



THOM RANDALL - THE POST STAR

Lake George Fire Chief Tom McKinney aims water across the finish line as the Horicon approaches in the Queen's Great Boat Race on Saturday.

Mohican wins by the 'moon'light

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LAKE GEORGE -- Dan Post of Slingerlands hobbled off the tour boat Mohican Sunday evening, minutes after it thundered past two other competitors to win the annual Queen's Great Boat Race by about two boat lengths.

A ball and chain attached to his ankle, Post had just finished celebrating a bachelor party preceding his upcoming marriage.

Post insisted it was about a dozen men in his party who were responsible for the Mohican winning the race.

"We distracted our competitors and threw 'em off," he claimed.

Three-quarters through the nine-mile race down the lake, the 12 men had lined up on the side of the ship and "mooned" the passengers of the Horicon as the Mohican overtook its chief rival.

As the Mohican plowed past, the frustrated -- and surprised -- Horicon passengers responded, yelling, "Cheaters!"

Stepping off the Horicon when it docked, Jim Frazier of Pilot Knob had another explanation for the Mohican's victory over both the Horicon and the Morgan, the low-powered tour boat of The Sagamore resort.

Frazier claimed Mohican had jumped the gun.

The race featured staggered starts to give handicaps to the two slower boats. The Mohican was to leave Bolton five minutes after the Horicon, which in turn left five minutes after the Morgan. All were filled with partying passengers.

"The Mohican gave us only a 45-second head start," he said. "Then, after they passed us, we charged

forward to retake the lead, but we couldn't get over their wake."

The big boats' wakes rocked and tossed two fireboats that welcomed the competing boats across the finish line with arching streams of water from their firehoses.

Those boats, operated by the fire companies of Lake George and Bolton, had earlier finished their own race, along with a North Queensbury Fire Company vessel.

North Queensbury's rescue boat could have won with its high-powered twin outboard engines, but its pilot let Bolton and Lake George battle it out. Lake George won by a nose.

Mohican captain Ed Stanilka defended his timing.

"It's not true I jumped the gun -- I started at 6:40 p.m. exactly," he said. "At least, on my watch."

Striding off the Horicon with his purple and silver cape fluttering behind him in the balmy air, Elvis impersonator Michael Black of Saratoga said the results were unimportant in this race, which kicks off the tourist season in Lake George.

"It was just wunnerful, man," he said.

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