



By Eileen Crimmin

THE FINAL FOUR races of the unlimited circuit saw the initial three scheduled in September, which was tidy, but staged coast to coast, which was not.

The Governor's Cup was run in Madison, Indiana, Sept. 6; the President's Cup in Washington, D.C., Sept. 13; and Harrah's Tahoe Regatta in Stateline, Nevada, Sept. 27. Following these, the Mission Bay San Diego Regatta closed the season with tired equipment and beat crews on what's been regarded previously an unlimited menace and nemesis, salt water.

But to begin with Madison, the 13th Annual Governor's Cup Race in the 17th Annual Madison Regatta fielded 13 boats on a course of long chutes, small turns and straights so narrow that only five boats per heat may race!

Heat 1A brought a walking, floating, flying *Tahoe Miss* first into the turn but very wide through it as excess speed forced driver Chuck Thompson outside. *Exide* followed near *Tahoe's* roostertail, *Budweiser* raced in third, *Smirnoff* was fourth and *Savair's Mist* trailed.

Exide took a vicious leap and nose dive in the front chute at the finish of a 112-mph lap. Then *Exide* and *Tahoe* continued dueling into the second lap until *Exide* went dead at the lower turn.

The remainder of the field paraded in fixed positions to the wire with *Tahoe Miss* averaging 108.216-mph to win.

Heat 1B presented a three-boat race as *U.S. V.*, *Bardahl* and *Madison* battled one turn and one lap before settling into those finish positions with *Such Crust* at the rear. Suddenly, in the fourth lap *Bardahl* lost way, *Madison* passed, then her mechanical difficulty brought *U.S. V.* a win at 107.000-mph followed by *Madison*, *Bardahl* and *Such Crust*.

The action of Heat 1C brought *Mariner Too* into the corner first, *Notre Dame* inside and second, *Roostertail* third, and *Blue Chip* left at the line with a DNS. In lap two *Mariner* faltered and by lap four gave up entirely leaving the win to *Notre Dame* at 98.021-mph followed by *Roostertail* (Ex-*Tempest* and *Michelob*).

At the start of Heat 2A the fight be-

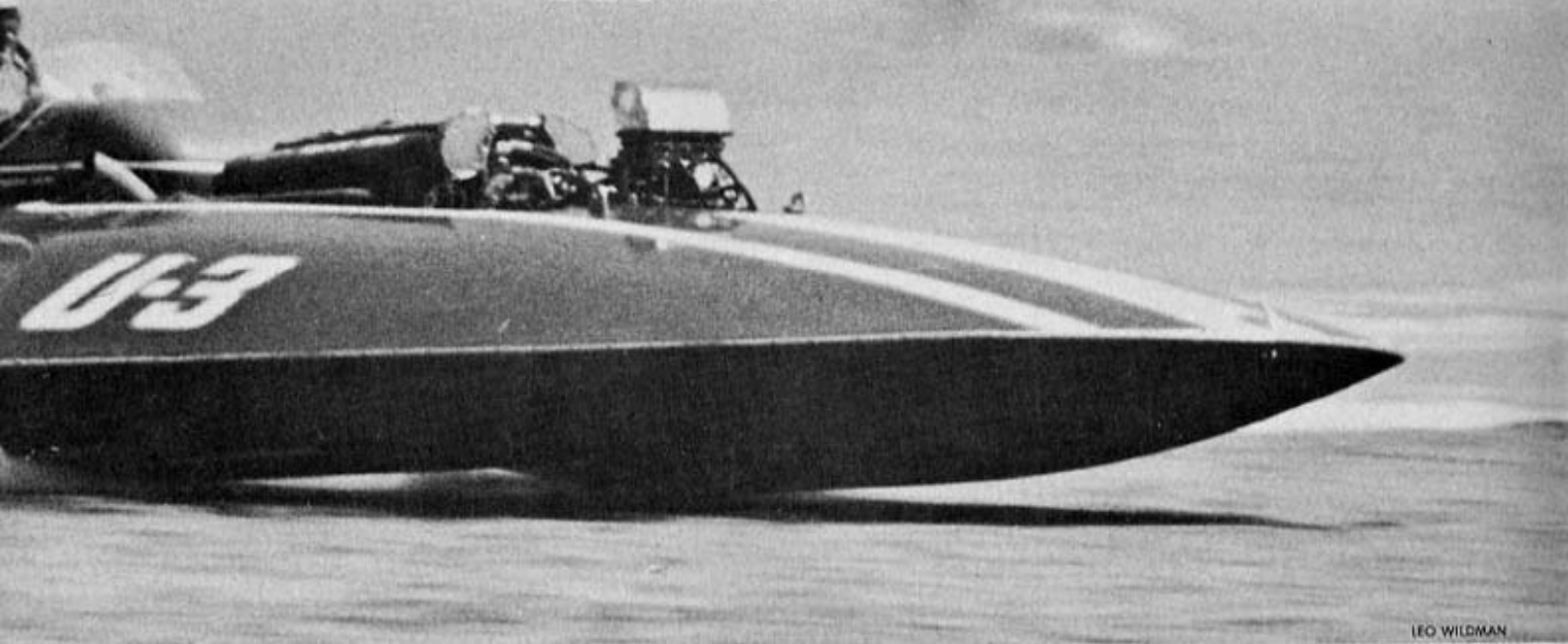
tween *Tahoe Miss*, *Bardahl* and *Budweiser* in a 110-mph first lap was quickly superseded by the oddity of *Bardahl* hitting a buoy which plastered itself across the boat's bow and refused to fall off! The altered air flow over the boat undoubtedly caused handling difficulty but Ron Musson drove the craft without loss of position. At the finish it was *Tahoe Miss* at 106.132-mph, *Bardahl*, *Budweiser*, *Notre Dame* and *Roostertail*. *Bardahl*, penalized an extra lap for hitting the buoy, received an official 5th place in the heat.

