



ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS?

By Jason Johnson | Photos by George Denny



With hopes of setting a new Shootout top speed mark in his 6,000-HP catamaran My Way, all eyes will be on Canadian performance boater Bill Tomlinson this year.

Could this be the year the Shootout record falls? Only time will tell. But if all goes as planned, Bill Tomlinson believes it will be and that he will be hoisting his second Top Gun trophy in three years at the conclusion of the 2013 Lake of the Ozarks Shootout.

The owner of My Way, a canopied 50-foot catamaran from Mystic Powerboats, has every intention of returning to the 25th anniversary of the event and shattering the 209-mph record set in 2007 by Dave Callan's turbine-powered Callan Marine Mystic catamaran. Hailing from Manatec, Ontario in Canada, Tomlinson competed in the 2011 Shootout and wowed the crowd with a half-dozen runs over 200 mph in his new 50-footer powered by twin Lycoming T-55 turbine engines from Montana-based Whispering Turbines. Those engines produce 3,000 horsepower apiece.



Although Tomlinson tied the Captain Ron's course record held by Dave Scott's Nauti Marine Mystic with a couple of 208-mph runs, he and throttleman Ken Kehoe were ultimately disappointed with the official radar gun readings, as their GPS had displayed much faster speeds. With Shootout organizers investing in new radar equipment to ensure more accurate readings at such high speed, Tomlinson had planned to return in 2012.

Unfortunately, just a few weeks before the Shootout, My Way crashed during the 1000 Islands Poker Run on the St. Lawrence River in Kingston, Ontario, and the boat was badly damaged on the back end of its port side.

"Basically we had to rebuild the turbines and fix the damage to the hull and deck," Tomlinson said in an interview days before My Way was set to return to the water in early June. "We ended up strengthening the hull in the damaged area and we did a much better job aligning the turbines and drivelines compared to the original installation."

Tomlinson said the T-55 turbines suffered the majority of the damage as they ingested quite a bit of water and had to be

rebuilt by the Whispering Turbines crew. The exhaust system was destroyed as well and ended up being repaired. Because the catamaran is constructed of carbon fiber over foam coring, Tomlinson said everything had to be stripped out of the boat, to avoid any further damage since carbon-fiber dust can conduct electricity, which in turn could have destroyed much of the equipment in the boat.

The entire rebuild took roughly seven months and included everything from the structural rebuild and reinforcement at Mystic's facility in DeLand, Fla., and the de-rigging and re-rigging by Kehoe Marine's Dan McMillan and Lyle Stacey to the paint job reproduction completed by Indiana-based The Art of Design, which had originally painted the 50-footer, and Whispering Turbine's reconstruction of the power plants. While Tomlinson would have preferred to avoid the accident altogether, he knows the boat came away from the repairs even better than before.

Mystic owner John Cosker said Tomlinson has been one of his most to-the-point, no-nonsense customers since Mystic was founded in 2005.

"Bill does what he says he's going to do—I like that about him," said Cosker, who plans to attend the Shootout this year to support My Way and possibly a couple of other Mystic catamarans at the event. "When we had the boat here at the end of last year, it was both a repair and an upgrade. Bill's guy, Jamie Ault, assisted on some canopy modifications, too. I'm very pleased with the repairs and can't wait to see what the boat does at the Shootout this year.

"When we ran it in 2011, we were consistently coming through the radar trap between 213 and 217 mph, and our launches off the starting line weren't that spectacular," added Cosker, who was the throttleman alongside Callan for many years at the Shootout. "At one point, a little past the trap, we saw 223 mph. If we can get the acceleration right at the beginning, I think it's possible to get 220 mph. Bill's boat is the best one I've ever driven."

Tomlinson, who has owned a variety of boats from runabouts and sport catamarans to Italian-built Riva models and an 82-foot diesel-powered Sunseeker, has been a proponent of turbine engines since he had a pair installed in his 46-foot Skater Powerboats catamaran from Douglas Marine in Michigan in the late '90s. The first My Way originally had twin

"At one point, a little past the trap, we saw 223 mph. If we can get the acceleration right at the beginning, I think it's possible to get 220 mph. Bill's boat is the best one I've ever driven."

Zee Lake Auto Rentals Inc. Zee Express, Inc.

Rent a Car, Rent a Limo, Rent a Bus!



"Zee Only Way to Travel"

Any & All Occasions

2624 Bagnell Dam Blvd. (across from First bank of Lake)

Illinois: (618) 248-5655 • Missouri: (314) 621-9884
Lake of the Ozarks: (573) 365-2366 • (800) 958-5655
www.zexpressbusandlimo.com

ALL STEEL CARPORTS

High Quality
Steel Buildings
For Every Application



Free Installation

Call for free price quote
573-424-7585
www.shedeasy.com

The Knowledge and Experience for All Your Real Estate Needs!



