OCTOBER 1996

# Regatta 1996

Yes, it finally happened! After 23 years of holding the Campbell Boat Owners' Regatta on Lake Havasu, we finally got a weekend with no wind! Of course it followed a 50+ mph wind and lightning storm on Friday night (more on that later). But for once the skiers looked like they actually enjoyed being dragged around the course.

The action started Friday night with a cocktail party and burgers at the plant. A local band, Clean Break, played rock and roll while smoke billowed from the barbeques. The party broke up just before the storm, so everyone got home in time to enjoy the sound and light show.

After finishing up registration on the Nautical Beach Saturday, we came in with about 60 boats. As always, we missed the old time Regatta goers who weren't there, but enjoyed meeting first time participants. And speaking of enjoyment, the highlight of the day was the fabulous carne asado taco-and-beans-and-rice-and homemade salsa-spread put on by Mitch and Steve Parker. I asked Mary if she got involved in this project, but she said the first clue she had that Steve was up to something was when she opened the refrigerator door and saw nothing but packages of wrapped meat. I know Jesus fed the multitudes with loaves and fishes, but I like the Parker Boys' version better!

The always popular poker run took place during the noon break while the buoys were being reset for the afternoon slalom. Thanks to our experienced crew, everything went smoothly and we finished up with time to spare before the boat parade. As usual the banks of Bridgewater Channel were lined with spectators curious to see what spins would be put on the theme "A Night At The Movies." There were some great interpretations (see results on insert).

Following the parade, there was dinner and dancing under the bridge, with the days' awards being given out about nine. Despite the heat (no wind, remember?) a hardy group Macarenaed until midnight.



Everyone was here for the "Night of the Movies" boat parade-even Elvis!

Sunday's events, the extended slalom (men) and powderpuff (women), started around ten, finishing up around one. Those of us lucky enough not to have to drive home on Sunday, headed up river for an informal get together on a sandbar. Each year the Regatta seems to start earlier and last later and what's wrong with that???!

And each year there are the Regatta stories; some happy, some sad. One of the good ones involved Al Eames (whom Bob always refers to as "the original dirty old man") who, with two friends ("The only guys in town whose wives would let them come") towed the 20' NI-AL more than 700 miles from Vacaville to Havasu. Al not only won the "farthest trip" award, but managed to pick up a little gas money by turning in the worst poker hand (Paul Roughton of RAISIN HELL had the best one). And for sad stories nothing topped that of Beth and Brad Riggen of CAPITAL LOSS. As Regatta participants know, Brad is a complete boat parade nut (well, other kinds as well . . .) who lives to come up with huge, unbelievable structures. This year it was to be King Kong mounted atop a 30+ foot Empire State building being buzzed by circling airplanes. That dream slid off the car trailer and ended up as kindling outside Victorville. Beth, knowing Brad, got to the first phone and alerted Havasu to immediately accumulate large pieces of cardboard and other necessary materials. So Friday was spent in constructing Version 2. As you may have guessed, Friday night's windstorm splintered that version against the garage. Did King Kong make it to the boat parade?? Of course he did, a bit smaller and unmechanized, but somehow put together when CAPITAL LOSS was not pulling a skier or running the slalom. Not only was he there, he won Best Decorated-a happy ending to a sad story. And what will the stories be next Regatta? Be here in September and be part of them!

#### It's Fall-Let's Go!

It's almost jacket weather (well, at least a long-sleeved shirt), so it must be time to plan to be in Havasu for the Campbell 4-wheel drive trip. Tour leader Gary has set the date of Saturday, November 23, and promises another excursion up the back side of the Hualapai mountains. Remember the big bonfire we had there a couple of years ago-followed by a major snowstorm the next day which blanketed the whole area, including Kingman? So bring jackets, hats and gloves, as well as lunch and be prepared for anything.

We'll start with a little anti-freeze at the factory around nine and plan to head out around 10 or 10:30. No need for reservations—just show up November 23.



# CAMPBELL CALENDAR

Afraid you won't have anything to do in 1997? Maybe we can help you out with a few dates.

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4-wheel drive trip (see story)

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Havasu's annual Boat Parade of Lights will be held in the evening in the Bridgewater Channel and of course the Campbell Santa, sleigh and reindeer will be there. If you would like to participate, give us a call at (520) 855-2133.

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

This will be the 4th year for the everyone-invited New Year's Eve party in the Reindeer Room at Big Bob's Party Barn (AKA Campbell Boats). Last year we had about 200 people for beer, wine, chili and a great party! Plan to join us—just bring an hors d'oeuvre to share, a bottle of champagne for the midnight toast (just before the midnight march), and a \$10/person donation to cover the DJ. Will we STILL be doing the Macarena in 1997?

# **SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

The eagerly awaited Klaus' Klambake. Reservations due a week before and festivities start around 9.

## SATURDAY, MAY 3

Spring Roundup and the start of the summer boating season! More later.

## SEPTEMBER 5, 6, 7

Help! Theme suggestions needed for the 25th Campbell Regatta: SILVERrado? SILVER Bullet? SILVERfish?

# Boys Will Be Boys (or worse)

Two of our more competitive owners have to be Frank Sheldon and Klaus Brittinger. Both have very fast 24s; Frank's powered by a Ford and Klaus' by a Chevy, and the back and forth verbal abuse has been pretty constant. So Frank suspected the worst when he got a call from Klaus saying that he had just been by and had "christened your miserable Ford boat." Frank tore out and, sure enough, there was a foamy, yellow puddle just off his transom. Those who know Frank are pretty sure he didn't need a telephone to be heard by Klaus, who assured him it was just Michelob!

# Note from the **President**

Knowing how much Campbell owners love a party, I'd like to invite you to join us Friday, Nov. 8, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. for Boats, Beer and Burgers as we roll out the 1997 Cobalt boats and 1997 Godfrey pontoon boats. We added the Godfrey line this year to create more winter traffic, and so far it is working great.

As you can see on the enclosed flyer, we have come into possession of a truly unique 1996 Campbell 24 Daycruiser with only two hours on the magnificent Paul Pfaff 900 hp supercharged Chevy. Someone is going to get a really great boat at a really great price.

Lots of Campbell events in the next three months. Hope you can join us!

Bob Whelau

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