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03-09-2007, 07:15 AM

Goad

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com

Goad's Avatar

Join Date: Jul 2006
Location: Foothill Ranch, CA
Posts: 1,100

Send a message via AIM to

Need to ID this Boat's Owners

I bought this '71 Rogers Cyclone recently and I am trying to dig up the history on it. Old Rigger took a look at it and suspected it might be Jeff Paines old boat because of the markings on the bow said 'Jeff', but the last name was unreadable.

After sanding down most of the area, it turns out the previous owner is Jeff Millet. I coulda told myself that if I just looked at the registration (duh).

The only info I have is that its got 3 names on it.

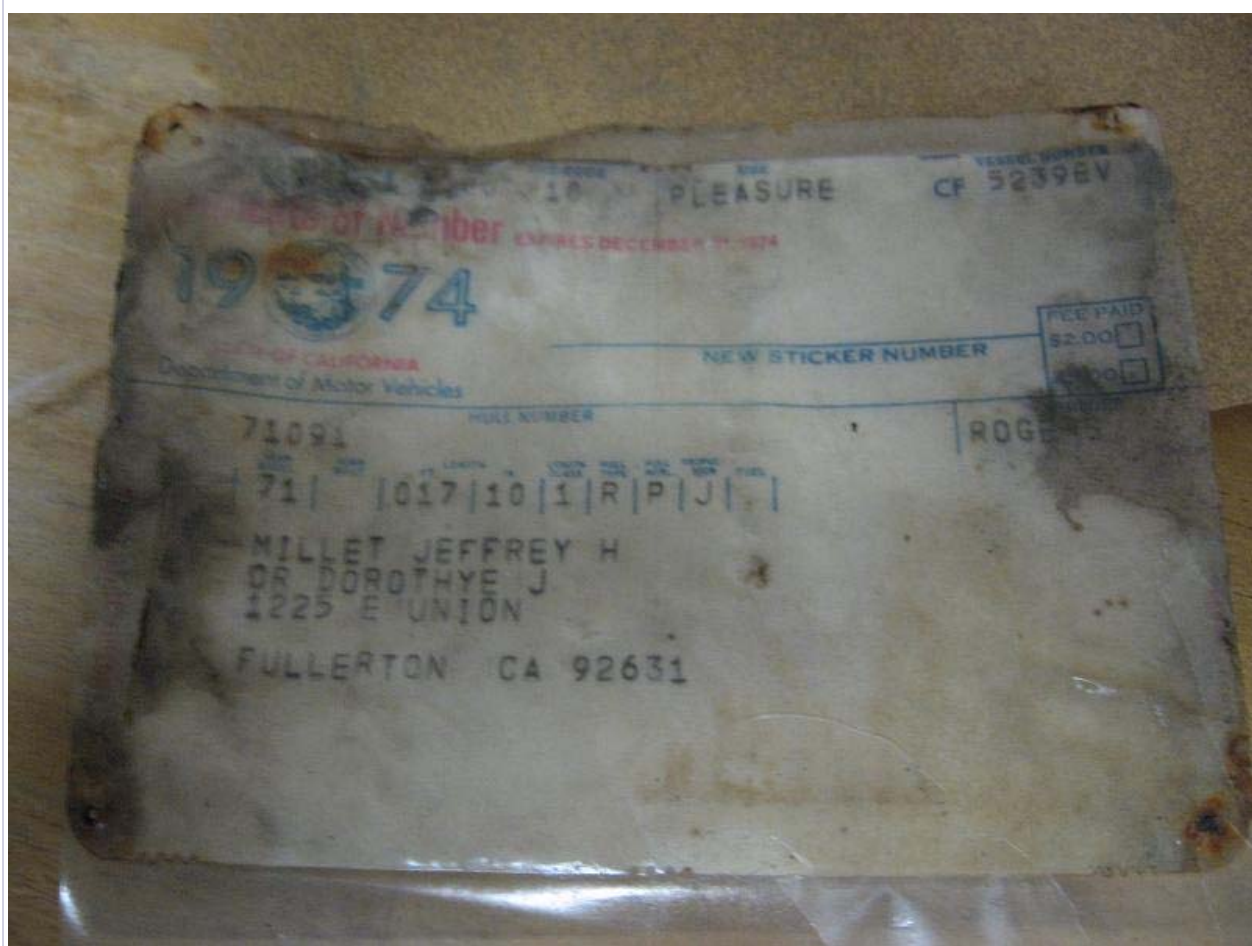
Owner: Jeff Millet
Captain: D.J. Millet
Crew: K___ Millet

...and I have the registration from '74.

