

E-RCU News

www.e-rcu.org

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23 Stan Sayres
Memorial
South Lake Union, Seattle

May 13 ... Bill Brow Memorial
Regatta
Twin Lakes Park, Marysville

May 21 TBD
Puyallup

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!



Patrick Gleason's brand new Parco's O-Ring Miss is a beautiful model. (Photo by Jerry Courtway)

FEATURED WEBSITES

Cooper Racing Team site
www.u3raceteam.com

Detroit River Regatta
Association's online home
www.gold-cup.com

A great hydro history
resource
www.lesliefield.com

Campbell sweeps Champion Spark Plug Regatta

Twenty two vintage boats and nine modern hulls made their way to the rainy, wind swept shores of Fort Borst Park in Centralia, Wash., for the opening event of the 2006 E-RCU season.

Joining the veterans from last year were several new boats and drivers: **Mark Hansen's** new Vans PX, **Robbie Roberts** new Shanty I, **Jeff Campbell's** new Evergreen Roofing, **Henry Marvin** driving the Red Hallmark Homes, **Ron Hornung's** new Hurricane IV, **Jim Clark's** new 1967 Miss Bardahl, rookie **Patrick Gleason** with his new Parco's O-Ring Miss and **Roger Newton's** new checkerboard Miss Bardahl, **Mike Gossler's** new Circus Circus and **Gary Hansen's** Miss Cott's Beverage.

From Portland came **John Earnest** with his new 1951 Slo-Mo-Shun IV and **Dave Reiser** with his Breathless II. Rounding out the rookie field was **Dawna Gross** chauffeuring the venerable Such Crust IV.

The point totals after three preliminary heats was low due to the number of boats succumbing to mechanical and electrical problems as well as the wind and water conditions. One racer noted that the conditions reminded him of the 1960 Gold Cup on Lake Mead that called no contest due to the windy conditions. Not a bad observation considering that all the vintage entrants in Heat 3C blew over between the start and first turn, 5 DNF's in one heat alone.

The modern first consolation featured **Mike Campbell's** Country Boy, **Henry Marvin** driving the 1977 Squire and **Nelson Holmberg** (another Portlander) driving his 1973 Red Man, finishing in that order.

The vintage first consolation was made up of **Ron Hornung** driving his 1948 Skip-a-Long, the Red Hallmark driven by **Jeff Campbell**, **Gary Hansen** with Muvalong, **Henry Marvin** driving his Miss Exide and rookies **Dawna Gross** driving Such Crust IV and **John Earnest** with his Slo-Mo IV. This was also the order of finish

The modern final was fast and exciting with all the entrants finishing. **Jeff Campbell**

Jerry Courtway



WHAT'S WRONG? YOU GUYS COLD OR SOMETHING? Robbie Roberts, Nelson Holmberg and future E-RCU'er Mick Shutt try to stay warm and dry during the season opener at Fort Borst Park in Centralia.

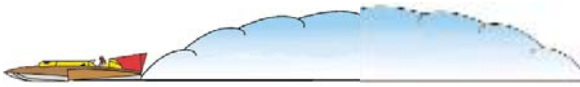
won with his Pride of Pay n' Pak, **Mike Campbell** came from the trailer position to take second, **Mike Gossler** driving his new Circus Circus took third with **Mark Hansen** and Notre Dame, **Gary Hansen** and Cott's Beverage, Squire Shop and Olympia Beer driven by **Roger Newton** rounding out the field from fourth to seventh respectively.

The vintage final was less exciting. Leading point boats through the preliminary heats, Miss Thriftway driven by **Roger Newton** and the 1969 Notre Dame driven by **Mike Campbell** did not make the checkered flag. **Jeff Campbell** driving his Pay n' Pak's Lil Buzzard lead wire to wire, with **Mark Hansen** and Van's PX second, **Ron Hornung** driving Skip-a-Long from the trailer position to score third. **Bob VandernAkker** driving his 1963 Notre Dame finished fourth and **Robbie Roberts** driving his new Shanty I took fifth.