Tina Stotler
Cell: 573.480.7760



THE PROPERTY SHOP
AT THE LAKE, LLC
Equal Housing Opportunity - Multiple Listing Service

www.PropertyShopAtTheLake.com

- ◆ Residential
- ◆ Condominiums
- ◆ Lots & Land
- ◆ Commercial
- ◆ Property Management
- ◆ Vacation Rentals

Two Convenient Locations in Osage Beach:

- ◆ The Landing on Main Street
1042 Main Street
- ◆ Lands' End Properties Sales
1222 Lands' End Pkwy

573.302.1818

An Additional Location at Sunset Palms Condos:

- ◆ Hwy 5 at the Hurricane Deck Bridge, Camdenton

573.374.1337

800-cubic-inch supercharged big-blocks, but Tomlinson grew frustrated with the engine package as it seemed to have problems every time he went out on the water.

The rest is history. Tomlinson had a second 46-foot Skater built with the T-53 turbines in 2001 and later sold that to purchase a turbine-powered 50-foot Outerlimits Powerboats catamaran, which he sold in 2010 when he decided to build the Mystic—the fourth My Way—and attempt to eclipse the 200-mph mark.

“It’s been great fun following My Way at the local poker runs,” said Mike Ryan, who owns Ryan Computer Services in Kingston, Ontario, and often can be found helping Tomlinson, Kehoe and the rest of the My Way crew. “Witnessing the progression in boat design and technology in each of Bill’s boats has been incredible. Then to

“It’s been great fun following My Way at the local poker runs... Witnessing the progression in boat design and technology in each of Bill’s boats has been incredible. Then to join the crew of volunteers a number of years back added the extra thrill of riding in his different boats. Helping Bill with some of his other boats brings to mind a saying amongst us: ‘This did not start out as an adventure but we’ve sure got one now.’”



BEAUTIFUL HOME INTERIORS

Jefferson City, MO

573-893-2500

Full Interior Design

Medium Commercial, Residential, Flooring, Cabinets
Licensed and Degreed Interior Designer

We offer Wellborn Forest kitchen cabinetry (wellbornforest.com), as well as SmartStrand Carpet

125 Scott Station Rd • Jefferson City, MO 65109



join the crew of volunteers a number of years back added the extra thrill of riding in his different boats. Helping Bill with some of his other boats brings to mind a saying amongst us: 'This did not start out as an adventure but we've sure got one now.'

"The Lake of Ozarks Shootout offers the perfect environment for My Way to run in a controlled closed course and to see Bill do what he likes best—interacting with the performance boating vendors, competitors and fans," Ryan added.

Tomlinson enjoyed the interaction with the spectators and competitors in 2011, which is one of the reasons he's excited to return this year.

"We had great fun at the Lake that year—we met a bunch of nice people and the water conditions were great," said Tomlinson, who has been married to his wife, Johanne, for 45 years and owns RW Tomlinson Ltd., a prominent business in the Eastern Ontario quarrying, construction, trucking and environmental industries. Both of his kids, son Ron (president) and daughter Cindy (head legal counsel), help run the day-to-day operations of the business Bill's dad, Ralph, founded in 1952.

Tomlinson and Kehoe aren't sure what kind of competition, if any, will be in store for My Way this year, but neither of them seems too concerned.

"We're definitely looking forward to coming back to the Shootout to see how it goes this year," Kehoe said. "We're going to do the best we can out there and hopefully put on a good show." ■

—Former *Powerboat* magazine editor Jason Johnson is the co-publisher of speedonthewater.com. Check out his performance boat reports on the daily news website.

LAMAR
We Are Outdoor.

573-317-1559
6910 Highway 54
Osage Beach, Mo 65065

TAXI *Elegant Transport*

• Business
• Special Events
• Airports
• No Reservation Needed

YOUR WESTSIDE TAXI: Camdenton • Greenview • Sunrise Beach • Laurie

\$10 pickup
\$2 Mile

RENT ME
for 7 hours with a personal driver for
\$250

1-855-365-TAXI
417-718-0610

www.elegant-transport.com • eleganttransport2012@yahoo.com

GOLDEN RULE
INSURANCE AGENCY

Coverage you Need,
People you Trust

Find us on Facebook

Coverages Offered

- Business Insurance
- Workers Compensation
- Home Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Life/Health

Allied Insurance
a Nationwide® company
On Your Side®

573-348-1731 | www.goldenruleinsurance.com
4065 Osage Beach Parkway, Osage Beach MO 65065