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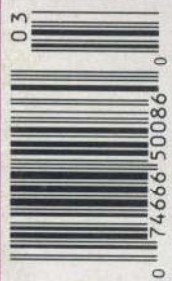
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Ultra 21XT

28 SHOOTOUT IN THE OZARKS

Every year a local Missouri watering hole breaks out the radar gun and invites the big boys for a little smoke on the water, drawing exotic craft from as far away as California.

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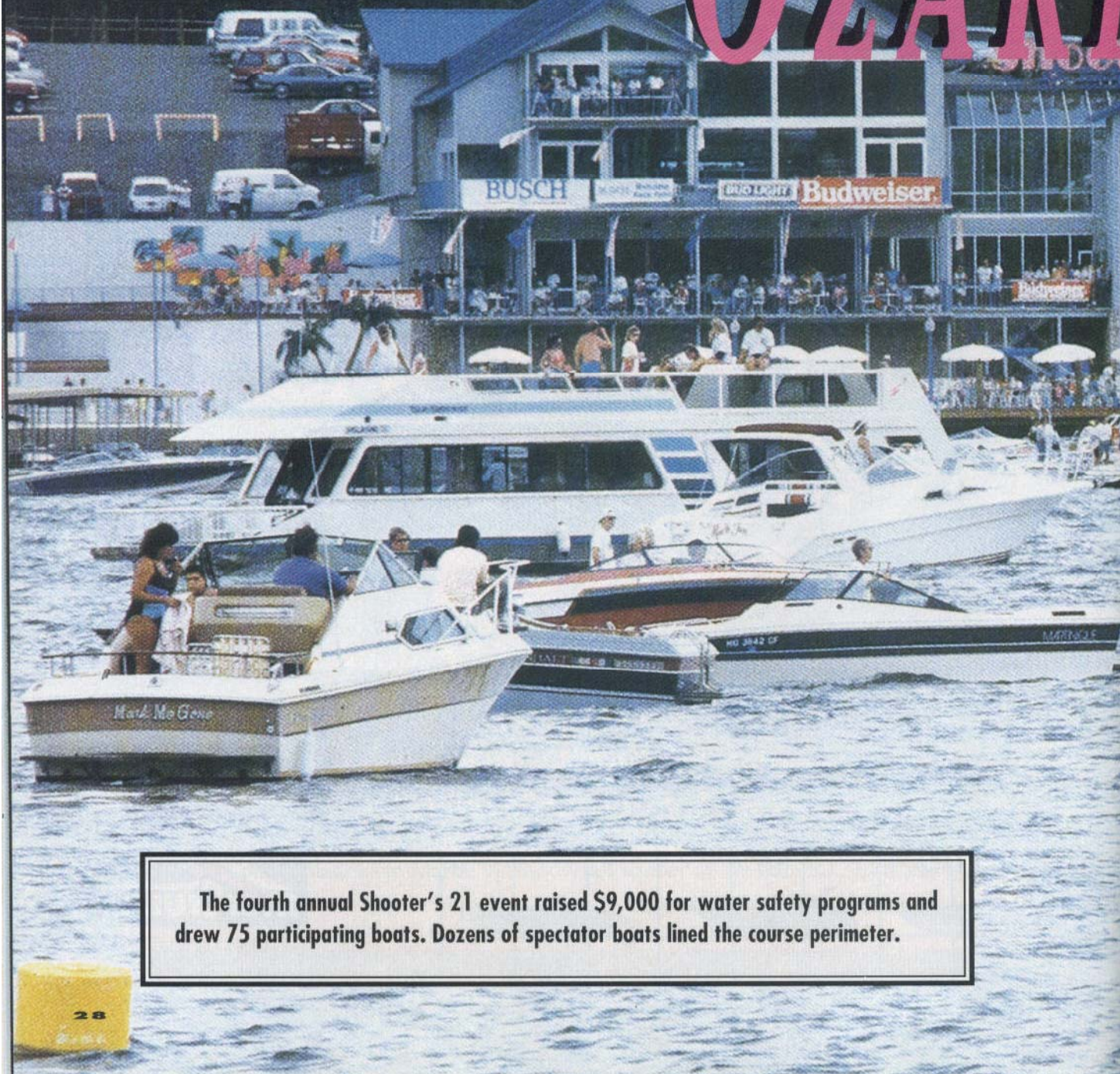
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SHOOTOUT in the OZARK



The fourth annual Shooter's 21 event raised \$9,000 for water safety programs and drew 75 participating boats. Dozens of spectator boats lined the course perimeter.

