

# OPA to hold Lake Race after all

After weeks of planning and strategizing, the Offshore Powerboat Association (OPA) has set Oct. 2-3 for a speedboat race at the Lake of the Ozarks.

The Lake Race was originally scheduled for May 28-30 but was cancelled due to COVID-19 issues, and now will become a reality after some behind-the-scenes groundwork.

It's unsure yet if the OPA, which will hold the race at the 7-mile marker, plans a Meet and Greet on The Strip. Plans originally called for the popular gathering as part of the original Lake Race before it was cancelled.

For those planning ahead, the OPA has scheduled a race at the

Lake of the Ozarks June 3-5.

With the spread of Covid-19, OPA was forced to cancel most of its 2020 season, including races in Cocoa Beach, Lake of the Ozarks, Sarasota, St. Clair and Michigan City. Mark Waddington, co-owner of Performance Boat Center, has been working overtime to help get permits approved to organize a scaled down race at the lake

Because of the relatively short notice, the Missouri State Water Patrol enforced a limit on the number of boats that may participate.

Waddington huddled with teams in various classes to ask about their interest in helping to fund a race. Ultimately, the two cat classes were agreed on. Each of the two classes

will run in a pair of half-races on Friday, Oct. 2, followed by a full race on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Eight Super Stock teams had committed to participating in the race last week, and three Super Cats teams had committed, with others undecided.

The group still has its Crystal Coast Grand Prix set for Sept. 11-13 in Morehead, N.C., the Point Pleasant Beach Grand Prix for Sept. 25-27 in New Jersey, and its season-ending Englewood Beach Waterfest in Florida Nov. 19-22. In addition, OPA has already announced a 12-race season for 2021; details are available at [oparacing.org](http://oparacing.org).