



Staff photos by Joe Vitti

Sue Sooy, one-third of hydroplane family, navigates down Eastwood Lake during Hydroglobe

Sooy — that's the cry at Eastwood

By Bill Estep

Journal Herald Sports Writer

Hydroplane builder Dick Sooy traded his business for his hobby three years ago and it's paying some handsome dividends.

The 52-year-old from Mays Landing, N.J., sold his village marina and began devoting full-time to hydroplane building. And if this weekend's inboard championships of the Dayton Hydroglobe '76 is any indication, he made the right decision.

After all, son David and daughter Sue, both driving family-built boats named Double Eagle, "breezed" to victories on windy Eastwood Lake in yesterday's second straight regatta.

TWENTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD Sue won her second 72 cubic inch title in two days in a time of 6:48.8. David, 24, meanwhile, won the abbreviated 280 cubic centimeter class with a 4:19.8

clocking in the only heat run. The final heat, along with title runs in the 225 cc and Grand Prix D and B divisions were canceled due to hazardous conditions created by 30-35 mile per hour winds.

"I guess I just switched hobbies," the elder Sooy said. "The marina was a profession and my dream was to just build hydros."

It's obviously become a dream come true in a business that few can claim success in.

"I've been building boats for 26 years," Sooy said. "We race every weekend. It's the only way to get points."

AND THE SOOY family has garnered its share of points this season. In fact, both David and Sue lead their respective divisional point races following the first weekend of the Hydroglobe.

Sue picked up 400 points apiece with her pair of victories, while David, who

bypassed Saturday's 280 final run due to a faulty battery, took home 400.

"Sue has already won her point championship," her father said confidently. "After this weekend, she has over 5,000 and only 2,300 points won last year. David is the national point leader in the 280's with over 4,000."

And judging from the last month of racing, it's easy to see why.

"This is the third straight weekend that both Dave and I have both won," Sue said. "We won at Harrisburg, Pa., last weekend and the week before that at Raleigh, N.C."

Sue can also add to that figure, 12 victories and two second place finishes in 14 races this year. Not bad for someone who has only been racing hydroplanes for three years.

AND NOT ONLY can she credit her dad for the boat she drives, but also the class.

That's right, Dick Sooy is the founder of the 72 cubic inch hydroplane class.

"About three years ago, we wanted to update the 42 cc hydro class," he said. "The motor (Crosley) was ancient, de-

veloped in the late forties. The motor parts were unattainable.

"Four years ago, continuing the 45 class was brought up to the commission for a vote. It failed."

That's when he went to work.

"We had to upgrade the motor and we took the technical sheets and tied them into the development. Today, it (72's) is the fastest growing class.

"The New Orleans and Seattle, or Northwest, are the only areas not running 72's," he said. "There were 37 boats in this class registered as of last January and I built nine of them."

In fact, a Sooy-built 72 cc boat was sold to Sue Schultz just last week. And the 14-year-old, who just passed her driving test during her initial run Saturday, finished third yesterday.

After all, it only seems right that a Sooy would win.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Overall Winners

850 cc — Tom Kropfeld, Lip-Ship II, Cincinnati; 280 cc — David Sooy, Double Eagle, Mays Landing, N.J.; Grand Prix D — Bob Lodrick, Time and Money, Independence; Grand Prix B — Tony Piezza Scoripo, Metairie, La.; 72 cc — Susan Sooy, Double Eagle, Mays Landing, N.J.; 225 cc — Jim Kropfeld, Country Boy, Cincinnati; 2.5 litre — Bruce Whited, Flying Tiger, Piqua; Greg Barker, Tor Gre, Grand Island, N.Y.