

Southland Sweepstakes

Some Are Tickled Pink To Be Here Racing

The balloon goes up Saturday at Lake Maggiore and the bet's 8 to 5 it'll be pink.

Dottie Cottrell in the seven-litre boomer, Tickled Pink, was expected to purchase 100 or so pink balloons, sell them for a dime apiece, let them float around the area and send the proceeds to All-Children's Hospital. Whether she does or not we'll have to see. But regardless, the 54th annual Southland Sweepstakes Regatta will go Saturday and Sunday on the fastest closed course in the world with a showcase of speed planned.

Registration will be at the Ramada Inn South, race headquarters. Jim Macaluso, race chairman, said about 280 entries have been received. Testing will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday with races to begin Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at noon. Proceeds will be sent to All-Children's, as has been the satisfying policy in the past.

Members of the sponsoring Northeast Exchange Club finished putting up a mile and a half of fence the other day and also erected bleachers. The north end of the lake will be opened for the first time to parking and spectators with concession stands and restrooms.

The season's first event was held last weekend at Miami Marine Stadium and many of those boats will be on Lake Maggiore come this weekend. Among those will be 20-year-old Duff Dailey of Miami, last year's national Ski Boat champion. He flipped his boat, Oh Mona! last weekend, but has been working to get the engine out of it into another hull to compete in the Southland.

All 13 class sponsors have been sold and much of the program will be dedicated to Darrell Boren and Joe Siracusa, both of whom died last year in accidents, Siracusa during a race.

Admission will be \$2 Saturday, \$3 Sunday with a \$1.50 pre-gate admission if you buy your ticket from a Northeast Exchange member before race day.

Local entries expected to compete include Dea Wiseley in Seminole Miss, a 280 class boat; Jim Appley's two boats, Super J II, and Super J, driven by Appley and Skip Hickman respectively; Jack Sellers' E-Gadds in the 850 class, probably driven by son Jim, and Len Zenkel's Miss Fleetwing in the 280 class. Richard Moore of Clearwater has entered Flamer's Special in the 98 class and Mark McCall of St. Pete will race Pokey in the 145 class.

Weather conditions would have to get pretty bad to cancel the event, but a heavy wind could chop up Lake Maggiore enough to keep the fleet ashore. It's unlikely, though, because the weatherman has predicted occasional showers and light to moderate breezes, fine for sailing and powerboating.

It could also be fine for balloon flying, but Dottie will find that out, maybe.



Staff Photo by Fred Victorin

St. Pete's Lynn Zirkle Hopes To Avoid This Again In Southland