



TY GREENLEES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roy Wilson (left) drives Southern Comfort around Mike Weber's My Way during Sunday's racing at the Dayton Hydrobowl

Mayor's trophy goes to Louisiana

By Dave Long
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When Roy Wilson decides to go boat racin', the distance doesn't matter.

He put on almost 2,500 miles Friday, Saturday and Sunday driving from New Orleans to Dayton and back for some good racin'. Counted in those miles is a side trip to Richmond, Ind., to pick up a new tire for his boat trailer.

"If you're gonna race, you gotta go where the fast boats are," said Wilson, a 34-year-old commercial printer. "We came to Dayton to run against the good competition and to see if we're good enough to run in the nationals."

The trip to the 25th annual Dayton Mayor's Cup Challenge Hydroplane races at Eastwood Lake was worth it for Wilson. He not only collected \$300 in prize money for winning the 5 litre class, but won the Mayor's Trophy for the outstanding driver in the two days of competition.

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Wilson, driving a craft called Southern Comfort, went undefeated in the 5 litre class. He won two heat races and two class championship races. Those wins were worth 1,200 points in the American Power Boat Association class point standings. The classes are determined by the size of engine on the boat. The races at Eastwood Saturday and Sunday were part of a circuit of races which lead to the Nationals in September in Essex, Md.

Greg Baker of Grand Island, Mich., also piled up 1,200 points while winning the 2.5 litre stock

class, tying Wilson for high point honors. Both of their names were put into a hat and Dayton Mayor Clay Dixon drew Wilson's name, thus giving him the pyramid-shaped Mayor's Trophy.

"I never expected to win this," Wilson said. "We just came up here to see how good our boat is. We've raced in Alabama, Florida and North Carolina this year, but you tend to see the same people at those races. Here in Dayton you get a lot of racers not only from the north and east but also the west. So you see a good variety of drivers and get a chance to see where you stand.

"It sure is gonna be a shorter drive home back to New Orleans 'cause we got us this trophy and we know we can run with anybody in the nationals. This was a test trip to see if we can handle the long drive to and from the nationals