

Kettering couple vie for honor of

By **DAVE LONG**
Staff Sports Writer

The arguments between Bob and Anita Barnes of Kettering are not the usual quarrels married couples all seem to have.

Oh, there are the hassles over the budget, what is best for their children and how to deal with inlaws — the stuff all of us have to deal with. But that's not the problem.

The real disagreement comes over the family boat. Not what the craft will be used for, but who will race it.

Bob and Anita Barnes are the proud owners of "Fabricator", a racing hydroplane which will be



Anita Barnes

in the S Class (145 cubic inch engines) next Saturday and Sunday in the 18th annual Dayton Hydroglobe at Hydrobowl (Eastwood Lake). More than 100 entries are expected for the seven classes of inboard hydroplane racing.

ANITA WILL probably race on Saturday while Bob will be behind the wheel Sunday.

It used to be no problem who was going to do the racing. Bob would whiz around the course while Anita and their 12-year-old son Chad would watch from the pits and act as the crew.

"She's been talking about wanting to race for the last couple of years," said Bob Barnes. "Finally I got her in the boat last year and let her take it around the course. She did a pretty good job."

Anita was unofficially in competition twice last year and took her official American Power Boat Association driver's test earlier this sum-

mer in Ypsilanti, Mich. The first part of the test was given orally on the rules and etiquette of racing. The other part was actual racing, with Anita and the six others taking the test trailing the regular competitors.

She passed, and Dayton will be her first actual competitive race. The 33-year-old Patterson Co-Op graduate will be one of two women racers in the Dayton event and is one of only 30 licensed women boat racers nation-wide.

"**BOAT RACING** has always been a man's sport," she said. "I don't know why more women don't get into it. I think it's great just to be a woman in competition with the men. I have a lot of the wives and girl friends of the other drivers cheering for me because I'm a woman. I guess a lot of women might be afraid because of the speed, but I love it. I can't compete with the men yet, but I hope to be able to in a couple of years."

Anita is an insurance underwriter for the

Sun., July 31, 1983 DAYTON DAILY NEWS 9-C

skipping their boat

Wagner Insurance Agency. "The girls in my office aren't quite sure what it is I'm doing," she said, "But a lot of them have said they'll come out to the Hydroglobe to watch. They'll probably think I'm crazy going that fast on water, but it's fun. I love being able to be competitive at something. I'm not athletic at all. I can't even run."

The Barnes have been at the boat races at the Hydroglobe "for as long as I can remember," said Bob Barnes who owns a car stereo installation business. "We had a neighbor who had a boat, and we started helping him crew about six years ago, and we really got the bug. We crewed for a lot of people, and three years ago we saw the boat we have now for sale.

"We went home and talked about it and decided it was time we got into racing ourselves. It has been great fun and we both really enjoy it. I think it's great that Anita is out there. I'm real proud that she is doing it."

There really isn't a problem with who will

race the boat right now. "I can see the day coming, though, when we might have to have two boats," said Anita.

THE BARNES' boat is powered by a 2000cc Pinto engine. The next class up is the 225 cubic inch engines. "This boat goes plenty fast enough for me," said Anita. "I don't know if I want to get into a bigger class or not. I like to get good in this one first."

Along with the 145 and 225 cubic inch classes will be the 850cc Y boats, the 280 cubic inch class, the 2.5 litre boats, the 5 litre and the big 7 litre jobs.

All races will be for points toward American Power Boat Association season championships. There will be testing for boats of all classes Friday from 12-4 p.m., with no admission charge. Racing begins on Saturday and Sunday at noon. Advance tickets for the two days of racing are \$8 and available at the Dayton Chamber of Commerce office.