

EXCITEMENT IS SUNDAY AT THE BOAT DRAGS

Imagine a 1500 horsepower engine, supercharged, and coming to life on an exotic, fuel-burning, mixture, stuffed into a sleek 18 foot boat. Picture this rumbling missile slowly approaching the starters barge. The green flag goes up. The deafing sound of raw horsepower greets your ears, and one drag hydro stands practically straight up on its tail, leaps ahead, and spews a 150 foot rooster tail as it screams through water -- racings quarter-mile. Speed: 180+ mph. Time: 7½ seconds flat. (The actual world's record at this writing is held by CONQUEST, driven by Dwight Bale, at 181.44 mph and 7.45 E.T.). This is drag boat racing.

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Drag boat racing is divided into different classes, covering every type of boat design and engine variable that is possible. Briefly, classes start at 50 mph, and increase by 5 mph increments up to 100 mph. Classes are determined by qualification runs. (i.e., a boat qualifies at 92.34 mph would race in the 90 to 95 mph class). There are rules covering class jumping (Turning faster times during eliminations, than the class you qualified for). Boats qualifying at over 100 mph are placed in classes by 10 mph increments. Boats in over 100 mph classes are further classified by hull design (flatbottom, drag hydro, etc.), engine type (inboard, outboard), (blown or unblown), and combustible (fuel or gas). There are eliminator classes among class winners. Prizes range from beautiful trophies to beautiful green money.

SEATTLE DRAG AND SKI BOAT ASSOCIATION is devoted to the sport of drag boat racing, its development and betterment in the Northwest. The Association has its lighter moments also, and plans a couple of gala party events, during the year for members and friends. Its regular meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at the Golden Tides restaurant, located near Shilshole Bay in Seattle. Among its membership of about a hundred, are two world record holders. Steve Jones' boat, the "U.F.O.", holds the 5 mile competition Superstock record at 81.374 mph. This is the average speed for three laps on a one and two-thirds mile oval course. Steve's 427 Ford-powered flatbottom set the record in May of 1967, on Green Lake in Seattle. "Twinkle Toes", a single-engined outboard hydro, running on gas, is owned and driven by Jim Hooker. This tiny hydro holds the world's quarter-mile record, in its class, at 86.7 mph, and has made a run at over 91 mph. Jim's diminutive screamer actually flies the last hundred feet or so of the quarter-mile, as the only thing touching the water is the prop.

Seven races are being scheduled for this year. SEATTLE DRAG AND SKI will hold four races in the greater Seattle area, and will co-sponsor, along with TAHOMA DRAG AND SKI CLUB, three races in the Tacoma-Olympia area. These races will not only feature the banzai antics of the quarter milers, but also APBA approved circle racing between the super exciting Superstocks and SK inboard classes. Gran Prix style Hot Boat racing and special

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SEATTLE DRAG AND SKI BOAT ASSOCIATION

SEATTLE DRAG AND SKI BOAT ASSOCIATION presents this handy 1968 racing schedule for your convenience. Racing starts at 12 noon.

APRIL 21	Lake Sammamish, Alexander Beach, Issaquah, Washington
MAY 19	Lake Sammamish, Alexander Beach, Issaquah, Washington
JUNE 9	Lake Tapps, between Auburn and Sumner
JULY 14	Capitol Lake, Olympia, Washington
AUGUST 25	Capitol Lake, Olympia, Washington
SEPTEMBER 15	Lake Sammamish, Alexander Beach, Issaquah, Washington
OCTOBER 6	Lake Sammamish, Alexander Beach, Issaquah, Washington