calvin 46 powered with a 1,050-hp C18 Caterpillar.

There were also a few changes noted. In Work Boat Class B, Mitch White's BAY KING changed from a 40 to 70-hp Mercury outboard. In Gasoline Class D Chad Libby's NIGHTMARE [Young Brothers 30] was repowered with a 454 Chevrolet. One of the big changes was Galen Alley putting in a new engine in FOOLISH PLEASURE. She now has a 712 cubic inch Ford. In Diesel Class A, Josef Guptil purchased the former LITTLE LADIES [1999 Osmond 27, 220-hp John Deere], which was formerly owned by Christopher Beal. She had a respectable racing career and retired from racing in 2006. Derrick Beal's MISS BADONKADONK was repowered from a 210-hp Cummins to a 500-hp FPT. In Diesel Class N Patrick Feeney sold FRAID KNOT, the Wayne Beal 40, C15 855-hp Caterpillar to Andrew Hall.

There has always been a concern about running recreational boats at the lobster boat races, mostly due to liability issues. Moosabec is the only venue that continued running them, but last year they opted not to. However over the winter there was a change of heart and they were put on the schedule for this year as the first race of the day. It is always a great battle between Alton Smith's JOHNNY B. GOODE and Craig Church's EGADS. Today was no different and everyone was glued to watching them come up the course, mostly out of the water, but steady with JOHNNY B. GOODE grabbing the win by a boat length with a speed of 85 mph.

The Work Boat Classes were run a little different. In Class A (Skiffs 16 feet and under, Outboards up to 30 hp, operators up to 18 years old), Michael Gray's SHIT DIGGER [14'; 25-hp Yamaha] was in a close race with Noah Tobais Carver's DAWN TREADER [Starcraft 16; 25-hp Mariner], and crossed the line with a two boat length lead. A distant third was Mills' MOUSE TRAP. In Class B (Clam/Wrinkle Boat, up to 90 hp) three boats were on the line. The dominate boat in the class, and has been for years, is Ralph Davis' ALPEX [16', 90-hp Johnson], but he is always challenged by Doug Dodge, Jr. and today was no different as they came up at 47 mph with ALPEX crossing the line just feet ahead of Doug. Third

went to Dennis McCormack's BIG ENOUGH [Mako 19, 90-hp Yamaha], but he was disqualified for only having one person in the boat. In Class C (Working Lobster Boat (Mounted Hauler), up to 60 hp) there were no entrants. In Class D (Working Lobster Boat (Mounted Hauler), 61 hp and over) seven boats were entered. The top three boats were close and first to the line was Michael Crotto's LIZA JANE [22'; O/D 185-hp Ford], followed by Herman Gray's FOG CUTTER [16' Crestliner; 48-hp Johnson] and Mitch White's BAY KING [18', 70 hp Mercury].

The Moosabec Races usually have a large turnout of work boats, those under 24 feet in length, but not this year. Again the change of date may have been the reason. The reason for these classes is to give the younger fishermen a chance to compete. Over the last several years the numbers have declined, but Moosabec has held strong and probably will be again next year.

Next up was the Wooden Boat Race. Doug Dodge had been testing BRENDA [26' Doug Dodge, 350 Chevrolet] out on the Reach days before the race and said that he was doing 39 mph. Last year he had a problem and thought it was a gear. However after digging into the engine he discovered that one of the studs was broken. He noted that they were all too small and changed them out. Shawn Alley's LITTLE GIRLS [28-foot Calvin Beal, Jr.] was back together with a 460 Ford engine, which rumour says he obtained from Dana Beal. This engine came out of his LITTLE DARLIN', which was a 25-foot wooden boat, the last boat built Clinton Beal in 1981. Her last race with this engine was in 2004, but unfortunately I have no speeds listed. She was then switched over to diesel and would not compete again until Moosabec Races in 2007 and was then retired. The rumours were also saying that he was doing about 42 mph. When the flag dropped everyone could hear their engines screaming as they ran up the course and at the finish it was LITTLE GIRLS by a boat length.

