

*"Fastest Show On Water"*

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## SDBA 2022 Season Celebration

The SDBA family found its way Feb. 10, & 11 to a new banquet location in Frisco Texas. The Embassy Suites & Convention Center did a great job hosting the event. As teams arrived on Friday many enjoyed fellowship & refreshments in the hotel, and many ventured out into the surrounding areas to explore what Frisco had to offer.

Saturday morning kicked off with the annual Membership meeting where David Carroll shared his “State of the SDBA” vision for 2023 and the future also exciting news about new & returning sponsors. Jimmy Todd covered the safety items, Matt Schubaur addressed rules and technical topics, the Ladies of RESP outlined their 2023 programs, and Pastor Mike covered the update & review on Trinity Racing Ministries.

Saturday afternoon was spent preparing for the evening festivities and free time to enjoy Frisco & fellowship.

The evening brought our “Happy Hour” Reception followed by the opening of the Banquet Hall. The room was beautiful and featured 2 Hot Rods, Living the Dream & Liquid Voodoo on display on either side of the stage making a stunning impact on the evening to come.

A wonderful meal was enjoyed followed by the presentation of Season Championship hardware, jackets, and rings. The silent auction was in full swing through out the evening as each team received their awards. Foto Magic did a wonderful job capturing the evening, Mike Starr was a great M.C. and JMP1.0 provided nothing short of professional quality videos for each award.

Special awards were presented, followed by the live auction. As the banquet came to a close the festivities continued in the hotel bar area and a good time was had by all.

Its time to Kick off the 2023 season. Clean em up, tune em up, and get ready to be a part of the “Fastest Show on Water” SDBA “Nothing But Class.” Thanks to everyone for making the 2022 season one to remember!!

## 2022 High Point Champions:

**PWC** – Angelee Shaw,

**SE** – Zachary Watson,

**ME** – Jesse James,

**TE** – Jerry Branum,

**PE** – Gavin Snider,

**QE** – Brody Martin,

**PJ** – Robert Ledbetter,

**PCF** – Jeff Luehring,

**PM** – Henry Behne,

**PO** – Cody Childress,

**TAH** – Marty Logan,

**TFH** – Kebin Kinsley

## 2022 High Point Runner-Ups:

**PWC** – Shelby Hudgins,

**SE** – Doug Fox, **ME** – Andrew Decker,

**TE** – Matt Miller,

**PE** – Chad Cupit,

**QE** – Ken Jenkins,

**PJ** – Jeremy Dickerson,

**PCF** – Tim Ortiz,

**PM** – Jay Hudgins,

**PO** – Bill Wier,

**TFH** – Mike Robbins

## Special Awards:

**David Skalicky Award** – Jeff Luehring,

**Grumpy Gaugh Award** – Shelby Hudgins

**Jack Howell Award Pro** Cody Childress,

**Sportsman** – Gavin Snider,

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

John Heineke

## What is Drag Boat Racing

Drag Boat Racing is similar to their land based cousin. Competitors race against each other and the clocks in a straight line to the finish for the quickest elapsed time or the closest to their index without breaking out for the win.

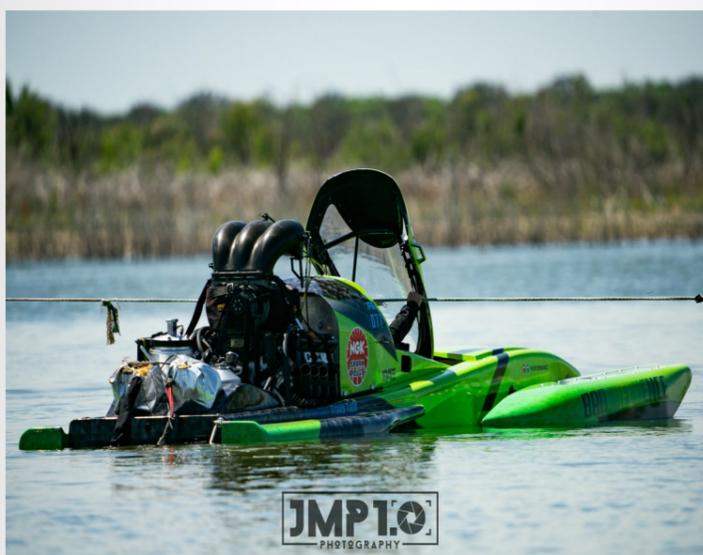
The standard length of the course for a drag boat race is 1,000 foot with the exception of Top Fuel which races to the 875 foot mark. Unlike drag racing on land which begins from a standing start, Drag boat racers use a holding rope to keep their boats in place. Different from their land based counterparts who's starting beam is right at the starting light, drag boats utilize a 125 foot running start to cross the starting beam.

