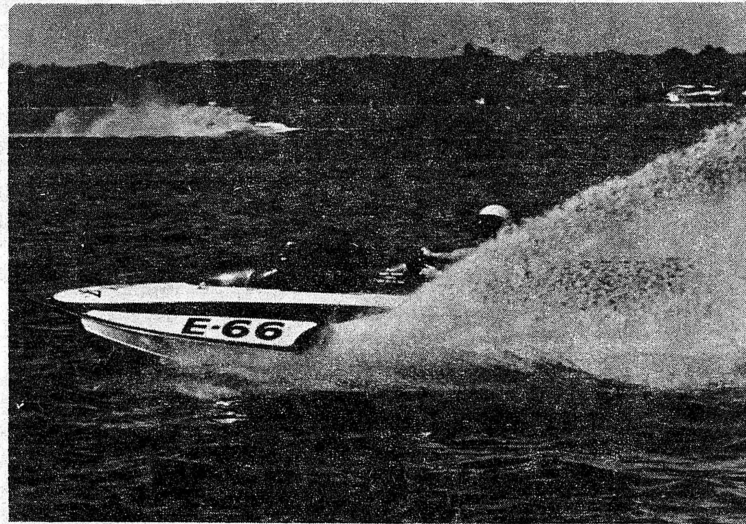


# Boat racing provides "hobby" for local man



NAVIGATING E-66 "JOHNNY J" ACROSS Lake Maggiore, St Petersburg, Fla, Johnny Brunner places second in the 34th Annual Southland Sweepstakes held early in Feb. (Photo by City News Bureau, St Petersburg, Fla.)

Ronnie Brunner, 85 Logic Ct, calls it a "hobby," but quickly adds that the time needed to pursue this hobby is just about every evening. Brunner is a race boat driver. Racing boats for 12 years, he has tallied up an impressive record of honors. He was made a member of the Gulf Hall of Fame, the only one recognized by the American Powerboat Association, in 1968. Other achievements include a national championship, two national high point championships, one Eastern Divisional championship, and holding the Texas championship for two years running. Locally, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Dayton Motorboat Racing Association.

A lifelong resident of the Miami Valley, Brunner moved to Bea-

vercreek a year ago with his wife, a native of Peoria, Ill, two sons and six daughters. He graduated from Stivers High School in 1951, and presently is a foreman of heavy equipment at Moraine Materials.

Brunner is in the unusual position of being strictly a driver--he owns none of the boats that he races. When asked how he got into driving race boats, Brunner replied that he started with automobiles, but made the transition because of the "atmosphere" in boat racing. He explained that because boat racing is kept in the "hobby status," the tensions of car racing that come from making a living in that sport are absent. "It's the kind of thing the whole family can come and see," he said.

## Regatta action

# Best boat race today

The Dayton Championship Regatta concludes its third and final day at Eastwood Lake today and tomorrow with the best offering.

Scheduled to be decided this weekend are world championships in two classes of "souped up" runabouts and eight of inboard hydroplanes -- the latter the largest and most colorful racing boats with the exception of the unlimiteds.

The inboards are capable of reaching speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour on straight-aways.

Eastwood, regarded as one of the best racing courses by the drivers, has been conducive to high speeds during the first two weekends of racing when five world records were established.

The field, which is expected to number around 125 each day, will compete for world championships in five classes each day.

Today's program, which begins at 11 a.m., includes title runs in the 850, 145, 150, 225 and 280 classes. Tomorrow, starting at noon, drivers will contest the 5-litre, 7-litre Divisions I and II, ski boat and super stock class crowns.

Dayton's Gene Whipp is the defending national and world champ in 7-litre Division I.

In world championship racing, each driver must run in three heats, the winner being determined on the basis of lowest total elapsed time for the three.

Eastwood Lake is located at the intersection of Route 4 and Harshmann Road on the northeast edge of Dayton. Proceeds from the races go to Children's Medical Center.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS  
Sunday, June 24, 1972

KREITZER  
COMEBACK  
A SUCCESS

Special To The Dayton Daily News  
APPLETON  
Dayton's Joy Kreitzer, 16-year-old who was diagnosed with a rare disease, passed a rare disease, passed a test to race powerboats last week.

Saturday he ran his first race at the Dayton Regatta, and won the 145-cubic inch class in his boat, Impossible. Dayton's Ronnie Brunner won the 225-cubic class in his Nightmare and four-time 280-class in Johnny Whipp won the Grand Prix and finished second in the 160-cubic class. Whipp also running third in the 145-cubic class.

Daily News Photo by Dennis Gordon

5TH IN 3 HEATS — Owner Bill Wonderer (left) and driver Bruce Whited of Piqua are shown in pre-race discussion before sending out their craft in the 145 class in Saturday's inboard hydroplane race at Eastwood Lake park. Whited finished fifth in all three heats.