

# Hydro-plane Boat Races

SUBMITTED BY Karen Hoffmann

I want to start by thanking Dale and Linda Stoverud for showing us such a great time in Polson last weekend when Jim and I, with Ron and Julie Zarr and Joe Barlow took them up on the invitation they made to the Chapter this spring to visit and take in the Hydro-plane boat races. The Stoverud's are Big Sky HOG Chapter members who moved to Missoula a year or so ago but still keep up with all our HOG chapter activities and try to join us when they can.



We left Friday at noon to meet up with the Zarr's and Joe in Lincoln. We arrived at Flathead Lake about 4:30 pm and waited for Dale to meet us and lead us to their place on the lake. Friday evening was spent enjoying some fine wine, delicious food and catching up.



Saturday we went into downtown Polson to the Cherry Festival and then moved on to the Hydro-plane races on the lake. It was a first for me and I was amazed at how they put these boats in and took them out of the water with a large crane. Scheduled to race were "G" Boats (Thunder boats), Unlimited Lights, and Lighter than Lights. The "Thunder-boats" were the most fun to watch and were the noisiest.



We didn't stay for all the races as it was 100 degrees with no shade if you didn't bring your own! We left Polson and headed for the lake. Dale and Linda took us on a tour of the area around Finley Point and bird islands in their boat. What a relaxing afternoon we had on the lake and later we all took a dip except for two---Joe & Julie!!



Saturday evening after a fine dinner we went to the KwaTaqNuk Resort. There was a outdoor concert by the world famous EXILE, a band that originally started in 1963, played for a number of years, disbanded and just got back together again a few years ago. I have to admit that although I love music, I am ignorant of most bands and artists' music by name so I didn't recall EXILE but what amazed me was that most the members of this band were songwriters and had written Number 1 songs for many famous artists over the years. As they played their original music, I recognized almost every one of them! Songs like She's a Miracle, Kiss You All Over, Middle of the Road and others. A wonderful end to a perfect day!



After breakfast on Sunday, Dale and Linda rode with us on an out-of-the-way road between Big Fork and Columbia Falls that was a great start to our trip back home. We left them at Hungry Horse and headed back to Great Falls by way of Hwy 2.



The rides were awesome, the weather great and the company was the best! Thanks again, Dale and Linda!