

## Apple Blossom Proves Fruitful for Anderson!

Curt Anderson made his name prominent on the RCU all time record list with a stunning victory in the Apple Blossom Regatta April 17. Curt led out of the first turn and had a 2/3 straightaway lead heading into the final turn. Not content with mere victory, Curt spun his Circus Circus out to provide a stunning finish as he recovered and held off the last gasp effort by Lee Robertson with the Miss Budweiser.

Lee had been dogging Curt for all five laps and was happy with second but when Curt spun Lee had a chance to move into the winner's circle. However, Lee had a tough choice to make though, dive inside and take a chance of ending up tangled together with the Circus or slow just a bit and avoid the potential two-boat crash. Lee chose safety and slowed just enough so that Curt could recover and maintain a tiny lead at the end.

Fluctuating water levels made racing hazardous all day. Race coordinator decided in the interests of safety to limit the final to six boats. It was still crowded at the start and Don Mock's Atlas Van Lines slid in front of Dave Brandt's Pico American Dream and both boats were done less than 100 feet past the start. Thus began Curt's wild ride to his first career victory. Scott Meyers continued his consistent season and ended up third with the Miss Exide, while Steve Doolittle did much as he brought his American Spirit up from the first conrie and took over all fourth.

As stated above Steve Doolittle made his way to the final by winning the first conrie. Curt Anderson was looking to win this heat too, but his Frank Kenney Toyota ended up upside down at the same spot on the course where the Circus would later spin. Derek Dahl, returning after a decade layoff from RCU proved he still had the chops as he was second with his Super Range Golf, which incidentally also won best of scale for the weekend.

Third went to Marc Connelly's Notre Dame, which was ailing quite badly the last few heats of the day. Brian Lepinski's Country Boy died at the beginning of the back straightaway and Bob Hulliger spun after steering around the obstacle Brain had become.

Hulliger made the first conrie with a come from behind win in the second. Hios Elam Plus was late at the start and the race was led by Nigel Steere and the Charlie's Girl for four laps. After about lap two Bob found a burst of speed and then took after the Charlie's Girl and made an exciting pass as he crossed the finish line at the end of lap four. Steere held on for second. Third place went to Aric Silvers who's American Speedy Printing actually led the race, but he had received a penalty during the mill. Race host, Mike Walcker saw his great day in the Redman die, along with the boat during the mill. Pre-race favorite, Bill Brandt died as his Tide entered the back straight while leaving the pits and Jim Latimer's Captran Resorts unfortunately found the Tide as it entered the course with radio problems.

In one of the new features of this years circuit, there was a round nose shoot out before the conies and finals began. Roger Newton took this race wire to wire with his Electric Slo Mo V. Mike Walcker was second in the Redman, third went to the 1968 Eagle Electric of Monty Hopkins and Marc Connelly's Notre Dame sputtered it's way to fourth.

The fluctuating water made race conditions challenging to say the least. Several launchers were in danger of the muddy muck at the launch area. A few actually fell into the lake. There was a nice crowd and only about 3 minutes of rain. Mike Walcker works so hard to put on a good race. It is unfortunate the location presents him such challenges.