

# River Rumours

## MANAWATU POWER BOAT CLUB INC. NEWSLETTER

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

January 2012

#### NEW YEARS AT MANGAKINO

Story & photos by Phillip Hoskyn

#### Manawatu Boats Win 3 of the 5 Trophy races at Mangakino

A good turnout of Manawatu Club Boats at Mangakino saw the Club perform well over the course of the Weekend.

Paul Robertson in Going Going Gone had too much pace for the rest of the Series 3000 Boats in the race for the North Island Title winning race 1 with ease from Noeline Steiner, Bruce Packer, Mike Robinson and Dale Pendergast.

Race 2 was run in the rain which made conditions difficult to race in. The race was a lot closer as the Paul looked more to finishing than to running away from the field. Mike Robinson in Brayka was driving well in this race and came in second ahead of Misty Blue, Brooster and Suzie IV.



Jamie Knight won the North Island U/U Title in a bit of an upset after the 3 favourites Luke Sharp, Scott Coker and Steve Hughes all had Mechanical breakdowns. Jamie was pushed hard the in both races by young Rory Anthony in the Predator Mod H boat. Race 2 was almost a non-event for the Phantom after sitting in the boat on the lake for nearly 20 minutes while they waited for the rain to ease, Jamie fired it up, the battery would not kick the beast into life. After some frantic onshore activity eventually a jump start pack was taken out to the boat and Jamie was off chasing the start boat. Oil and rain made it next to impossible to see and Jamie just held off Rory Anthony to win the Title with Evil Racing coming home for 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.



The V8 Challenge Was a battle of the Manawatu Club Boats Steve Mathieson in Midnight and Mike Denham in Inject the Venom. The Denham's boat is a Flattie that they imported from the USA arriving in December and giving the Brothers a mad rush to put the engine together and get to Mangakino to Race. The

one off Race for the title was very close with Steve giving it everything to Compete. The two boats swapped the lead a couple of times and going down the back straight for the final time Mike was just in front when the Gas tank started to run dry, Mike shut down and drifted to a stop and Steve Mathieson took the win from Endorphin Rush and Lucky Break.



The Gapper's travelled up with Tempo Too But it wasn't running at its best and sat out of racing on Day 2. They hope to have it running better at the Goldcup.

6 Clubman's Pincoya, Buzz, Anarchy, Dire Straits, Mad Dog Maddi and Rampage were also in attendance at the first Regatta for many of the Drivers. Tony Arthur couldn't get Buzz running unfortunately, but should be going at the Goldcup. Joining us were Lakelands Aaron Diggelmann and Evil Racing Jnr and there was some great racing especially in the Handicaps where you have to work hard to pass the boats. Ross Ledger in Dire Straits had his boat hooked up and it's very quick. Rochelle was going very well in Anarchy. Pops had Rampage going great with a new Engine in it and should be quicker at the Goldcup. The Clubman's Boats got in 8 races over the weekend mainly due to the fact that we were always in the water and ready to go at the drop of a hat.



**21st & 22nd January 2012**

## **41st Manawatu Gold Cup**

The most anticipated event of the season hosted by our very own club is this weekend.

The schedule is huge:

- North Island Formula 3 title
- North Island Clubmans title
- 41st Gold Cup
- 60th Carl Augustine
- 10th Ross Knight open hydro
- Sally Nagel Memorial
- Bob Dunlop Memorial

We have 32 boats entered so far!

The Gold Cup race has 15 boats entered so far. With the Ross Knight, Bob Dunlop & Sally Nagel having 7 entries in each.

There is also 7 clubmans boats entered as well.

Fingers crossed for fine weather and don't forget to support our club by supporting the bar! ☺

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Story by Sharon Hall

#### Carl Augustin

**BORN 16 JUNE 1907 - DIED 7 DECEMBER 2003**

Carl Augustin has long been regarded as the "Father of New Zealand Trailer Boating" with a history of boat building and designing dating back to 1921. Over the 96 years of his active and interesting life he had been a farmer, musician, welder, weight lifter, inventor and probably did more to kick start trailer boating in New Zealand than anyone else.