Tucked into the unspoiled beauty of the Ozark Hills in south-central Missouri, the Lake of the Ozarks has some 1,200 miles of shoreline and features some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. For the area's growing hot-boat contingent—mostly ruggedly built, offshore-bred deep-vees and wide-beam cats—there are 20 miles of shoreline that hold particular appeal. Known simply as “the 5 to the 25”—references to mile markers that guide one's distance from the dam—the area's numerous coves and generally hospitable conditions draw a perpetual parade of high-performance hot boats from all of the neighboring states.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN EBLING



SHOOTOUT in the OZARKS



Shooter's 21, a favored hot-boaters' watering hole and bench-racing arena for a number of years, has turned the Lake of the Ozarks' performance persona up a notch with an annual gathering that has evolved into a full-fledged event.

The format is as old as time, with some high-tech twists. A small entry fee buys two timed runs; this year's radar gun was manned by volunteers from Mercury Marine. Additional runs can be made as time permits, and trophies are awarded for top speed in a variety of classes.

The emphasis, however, is not on competition, although the numbers are closely monitored by participants and spectators alike from boats that

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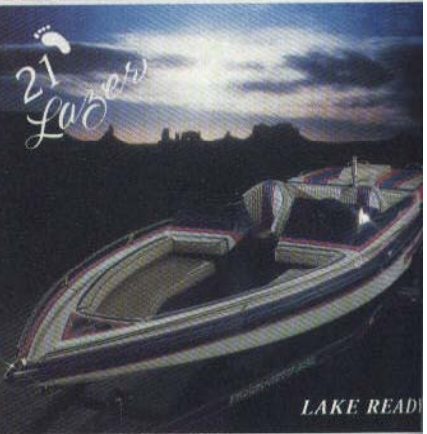
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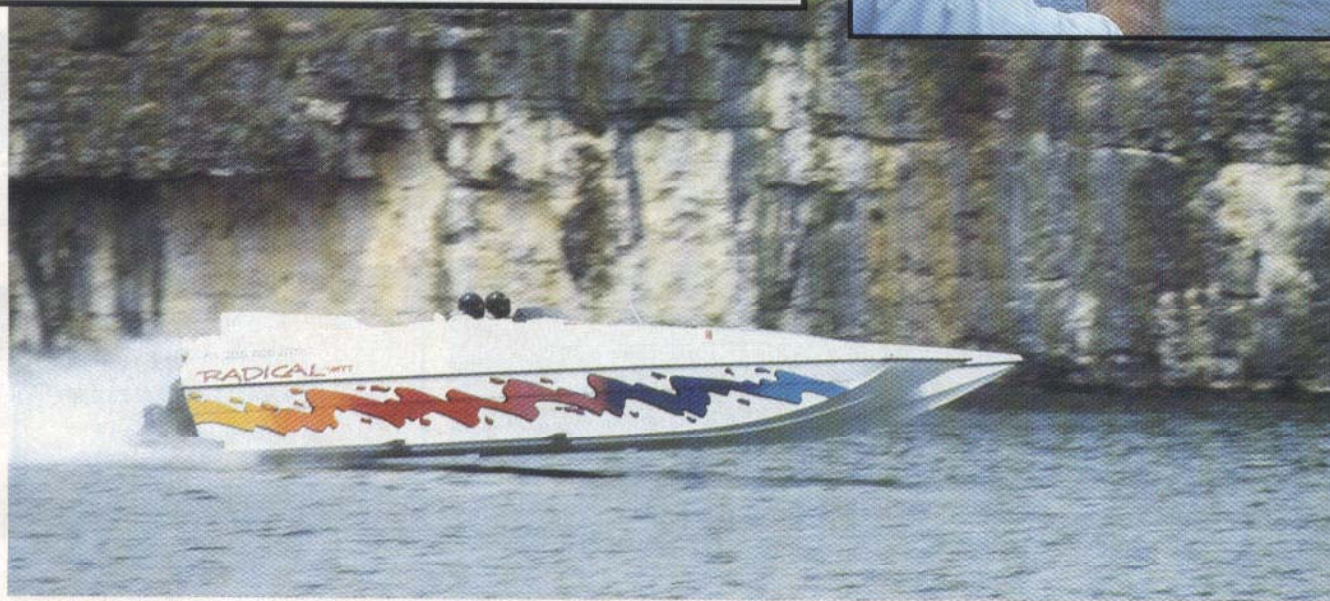
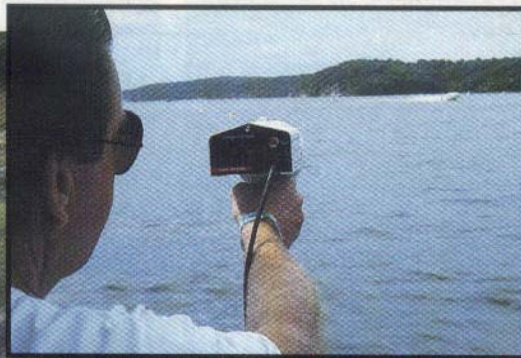
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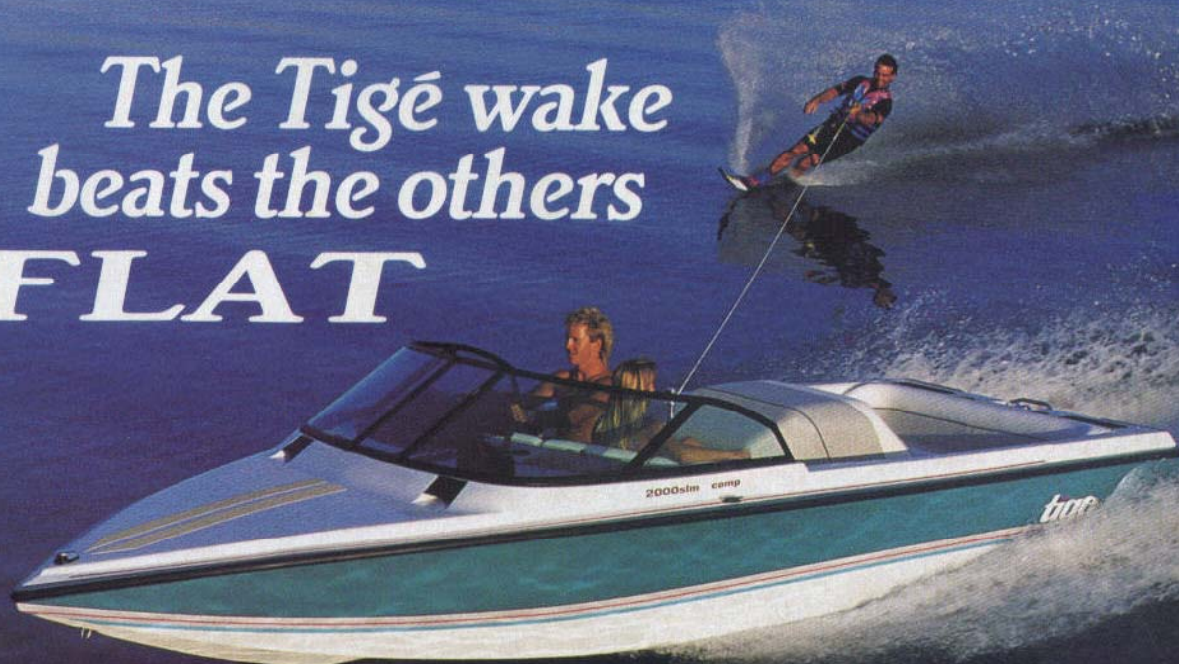
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Right: More a social event than an actual race, the radar-checked event drew serious performance enthusiasts.