Other craft attending were **Kirk Pagel's** Hurricane VI, **Bob VandernAkker's** 1966 Notre Dame, **Jeff Campbell's** Hallmark Homes, **Ron Daum's** Such Crust III.

A big thanks to the Columbia Division's **John Earnest** and **Dave Reiser** who were the contest directors for this event and to those who assisted: **Roger Newton**, **Monte Steere**, and a host of others.

Next up, the Stan Sayres Memorial on April 23.



NEWSBRIEFS

Vulcan, PEMCO pledge improvements at South Lake Union

Vulcan Industries has recently announced a multi-million dollar improvement plan to the South Lake Union public areas. Following that announcement PEMCO Insurance CEO **Stan McNaughton** made a \$100,000 pledge to complete the walking trail & bridge around the southwest inlet and public park area. The trail will carry the PEMCO name, upon completion.

Bill Brow Memorial Regatta gets a sponsor

The Bill Brow Memorial Regatta is set for May 13 at Twin Lakes Park in Marysville, Wash. Seattle Service, thanks to vice president **Steve Baker**, is the sponsor for the race. The race will include a new event, the first annual "Hydro-palooza" championship. During the race, spectators will judge a "blowover contest", featuring the flightiest boats in the fleet. Contest director **Henry Marvin** is working on loads of other possible surprises. It will be a race to be sure and not miss.

Rookie drivers qualify at Champion Spark Plug Regatta

Several new drivers qualified in E-RCU during the pre-race countdown to the first race of the season — the Champion Spark Plug Regatta — in Centralia. Congratulations to **Dawna Gross, John Earnest, Dave Reiser, and Patrick Gleason**, who all completed their five flawless laps and competed in their first E-RCU race.

Clark's photos available for purchase

You've all seen the great photographs that **Jim Clark** has taken of all of our boats over the last few years, and now is your chance to purchase pictures — at very reasonable prices — from Jim. If you're interested, you can view the pictures online at <http://jimclark.smugmug.com>. Pricing on the pictures is: 4"x6" \$2 each, 5"x7" \$3.50 each, 8"x10" or 8"x12" \$6 each, and 12"x18" \$12 each. It's pretty cool to have photos of your boat on the wall in your boat shop, so you might take a look at Jim's collection and consider an order.

For sale: AstroFlight 110DX charger with LiPo chip

I have too many chargers and would like to sell a AstroFlight 110DX charger in excellent shape plus LiPo upgrade chip for \$80. Contact **Jim Clark**.

News & Rumors

Jeff Campbell's new Evergreen Roofing is something special. Be sure to take a close look at it when you get a chance . . . **Mike Campbell** reported that his new 1973 Country Boy was finished at 2 a.m., Saturday, April 15 — the day of the Champion Spark Plug Regatta. It's an awesome piece of work . . . There's a new racing team on the shores of ERCU races. Cougar Racing Team was born in mid-March, as **Rick Lentz, Nelson Holmberg** and **Mick Shutt** (a current RCU'er and future E-RCU'er) — a trio of Washington State alums, formally announced the beginnings of their new team. A team logo is forthcoming, and at Saturday races late in the season, the dulcet tones of **Bob Robertson** broadcasting Cougar football will be heard from a radio in the team's tent. Lentz will debut his new Bardahl and U95 this week at the Stan Sayres Memorial at South Lake Union.

Big Boat News

Eleven boats are expected to run the full schedule in 2006, marking even more growth for ABRA before it even officially begins its second season. Boats expected to compete are: Miss Elam (U-1), Harvey Motorsports (U-2), Cooper Motorsports (U-3), Formula-Boats.com (U-5), Oh Boy! Oberto, U-8 Racing (possibly under a new U-number, the U-7 (sponsor still to be determined), USA Racing Partners (U-10), Spirit of Detroit (U-13), Freedom Racing Team (U-21), and Leland Racing (U-100).

New races popping up on ABRA schedule

The Regates de Valleyfield in Quebec, Canada has been added as a sanctioned ABRA race, to take place July 7-9. Other new prospective races, including the return of the President's Cup, are likely additions to the circuit in 2007.

