



May 2024

**H**ello to all members, family and friends. First and foremost, our dear friend and fellow Prop Rider Royce Richards has passed on. On behalf of the entire board, membership, and friends of the Marine Prop Riders, we send our heartfelt and deepest sympathies to Royce's family and Friends. His lifelong love of hydroplane racing and what he has meant to this club and the sport cannot be overstated. As many of you know, he was always there to help the club when needed and his friendship and stories will live on through great memories. Please say a special prayer for his wife Kathy as she navigates through this hard time. Let's also take some time at this next meeting to celebrate his legacy and love for our sport and this club.

Test and Tune is only 2 days away as I write this and I hope many of our racing members are ready to go. As we start to come into a new year of racing, I hope everyone is wrapping up their winter work and moving forward with their programs. It's been a long winter and the promise of a new year with a fresh start is always exciting. To those teams who start in May, best of luck and on behalf of the club we wish you many podium finishes!

In the coming months we have opportunities to be a part of the community as well as promote the Mott Lake Race at various events. We will have more information at the next meeting but if you can help by volunteering your time and/or boat as a display please don't hesitate to let us know.

Speaking of Volunteering, I know we have discussed what is needed at Mott and now is the time to lock down responsibilities of those wishing to help. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for important roles that have yet to be filled. Please consider helping if you can!

As always, many new and exciting opportunities are being explored by the club for our racing future and I would like to thank those who are working hard behind the scenes to move things forward. Until then, I wish those hitting the water plenty of safe and successful racing!

*John*

**Marine Prop Riders  
General Meeting  
April 3 , 2024**

Called to order by John Grigg at 7:35pm

Duane selling 50/50

Guests Dave Stefaniak and Mark Funk from Michigan Hot Boats.

Motion to approve the minutes by Dave Muczinski 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Roberts. All in favor.

**Publicity** – Newsletter approved by Tina and second by Sam, all approved.

Tina is always looking for the Marine Prop Rider of the month. Please step up and send Tina a biography of your team/boat along with a picture. Discussion: The newsletter is a good resource for race sites and sponsors who are looking to see who we are and what we're all about.

**Treasure Report** - Mario – Two withdrawals and Two deposits. Motion to approve by Brian 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eli. All approved.

**Membership**- Nancy reported 58 primary, 26 primary family, 2 honorary, 20 lifetime, 4 lifetime family, total of 110. We have 24 new members for 2024.

**Entertainment**- Ray reported that his speaker from Schoolcraft College has rescheduled for the May MPR meeting. Tonight's guest speakers are Dave Stefaniak and Mark Funk from Michigan Hot Boats, (saved Ray's butt).

**Media**- Scooter reported that the new MPR website is @.org temporarily and will move to @.com shortly. The MPR Facebook outreach is up to 12k. Engagement +100% at 4k. Up 68% with 1,500 followers. Instagram is up and still being populated.

Scooter is requesting all members to forward their team and boat information so he can populate our website. He can be reached at jgrigg1752@gmail.com

If you have any sponsors, please list them along with their logos so he can get your sponsors added.

**Old Business:**

Race Reports.

John personally thanked EVERYBODY who volunteered and displayed their boats. We had race site personal stop by and visit and commented on the display along with interacting with parents and children. As kids were coloring, it gave time for our volunteers to speak with the parents.

Spirited discussion regarding propellor covers. Check FB for price and purchasing. More to follow after IRC meeting 4/4/2024.

**New Business:**

**Mott Lake**- The park commission voted to approve the race for 2024.

Reiterated from last month, they are in the fundraising phase. The Chamber of Commerce emailed about an event at Huckleberry Railroad at the park. The event is July 6 and 7, 2024 from 10am to 5pm. They invited the MPR to display a boat at the event. This currently is the biggest annual event at the park. Good opportunity to promote the Regatta.