When the count-down-clock has red lights illuminated, this means the course is closed and you can not fire your engines. The starting sequence begins with the official on the starting barge begins calling out to the drivers that are next to run by their boat numbers. He will ask each driver for a thumbs up when they are ready. This is the time the driver take to prepare themselves and their machines for the run. Once the starter has received a thumbs up from both drivers the starting sequence begins. The red light go out and amber lights will start to blink.



Photo of the count down clock

This tells the drivers they can start their engines and have 25 seconds to warm up. After 25 seconds the lights will turn to solid amber for 5 seconds. This indicates the count-down is about to begin. The clock begins flashing numbers 9-8-7-6 all the way down to 0. The driver must pick a number to leave on that will take them across the starting line beams as close to 0 as possible without turning in the dreaded red light. After crossing the starting beam the racers will compete to see who crosses the finish line first and take the win.



Holding Rope

## Boat Types

**PWC:** Jet Ski, Sea-Doo, Wave Runner. This is an entry level class for designed to bring in a new generation of racers to the track. The class consist of drivers of all ages with a starting age of 12. It is a great way to learn the starting line procedure and how to dial in your ET.

**Outboard:** Any boat that has an engine mounted to the transom.

**Jet Boat:** Any type of boat that uses a water propulsion system that pumps water under extreme pressure through a nozzle out the rear of the boat.

**Flat Bottom:** A type of boat hull that is relatively flat on the underside with no horizontal breaks. The driver uses a down pedal that is attached to a cavitation plate on the transom of the boat. The down plate is used to control the attitude of the boat during extreme speed.

**Conventional Hydro:** A hull designed with a tunnel between the front sponsons for the purpose of trapping air causing the boat to ride above the surface of the water.

**Out-rigger:** This type of hull is typically wider than a conventional hydro. The sponsons are set further outside the main body (tub) of the boat to release air in order to keep the boat from blowing over as easily during extreme speeds. Because of the width of these boats the sponsons are detachable to make them fit easily into the transport trailers.

## Non-License Sportsman Classes



**PWC:** This is a dial-in class (no quicker than 10 seconds) Designed as an entry level class to bring a new a generation of racers to the track. This is where you can learn the starting line procedure, and how to dial in your ET. A great economical way to start your racing adventure.



**Stock Eliminator:** This is a 9 second or slower dial in class. Whether you want to try your hand at drag boat racing or are a seasoned pro, this is a great economical competitive class to bring your family boat start competing in drag boat racing.

**Modified Eliminator:** Index class running 8.0 to 8.99 seconds. This is the last class you can compete in without having to test for a competition license. All boat hull designs are acceptable in this class.

## License Sportsman Classes

**Top Eliminator:** Index class running 7.00 to 7.99 seconds. This is the first class you must pass a physical and earn a competition drivers license in order to race. Any hull configuration and motor set up is acceptable in this class. You must remain within you index to advance to the next round.



**Pro Eliminator:** 6.50 to 7.49 index class. Engines may be any cubic inch displacement and may be naturally aspirated, fuel injected, or blown. They may run on gasoline or methanol and may use nitrous oxide. Any hull configuration is acceptable.