Madej named ABRA publicist

Bruce Madej (pronounced MAH-day), the Associate Athletic Director for Media Relations at the University of Michigan, has been named to oversee the publicity effort for the American Boat Racing Association for the 2006 season.



Madej is in his 24th year of coordinating media relations for the University of Michigan Athletic Department. He is responsible for the department's internet web site, publications, archives and coordinating the efforts of the media relations department.

He has been in powerboat racing through most of his career, working with the American Power Boat Association Offshore Racing Commission as the director of public relations and marketing from 1980 until 1982 then working as a consultant through 1984. He also was a member of the Harmsworth Trophy Board of Directors in the 1980's and penned the unlimited hydroplane stories for the ESPN Season in Review Magazine throughout the early 1980's. Madej also raced

(Continued on page 4)

A Moment With . . .

NELSON HOLMBERG



Family: Wife Dawn, stepdaughters Brooke (26), Stephanie (21)
City he calls home: Portland.
Job (when not boating): Media relations consultant.
College Football Loyalty: THE Washington State University. GO COUGS!!
Favorite Current Unlimited Hydro: Oh Boy! Oberto/Miss Madison.
Favorite Unlimited Hydro of the past: The "Winged Wonder", in all of its many different configurations.
Boats he races in ERCU: 1973 Red Man.
What was your first car? 1976 Toyota Celica coupe.
What was your first job? Other than a paper route for *The Columbian*, my first "real" job was 'schlepping' tacos at Taco Bell while I was in high school (and I still like Taco Bell food).
When and how did you get involved in scale racing? As a teen, and into my 20s, I went to every nitro race when they used to run on Force Lake in Portland. That got me hooked, and I eventually bought my own boat (the 88 Competition Specialties) in 1999 and started racing in RCU. I've also tried, with varying amounts of luck, to race the 2000-02 Oh Boy! Oberto, and the 2004 Silver Dollar Casinos present Miss Rock.
Have you ever had a manicure/pedicure? (Come on manly-man . . . admit it!): Never have, never will!
Coke or Pepsi? "Coke is IT!"

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Minutes of the April 2, 2006 Membership Meeting

Chairman **Ron Daum** opened the meeting with 30 members in attendance. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as submitted. Treasurer Henry Marvin reported that payments for a new computer and fees for the Lake Union site were paid in the past month, and that there are no outstanding invoices.

At the time of the meeting there are 44 registered members with 88 boats active or under construction.



Robbie Roberts works on his new Shanty I, while Howard Price supervises the work, during a test day at South Lake Union.

In the vintage class there are 36 active hulls and 20 under construction. The modern class lists 14 active boats with another 18 under construction.

The statistician reported that a review of the archives is being conducted to correct any inconsistencies in the results for the club's first three years of operation.

The club's new computer was

demonstrated. **Ray Finney** has developed a race-day program to assist with the scheduling and record-keeping at the race. The program draws first the boat, then the driver and then the frequency to establish the heat draws. So far the frequency assignments are not a problem, although they are filling. Anyone purchasing new radios, or those new to the club, should consider purchasing Spectrum radios, as they do not impact the frequency draw. For race day, spectrum radios are listed as S-1, etc. for purposes of heat draws. As a reminder, it is the responsibility of each racer to have a secondary frequency available in case of conflicts in the final heats.

The South Lake Union site was discussed. For restroom use, portable potties should be available on site, and the wooden boat center is open during the day as an option. Since the racing day will start with unloading, set-up and testing before the church service starts, there should be no conflict with parking. Racers are encouraged to move their vehicles to the



A fleet ready for testing at Lake Union.

Next Race: Stan Sayres Memorial at Lake Union

Charge those new LiPos (carefully) or NiMH's and get ready for the second race of the 2006 season, because it's coming up quickly.

Monte Steere's Stan Sayres Memorial is this weekend, and it's the first points event at our newest racecourse, the public areas at South Lake Union.