**Pontiac Lake**- Nothing new.

Ray reported that Lee is sending out notices for the volunteers for this years Gold Cup race August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Fischel reported that they are putting the Y93 together and would like John to be the test pilot.

Motion made to adjourn by Dave Muczinski, seconded by Patti Hayes at 8:29pm.

Marine Prop Riders  
Board Meeting  
April 3, 2024

John Griggs called the meeting to order at 6:06pm

**Discussion:** followed regarding racing in the area.

People have been inquiring about renting the Equipment Trailer Rental. Need to set the cost for rental of the trailer and the cost of a damaged/destroyed buoy.

**Discussion:**

Phil Goodell made a motion that MPR would charge \$1500 for trailer rental to an outside region, and \$250 for any damaged or destroyed bouys. Tina Wilson seconded the motion. All in favor.

John passed around the list of items included in the trailer and stated that it does need to be updated.

John discussed insurance for the trailer. Said we need to know who will be towing it because it will be a rider on someone's policy. Discussion followed regarding insurance.

Dave Stefaniak and Mark Funk of Michigan Hot Boats were present and would like to join up with us to be able to race. They are trying to figure a way to run their boats in a safe manner. Need to speak to APBA about how to do special events. Phil discussed getting a meeting with them to talk more in depth. They get about 12-15 boats right now, but are hoping to pull in about 25.

Scooter – Website: New website is going. Everyone looked at the website. Talked about how it can now be used to get sponsorships, etc.... Explained that the Teams page will not have all of the information on every team, but will have a link to each team's page. Front page will also house any race site sponsors. Will run high promotion for race sponsors as we get closer to a race weekend.

Facebook and Instagram is skyrocketing. The website will be linked to our original .com link soon. Scooter already has all of the .com, .net, .org names under his ownership.

Scooter did not delete anything from old website. Will keep one year of files on website, rest will be kept in files somewhere else so that we always have past information.

**Discussed:** not putting a newsletter on the website for 2 weeks. There was some discussion regarding the way Mailchimp works.

John pointed out that Scooter is the Social Media Committee Chair and the committee also includes Austin Hayes and Sara Grocki.

Motion to adjourn at 7:18, made by Adam Justin, seconded by Dave Muczinski. All in favor.

# A look back “The Man of Generosity and Friendship”

*R. Royce Richards*

November 18, 1932  
To  
April 10, 2024

Royce was born in Detroit, he attended Western High School and was part of the ROTC program, graduating in 1951. The next year, he set off to defend our country in Korea, achieving the rank of sergeant (T) at 19 years of age (E6 Staff Sgt., 45th Infantry Division) ! He was so proud of his service and honorable discharge, although what he experienced there followed him throughout his whole life.

Returning home in 1954, he went to work back at his fathers company, Don Cartage in Detroit. After his father stepped down Royce took over until the company closed in 2000.

Royce married his sweetheart Kay Frazio in August 1973 and began their life together residing in Troy, Michigan.

Although Kathy was always the love of his life, there was another or many other loves. “Hydroplane Racing” and the clubs he belonged to. He got interested at the age of 17 when his Dad’s company provided the cranes for the Unlimited Races, his interest was in the boat named “Eager Beaver”. The first hydro he purchased himself was a Y boat that he bought in 1958. His next boat was a Lauterback 225 N-52 known as “Fat Chance” he sought it and brought it back to new throughout the 1990’s.

Royce was a legendary figure in the Hydroplane world:

Three North American cups  
Several Interstate  
Division Championships  
Course Records  
Numerous World Records  
Marine Prop Riders High Points (First to win it)  
First Place Finishes  
Prop Rider of the Year (MPR)  
I’m sure there are many more....