In the Gasoline Classes there were six entrants, one in Class A (Four and Six Cylinder, 24 feet and over): MISS KITTY; no entrants in Class B (V8, Up to 375 cid, 24 feet and over); two in Class C (V8, 376 to 525 cid, 28 feet and over) BRENDA and from Islesboro Randy Durkee's BLACK DIAMOND [Holland 32, 454 Chevrolet]; two in Class D (V-8, 376 to 540 cid, 28 feet and



**Galen Alley has a new engine in FOOLISH PLEASURE and showed well. Unfortunately she did not make it out for the final race of the day due to an oil pressure issue.**



**Nick Wiberg's MISS KATIE wins Diesel Class E.**

over), LITTLE GIRLS and Chad Libby's NIGHTMARE [Young Brothers 30, 454 Chevrolet] and in Class E (V-8, Over 525 cid, 28 feet and over, superchargers/Turbos), FOOLISH PLEASURE. Class A and C were combined with MISS KITTIE automatically getting her Class A win. BLACK DIAMOND did her best but just did not have enough for BRENDA, who got the Class C win. Class D and E were also combined and everyone wanted to see just what Galen had with his new engine. Again as the flag dropped the sound of screaming gasoline engines permeated the Reach. FOOLISH PLEASURE was doing well on the Beals Island side of the course and when he neared the line he give her a lot more throttle, but because he was side to no speed could be obtained. Second over the line was LITTLE GIRLS and then NIGHTMARE.

Now it was the Diesel Classes turn. There were two entrants in Class A (Up to 235 hp, 24 to 31 feet), which was won by HOT SHOT with Arlin Alley's new boat SHELL SHOCKED [Cape Dory 28, 210-hp Cummins] second. Another two boats were on the line for Class B (Up to 235 hp, 32 feet and over). Chad Libby's MYRTLE BELLE [Libby 34, 200-hp John Deere] faced off against the start boat, which was Steve Carver's BIGGER DIRLS [Holland 32, 225-hp John Deere]. As they came up the course BIGGER DIRLS was in the lead and when she crossed the finish line she had a three boat length lead. In Class C (236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet) Richard Alley's FAMILY'S ALLIANCE [Webber's Cove 26; 305-hp Cummins] jumped out to an early lead and went on to win by three boat lengths over Steven Hall's OCEAN PRIUS II. Next up was Class D (236 to 335 hp, 34 feet and over), which had six boats entered. This class has been dominated the last several years by Dana Beal's RIGHT STUFF [Libby 34; 300 hp Caterpillar], but as he came up the course in the lead he slowed and Zachary Geel's BARE BOTTOM [Libby 38, 300-hp Caterpillar] took the lead and the win. Third over the line was Troy Crowley's ASHLEY NICOLE [Libby 34, 300-hp John Deere]. An interesting battle in this class was for last place as Thurman Alley's JOYCE ANN [Crowley 36; 260-hp Cummins] and Jason Faulkingham's TYLER & HANNAH [Stanley 36; 315-hp Cummins] slowly worked their way up the course. We stopped using the radar gun and switched to a calendar. After several minutes of suspense JOYCE ANN slipped



**David Myrick's JANICE ELAINE won her class, second in Diesel Free-for-All and won the World's Fastest Working Lobster Boat title.**

## *Maine Coastal News*

**Covering Maine Lobster Boat Racing Since 1988.**

**No one covers lobster boat racing  
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**Patrick Faulkingham's GRAMP'S BIRD took the top spot in Diesel Class M.**