The drivers meeting is

scheduled to begin at 10:30, with racing to start shortly thereafter.

David and Roger Newton will be defending their title in the vintage division, while **Mike Campbell** will put his 2005 Stan Sayers modern division crown on the line for all to chase after.

The Sayres Memorial normally draws a good group. Don't miss the fun.



Mike Campbell's Country Boy won the modern division of the Stan Sayres Memorial a year ago in Bellevue.

south end of the parking lot after unloading to avoid conflict with the church attendees that will be there from around 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The course layout will be decided on race day, located either off the concrete bulkhead or the wooden pier. Plan to bring boots to assist with launching/retrieval. No power is available at this location, so generators will be necessary. Those who can bring one should plan to do so.

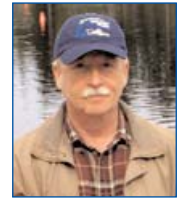
A discussion was held regarding the soon-to-be-released 4300 NiMH sub-C cell. After discussion it was recommended to the board that per the current rules, the limit of 4200 mAh per sub-C cell be retained for this racing year.

There are club-provided LiPo packs still available. Anyone interested in purchasing these can contact **Henry Marvin**. For LiPo users, a volt meter is strongly recommended. They are available at Harbor Freight Tools for around \$6. To prolong the life of the pack, the cells should not be discharged to below 12V, and a heat should not be started with a pack registering less than 15V. If charging is to be done at the race site, a hard surface is required. Each member is also required to have a fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of Class 2AB. A bucket of sand is also recommended.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Races for the month of April are the Champion Spark Plug Regatta at Centralia, and the Sayres Memorial at South Lake Union.

In May, the races scheduled are the Bill Brow Memorial in Marysville on Saturday, May 13, and a race to be determined on May 21 in Puyallup. Keep an eye on the web site for race information and updates.



From the Secretary's Desk
Rick Lentz

2006 ERCU SCHEDULE

MARCH

Date	Event	Location
19	Test Day	Lake Union

APRIL

Date	Event	Location
15	Champion Spark Plug Regatta	Centralia
23	Stan Sayres Memorial	Lake Union

MAY

Date	Event	Location
13	Bill Brow Memorial	Twin Lakes
21	TBD	Puyallup

JUNE

Date	Event	Location
4	Leo Vandenberg Challenge	Lake Pleasant
10-11	President's Cup	Lake Wilderness

JULY

Date	Event	Location
9	Bernie Little Memorial	Bellevue Pond
23	Seafair Trophy	Lake Union

AUGUST

Date	Event	Location
20	TBD	Coulon Park
27	Diamond Cup	Lake Union

SEPTEMBER

Date	Event	Location
9-10	Gold Cup	Lake Wilderness
16	Exhibition	Port Ludlow
24	Dean Chenoweth Memorial	Long Lake
30	Apple Cup exhibition	Chelan

OCTOBER

Date	Event	Location
1	Apple Cup exhibition	Chelan
8	Brewers Cup	Shady Lake

Season high points for boats and drivers will be based on the 10 best finishes for the year.



Statistics — 2006 Season

Vintage Driver Points

Place	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	Lil Buzzard	Jeff Campbell	1,100
	Vans PX	Mark Hansen	1,100
	Notre Dame (1959)	Mike Campbell	1,100
4.	Shanty I	Robbie Roberts	1,052
5.	Notre Dame (1963)	Bob VandernAkker	919
6.	Skip-A-Long	Ron Hornung	694
7.	Such Crust IV	Dawna Gross (R)	641
8.	Muvalong	Gary Hansen	638
9.	Hurricane IV	Mike Gossler	569
10.	Slo-Mo-Shun IV (1951)	John Earnest (R)	537

