



gazette

BRADENTON Edition Vol. 38 - #1

Are you ready to "crank it up?" It's 2024 and the start of a new race season. Superleague is in Florida -the sunshine state- and we are ready to make some noise during the 9th annual Bradenton Area River Regatta. It's winter up north, don't miss your chance to enjoy some fun-in-the-sun. It's time for adrenalin-pushing action. It's time for the first heat of the OPC 2024 season on Saturday, February 17. With a stacked race card, it's a one-day explosive event



guaranteed to give relief from the winter blahs. APBA points, a guaranteed purse plus tow money, as well as television, are available in this high-stakes race. Set your GPS, start your stopwatch – the countdown has begun.



We are pleased to be a part of this incredible festival, an event with a powerful media punch, which draws more than 150,000 fans to both shores of the Manatee River and across the bridge span. In addition, the cities of Bradenton and Palmetto and the producers recognize the excitement of the Superleague race program adds to the overall show, making Superleague racing the main event of the daylight hours.

Read this Gazette carefully. Registration starts on Friday morning, February 16, in the launch pit and continues on Saturday morning. The drivers' briefing is at 8 am on Saturday, February 17. Your safety inspection starts as soon as we have boats registered. The Bradenton Area River Regatta has plenty to see and do when you are not racing, including the Family Fun Zone, and live concerts.

Pre-registration for this event is a must. Registration, credentials, and safety inspection will begin promptly on Friday. The powerboat race is the cornerstone of the River Regatta; we know that all of you will give fans a spectacular day of exciting competition. Detailed race information – everything you need to know about racing in Bradenton, Florida, during the annual running of the **Bradenton Area River Regatta** is included in this Gazette.

Site Logistics

DATES/REGISTRATION TIMES: **February 16-17, 2024** This is a one-day race with an extra day for check-in and capsule training. Race check-in for credentials and safety inspection begins on Friday morning, February 16, from 11-noon and 1-5 pm, and on Saturday morning, starting at 7:30 am in the ramp area before the drivers' briefing. **We will not issue credentials after the driver's briefing. Remember the following: everyone, including children in the designated areas, must sign the APBA waiver and release form, and everyone must wear the wristband on their wrist. Without this identification, you will be asked to leave the restricted area. Please read the APBA insurance guidelines for bringing children if their parents are not attending the event.** Insured testing will be the first in-water session before the racing heats.

LOCATION: The race site is on the Bradenton side of the river, in the area known as the Riverwalk. **The pit and launch areas are in Palmetto, at the marina.** The marina address is 1005 Riverside Drive, Palmetto, Florida. Note that this site is in the Eastern Time zone.

BODY OF WATER: The Manatee River is a federal waterway. The endangered wildlife act also protects it. Please act responsibly and follow all mandated regulations for this event, including observing all speed restrictions until you reach the designated start dock and racecourse. Permitting in this area depends on our cooperation.

SANCTIONING BODIES: This event is sanctioned and insured by APBA. The Formula 200 and SST 45 classes plus an in-water outboard vintage boat demo are on the approved sanction.

LAUNCH: by existing boat ramp for all boats. Weighing by crane, remember to bring your slings and make sure that they are up to date to hold the weight of your boat.

Registration

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. Powerboat Superleague will accept entry blanks via mail and email. However, you can still register at the race site (late fee applies); there is no Powerboat Superleague membership fee. **All entries must be received by close of business (5 pm), February 09, 2024.** We will not be in the office to receive mail after that date. If we do not have your entry blank before on-site registration, a \$25 late fee applies.

We ask for your cooperation; all necessary paperwork, planning, coordination, and tow money computations are completed before leaving the office for the event. **SEND RACE ENTRY TO APR EVENTS GROUP, P. O. BOX 539, NEW MARTINSVILLE, WV 26155, or email entry information to samwiner3@gmail.com**

NOTE: Entry Blank is available on the APBA website.

ENTRY FEES FOR THIS EVENT:

Formula 200: Preregistered before February 9, 2024 = \$125, late fee = \$25

SST 45: Preregistered before February 9, 2024 = \$85, late fee = \$25

There is no entry fee for the Vintage Boats, but we do need entry blanks and \$10* for those drivers participating with the in-water demo. * **vintage category fee**

Course and Format

The course must comply with all manatee protection zone requirements and insurance guidelines. Please make sure that you stay within the permit area.

TIME: will be approximately 32 - 34 seconds (shorter course for SST 45), non-surveyed, not approved for records. Distance is approximate 2/3 mile.

TYPE: rectangular, using pillow buoys to make the turns, entrance, and finish line.

Money-Money

Tow money, for F200 and SST 45, based on one-way distance from the race site to your hometown, is paid to all entries. We calculate mileage using Google Maps and the address supplied to APBA.

TOW MONEY and PRIZE MONEY

Formula 200 and SST 45 entries will receive tow money (\$0.50/mile one way)

Formula 200: 1 - \$1500, 2 - \$1000, 3 - \$700, 4 through 10 - \$500, 11 through last - \$350. You must start the final to be eligible for prize money

Less than 10 boats, there is a 15% reduction in prize money

SST 45: 1 - \$500, 2 - \$400, 3 - \$300, 5 - \$300, 6 through last - \$200

Less than 7 boats, there will be a 15% reduction in prize money

You must start the final to be eligible for prize money

TROPHIES awarded to the first three places in both classes.

POINTS – APBA points, per the APBA rulebook, will be awarded for the overall qualifying heats plus the finals. **NOTE: a new APBA/OPC rule allows for points (overall) from qualifying plus your final. This means two sets of points.**

Fuel

We do not mandate any specific fuel, but your choice must pass the current APBA fuel test. The website, www.puregas.com, has information for fuel availability in the Bradenton/Palmetto area.