**Patrick Feeney's new FRAID KNOT won Diesel Class N.**

over the line by half a boat length over TYLER & HANNAH. Nick Wiberg of Stonington brought MISS KATIE [Holland 31; 355 hp Cummins] and went up against two others in Class E (336 to 435 hp, 24 to 33 feet) and easily got the win by four boat lengths. Second went to Bill Merchant's HARD 2 HANDLE [Wayne Beal 39; 210 hp Caterpillar] with Harris Norton's FATHER'S FAVORITE [32' Novi; 350-hp Caterpillar] third. One of the more hotly contested classes would be F (336 to 435 hp, 34 feet and over) when eight boats came to the line. LeBaron Libby's GRAMP'S LEGACY [Libby 34; 410-hp FPT] has shown some good speed in the past, but he was getting a real battle from Winfred Alley's VICTORIA ANN [Calvin Beal 34; 430-hp Cummins]. GRAMP'S LEGACY took the win with VICTORIA ANN second. The battle for third was too close to call and the race committee handed out a tie between Brent Davis' HEE HAW [Wayne Beal 34; 220-hp John Deere] and Mike Smith's WHY KNOT [Libby 34; 420-hp Caterpillar]. There were no entrants in Class G (436 to 550 hp, 28 to 35 feet). The dominate boat in Class H (436 to 550 hp, 36 feet and over) has been Travis Otis' FIRST TEAM [Northern Bay 36; 410-hp Sisu 645], but he did not make it down. A couple of boats to watch were Brian Kennedy's MADISON ALEXA [Osmond 37; 500-hp Cummins] and Robert Alley, Jr.'s ANGEL'S BABY [Calvin Beal 36, 550-hp John Deere]. Others wanted to see just how Derrick Beal's MISS BADONKADONK and Oscar Beal's PAPA'S PRIDE did as they both were Wayne Beal 36s with 500-hp FPT engines. MADISON ALEXA grabbed the lead early and slowly put a couple of boat lengths between her and ANGEL'S BABY, who crossed second. Third went to MISS BADONKADONK and DEBT-ICATION [Flowers 38, 525-hp John Deere] was fourth. Since there was only one entrant in Class I (551 to 700 hp, 28 to 35 feet) Roger Kennedy's WHISKEY-TANGO-FOXTROT (WTF) [28' Northern Bay, 560-hp FPT], and on in Class J (551 to 700 hp, 36 feet over) David Myrick's JANICE ELAINE [Northern Bay 38; 610-hp Cummins] they were raced together. There were no entrants in either Class K (701 to 900 hp, 28 feet and over) or Class L (901 hp and over, 28 feet and over). Eight boats came to the line in Class M (40 feet and over, up to 750 hp) and it was going to be a real battle for the top spot. At the first two races, Boothbay and Rockland, Patrick Faulkingham's GRAMP'S BIRD [Osmond 40; 700-hp FPT] and Dixon Smith's SIZE MATTERS [Libby

41; 750-hp FPT] each had a first and second. GRAMP'S BIRD raced at Bass Harbor and got first, but SIZE MATTERS was a no show. Who was going to win this one? As they came up the course GRAMP'S BIRD quickly got into the lead with SIZE MATTERS back about a boat length and that is the way they crossed. Third went to HAKUNA MATATA and fourth was JOY FRANCES [Libby 41, 593-hp FPT]. When the five boats in Class N (40 feet and over, 750 hp and over) came off the line there was someone a little more anxious than they should have been and a false start was called. On the second start FRAID KNOT jumped into the lead with HURRICANE right on her transom but FRAID KNOT held on for the win with a two boat length lead. Third went to Matthew Merchant's CHIX DIG IT [Calvin Beal 44, 800-hp Caterpillar].

Five boats came to the line for the Gasoline Free-for-All and without issues playing apart in the results everyone knew pretty much who was going to win. FOOLISH PLEASURE was challenged at the start by some small rollers, but he stayed tight to the Beals side of the course and got into smoother water and went on for the easy win. Second went to LITTLE GIRLS and grabbing third was NIGHTMARE.

There were six boats entered in the Diesel Free-for-All and this was going to be exciting as some of these boats were close in speed. It was no surprise as WTF came over the line first with second going to JANICE ELAINE. Third over was FRAID KNOT followed by MADISON ALEXA and SIZE MATTERS.

The Moosabec and Stonington lobster boat races both opt to race working and non-working lobster boats separately. The way they define working is if you make your living from that boat. Only three boats came to the line for the World's Fastest Working Lobster Boat. When the flag dropped JANICE ELAINE jumped into the lead with FRAID KNOT not far behind. JANICE ELAINE kept adding to her lead and took the win. Third went to BIGGER DIRLS.

The final race of the day was the World's Fastest Recreational Lobster Boat. Everyone was hoping for a contest between WTF and FOOLISH PLEASURE, but FOOLISH PLEASURE opted out as they were having a problem with oil pressure. So just WTF came down the course for the win.