**Quick Eliminator:** 6.0 to 6.99 second index class. This is a very competitive class of racers and everyone of them are capable of cutting near perfect reaction times and navigating the 1000 foot as close to the 6.00 second index as possible.



## Non-Capsuled Professional

**Pro Jet:** Limited to jet boats only with no ET limit and a maximum of 144.99 MPH. Must pass a physical and drivers test in order to compete.



**Pro Comp Flat:** This is a dial-in ET class for flatbottom style hulls. This class may run any motor combination and is restricted only by a dial-in of 5.80 to 6.80 seconds.



## Drivers Safety Equipment For Open Boats:

**Helmet:** Must be worn by all drivers at all times while on the water

**Life Jacket/Non-Capsule:** All open boat drivers must wear an approved life jacket while on the water.

**Eye Protection:** All driver must wear approved eye protection.

**Driving Suit:** with the acceptance of PWC all drivers suits must be fire resistant drivers suit manufactured specifically for racing.

### Capsuled Professional Class Boats

**Pro Modified:** Also known as Pro Mod has to be one of the most competitive classes in drag boat racing. This class runs an index of 5.60 to 6.49 seconds with a perfect 5.600 being the goal.

All of the boats and drivers in this class are tough competitors and are capable of running a 5.6000 ET and cutting a near perfect reaction time.

The Pro Modified class usually runs a hydro type hull but is not restricted to such. They run the same engine specs as a Top Alcohol Hydro and Top Alcohol Flat without the restrictions on cubic inches. They may run a blown, turbo charged or naturally aspirated motor and may use nitrous oxide.

This class of boats has always been a favorite among racing fans.



**Pro Outlaw:** This class was originally created as a second chance competition for the drivers that lost first round of Pro Mod on Sunday. The drivers and crews that chose to buy back into competition had the opportunity to tune up their boats to go faster for this class.

The current index for the Pro Outlaw class is 5.20 to 6.19 seconds with a 5.2000 being the goal.

Just like the Pro Modified Class, this boat class usually runs a hydro type hull but is not restricted to such. They run similar motor configurations and may run a blown, turbo charged or naturally aspirated motor and may use nitrous oxide.

This class is a favorite among owners/drivers and crew that want to run faster than Pro Modified without the expense of running Top Alcohol Hydro.

**Top Alcohol Flatbottom:** Also known as the funny cars of Drag Boat Racing. The drivers of these boats use a down petal to adjust the attitude of the boat during extreme acceleration while piloting their machines down the track.

The Hull is differs from the hydro style hull, the bottom of the boat is relatively flat with no horizontal breaks, thus the name flatbottom or “flatty”.

TAF uses the same engine dynamic as a TAH except there is no screw blowers allowed. Flatty's have a wing attached to the back of the boat in order to create down force and keep the boat in the water.

This is a true drivers class and you will enjoy watching them in competition.



**Top Alcohol Hydro:** Capable at traveling the 1000 foot course at over 200mph and ET's in the 4.30's, these drivers must be on their game every pass. Most of the drivers in this class came out of the Pro Modified or Pro outlaw classes and know how to plow down the tree for a near perfect reaction time. These boats can be a conventional hydro or out-rigger hydro design. They are limited by engine cubic inches and fuel type. They can run superchargers or blowers and may utilize a v-drive or w-drive. They are definitely a favorite class to watch.



### Capsule Boat Safety Equipment:

**Capsule:** The capsule on a drag boat is designed to protect the driver in the event of an accident, it is constructed of Kevlar and fiberglass with a safety cage (roll cage) that surrounds the driver. It is designed to separate from the boat hull, and engine in the event of an accident. The driver is held in place by a 5 or 6 point safety harness.

**Air Bottle:** Air tank that is secured into the capsule and connects into the drivers helmet to provide an air supply to the driver in the event of an accident.