Royce also was on the advisory board if the Spirit of Detroit Thunderfest  
Gold Founding member of the Regatta Association  
Sponsor of Quake on the Lake

Royce was a fixture in our club, he and Kathy where always there to lend a helping hand or make super donations to our club and anyone else that needed it. There isn’t a sole in our universe that can be replaced, but in my opinion Royce would be a hard act to follow. According to Kathy he left this world asking :

**“Who needs our help today”**



## Life Well Lived

A LIFE WELL LIVED IS A PRECIOUS GIFT,  
OF HOPE AND STRENGTH AND GRACE,  
FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE OUR WORLD  
A BRIGHTER, BETTER PLACE.

IT'S FILLED WITH MOMENTS,  
SWEET AND SAD WITH SMILES  
AND SOMETIMES TEARS,  
WITH FRIENDSHIP FORMED  
AND GOOD TIMES SHARED,  
AND LAUGHTER THROUGH THE YEARS.

A LIFE WELL LIVED IS A **LEGACY**,  
OF JOY AND PRIDE AND PLEASURE,  
A LIVING, LASTING MEMORY  
OUR GRATEFULL HEART'S WILL TREASURE.



Goodbye Royce, your legacy will live on. Thank you for everything you have done for the Hydroplane world, you will forever be our friend.

# “Fat Chance”

You will never be forgotten.....



Support Our Race Teams  
*E-Rat Racing* (E-40) has T-Shirts  
(all sizes) and Hats  
Extremely high-quality print on very  
nice shirts  
\$25.00 plus shipping  
Contact: Dillon Goodell  
eratracing@gmail.com



# To All Members

Please, please, please.

I would like to keep the MPR member bio's going, I ask and get no takers. I was just asked again to put this in the newsletter from our VP Phil Goodell.

Just a short bio of when and why you are a Prop Rider, one page, maybe a picture. If you own a boat or if your affiliated with a Team let me know. Please send it to:

[jetjims@comcast.net](mailto:jetjims@comcast.net)

All articles should be in word and sent to me no later than the 25th of every month.

Thank you  
Christina

Hope to hear from someone!!!!





# HARDY'S HIGHWAY

## RACE FOR THE LAKE

APBA INBOARD EASTERN DIVISIONALS BOAT RACES  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

# JUNE 8 & 9

WHETHER YOU'RE A FAN OF BOAT RACING, INDULGING IN LOCAL FOOD, APPRECIATE ARTS AND CRAFTS, OR SIMPLY WANT TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FAMILY, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE HARDY'S HIGHWAY RACE FOR THE LAKE!



**FOLLOW  
HARDY'S HIGHWAY  
FACEBOOK PAGE  
FOR MORE INFO!**



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**Member at Large**

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**Please feel free to call one of us  
If you need anything.  
We would be glad to help**

“1951”

**WORLD-RECORD INBOARD BOAT RACING**  
**BE A PART OF THE ACTION!**



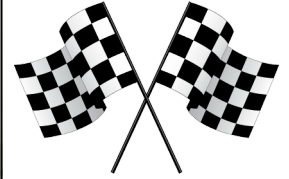
The Marine Prop Riders boat racing club welcomes you to join our club.  
 Memberships are just \$20 individual and \$30 for a family.  
 So many ways to get involved!

owning/racing a boat | race team crew | race day volunteering | turn judging  
 racer hospitality | show publicity | event planning | safety team | so much more!



www.marinepropriders.com **APBA**

“2024”



**MPR Members:**

*If you have something to sell, give away or trade Please submit a picture and description we will list it for free.*

*E-Mail to:  
jetjims@comcast.net*



No mess is too big for Mark, please contact him off line for his services.

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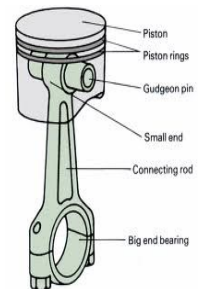
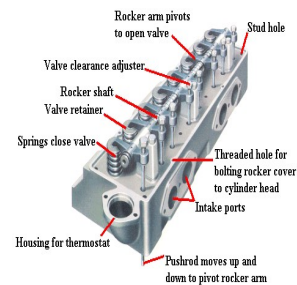
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**Welcome  
Spring**

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