

Book Review:

The Buzz On Lake George Speedboat Racing 1900-1964

by Fred Truntz

Lake George, New York is 32 miles long and has been a popular vacation spot in the Adirondacks for many years. *The Buzz On Lake George* gives a good introduction to the region while it documents the history of speedboat racing on Lake George from 1900 to 1964.

Ginger Henry Kuenzel is a journalist, editor and author who has written or co-authored several books. Her professional skills aided her in conducting extensive and accurate research for this book, but most important, she is a fourth-generation resident of Hague, New York.

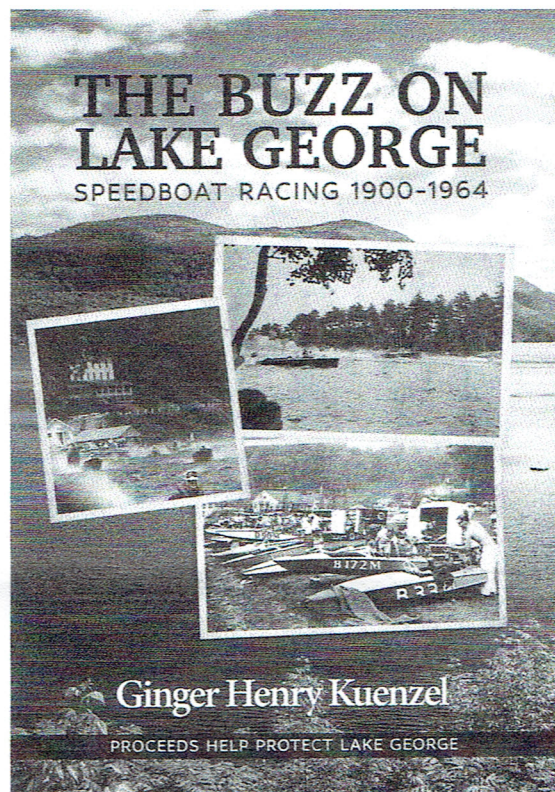
Hague is a small hamlet on Lake George. Much of the speedboat racing that took place on Lake George was organized in Hague by the author's family as far back as her great-grandfather, who was a founder of the Lake George Regatta Association. She was there to see and participate in much of it.

Chapter 1 covers the "Gentlemen Racers 1901-1930." Included in this chapter is the history of those early days, which began with rowing, canoeing and swimming races and grew to include inboard races and in 1914, Gold Cup racing. The racers of this era were predominantly wealthy. Many details of the era are presented, including the organization sponsoring the races, the festivities of the day, etc. All in all, these races were big social events.

Chapter 2, "The Marathon Men 1954-1964" chronicles events we can easily identify with. Outboard racing was enjoying a revival after WWII and the Korean War, and was being enjoyed by many because the average person could afford to race an outboard. This was the age of stock outboard racing, supported by the APBA. Hague spearheaded the marathon racing on Lake George, an effort led largely by the author's father, Jack Henry.

Chapters 3, 4 and 5 detail the drivers, organizers, and the author's own experience as a driver. Memories shared by drivers include remarks by those who went on to be significant contributors to stock outboard racing and to power-boat racing in general. A chapter is dedicated to Marcel Raveau, who built *Gingerly*, a D class runabout, for the author's father who named it for his adventurous daughter. *Gingerly's* racing history is presented as well as the contributions of Raveau.

Chapter 6 is "Coming Home to Lake George: *Gingerly*." After many years in storage, the Raveau built for Jack Henry was



restored and in 2023, ran once again at Hague. The restoration of the boat, the motor rebuild and running on the lake once again are detailed.

Photographs from the archives of participating communities, drivers, race participants etc. are featured throughout the book. They document the events surrounding the race activities. All are well researched and presented.

The Buzz On Lake George is an enjoyable book, written by someone with personal knowledge and a deep personal connection. It's about boat racing but also about how boat racing affected, and was affected by, the people and communities of Lake George. If you like boat racing, and especially if you know Lake George, you will enjoy this book.

For a copy signed by the author, visit <https://utopianstate.com> (\$25). Also available (unsigned) on Amazon (\$24.95).

(See also Ginger Henry Kuenzel's article in the October 2023 issue of *The Antique Outboarder*.)