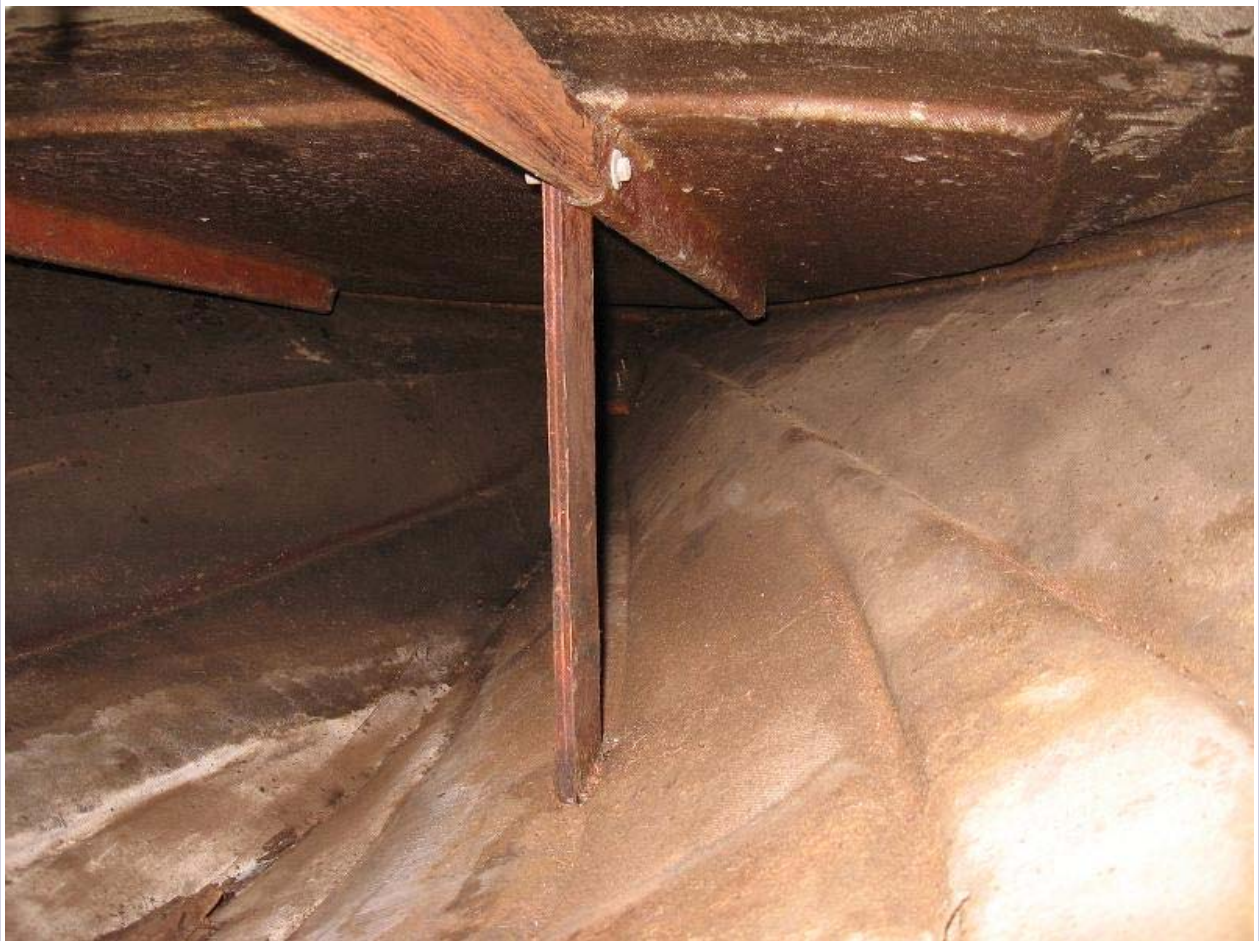
The boat's tag shows '84 and the trailer is '71.

Mainly I am trying to find the previous owner to see if they have any pictures of it when it was in its prime. It would help me in the resto process.

