Classic boats to be showcased at Tahoe Keys

The South Tahoe Wooden Boat Classic will take place July29-30 at the Tahoe Keys Marina in South Lake Tahoe.

This is the ninth year the Northern California-Lake Tahoe Chapter of the Antique & Classic Boat Society will host the boat show for charity. The them is: Ladies and Gentlemen, You Have a Race.

The show's cover girl is the 1939 Miss Notre Dame and her 24-cylinder Duesenberg engine.

Master race boat pioneer Fred Wickens built Hurricane IV in 1948 for Morlan Visel. Visel was a limited class driver living in Southern California, but he was also a fixture on Lake Tahoe. He would become the third partner in ownership of Sierra Boat Company along with Ollie Meek and Stanley Dollar Jr. Hurricane IV was one of the first "prop-riding" unlimited boats built. She is another of the early post war boats to be powered by an Allison V-1710 aircraft V-12 engine. Famed Allison builder, Howard Gidovlenko of Avia Union in Santa Ana was responsible for her racing speed.

Hurricane IV was heavily modified in 1950 and was remembered for her stunning top speed of 163.136 miles per hour in 1954 on the Salton Sea.

She was only topped by another Avia Union Allison engine pushing Slo-mo-shun IV to 178 miles-per-hour. She was raced on Lake Tahoe as well as the majority of the Unlimited circuit. Always a good performer, she was a local favorite as she carried the Tahoe Yacht Club burgee on her tail fin.

More than 60 boats are already signed up for the show this year, with 80 expected to show.