

A monthly newsletter from the world's largest  
1/10-scale fast electric unlimited hydroplane  
racing club



Photo by Ben Keller

## ERCU's Enquist becomes sponsor at Seafair

I started making a bucket list last summer and one item was to sponsor an unlimited boat at Seafair, I thought about a name and decided to name it after a very good friend whom has done many things for me — so Miss Boitano Homes was born.

I brought in a few friends to help with t-shirts, graphics and buttons, Brent Hall was a key part of the plan as he was the liason with teams as we scouted out a boat. As the year rolled along plans were made to surprise Jay Boitano (we kept the secret for 11 months) and things progressed.

In July I contacted Brent about the U-22 he made a call and a deal was made right before Tri-Cities, I called the other people to get the buttons and t-shirts with a picture of the boat on theme.

It was a whirlwind week of Seafair getting the loose ends done and setting up the graphics (Jesse Robertson) out on the boat by Wednesday as that was when we were going to surprise

Jay.

Wednesday rolled along and we showed up at the boat shop brought Jay in and showed him the boat — he was speechless and stunned.

I was down at the pits Thursday when the boat arrived, talked to people, the crew and got the lay of the land.

Friday started early at the pits with my pass just like the important people (still had to park a long way away) it was awesome and exciting at the same time watching the crews and other people moving around, later I went out to pass out buttons at the south turn (found out later that really only two boats were passing out buttons so they became a big deal. As soon as the T-shirts arrived I put one on, and gave them out to the crew.

The t-shirt printer made an error and we had five 5x — yes 5x — believe it or not were gave away two and sold three of them. We set-up a tables and passed out info and sold shirts which

was a hoot.

As the boat had qualified (got the qualification money) Saturday we were ready for heat 1b — we were right by the crane and the point of the pier — an excellent spot — the boats were milling the Graham Trucking went dead, two boats jumped the gun so we were in first and won the heat

Words can't really describe the feeling.

Sunday was just as exciting as Jay brought down his son and brother to view the boat and check out everything.

We made the final and finished sixth overall meeting the crew and the Websters were great as they are wonderful people on Tuesday we had the Websters to a BBQ at Jays house on Lake Sammamish.

It was a once in a lifetime experience for all parties and we may do it next year.

Nels Enquist,  
Seafair Boat Sponsor

**upNEXT:** roger newton memorial [sunday, sept 8 @cherokee bay]; ercu gold cup [saturday, sept. 14 @lake silverado]

**statGEEK tidBit:** While many ERCU members have worked on big boat crews, volunteered at races, etc., Nels Enquist is just the third ERCU member to sponsor a big boat at Seafair, following Gary Hansen (U-17 and U-9) and Rick Lentz (U-3 and U-2.25).

**insideTEASE:** the mill ... race recaps ... club news update ... updated stats



Photo by Chris Denslow

## Big Boat News: Two races left in 2013 season

### bigBoatNOTEBOOK

- 1 Oh Boy! Oberto:** Winner of Sacramento and Tri-Cities.
- 5 Graham Trucking:** Winner of Doha (February) and Seattle.
- 9 Miss Red Dot:** Currently 4th in national high points.
- 11 Miss Peters & May:** Missed final at Seafair, breaking a streak of four straight finals.
- 14 Centurion Racing:** Recently repaired the bottom of the boat after damage at Seafair.
- 21 Miss Albert Lee:** Ran at Doha, Tri-Cities and Seattle in its only expected appearances this year.
- 22 Webster Racing:** Won heats at Detroit and Seattle.
- 37 Miss Beacon Plumbing:** Blew over at Tri-Cities, but boat is getting faster and looser.
- 48 Snoqualmie Casino:** Jamie Nilsen put the 48 in the final at Seafair with solid performances.
- 57 Miss Fedco:** Boat continues to get faster, and shows promise.
- 95 Spirit of Qatar:** Perhaps the most improved team of the year, winning the Gold Cup and taking third at Seafair.
- 100 Central Coast Airbrush:** Preparing the former maroon and black boat for the last two races after missing Seafair.

While the 2013 H1 Unlimited tour continues into its last two races of the year, and a return to Coeur d'Alene, where the boats haven't raced since 1967, the national high points championship is still up in the air, but it's going to be tough to take the 1 away from Oberto.

Jimmy Shane and the 5 Graham Trucking may have won Seafair, but the Oberto team and defending champ Steve David extended their high points lead from 233 to 663 at the Seattle race.

That's going to be a tough gap for Shane to make up in just two races.

Shane and David have each won two races in 2013, while Kip Brown won the Gold Cup, and with Coeur d'Alene and San Diego left, we should see some very fast, and excellent

racing.

Several teams have made marked improvements during the 2013 season, and have raised the level of competition.