Vintage Boat Points

Place	Year	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	1960	Miss Thriftway	Roger Newton	1,269
2.	1970	Lil Buzzard	Jeff Campbell	1,100
3.	1972	Vans PX	Mark Hansen	1,100
4.	1959	Notre Dame	Mike Campbell	1,100
5.	1956	Shanty I	Robbie Roberts	1,052
6.	1963	Notre Dame	Bob VandernAkker	919
7.	1948	Skip-A-Long	Ron Hornung	694
	1966	Notre Dame	Bob VandernAkker	694
	1948	Hurricane IV	Ron Hornung	694
10.	1971	Hallmark Homes	Bob VandernAkker	675

Modern Driver Points

Place	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	Pride of Pay 'n Pak	Jeff Campbell	1,325
2.	Miss Circus Circus	Mike Gossler	1,250
3.	Notre Dame	Mark Hansen	994
4.	Olympia Beer	Roger Newton	723
5.	Country Boy	Mike Campbell	700
6.	Miss Cott	Gary Hansen	696
7.	Red Man	Nelson Holmberg	634
8.	Squire (77 white)	Henry Marvin	619

Modern Boat Points

Place	Year	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	1970	Pay 'n Pak	Jeff Campbell	1,325
2.	1978	Miss Circus Circus	Mike Gossler	1,250
3.	1972	Notre Dame	Mark Hansen	994
4.	1978	Squire Shop (red)	Mike Gossler	796
5.	1974	Olympia Beer	Roger Newton	723
6.	1973	Country Boy	Mike Campbell	700
7.	19??	Miss Cott's Beverage	Gary Hansen	696
8.	1973	Red Man	Nelson Holmberg	634
9.	1977	Squire (white)	Henry Marvin	619

Off to the races: The 2006 Season is underway!

We are off to the races!

As hard to believe as it may be, E-RCU is embarking on its' fourth and biggest season ever. This year features a 15 events schedule of 13 points races and two exhibitions using four new venues in addition to our old haunts.

How often and where we race is not all that is new, there will also be quite a few new boats and drivers making their first appearances as well.

The Columbia Division is growing and hosted the Centralia event.

Now it is up to all of us to make this season the best ever.



**Chairman's
Chatter**
Ron Daum

I would ask everyone to remember the point of all of this is to have fun and enjoy the company of others who share a similar love for the sport of unlimited hydroplane racing.

I look forward to seeing all of you out there on the race course and hopefully it is not just your transoms.

Thanks again to or past season sponsors, event sponsors and our current season sponsor, Red Dot Corporation, for helping make all this possible.

— Ron Daum

E-RCU News

Publisher Rick Lentz
Editor/Designer/Contributor Nelson Holmberg
Contributor Kirk Pagel
Photography Jim Clark, unless otherwise noted

Big Boat News

Continued from page 2

stock outboards in the late 60's and early 70's.

In 1986, he took over as the Public Relations Director of Spirit of Detroit Thunderfest and held the position until 2002. In the last three years, Madej has volunteered for the Detroit River Regatta Association, helping with on-site media and doing the public address announcing for the Gold Cup races.

The 54-year old Madej has also worked as sports talent for various independent production companies airing his shows on ESPN, USA Network and PASS. In 1990, he handled the color commentary for the PGA's AmeriTech Senior Open golf tournament for WTTN-TV Cadillac-Traverse City.

— ABRA Website

Myers joins USA Racing Partners

Driver J.W. Myers, who was let go as driver of the U-16 after two seconds and a first in the first three races of the 2005 season, has agreed to join the crew of the U-10 team it was announced Monday.

He will also be back-up driver for the team during the 2006 season and the team's primary driver next season. It was important to J.W.

that current U-10 driver Nate Brown was up to speed, and OK with the addition of Myers to the team this season, so owner Kim Gregory took care of that.

"It's funny how things work out" Myers said. "I got a call from Kim and that night I was on my way to Las Vegas to interview and look at the boats and the team's new shop."

— Paul Scurlock



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photo by Jim Clark



Jeff Campbell's 1970 Pride of Pay 'n Pak.

May 2006						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 National Whiners Day	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Bill Brow Memorial Twin Lakes Park Marysville
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Festival of Enormous Changes at the Last Minute Day		
21 Bill Brow Memorial Twin Lakes Park Marysville	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Lumpy Rug Day			