Below: Radical took top-gun honors, with David Brown stopping the gun at 101.7 mph.



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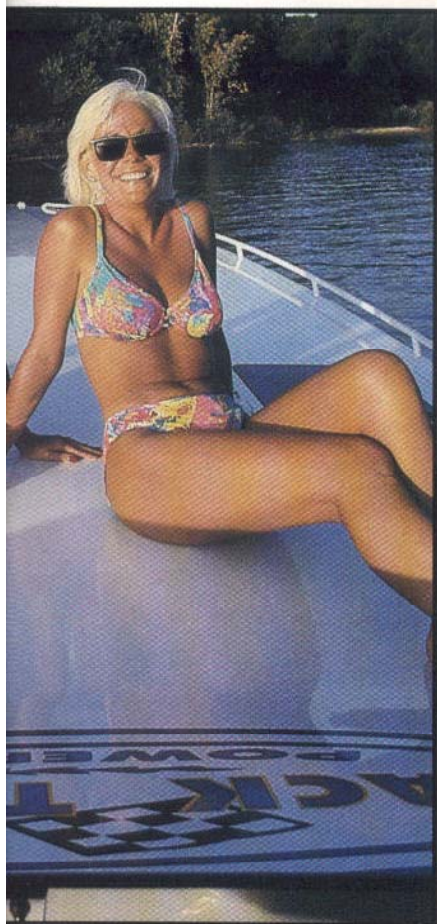
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SHOOTOUT
in the
OZARKS



Between radar runs, two Black Thunder team members took time for some sun.



surround the proceedings and shoreline and via closed-circuit video that's piped directly into Shooter's well-stocked retreat.

"It's definitely a highlight around here," observed Shooter 21 owner Carmello Natoli, who organizes and conducts the event. "It's only going to get bigger."

This year's field included entries from Florida and California and was replete with such performance mainstays as Warlocks, Black Thunders, Fountains, Checkmates, Talons, and an array of other marques.

Top speed of 101.7 mph was clicked off by David Brown's *Radical*, a twin turbine-powered Warlock cat that narrowly nudged last year's winning 99-mph run by Bob Morgan's 43-foot *Team Big Thunder*.

There was one number that was even more significant than the speeds: The event raised over \$9,000 for the water safety and fire patrol that helps make Lake of the Ozarks a better place to boat.

Plans are already under way for the fifth annual Shootout, slated for August 28-29.

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