

# Lake *of* Records

A history of powerful boats parlayed into an award-winning documentary

Written by Jenna MacFarlane  
Photographed by Jason Stevens

In the “Lake of Records” opening scene, you see Lake Hollingsworth from a perspective few have viewed — from above, spanning all 354 acres.

“Lake of Records” is a documentary that covers The Orange Cup Regatta: an annual power boat race that has been drawing racers and spectators for 88 years.

Founded by Walter Eugene Engle in 1934, the regatta’s legacy is carried on by his son, Gene Engle. “Some of my first memories from childhood are from the Orange Cup Regatta,” Gene reflected, noting that he worked in the race pit as a young boy. “The races have continued every year since then.”

He noted one exception: the races paused for two years during World War II.





The Orange Cup Regatta has long lived in the Engle's family legacy, with love of powersports passed down through generations. "Lake of Records" creator and producer Will Engle — Gene's grandson — remembers holding "official" paper boat races every year as a kid at family gatherings.

Will first thought to document the races in March 2021. He wanted to honor his family's legacy, capturing the event in its true form, following the racers as they reached record-breaking speeds.

The endeavor evolved into a full-blown documentary with interviews, drone shots and an award-winning score. "The doc took a year to create, start-to-finish," Will says.

He worked with friends and collaborators to pull it all together, spending many hours editing to make the film a success.

"Lake of Records" accomplishes Will's goal: it follows the 2021 race, captures the regatta's inspiring history, and highlights how it's gearing up for future growth.





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Let's set the scene. If you've never been to a power boat race before, think of it as any other motorsport (like NASCAR or Formula 1) except instead of sitting next to a noisy track, you're enjoying the sunshine, the breeze and a lakeside view.

**"It satisfies your need for speed," says Gene, pointing out that most drivers are hitting well over 100mph throughout much of the race.**

To see it in action, "Lake of Records" shows us a behind-the-scenes perspective of the 2021 race. We see Bobby King break a world record, and the other racers hit another world record: an average speed of 94mph.

The Orange Cup Regatta is an event, simply put, where competitors come to break records. New ones are being set nearly every year, right here in Lakeland.





**What makes Lakeland such a special place for power boat racing? Three reasons:**

- Better weather + better water = more records get broken.
- Since the race is in October, the Orange Cup Regatta is one of the last races of the year. High-skill racers are trying to get their points in for the year — meaning higher attendance (and greater competition) right here on Lake Hollingsworth.
- The Orange Cup Regatta is a two-day race, which means competitors have the opportunity to earn double points.



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“Lake of Records” offers a behind-the-scenes look into racing’s practices and processes. You see the drivers strap into their harnesses, deploy oxygen masks and listen as radios broadcast from the shore, telling them where to turn as they glide across the water.

Preparation for the race is intense. Racers take dunk tests to ensure, in the worst-case scenario, they know what to do if the boat flips. Gene is proud of the historical record of safety at the Orange Cup Regatta; an ambulance is always present, with medics and trained diving professionals ready to jump in if a race goes awry.

Gene’s experience and expertise coordinating the event has made the Orange Cup Regatta one of the premiere boat races in the country. His consistency has paid off: racers are now traveling from across the nation to join the race. “Most of them are transporting boats from the northeast and Canada, sometimes as far as Seattle,” Gene said.



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The economic impact of the races is palpable. Competitors are bringing their families and friends with them. "Many of them will stay out here for a week and make it their vacation," Gene continues, "It's almost like a family reunion when everyone gets down here. It's a tight-knit community."



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The community is growing so much that the American Power Boat Association — boat racing's national sanctioning body — is soon relocating from Detroit to Central Florida.

Gene resists any inclination to retire from his role as Race Director. It's in his blood. One day, he hopes to pass down the baton to his son and grandson, Walt and Will.

"Will brought an element to the Regatta that I've never been able to do, to get the story out," Gene says about his grandson. "Power boat racing has always been respected, but it's coming back, bigger and better. We believe the future is bright."

Join us for the  
 upcoming event!

The Orange Cup Regatta's long legacy continues this year on October 15-16. Mark your calendar to join Gene and his wife, Pat, out by the lake and witness more records broken!

"Lake of Records" has won an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Los Angeles International Indie Short Fest, won Best Composer for its score by Luke Wilmoth in the Chicago Film Festival and has been nominated as Best Film by the International Motor Film Awards held in London.

Watch "Lake of Records" on YouTube or [engledigital.com](http://engledigital.com), and follow Will's other work via his media company @engledigital.





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