Heres some pics:







Last edited by Goad : 03-09-2007 at 07:20 AM.

 Goad is
em'

 03-09-2007, 07:19 AM

[Goad](#)

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com

 Goad
Avata

Join Date: Jul 2006
Location: Foothill Ranch, CA
Posts: 1,100

 Send a message via AIM to

more pictures from the other thread...





SoCalJetBoats.com

SCSCRacing.com

NostalgiaBoatRacing.com - Coming Soon!

 Goad is

 03-09-2007, 06:33 PM

MikeF

Spiral out

 MikeF's

Join Date: Jul 2001
Location: S.C.
Posts: 2,597



Though I've never spoken to him myself.....The name Craig Millet is on my boat (ex Kilo record holding Liberty). He said (in a thread from a very long time ago on another message board) that he used to race circle boats.

These are exerpts from the thread.....

I raced for Roger's Custom Boats for several years in the 70's and had both a ski boat and a bubbledeck that I raced in Comp Jet under the name Excalibur. The boats are great and very strong; handlaid fiberglass and full stringers. The pump is an old "b" pump, as that is what was then available.

Because of the strakes on the bottom, Roger Wieman's boats were very fast.

Jack McClure and Jeff Bennett know a lot about these boats.

Good luck

.....

My 18' Roger's bubble set the CJ Kilo record at 93.139 mph in the kilo time trials in 1974 (average over a full 5/8 mile over 2 runs.) This was a heavy circle boat remember. My Hondo set the closed course record in 1976 at 88+ mph (average speed over 3 laps of 1 2/3 mile course in actual circle competiton.) We broke those records while I was at Liberty Boats. They, of course, have all been broken since.

Might help.



Push the envelope.....watch it bend.

Determined

 MikeF is

 03-09-2007, 10:00 PM

That boat appears to be the former "Wild Raspberry" which was raced by Craig Millet at NJBA and COBRA circle races in

Clockstart

ex-Adrenaline Junkie

Join Date: Jan 2006

Location: Calif

Posts: 45

 Clockstart is

the mid 70's. Jeff Bennett or Jack McClure could put you in touch with Craig.

Cs

 03-09-2007, 10:08 PM

Goad

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com

 Goad's Avatar

Join Date: Jul 2006

Location: Foothill Ranch, CA

Posts: 1,100

 Send a message via AIM to

 Goad is

hey guys, thank you VERY much for this info....it just makes it that much 'more funner' to restore 😊

SoCalJetBoats.com

SCSCRacing.com

NostalgiaBoatRacing.com - Coming Soon!

 03-09-2007, 10:22 PM

beerjet

Pro duck hunter !

 beerjet's Avatar

Join Date: Nov 2005

Location: Rancho Cucamonga

Posts: 1,936

 beerjet is

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Goad** 

hey guys, thank you VERY much for this info....it just makes it that much 'more funner' to restore 😊

Quite the find huh.

-beerjet-

socaljetboats.com



 03-10-2007, 06:37 PM

Goad

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com

 Goad's Avatar

Join Date: Jul 2006

Location: Foothill Ranch, CA

Posts: 1,100

 Send a message via AIM to

 Goad is

Quote:

Originally Posted by **beerjet** 

Quite the find huh.

-beerjet-

yup...the hidden treasure 😊

SoCalJetBoats.com

SCSCRacing.com

NostalgiaBoatRacing.com - Coming Soon!

 03-12-2007, 10:21 AM

Goad

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com

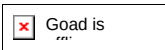
Quote:

Originally Posted by **Clockstart** 



Join Date: Jul 2006
Location: Foothill Ranch, CA
Posts: 1,100

Send a message via AIM to Goad



That boat appears to be the former "Wild Raspberry" which was raced by Craig Millet at NJBA and COBRA circle race in the mid 70's. Jeff Bennett or Jack McClure could put you in touch with Craig.

Cs

Can anyone verify if Craig Millet ran a Bubble deck or not? This boat is not a bubble deck.

Thanks!

-Brad

SoCalJetBoats.com
SCSCRacing.com
NostalgiaBoatRacing.com - Coming Soon!

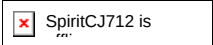


03-12-2007, 11:22 AM

SpiritCJ712

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2007
Posts: 11



That's my boat!!!