**Capsule Helmet:** The capsule helmet is specifically designed and custom built for drag boat racing. They have a diving regulator that is built into the helmet. The visor latches into place creating a seal. This allows the driver to breath until the rescue boat arrives.

**Neck Restraint:** Hans device, Hybrid device and foam collar. Designed to protect the neck and head from impact.

**Top Fuel:** Unlike all the other classes in the SDBA, Top Fuel runs an 875 foot course. Making upwards of 11,000+ horse power these boats are limited to the out-rigger style hull, they are capable of running the course in under 3.20 seconds at an amazing 269+mph. They use counter rotating twin propellers powered by a w-drive to harness all that power and apply it to the water turning the props at over 20,000 RPM to propel these machines down the track. There is nothing more exciting than watching a Top Fuel boat come to life and roar down the track, the ground shakes and you can feel it pounding in your chest. Watching 2 boats running over 250 MPH throwing rooster tails over 100 foot in the air is something you will never forget. The Southern Drag Boat Association is the only sanctioning body running Top Fuel.



Capsule helmet and Hybrid device

**A Run** – A timed pass down the track.

**Alcohol** – Pure methanol.

**Big End** – The last 25% of the timed track

**Blown** – Supercharged, when air is actually forced into the motor.

**Break Out** – When a boat runs faster than their dial-in time.

**Bye** – A single run, usually earned by virtue of top qualifying position.

**Legal Single** - By virtue of a no-show, or a broken boat.

**Christmas Tree** – The starting system lights at the starting line.

**Dial-In** – This is the elapsed time you think your boat will run.

**Nitro** – Nitromethane

**Holding Rope** – The initial holding area on the water where the boats wait their turn to run.

**Injected** – A method of inducing fuel into the engine under pressure.

**In Ramp** – The initial launching area.

**Out Ramp** – The out-loading area, after a run is made.

**Perfect Light** – .000 reaction time.

**Pits** – The area where the boats are assembled when not in the water.

**Reaction Time** – The time it takes a boat to travel from the holding rope to the starting light.

**Starter** – The person who gives the boats the green light.

**Time Trial** – A timed run to determine qualifying position.

**Un-Blown** – Not supercharged.

**Closed Course**– Solid Red Lights Are On

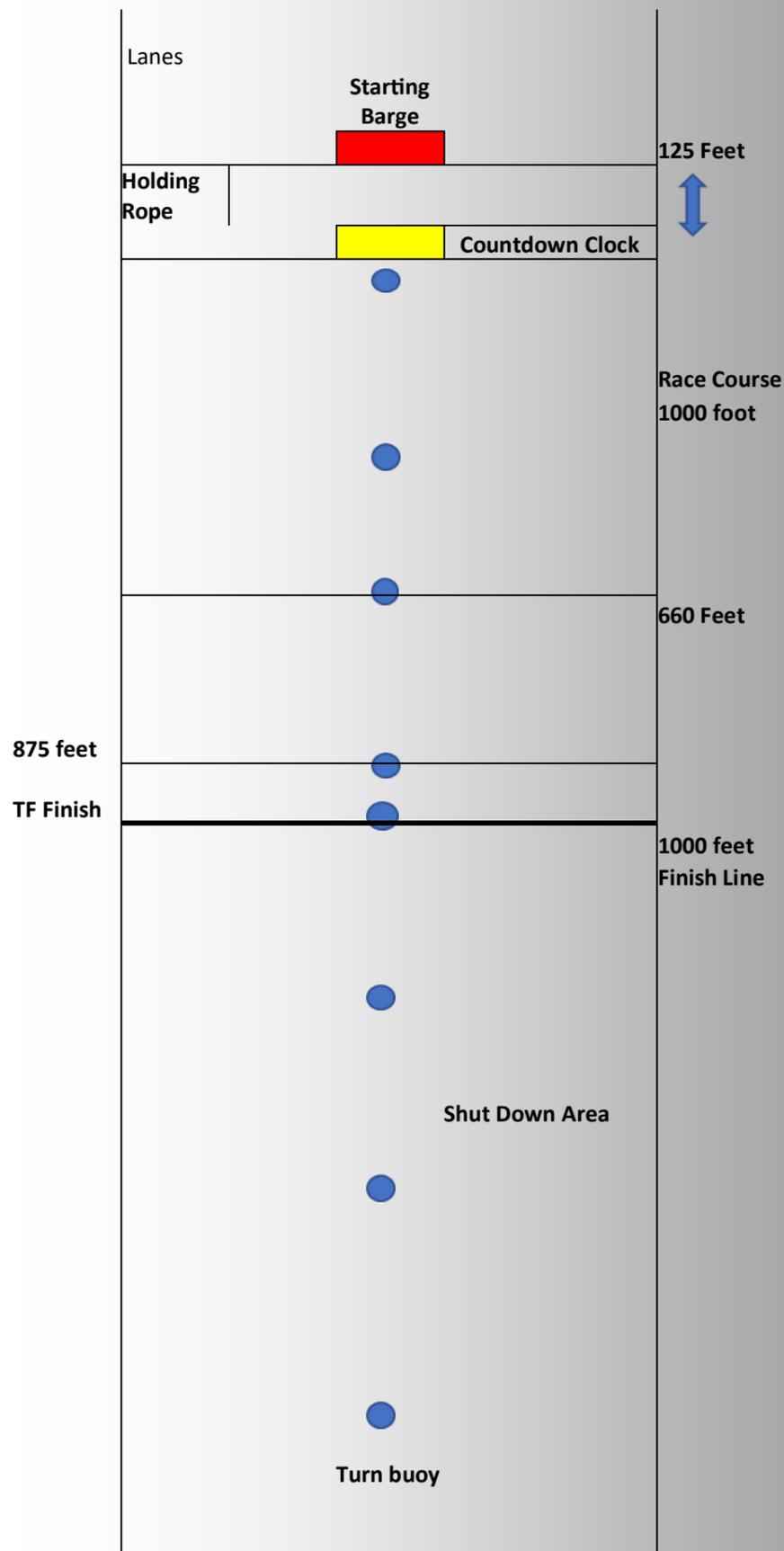