Heat 2B was all *Smirnoff*. At the finish of lap one Bill Cantrell was in the lead and there he stayed to win with a posted 104.570-mph on the books and remarks of "why, that ole speed merchant!" on the beach. *Madison* and *Savair's Mist* finished in that order but *Such Crust* returned to the pits on lap four.

U.S. V. took a tremendous leap at the start of lap two, giving driver Don Wilson an eyelid gash, severe bruising and an immediate pit stop.

The Final brought *Tahoe Miss*, *Notre Dame*, *Smirnoff*, *Madison* and *Budweiser* across the line for one wild start, first

Hard Luck Entry of '64 Felt at Home in Indiana



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turn and lap as two veteran chargers in *Tahoe Miss* and *Smirnoff* (Chuck Thompson and Bill Cantrell) had themselves a go that younger blood would envy.

First then second, inside, outside, pass and battle—at the end of lap one *Smirnoff* ran only 6 seconds ahead of *Tahoe Miss*.

Meanwhile *Madison* chute leaped and buried her bow but came up running. *Budweiser* hooked and spun in the upper corner of lap two. Into lap three *Madison* and *Notre Dame* duelled for third place; *Tahoe Miss* wick-walked and floated through lap four, *Budweiser* broke loose and leaped and *Notre Dame* hooked in a turn to lose precious seconds in her battle with *Madison*.

The finish saw *Smirnoff* win at 105.633 mph, with *Tahoe Miss*, *Madison*, *Notre Dame* and *Budweiser* following. Overall results, however, gave *Tahoe Miss* a deserved victory with 1100 points. After missing other wins by a few seconds or mechanical difficulty, the circuit's hard luck boat finally came through.

Pit experts decided the boat finally had hit the combination. But the President's Cup offered a different decision.

• Above: Throughout the 1964 season, the hard luck boat of the circuit was to be *Tahoe Miss*. Though rated as a pre-season favorite by many, the *Miss* was to miss victories by seconds, and suffer numerous mechanical embarrassments. At Madison, Indiana, however, driver Chuck Thompson wooed and won *Lady Luck* in a brief affair. Oddly enough, it was the 13th annual running of the Governor's Cup and a 13-boat field.



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• Above: *Miss Exide*, who narrowly beat out *Smirnoff* for fourth place in overall standings at the end of the season, put on a spectacular first heat show at Madison.