Television

Spectrum SportsNet is televising this event, and will broadcast the race later. Check their program schedule for dates and times. Spectrum Sports, formerly Time-Warner Cable Sports, is a division of Charter Communications, the second-largest service in the United States, with the potential of 26 million viewers. Spectrum Sports is also available on Direct TV

Hospitality

Through the efforts of Robert Trolan, we have a sponsor for a Party in the Pits on Friday evening at the close of registration 5-5:30 pm in the wet pit area. The law office of Peter Lombardo has generously donated the funds to provide baked ziti plus beer and soft drinks to give all of us a chance to relax and enjoy the company of our racing fraternity. No rush to get boats to a display, no need to clean up and drive to another location for a party. Mr. Lombardo and Robert, we appreciate your gift –thank you!

Accommodations

ACCOMMODATIONS - The Marriott Hotel in downtown Bradenton is full. We are listing two websites that you can use to find area rooms that are best for you. Click on either www.mymanatee.org or www.bradentongulfislands.com.

2024 Rules

We are not a recognized APBA/OPC series; however, we provide a reliable group of professionally conducted races. Remember, we always use the current APBA and OPC general, racing, and safety rules. APBA scoring rules are followed to the letter when we determine the position of drivers: 1) if a heat must be restarted 2) to determine positions of each heat/final and 3) to compute the overall score/position when combining two or more groups. **Please read the most current APBA/OPC general rules, racing rules and safety rules.** Knowing the current rules is essential if you are going to protest a call. Remember to bring your rulebook, the rule reference and your driver's rep with you for a rule discussion with any official.

NEED TO CALL OR EMAIL US?

Remember our office hours are **9:00 am to 5:00 pm** Monday through Friday
304-771-0061



Emails: samwiner3@gmail.com winer.sherron@gmail.com

Find us on the web – www.APRsuperleague.com

Like us on Facebook –

www.facebook.com/PowerboatSuperleague
(link on the home page of our website)

REMEMBER – we are in the Eastern Time Zone

BRADENTON AREA
RIVER REGATTA
PALMETTO • BRADENTON
FREE Family Fun
at Manatee County's
Largest Spectator Event!



Proud member for 38 years
Sanctioned/Insured by APBA



Do You Need Capsule Training?

Capsule training is mandatory for all drivers. Check your APBA membership card for the capsule training expiration date. **We will offer limited training – limited to drivers competing—in this event. You must let us know in advance.** The Florida rescue team establishes the cost of the training (\$75); they receive the money.

Schedule



PLEASE PRINT THIS OUT AND BRING IT WITH YOU

Friday, FEBRUARY 16

NOTE: we cannot access the pit areas until 10 am on Friday morning. We are now using Palmetto City Streets and they will not be closed until Friday morning. We have a full staff available to assign and help park all rigs. Do not park on your own, you will be asked to move if you do.

11-noon and 1-5 pm On-site check-in, credentials, and safety inspection in the launch ramp area

RACE CREDENTIALS INFORMATION – To avoid congestion in the launch area, each driver's team will be limited to two launch passes. Only launch credentialed personnel will be permitted in this critical area. Everyone connected with this event must have a regular pit pass (wristband) which is received after signing the waiver and release form.

PIT AREA PARKING – The pit area has limited parking. Therefore, each team will be given one parking pass. All other vehicles will need to park in designated festival parking areas. We apologize for any inconvenience but the former pit area lots have been sold or are under contract for sale and are no longer available to us. There is on-street parking available on 10th avenue about a 1-3 minute walk to the dry pit areas.

CAPSULE TRAINING

4 – 6 pm – Friday Only

Courtyard Hotel – Bradenton. Please pre-register.

Limited to Bradenton race participants Cost = \$75

5:00 – 7:00 pm Driver/team hospitality in the pit area, sponsored by the Law Office of Peter Lombardo and through the efforts of Robert Trolan. Food (ziti) and beer – relaxed, no need to travel. Join us for fun without the fuss.

Saturday, FEBRUARY 17

7:30 - 8 am – credentials and safety inspection in the cold pit

8:00 am – drivers' briefing and mandatory manatee protection plan and review.

Note that this is part of the permit process

8:45 am – Chapel Service with Legacy Ministry – Laurie Vidal

10:00 am – noon --Launch followed Testing

12:30 pm – 2 pm --Launch followed by timed laps and qualifying heats for SST 45

1:30 – 3 pm --Launch followed by timed laps and qualifying heats for F 200

3:30 pm – Launch followed by the final race for SST 45

4:30 pm – Launch followed by final for F 200

In-water Vintage Program – explained during the drivers' briefing



We have received permission for in-water refueling at the start dock. Awards Presentation following final as described during drivers' briefing

Notes: **safety inspection will continue after the driver's briefing** Drivers' Briefing is mandatory.

Drivers not attending will be fined \$50. Buoy Fine = \$50

Tow Checks are in your on-site race registration packet (if you pre-registered). Prize checks are available after tech inspection in the inspection tent/area.

The following photos are maps for the pit and launch areas. Only tow vehicles will be permitted in these areas. Race Producers assure us there is plenty of on-street parking near by on 10th Avenue, a 1-2 minute walk. All of us appreciate your help in making this new location operate smoothly and efficiently. THANK YOU!



Launch Area and SST 45 pit area



**Dry Pit Area – Formula 200 and
Vintage
in-water Demo Boats only**

The dry pit area for F200 and in-water Vintage are located on Riverside Drive between 9th and 10th Avenues in Palmetto and is indicated by the yellow lines on the photo. SST 45 will pit adjacent to the launch area. Access on Saturday morning will be via 10th Avenue.