Yes, that is the original Rootin' Tootin' Raspberry---the original 712. It began its life as a raspberry metal flake ski boat that I tried racing in 1972 along with Steve King and his family's ski boat. We took the seats out, slapped on headers and it ran 79 mph first pass at Ming---in 1972. We bolted in a scoop (you guys call them loaders) that Steve made in high school metal shop and it ran 84 next pass.

The Raspberry was fast, but it was not a fair match for dedicated race boats then run by Jack McClure, Jeff Paine, Roger Finney, the Barons, etc. It returned to its life as a fast ski boat when we got more serious and built a true race boat which was the Rogers bubbledeck you referred to (Excalibur.) After that I raced a Hondo (Spirit) and then an Eliminator (Spirit II). I finished my racing career with Liberty boats before law school took all time away.

Man, there are a lot of stories in that fiberglass. My family used the boat for several more years as ski boat and finally sold it in the early 80's (I think.) And I do have pictures and even an old 8 mm movie of it in the quarter mile. I would be more than happy to provide any info I can. Craig. cmillet@gibsondunn.com



03-12-2007, 12:13 PM

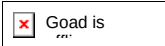
Goad

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com



Join Date: Jul 2006
Location: Foothill Ranch, CA
Posts: 1,100

Send a message via AIM to Goad



Craig,

I am floored that I actually found the original owner of this boat...thank you for posting on here!

I picked up this boat from a guy in El Cajon who bought it from a guy on Ebay in Corona. The boat was loaded with loads of goodies when he got it off ebay....stripped it, and sold me the hull and trailer as it sits.

This is what the guy in El Cajon said was on the boat:

All was very old school, probably assembled in/from the 70's. A rectangular port big block Chevy, tunnel ram, huge (unknown actual size) double pump carb, ss "B" impellor (high RPM's), ancient looking loader grate, a wedge on the pump to tune it's plane, ? 10 quarts of race oil in the bow, a really old school race scoop (which I have), and I don't know what else. It just seems that's a lot of high end parts when you consider when they were (probably) put on the boat.

More info here: <http://www.socaljetboats.com/index.php?topic=381.0>

I bet the loader he referred to is the one Steve made in metal shop haha!

I had briefly talked to Jim Brock this past weekend at the Long Beach Swap Meet about the boat and he said he only remembered you running a bubble deck...but now to find out you had run both.

The boat is located in Foothill Ranch (Irvine/Lake Forest/Mission Viejo area). I would love for you to swing by sometime to see the boat and share some stories. They would be priceless to me.

-Brad

SoCalJetBoats.com
SCSCRacing.com
NostalgiaBoatRacing.com - Coming Soon!



03-12-2007, 01:04 PM

old rigger

Long Beach Speed & Marine



Join Date: Jul 2001
Location: Long Beach, Ca
Posts: 1,668

 old rigger is
...

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Goad**  [View Post](#)

Can anyone verify if Craig Millet ran a Bubble deck or not? This boat is not a bubble deck.Thanks!

Brad, congrats on finding the history you were looking for.
The Rogers bubble decks came later, not on this bottom. That's the old 'clipper ship' deep entry bottom you have. The newer, faster, safer bottom came in '72 I believe, with the flat deck. The bubble in '73.

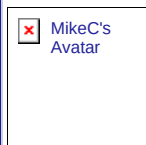
Steve King was also the guy that built all Roger's blower motors for the factory boats. He was gone by the time I went to work for Roger, but would stop by now and then. He's a fireman I believe now, and has been for the lasts 25 years or so.

Cool find.

 03-12-2007, 01:45 PM

MikeC

MikeC



Join Date: Sep 2000
Location: Glendale, AZ USA
Posts: 173

Holy Crap.

The infamous high school kid that invented the loader grate! We heard about him from Jack McClure and Jeff Bennett about 7 years ago. From what I remember, Jack said before this kid came up with this loader, a piece of cloth's hanger across the intake was the hot ticket.....

"A couple of high school kids that showed up and kicked everyone's asses."

I've been wondering for all these years, thanks now I know, it was Steve King.

MikeC

Quote:

Originally Posted by **SpiritCJ712**  [View Post](#)

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Man, there are a lot of stories in that fiberglass. My family used the boat for several more years as ski boat and finally sold it in the early 80's (I think.) And I do have pictures and even an old 8 mm movie of it in the quarter mile. I would be more than happy to provide any info I can. Craig. cmillet@gibsondunn.com

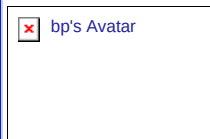
MikeC

 MikeC is
...

