Thunder & 'LIGHTS

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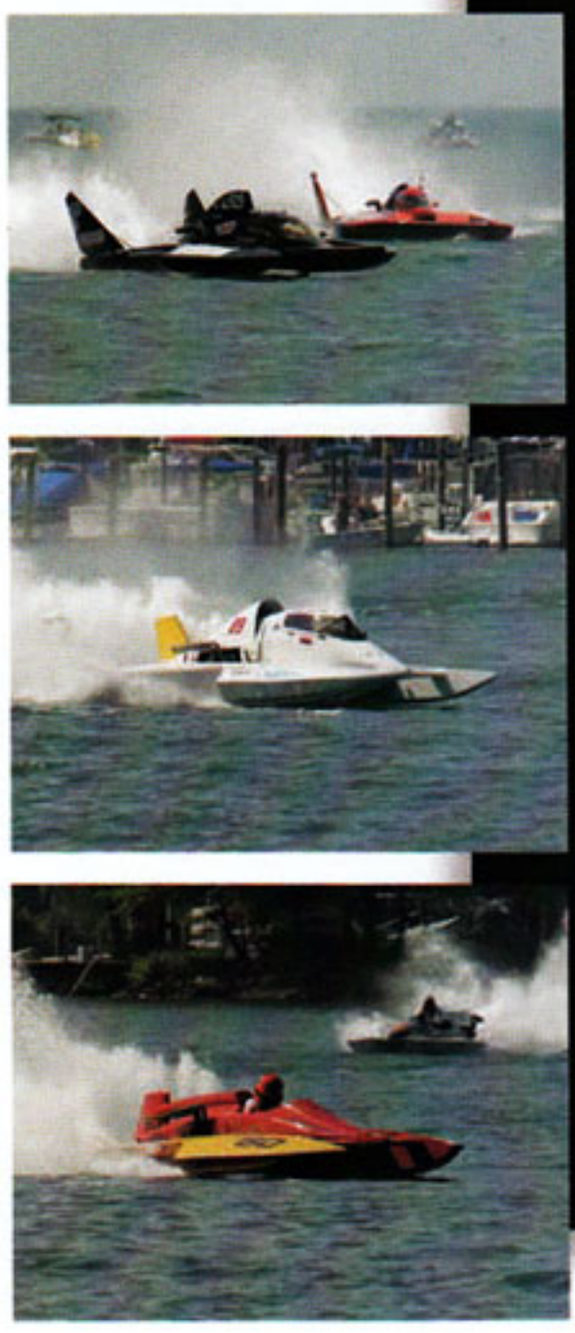
A FEW WORDS FROM THE Editor

The voice on the phone asked, "Are you Mark Sharley, Editor of 'Thunder and 'LIGHTS"? It was one of those calls which, from the first sentence, you know won't be pleasant. I had uncharacteristically answered the call since the number was unfamiliar. The caller went on to identify herself as Jennifer Long, daughter of T&L Contributing Photographer, Richard Long. "These magazines that you sent", she inquired, "do I owe you money?" "No", I replied, and went on to explain that it was one of her father's photos that appeared on the cover, and that the copies of the magazine were the usual comp-copies sent to all Contributing Photographers. While relieved to learn that the copies were complimentary, she continued with her story. Her father, a respected Sports Photographer in the Detroit area, she explained, had passed away just a few weeks earlier. Richard had passed out while shooting a Red Wings Hockey game. He was rushed to the hospital, but ultimately succumbed to heart-related complications.

Sadly, that was right about when I had mailed the magazine-copies, and just a bit too late to express my appreciation to him for his contribution. While my acquaintance with Richard wasn't lengthy, I remember him well. He and I had shared space at the 'Roostertail Turn' railing during the 2006 Gold Cup; discussing techniques and gear between heats. Always on the lookout for additional photographers, I exchanged contact-information with him. Several weeks later, a disk containing a few-dozen of his photos arrived, and, having no clear-cut cover-shot selected, I chose his "929 and 33 exiting the turn". But he never knew. Richard, I barely knew you, but I miss you.

On a much more pleasant note, however, T&L is happy to welcome Associate Editors, Walt Ottenad and Lisa Courneya to the staff in that expanded capacity. Neither are new-comers; for the past two years, they have been two of our most prolific Contributing Photographers. Last year, Walt expanded that role to include the design and layout of the intro-pages for the team and race-site sections. This year, Walt designed and produced the 'Team-Pages', and Lisa did the same with the 'Lighter-than-Lights' section, both monumental undertakings. Their attention to detail and creative design ability has significantly improved this magazine, and I certainly hope we can count on their continued involvement.

Maybe it's for Walt and Lisa's assistance this year that my "I'm never doin' this again" statement wasn't expressed quite as often. Or maybe I'm just getting used to the "insanity". I don't know, but regardless, I'll see you again next year. Now let's get out and enjoy some boat racing!



