

Dayton Eyes Boat Race



By Jim Robey

When the doors at Hara Arena swing open at 1 p.m. tomorrow for the opening of the nine-day Greater Dayton Boat, Travel Trailer, Vacation and Sportsmen's Show, the first impression one may have is that Dayton is big on boat racing.

Just beyond the doors in the Arena lobby, eight racing boats will be exhibited by the Dayton Motorboat Racing Assn. They range in size from a 10-foot stock outboard to the seven liter hydroplane that has been piloted to national acclaim by Dave (Salty) Walther of West Carrollton.

Other racing craft that rate high in national competition are being shown, too. Dayton area drivers Cliff Reif, Joe Kreitzer, John Keller, Jon Culver and Dean Chenoweth are among the most successful drivers advancing the sport of boat racing.

IT HARDLY SEEMS possible that there would be any interest in this pastime considering the shortage of water hereabouts, but the fact re-

mains that the number of Dayton boatmen continues to grow.

"Pleasure boaters think nothing of driving to Cumberland Lake in Kentucky for a weekend," says Culver.

"The boat racers will go just about any place in the country to enter a major race," he adds.

If the current president of the Dayton Motorboat Racing Assn., Paul G. Kinzeler, has his way there will be a lot of racing in future years within the city limits of Dayton.

"WE HAVE A BID in for a sanctioned American Power Boat Assn. race for Aug. 23 at Eastwood Lake," Kinzeler said. "We're hoping to bring the nationals here in 1972," he added.

Eastwood Lake, the 300-acre quarry at Harshman Road and Routes 4 & 69, is an ideal place for holding boat races, according to Kinzeler.

The racing association received special permission from the city to hold the Eastern Division championship races at Eastwood for two

straight years (1966 and '67) and the events were very successful.

High banks around the water shielding the lake from wind and excellent viewing for spectators have given Eastwood a solid reputation with boat drivers as an outstanding site for holding races, the association contends.

"If you really want to know how much the drivers think of Eastwood, just ask one from out of state who has raced at many places," Kinzeler said.

ALTHOUGH RACING craft may command more attention than most boats at the sportmen's show, plenty of other boats are on display for persons interested in fishing, cruising and houseboating.

The largest craft on exhibit is a 47-foot houseboat with a price tag in the neighborhood of \$28,000. Such boats are becoming very popular with persons who enjoy spending their weekends cruising up and down the Ohio River.

Alex Sinclair, show director, says that dealers handling camping trailers are exhibit-

ing about everything imaginable in this line of vacation equipment, including one rig that will run on land or water.

On weekends the show runs from 1 to 10:30 p.m. and on weekdays from 6 to 10:30. A fish pond stocked with trout has been erected to entertain youngsters and "Dancing Waters," a colorful, musical fountain, will play at 8 p.m. weekdays and at 3 and 8 on weekends.

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ICE FISHING — Solid ice on Lake Erie invites fishing, but only fair success is reported by wildlife division fieldmen who have been contacting anglers at Catawba Point, Sandusky Bay and Put-In-Bay.

The fluctuating temperatures places a question mark over ice conditions at inland lakes. Persons interested in ice fishing this weekend should call ahead to check with the park or lake manager.

Yesterday the state reported "unsafe ice" at southeast Ohio lakes and "precarious" ice on southwest and northwest Ohio.