 03-12-2007, 02:02 PM

bp

Registered User



Join Date: Apr 2002
Location: Lake Havasu City, AZ
Posts: 1,499

Quote:

Originally Posted by **MikeC**  [View Post](#)

Holy Crap.

The infamous high school kid that invented the loader grate! We heard about him from Jack McClure and Jeff Bennett about 7 years ago. From what I remember, Jack said before this kid came up with this loader, a piece of cloth's hange across the intake was the hot ticket.....

"A couple of high school kids that showed up and kicked everyone's asses."

I've been wondering for all these years, thanks now I know, it was Steve King.

MikeC

hey mc, what's up? you still playin with that poncho?

i seem to recall the story that there were three hischoolers; craig/steve/jeff. i also remember hearing a story of how they

were down on the river with something broke, had to leave, and harold bruce asked if he could borrow that scoop lookin deal. they loaned it, left to get something fixed, and when they got back, harold had kicked everyone's butt by pickin up some serious mph with the scoop. too many stories to remember 'em all.

bp

 bp is



03-12-2007, 02:26 PM

MikeC

MikeC



MikeC's
Avatar

Join Date: Sep 2000

Location: Glendale, AZ USA

Posts: 173

Hey BP, I don't rember that part, but that is funny! I'd love to look through the old messages and find that message list one day.

Yes, Poncho has been very good to me.

Where are you hanging these day's?
Hope you and family are well, all good here.
MikeC

Eme@ Mikeycu@cox.net

http://www.highperformancepontiac.co...rand_prix.html

<http://www.amsoil.com/adslicks/Ad779.jpg>

MikeC



MikeC is



03-12-2007, 02:30 PM

SpiritCJ712

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2007

Posts: 11

Steve King

Nah, Steve is not a fireman, never was. I still see Steve a few times a year. He lives in Placentia. Our fathers went to HS together. Steve and I used to race Sabot sail boats when we were about 12. We both then got 13' Boston Wailers with outboards and went water skiing. Steve, Jeff Bennett and I all went to HS together as well. We went to the NDBA drags at Long Beach once and watched the likes of Ray Casselli and Larry Schwabenland and that was it. We were hooked. Our families had purchased jet ski boats by then and we tore into to them to try to make them go fast. My great thanks to Jack McClure for teaching us so much and likely keeping us from killing ourselves.

Jeff Bennett was my "crew chief" (more like best friend) for years and then we both ended up at Liberty Boats/Competition Marine in the late '70's after I closed my shop and got my degree in Philosophy. We ran Liberty's race program and also did the pump, hardware and bottom on other boats like Harold Bruce's boat and Norm Grime's boat "Dash for Cash"--first UBGJ to go over 125 mph.

A couple of stories--During easter week one year, Jeff Bennett had the "honor" of skiing naked down the Parker strip while I drove the Raspberry full of girls. On another occasion, The Raspberry, pulling Mike Basso won the the Needles inner tube race where about 12 idiots pulled a guy on an inner tube as fast as you could go to the train bridge and back. After it returned to duty as a ski boat, the Raspberry had a 454 Chev in it made up of retired race parts. Once, we took the Raspberry to the NJBA drags, along with the bubbledeck Rogers, so we could ski after the races. On a whim we entered the Raspberry in the Ski Jet II class and won the class, with the seats and everything installed. We were protested and had to tear down the engine. Jack McClure measured the engine and declared it legal--way legal. So we had plenty of beer money for the next day.

Re "old school loaders," we must have made a couple of hundred scoops over the years we raced. Some of the designs look very much like what you have today and some you have never seen, with blow in doors, twisted vanes, vanes longer on one side, etc. We also devised the "anti- suction" plate to reduce drag near the shoe. We used to dye the shoe and read the cavitation burn between heats. We used to cut the outboard fin down on the jet intake to help scoop water into the intake when turning left. Finally, the bottom mod that turned the Eliminator tunnel boats into truly fast boats was devised late one after noon while Jeff and I were floating in the water at Bluewater, drinking beer and looking at the bottom of my Eliminator on the trailer trying to figure out how to stop the hi speed cavitation problem.