Carl was a foundation member of the Auckland Inventor's Club, the Auckland Speedboat Club, the Outboard Boating Club and Auckland Water Ski Club. He also won a Gold Medal as an amateur weight lifter in the Bantam Weight Class. He believed that "an ounce of practice was worth a ton of theory".



Carl was born in Manunui, near Taumarunui. He attended many schools over the North Island. His first taste of boat design came when working

as a farmhand in Katikati. Carl took some 6x1 boards from a fence and built a punt with a tea tree mast and used sacking for the sail. Launched at the mouth of the Katikati River it ran aground and the punt sunk.

After giving up farming Carl took up an apprenticeship and spent 10 years as a welder at Cain's Welding Works (owned by his half-brother George Cain). He ultimately became a specialist in this field and was never afraid to try anything new.

Carl married Elizabeth in 1931 and started his own welding business in about 1935 in Federal Street, Auckland fabricating all manner of things including marine fittings, propellers and converting car engines for marine use. From the early days of building his first high speed 12 ft monohull powered by an Indian motorbike engine to the mid 1960's, with hundreds of boats and thousands of plans behind him, the Augustin name has always been held in high regard.

He had a habit of embarrassing the opposition with his small but very fast lightweight racers that beat heavier but far more powerful displacement raceboats of the day. 1943 saw the first three point suspension hydroplane named "Hornet", powered by a Model A Ford car engine she reached speeds of 52 mph.

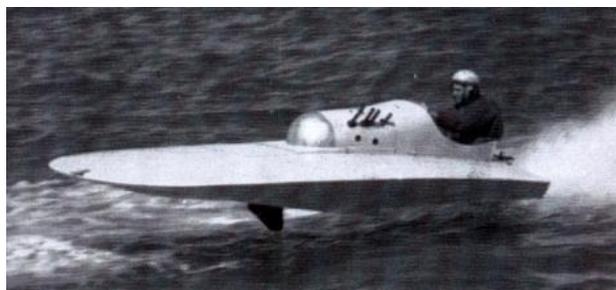


In 1951 he designed and built the Grey Nurse boat named "Pacific Spot" which won 44 championships including the NZ and Australian V Bottom Records in 91 and 135 cubic inch class with speeds of 53.75 mph.



Carl was a pioneer in planing hulls and immediately after WW2 he designed a boat that could sleep six, offer a good turn of speed and, more importantly be towed behind the family Vanguard. Radical to say the least. For Carl it was just another challenge to be approached in a practical and methodical way. The result was the 21 ft "Overlander". New Zealand's first high speed trailerable family cruiser. Powered by a Ford 10 and constructed of the new boat building material - plywood! "Overlander" had a top speed of a staggering 21 mph. It was an instant success. People were astonished at such a huge boat being towed on the road and found it hard to believe that the whole rig only weighed 1200 cwt. It started a whole new era in boating in New Zealand and even before he finished the first boat he had orders coming in for more and Carl's boat building business was launched. As there was no such thing as a boat trailer, the first trailer was constructed of Kauri timber, a car axle and suspension. Rollers were never considered and the boat had to be floated on as trailer winches were also years away. To cater for the now growing boat building business, Carl set up a factory building steel pipe trailers to put under his boats. This soon developed into a full boat trailer manufacturing business catering for anyone who needed a trailer, regardless of whose design it was.

Later in 1953 Carl designed and built "Hydrophobia" to beat the Grey Nurse, which it did reaching 60 mph - low flying with only the prop in the water.



Built on aircraft design principles and one of the fastest boats in Australasia during the 1950's was Super Sonic. It was of all plywood construction, it took Carl three months to build. Powered by a Dodge engine it turned over 5300 rpm with a 13 x 8 inch propeller. This boat was a radical design and was perhaps 100 lbs lighter than other boats. With its airfoil bow shape it got good airlift in rough water and had a habit of winning.



SUPER SONIC: A Carl Augustin designed speed boat on the Panmure Basin with Lagoon Drive and Mt Wellington in the background.