Following the race Erick Blackwood announced that this would be his last year running the races. He has been looking

for a replacement, but to date no one has stepped up. Not many understand the commitment made by race organizers putting on one of these events. It is a lot of work and at times it is a thankless job. No matter what the decision is someone will not like it. The reward is a great day of racing, no accidents on the race course, and the other ninety-nine percent telling you they had a great time.

Now it is onto Stonington and one can be guaranteed that this will have an incredible turn out, as they always do.

Racers take note that there might be an issue with the Harpswell races. I am trying to get a response from the Coast Guard and see where they stand. Stay tuned!

# Race Results

## MOOSEBEC REACH LOBSTER BOAT RACES

5 July 2014

### RECREATIONAL BOAT

**Race 1. Recreational boats:** 1) *Johnny B. Goode*, Alton Smith (85 mph); 2) *Egads*, Craig Church; and 3) ---, Nick Graham.

### WORK BOATS UNDER 24 FEET.

**Race 2. Class A, Skiffs 16 feet and under, Outboards up to 30 hp, operators up to 18 years old:** 1) *Shit Digger*, Michael Gray (28 mph); 2) *Dawn Treader*, Noah Tobais Carver; 3) *Mouse Trap*, McKenzie Mills; and DNS) *Karli Madison*, Kaci Alley.

**Race 3. Class B, Clam/Wrinkle Boat, up to 90 hp:** 1) *Alpex*, Ralph Davis (47 mph); 2) ---, Doug Dodge, Jr.; and DSQ) *Big Enough*, Dennis McCormick. **Race 4. Class C, Working Lobster Boat (Mounted Hauler), up to 60 hp: No Entrants.** **Race 5. Class D, Working Lobster Boat (Mounted Hauler), 61 hp and over:** 1) *Liza Jane*, Michael Crotto (35.4 mph); 2) *Fog Cutter*, Herman Gary; 3) *Bay King*, Mitch White; 4) *Channel Surfer*, Seth Millikin; **The following were not given a position:** ---, Daniel Gray; *KOB Express*, Sidney Look; and *Ground Keeper*, Matthew Drisko.

**Race 6. Wooden Boat Race:** 1) *Little Girls*, Shawn Alley (36 mph); and ) *Brenda*, Doug Dodge (33 mph).

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

**Race 7. Class A, Four and Six Cylinder, 24 feet and over:** 1) *Miss Kitty*, James Robinson (11.2 mph). **Race 8. Class B, V8, Up to 375 cid, 24 feet and over: No Entrants.** **Race 9. Class C, V8, 376 to 525 cid, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Brenda*, Doug Dodge (35.3 mph); and 2) *Black Diamond*, Randy Durkee. **Race 10 - Gasoline Class D - V-8, 376 to 540 cid, 28 feet and over:** 1) *Little Girls*, Shawn Alley (42.6 mph); and 2) *Nightmare*, Chad Libby. **Race 10A. - Gasoline Class E - V-8, Over 525 cid, 28 feet and over, superchargers/Turbos:** 1) *Foolish Pleasure*, Galen Alley (48.6 mph).

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

**Race 11. Class A, Up to 235 hp, 24 to 31 feet:** 1) *Hot Shot*, Josef Guptil (25.8 mph); and 2) *Shell Shocked*, Arlin Alley. **Race 12. Class B, Up to 235 hp, 32 feet and over:** 1) *Bigger Dirls*, Steve Carver (25.3 mph); and 2) *Myrtle Belle*, Chad Libby. **Race 13. Class C, 236 to 335 hp, 24 to 33 feet:** 1) *Family Alliance*, Richard Alley (26.8 mph); and 2) *Ocean Prius II*, Steven Hall. **Race 14. Class D, 236 to 335 hp, 34 feet and over:** 1) *Bare Bottom*, Zachary Geel (28.2 mph); 2) *Right Stuff*, Dana Beal; 3) *Ashley Nicole*, Troy Crowley; 4) *Endangered Species*, Brian



Doug Dodge's BRENDA.



Chad Libby's NIGHTMARE was repowered but just did not have enough to get LITTLE GIRLS.