I left Liberty to go to law school and that ended racing for me. Jeff, Jack, Norm and others continued on. Steve King had left racing by then as well. Jeff got his degree in engineering and was with General Dynamics, and may still be. We all stayed in touch through Jack McClure and Norm Grimes.

Wow this brings back some memories of wild times!



SpiritCJ712 is



03-12-2007, 02:30 PM

SpiritCJ712

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2007

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Posts: 11

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Wow this brings back some memories of wild times!

 SpiritCJ712 is

 03-12-2007, 02:50 PM

old rigger

Long Beach Speed & Marine



Join Date: Jul 2001
Location: Long Beach, Ca
Posts: 1,668

 old rigger is

Quote:

Originally Posted by **SpiritCJ712**  [View Post](#)

Nah, Steve is not a fireman, never was. I still see Steve a few times a year....

Could have sworn he was a fireman or a paramedic. Oh well. 😊

Just got off the phone with Roger, the guy I was thinking about was Mark, another rigger from back in the day. Damn...I for sure that was King. lol.

Last edited by old rigger : 03-12-2007 at 03:23 PM.

 03-12-2007, 02:55 PM

SpiritCJ712

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2007
Posts: 11

Harold Bruce

Sorry about the double post above---not sure how that happened.

Re Harold Bruce: The story is basically true. We met Harold and family at Bluewater one year. He had a green metal flake Rogers and Roger Wieman had told him to talk to us if he made it to the races. I still had my own boat shop then. We probably carried about a half dozen scoops with us by then, to allow us to chg to meet water conditions, etc. Plus we ran one type of scoop for drags and chg'd to another for circle racing. Some one had told Harold that scoops didn't make any difference and he would not pick up any speed. Oh yeah? We couldn't resist that challenge and we let Harold use one I was not using. Harold won and worked together after that for some time. So it is true except for the "broke and had to leave part."

The whole intake area became quite proprietary. We used to have intake covers to hide the bottom. We would even install decoy scoops or no scoop, until shortly before we were ready to race. On occasion, one of my friends, Craig Peterson, would sleep under the boat to keep prying eyes away from the bottom of the boat.

There are a thousand more stories like these.

 SpiritCJ712 is

 03-12-2007, 04:21 PM

cyclone
Registered User

 cyclone's Avatar

Join Date: Dec 2001
Posts: 5,832

 cyclone is

Quote:

Originally Posted by **SpiritCJ712**  [View Post](#)

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There are a thousand more stories like these.

I'm lovin your stories. Keep 'em coming..

sporttruck.com
custom trucks and women.....

conceptmarine.net
badass boats.....

 03-12-2007, 04:22 PM

cyclone
Registered User

 cyclone's Avatar

Join Date: Dec 2001
Posts: 5,832

 cyclone is

Bennett water skiing naked...lol i'm laughin my ass off.

sporttruck.com
custom trucks and women.....

conceptmarine.net
badass boats.....

 03-12-2007, 04:53 PM

SpiritCJ712
Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2007
Posts: 11

Needles and McClure

The night before I won my first race with the bubbledeck Rogers, Jack McClure got me so drunk such that I could hardly stand the next day. The crew poured me into the boat and somehow off we went to race in the Needles Marathon--90 minutes up and down the Colorado River. Jeff Bennett was standing on the shore holding a chalk board so I could see my + or - lead or trail on each lap. The truth is, I could hardly see Jeff, or anything else, at all. Jack had mechanical problems and I got by Jack, Jeff Paine and Phil Trichler about half way through. On the final lap I swung wide by the shore and I remember Jeff standing out waste deep in the River with the chalk board which just said "\$\$\$\$." The tradition then was to through a driver who had just won his first race into the river--no easy task. Jack and I got drunk again that night as well.

I also remember drinking beer for hours out of the championship cup with Jack (and about 50 others) when Jack won the marathon at Bluewater. I also believe it was Jack who fished me out of the water in the rescue boat at Puddingstone (aka Puddinghole) after the worst of my 4 crashes. I flipped the Bubbledeck end over end on the back straight. I got hurt pretty good that day. That was the day Jeff Paine was badly injured in a crash as well. So it seems Jack has always been there- through the good and the bad.

And then of course there was the Bill Scotten era and our adventures. But that is another chapter.

I would love to race again, but my wife would kill me!