left - a few of Richard Long's photos, incl. last year's cover-shot, top

Mark Sharley
Editor, Thunder & Lights

vol-5

Publisher

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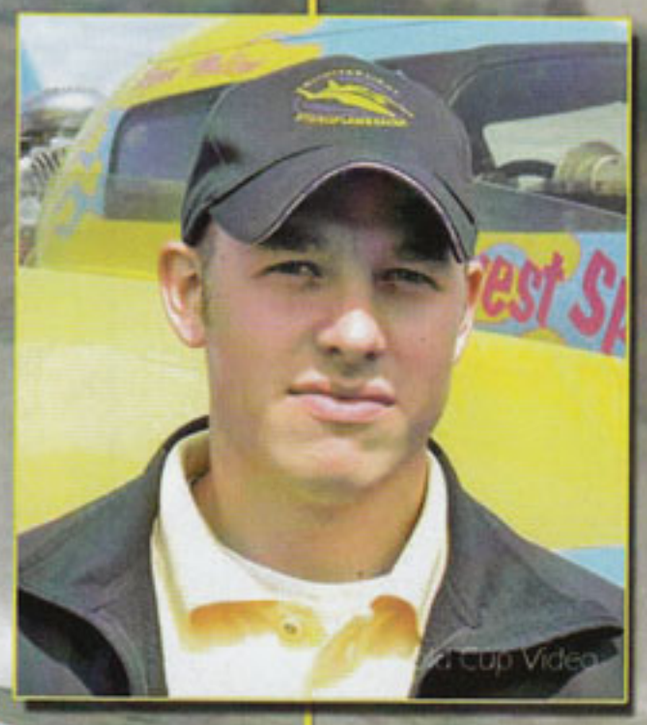
'in memory of Richard Long, Paul Pederson, and Leslie Smith'

UL-19
Five Star Racing



Ryan Mallow

Lisa Courneya

Walt Ottenad

Walt Ottenad

Mark Sharley

2007 4th Place High Points

Mark Sharley

Team: Five Star Racing LLC

Home Port: Everett, WA
Owner: Tom Eckenberg
Driver: Ryan Mallow
Crew Chief: Allen Revel
Crew: Bruce Townsend
Mark Belson - Chris Alix
Boat Statistics: Built 2004
Length 26' - Width 12'6"
Weight 3550 Lbs.
Design/Built: Dale VanWierengen/UL19 Crew
Engine: 468 c.i. Super-Charged Chevrolet
Builder: Ed Trihey, Ed's Automotive
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After PLANE

Silverdale, WA 2007

Photo & text by Walt Ottenad

Quicksilver had not been kind to Vince Xaudaro and the "All Black, All the Time" UL-929. Having never finished the event due to mechanical issues in 2005 and severe boat damage in 2006, the "X-Man" brought a commanding points lead to Silverdale in 2007. Making the Final Heat from the B Main, Vince looked ready to head to the next race in San Diego with an almost unassailable lead in the driver's points chase.

The view from the deck of the Judge's boat was perfect as Vince lined up for the start. The best shot I ever got of the UL-929 was also the last, as immediately after this frame, it hit a hole on the back chute, shedding both sponsons and sinking almost immediately. Fortunately Vince emerged with only minor injuries. Instead of leaving this race at the top of the standings and erasing the bad luck that followed the black boat at Silverdale:

History changed...

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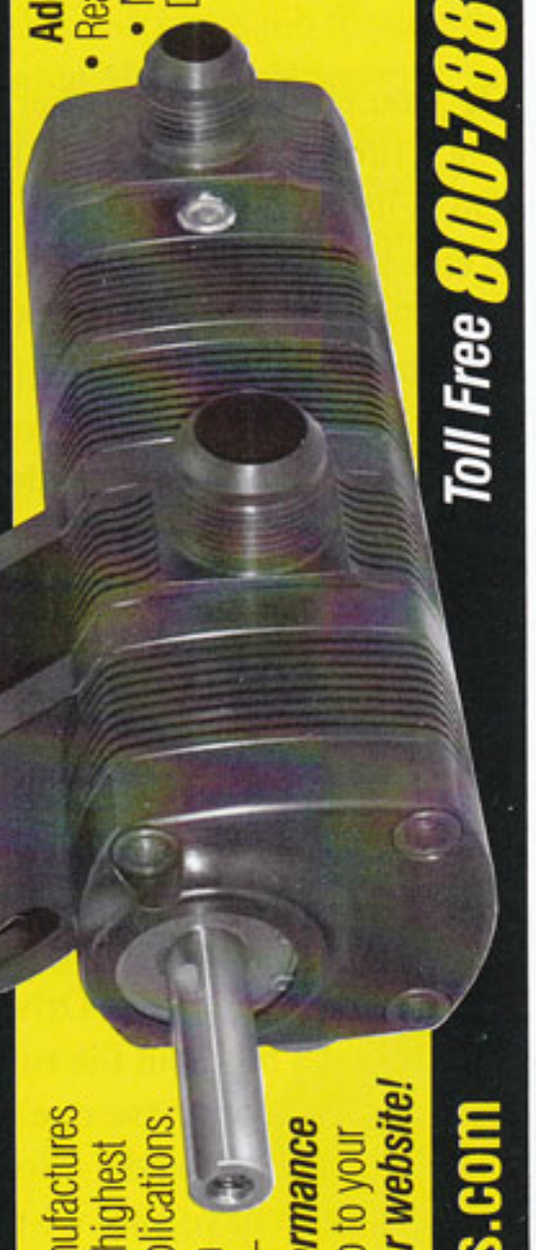

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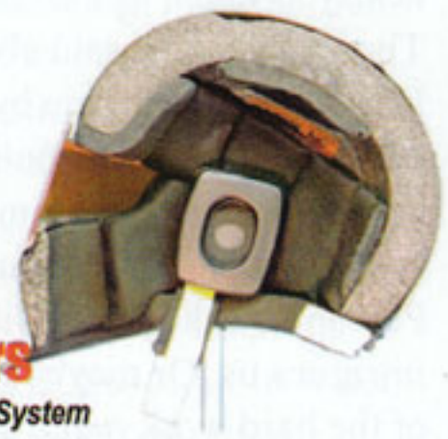

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