**Blinking Amber**– Starting sequence has began. Fire up your boat and prepare for the count-down.

**Solid Amber** – After ambers have flashed for 25 seconds, they will go solid for 5 seconds. (This is a 5 second warning to the drivers that the 9 second countdown will begin.)

**Green Light** – After the 9 second count, the amber lights goes out and the green light comes on indicating a legal start.

**Solid red light**– Indicates that a foul start has occurred in that particular lane. The boat in the lane with the red light illuminated has broke the starting beam prior to receiving a green light. It can also mean that the course has been closed after the starting sequence has begun due to a safety hazard spotted on the track by one of the officials.

### The Course



April 2023

# SDBA Today

*Fastest Show on Water*

Issue #2

## Chaplain's Corner

### The Racers Prayer



Lord I pray as I race today.  
Keep me safe along the way.  
Not only me but others too  
As they perform the task they do.  
Covered by Your Amazing  
Grace.  
As we run our daily race.  
With every lap or run I make  
Guide me, keep me in Your hand.  
Until on the Victory stage I stand,  
Until that final checkered waves,  
I Thank you Lord, for every day.  
In Jesus name I pray, Amen



Live racing action begins June 10th 2023



Formulated by the engine gurus at Driven Racing Oil. Driven motor oil and break-in oil feature higher levels of zinc, phosphorous, and sulfur to provide maximum anti-wear properties. It's the same NASCAR championship-winning formula that has protected Joe Gibbs Racing engines for over 500 miles of intense competition.



Driven Racing Oil Products is now the Official Oil of the Southern Drag Boat Association and will be available to purchase at the SDBA T-Shirt/Merchandise Trailer.



Bring that same level of protection to your high performance Drag Boat or daily driver!