"Puddy Tat" was powered by a Dodge for 10 years during which time held the NZ Speed Record for 266 Cubic Inch V Bottom at 68 mph. With the Chev Corvette powered alcohol nitro fuel, "Puddy Tat" was run over the measured mile and on the third run was clocked at 74 mph, however the boat ran out of fuel before the run could be completed.



Racing on the Tamaki Estuary, Auckland. Boats featured are "Surprise" driven by Frank Gatty, "Whirlwin" driven by Len Griffen and "Redhead" driven by Len Southward.



Following his retirement in 1965 Carl designed and made musical instruments and would often enjoy a stroll amongst the boats at Half Moon Bay, often spotting one of his designs or even a boat he built himself.



The Carl Augustin 91 Cubic Inch Championship Trophy was first competed for in 1953. The first recipient of the Trophy was a boat called "Miss Nola" designed and built by Carl, owned and driven by Laurie Walters from Waiuku. It was powered by a Ford 10 car engine.



This Trophy has been competed for nearly every year since 1953 and is now regarded as the Carl Augustin New Zealand 2 Litre Inboard and Hydroplane Championship Trophy.

Following Steve Mathieson's second consecutive win of the Trophy in 2000, a feature was written in the local weekend paper for the Coromandel - the Hauraki Herald. Carl's daughter, Glenda Aitkenhead who lived at Tairua contacted Steve and introduced herself. Arrangements were made and Steve and the late Alan Lewis were able to visit Carl at his home in Auckland. The day they visited turned out to be Carl's 93rd birthday. He told them that he had made the Carl Augustin Trophy himself. The boat featured on the top of the trophy is a replica of one of the boats he designed and built "Hydrophobia", the stand supporting it is made out of a car hubcap, the columns holding the trophy together are from pieces of vacuum cleaner pipes and the rest is turned pieces of wood. Carl talked about his life, showed them the musical instruments and models that he had made. He was pleased that his Trophy was still being competed for.

After this visit Steve's words were "What an amazing, clever and talented man - definitely born 50 years before his time". A special and much treasured experience. Since Steve's visit with Carl, Steve has won the Carl Augustin Trophy every year. Winning the race last year made it the 12th win in succession. How could you not be inspired by the amazing man that was Carl Augustin?.



Carl passed away on 7 December 2003 at age 96. For those of us with a love of water sport and boating - we have a great deal to be thankful for.

### **GOLD CUP SPONSORS**

The club would like to thank the following sponsors of the 41st running of the Gold Cup

The Trust Community Foundation  
Foxton Sawmilling Company  
Ken Mason Auto Electrical  
Specialised Auto Parts  
Plumbing Solutions Ltd  
Levin Crane Hire  
Fourwins Tuning Ltd  
Wayne Baxter Electrical  
SMH  
Safeworx  
Celtic Motel  
Waterside Stud  
Paul Ireland Digger Hire  
Kapiti Architectural Design Ltd  
Stokes Valley Collision Repair Ltd  
Tate Engineering  
Kin Ross Trust  
Composting NZ Ltd  
Cairns Bins  
Pools & Spas Ltd Kapiti  
Levin Party Hire  
O'Malleys  
Foreno Tapware  
Dennis Beggs  
Mobile Mechanical Solutions

### **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

**Submitted by Colin Robertson**

A lovely young lady was out for walk near a swamp when she heard a voice saying 'please help me', 'please help me'

She looked around and couldn't see anyone.

The voice said ' I'm down here in the mud'

She looked down and saw a frog. The frog said 'I'm a handsome prince and a wicked witch turned me into a frog and I need you to kiss me to break the spell'

The thought about it for a while and after checking to see no one was looking bent down and kissed the frog.

Sure enough the frog turned into a handsome prince. The Prince says to the young lady 'Can you do me one more favour and drive me to the nearest town'

She agreed and on the way the Prince looked over at her and decided she was the most beautiful lady he'd ever seen. So he leant over to kiss her.

She then turned into.....

The nearest hotel!

*That's all for Now*

*Regards*

*Rochelle Dennis*