



---- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ----

July 26, 2019

## **Battle Royale! The U.S. and Canada Duke it out for the President's Cup on the Detroit River**

### **Contact**

Mark Weber	<a href="mailto:mark@detroitboatraces.com">mark@detroitboatraces.com</a>	586-206-8894
Melissa Roy	<a href="mailto:melissa@roypam.com">melissa@roypam.com</a>	313-407-5729

**Detroit** – This year's Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers Hydrofest hydroplane races on the Detroit River (Saturday, Aug 24 and Sunday, Aug 25) features a battle for the prestigious American Power Boat Association's (APBA) President's Cup. Detroit secured the rights to host the President's Cup for three years. National champion and Detroit-area native Andrew Tate won the last race for the President's Cup in 2017, which was held in Detroit.

Organizers for the Hydrofest will also introduce the Spirit of Detroit Silver Cup at the 2019 race in Detroit. This trophy is unique to Detroit and commemorates the history and importance of the Detroit River to hydroplane racing.

Both the President's Cup and the Spirit of Detroit Silver Cup will be determined on the Detroit River in the now-exclusive Hydroplane Racing League (HRL) race.

The HRL is based in Valleyfield, Quebec. This will not only be a battle between the U.S. and Canada, it's a three-way battle between the U.S., English-speaking Ontario and French-speaking Quebec.

In order to steer the historic 103-year-old race on the Detroit River toward the future, organizers Mark Weber, Bruce Madej and Doug Bernstein opted for an HRL-organized race, which features Grand Prix, H-350 and Jersey Skiff classes – all of which are Chevy powered.

"Our goal for this year and the future is non-stop action from start to finish," said Mark Weber, President of Detroit Riverfront Events, Inc. He continued, "We want to deliver a race to Detroiters

that will be exciting and fit modern lifestyles. Racing fans do not have the same viewing styles they did 20 years ago or free time to spend an entire day to watch one or two races.”

“The race will also have great food, live music and an excellent array of hot-rod cars,” said Bruce Madej. “This year’s format will however, keep you glued to your seat.”

The HRL will be delivering 15 heat races on Saturday and 14 more heat races on Sunday, with three exhibitions featuring vintage Unlimited hydroplanes on each day as well.

The top contenders in the big-block V8 Grand Prix class are Valleyfield (QC) Grand Prix winner, Jimmy King (MI), Brandon Kennedy (DE) and Doug Rapp, who is from New Hampshire with a Detroit-based race team. In the H-350 class, there will be six Americans and 10 Canadians – most of whom are from Quebec. The top contender is Dylan Runne (NJ), followed by Nicolas Rousse (QBC) and former Detroiter, Donny Allen (WI). Defending local President’s Cup champion, Andrew Tate sits way down in the standings in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Dedicated, casual and fans new to hydroplane racing will all have someone to watch.

This year, Hydrofest fans will watch the world’s fastest automotive-powered hydroplanes compete on a 1.25 mile course every 15 minutes. The 2019 Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers Hydrofest will be an all piston-powered event. The Hydroplane Racing League is bringing a dozen Grand Prix boats from Canada, New Zealand and the United States to headline the event. These boats are 24-feet long with 468 cu. in. supercharged, big-block V8 Chevrolet piston engines producing as much as 1,500 horsepower and reaching speeds of 160 mph. Along with the Grand Prix boats, 20 to 22 H-350 hydroplanes and the unique flat-bottom, Jersey Speed Skiff from the HRL will join the show. H-350 hydroplanes reach speeds of 120 mph, Speed Skiffs’ top speed are 80 mph.

Buy tickets, find event information, pictures and video from past races on <http://detroitboatraces.com>

Buy tickets direct on Eventbrite

Follow the race, event announcements and fans on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

***The Spirit of Detroit Hydrofest*** continues the tradition of professional hydroplane racing in Metropolitan Detroit each summer, since 1916. The race is managed by Detroit Riverfront Events and is dedicated to giving back to the community through charitable organizations. The race organizers are proud to have the Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers as their title sponsor for the third consecutive year.

**The Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers (MDCD)** The Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers Local Marketing Association (LMA) is comprised of 38 Chevrolet dealerships in Southeastern Michigan. It is the MDCD mission to take an active role in local communities and to support the Metro Detroit area by featuring local events, venues, bands, charities and people in its marketing campaigns. For a complete listing of the 38 Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers and other information please visit [chevydetroit.com](http://chevydetroit.com)