Josef Guptil's HOT SHOT competing in Diesel Class A.



Mike Smith's **ENDANGERED SPECIES** took fourth in Diesel Class D.



Brian Kennedy's **MADISON ALEXA** gets by Robert Alley, Jr.'s **ANGEL'S BABY** for the win in Diesel Class H.



Dixon Smith's **SIZE MATTERS** places second in Diesel Class M.

Smith; 5) *Joyce Ann*, Thurman Alley; and 6) *Tyler & Hannah*, Jason Faulkingham. **Race 15. Class E, 336 to 435 hp, 24 to 33 feet:** 1) *Miss Katie*, Nick Wiberg (30.6 mph); 2) *Hard to Handle*, Bill Merchant; and 3) *Father's Favorite*, Harris Norton. **Race 16. Class F, 336 to 435 hp, 34 feet and over:** 1) *Gramp's Legacy*, Lebaron Libby (33.1 mph); 2) *Victoria Ann*, Winfred Alley; 3) *Hee Haw*, Brent Davis; 3) *Why Knot*, Mike Smith; 5) *Little Tater*, Verrill Pinkham; 6) *Miss Shaylee*, Luke Crowley; 7) *Seaduction*, Darren Graham; and 8) *Morgan & Syndey*, Sid Merchant. **Race 17. Class G, 436 to 550 hp, 28 to 35 feet: No entrants.** **Race 18. Class H, 436 to 550 hp, 36 feet and over:** 1) *Madison Alexa*, Brian Kennedy (32.6 mph); 2) *Angel's Baby*, Robert Alley, Jr.; 3) *Miss Badonkadonk*, Derrick Beal; 4) *Debtication*, Keven Tozier; and 5) *Papa's Pride*, Oscar Beal. **Race 19. Class I, 551 to 700 hp, 28 to 35 feet:** 1) *Whiskey-Tango-Foxtrot*, Roger Kennedy (41 mph). **Race 20. Class J, 551 to 700 hp, 36 feet over:** 1) *Janice Elaine*, David Myrick (34 mph). **Race 21. Class K, 701 to 900 hp, 28 feet and over: No entrants.** **Race 22. Class L, 901 hp and over, 28 feet and over: No Entrants.** **Race 23. Class M, 40 feet and over, up to 750 hp:** 1) *Gramp's Bird*, Patrick Faulkingham (31.3 mph); 2) *Size Matters*, Dixon Smith; 3) *Hakuna Matata*, Stephen Geel; 4) *Joy Frances*, Logan Alley; 5) *Miss Tonia*, Milton Merchant; 6) *Nancy Anne*, Sonny Beal; 7) *Priscilla D. II*, Colon Alley; and 8) *Seacoast Rambler*, Wade Faulkingham. **Race 24. Class N, 40 feet and over, 750 hp and over:** 1) *Fraid Knot*, Patrick Feeney (32.4 mph); 2) *Hurricane*, Andrew Hall; 3) *Chix Dig It*, Matthew Merchant; 4) *Never Enough*, Jeff Strout; and 5) *Autumn Gail*, Jeffrey Libby.

**Race 25. Gasoline Free-for-All:** 1) *Foolish Pleasure*, Galen Alley (42 mph); 2) *Little Girls*, Shawn Alley; 3) *Nightmare*, Chad Libby; 4) *Brenda*, Doug Dodge; and 5) *Black Diamond*, Randy Durkee.

**Race 26. Diesel Free-for-All:** 1) *Whiskey-Tango-Foxtrot*, Roger Kennedy (46 mph); 2) *Janice Elaine*, David Myrick; 3) *Fraid Knot*, Patrick Feeney; 4) *Madison Alexa*, Brian Kennedy; 5) *Size Matters*, Dixon Smith; and 6) *Hurricane*, Andrew Hall.

**Race 27. World's Fastest Working Lobster Boat:** 1) *Janice Elaine*, David Myrick (34 mph); 2) *Fraid Knot*, Patrick Feeney; and 3) *Bigger Dirls*, Steve Carver.

**Race 28. World's Fastest Recreational Lobster Boat:** 1) *Whiskey-Tango-Foxtrot*, Roger Kennedy (47.5 mph).