 SpiritCJ712 is

 03-12-2007, 07:46 PM

Goad

Brad @ SoCalJetBoats.com

 Goad's Avatar

Join Date: Jul 2006
Location: Foothill Ranch, CA
Posts: 1,100

 [Send a message via AIM to Goad](#)

 Goad is

Craig,

Man, I love these stories. They are great. I cant wait to see pictures of this boat from back when it was in its prime....

Rod posted that he emailed you about the scoop (loader) that was on the boat before I bought it from him:

<http://www.socaljetboats.com/index.php?topic=393>

Anyways, keep those stories coming and I hope I can do your boat justice on this restore project.

-Brad

SoCalJetBoats.com

SCSCRacing.com

NostalgiaBoatRacing.com - Coming Soon!

 03-12-2007, 09:04 PM

MikeF

Spiral out

 MikeF's

Join Date: Jul 2001
Location: S.C.
Posts: 2,597

 MikeF is

SpiritCJ712.....Please check your emails! 

Push the envelope.....watch it bend.

[Determined](#)

 03-12-2007, 09:52 PM

SpiritCJ712

Registered User

Join Date: Mar 2007
Posts: 11

Raspberry

Brad:

I would love to see the boat as you move along. I am sure I can find some pictures of it. I found several of my Hondo, other Rogers and Eliminator at the office today, including some Liberty photos and pictures of Norm Grimes' boat, plus several old magazines from the 70's. But, I have to look at home and call my folks for pictures of the Raspberry. BTW the "Jeff, Dorothea and Karyn Millet" noted on the deck are my father, mother and sister. If I can find it, I will have one rather special picture for you too.

The boat was always named "Rootin' Tootin' Raspberry" from the start--after the character from the Kool Aid-like punch. But the boat was not capped originally (silver metalflake trim) and there wasn't enough room for the whole name. So it became Wild Raspberry for a time. Awhile later, we had the boat capped and the capped area painted bright white by Ken Meyers at B&K and, with the metal strip gone, the full proper name then returned.

Another Story: In the 70's, circle racing was the thing. The Raspberry was really fast, but we weren't sure if it would do well in circle races given the long lifting strakes and large bow. But, Steve was doing well in the MJ class in his newer stlye Rogers.

We used to take co-riders back then and in my first circle race at Castaic I had my hi-school chum Craig Peterson in the boat. We had a good start and true to form, the Raspberry left the other boats well behind. We got to the first turn after the long first straight ahead of the pack and started the turn. The Raspberry dropped the nose, hooked and spun 360--twice. On the first turn, my co rider went out. Having a death grip on the steering wheel, it took me a little longer, and I went out on the second turn. Peterson surfaced yelling "my watch is gone" and then "my wallet is gone too." He also lost his shoes, but we found one about a year later in the bow of the boat. We didn't know any better, we just got into the boat street dress and all and raced. That was my first time in the water in a race. I was really sore for several days.

We then built the bubbledeck Excalibur and did well. Peterson continued to co ride with me for many races until our second time in the water in a race....we rolled the the boat at Lake Casitas in a pretty spectacular high speed crash. The boat sunk with just the bow sticking straight up. I surfaced after the crash some distance from the boat, but I could not find Peterson. I was a little worried. Peterson swam to the surface to find himself still inside the boat, with his head inside the floating nose. I could hear him, but I couldn't find him. He finally pushed himself down into the water and swam out of the boat--pretty incredible considering he was wearing a Simpson life jacket. That crash hurt worse than no. 1 and I was laid up a little longer. But nothing at all like Crash No. 3 at Puddingstone.

I never had another co-rider after the Casitas crash. Wonder why? We converted the boat to a single center seat after that.

Thanks for letting me tell you all about this stuff. Best to you all and feel free to write with any questions, etc.

 SpiritCJ712 is

 03-12-2007, 10:20 PM

cyclone

Registered User

 cyclone's Avatar

Join Date: Dec 2001
Posts: 5,832

 cyclone is

you have some huge gonads running a Cyclone that fast. My folks had a '71 Cyclone that i later inherited and at 70 mph it was a sketchy ride to shut down. turned on a dime though. They folks have a Super Cyclone now. I sure do love those boats. keep the stories coming..i'm forwarding them to the folks.

You know what's funny is i've spent many lunches with Jack and he rarely talks about his racing days. He does like to tell stories about hippies camping out naked at the river though. lol 

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