Nate Brown's 95 Spirit of Qatar has upped its level of competition, as has the Webster family's 22 Miss Boitano Homes and Mark Evans' 57 Miss Fedco. Scott & Shannon Raney's 11 Miss Peters & May also continues to get better as the season goes along, with Tom Thompson making the finals at every race so far except Doha and Seattle.

Rumors abounded that the 96 Spirit of Qatar (Ellstrom) might make an appearance at Seafair, but those rumors were unfounded as the boat didn't leave the shop until Monday when it had photo shoot duty with the Qatar-sponsored drag cars in Kent.

The O'Farrells brought out the 21 Albert Lee Appliances in Tri-Cities where Jamie Nilsen earned his driver qualification. Nilsen then drove the 48 Snoqualmie Casino in Seattle. Brian Perkins drove the 21 Albert Lee in both Tri-Cities and Seattle. The O'Farrells are not expected to compete with either boat in Coeur d'Alene.

Former ERCU vintage class driving champion Jesse Robertson also earned his unlimited driving qualification, driving his required laps in Evans' 57 Miss Fedco at Seattle. Robertson still needs to complete his qualifying by running two heats as a trailer and outside, but he's well on his way.

Robertson makes the second former 1/10-scale RC racer to qualify as a big boat driver, following Jon Zimmerman, driver of the 9 Jones Racing hull.



Photo by Ben Keller



Photo by Ben Keller

# Forster, Holmberg accept luck

MARYSVILLE, Wash. – Ron Forster couldn't have said it better, both for himself and for modern winner Nelson Holmberg, after the ERCU Bernie Little Memorial at Twin Lakes Park. "I'd rather be lucky than good."

That may have been the theme of the day for most of the 19 boats that started out running in the 10th annual Bernie Little Memorial – hard to believe Bernie's already been gone for a decade – with the exception of a pair of boats that suffered some major damage.

The crash occurred in the third vintage heat when Ryan Opfer's 1965 Gale's Roostertail went dead in the water and Steve Dumanis' 1969 Pride of Pay 'n Pak Outrigger hit it. Both boats were more or less destroyed in the wreck.

But that was the exception to the rule in the course of the day.

A lot of good racing took place, and a number of spectators stopped by to visit and watch the racing on a day that never really lived up to the promised weather forecast.

With Forster on a club record chase, he was hardly concerned about the weather. With his eighth win of the 2013 ERCU season, Forster is now just one driver win shy of tying Jeff Campbell's record of nine wins in a single season (2009). Forster's Miss Madison is now two wins short of the boat wins record for a single season. Campbell's 1969 Pride of Pay 'n Pak Outrigger won 10 races in 2009.

Forster posted yet another

perfect day with the 1971 Miss Madison, though it wasn't easy for him. For example, in vintage heat 3A, Forster and Holmberg – driving Ben Keller's 1957 Hawaii Ka'i Ill – were locked up in a classic deck-to-deck battle. Holmberg had the inside lane and was holding the Madison at bay, but Forster wouldn't give up. The heat finally came to an end when, in the middle of the backstretch on the fourth lap, the Ka'i took a wild and unusual hop and landed upside down.

It happened again in the final, with the Ka'i chasing the Madison only to blow over in the front straightaway.

Second in the vintage final went to Craig Bradshaw's 1958 Coral Reef – with Robert Roberts at the helm for the final – followed by Nels Enquist's 1959 Maverick. DNFs in the final went to Holmberg, Mick Shutt's 1968 Miss Eagle Electric, and Kirk Pagel's 1971 Atlas Van Lines with Bradshaw driving.

Just six of the 10 boats that entered the vintage class were still running when it came time for the final, with the Outrigger having been DQ'd, and the Roostertail damaged, the 1975 Miss Vernor's not running, and Dumanis' brand new Short Circuit also not running.

In the modern class, nine boats started the day competing for the Bernie Little Memorial, and by the end of the day, just six were still running. One of the three that dropped out was Jim Dotson's 2010 Miss Peters & May, which was disqualified for hitting Nels Enquist's called dead boat in heat 1A. Neither

boat sustained significant enough damage to end their day: And Enquist's boat went on to finish fourth in the modern final. Dotson stuck around for the rest of the day to serve as pit boss, help with officiating, cleanup and to assist other drivers.

While Holmberg won the modern final with his 2013 Graham Trucking, it wasn't easy for him, either. The Graham jumped the score up buoy in heat 1B and finished third. After winning heat 2B, it appeared things were back on track, but battery troubles caused the Graham to DNS in heat 3B. With just 625 points, Holmberg felt lucky that there was a small enough turnout that enabled him to make the final on the front line.

The final looked as if Jimmy Shane was driving the Seafair final all over again, with Forster's 1999 Miss Madison more than a roostertail behind the Graham, and Bradshaw's 2010 Oh Boy! Oberto running third. Fourth place went to Enquist's 1972 Lincoln Thrift and fifth was Mick Shutt's 1978 Miss Budweiser. Roberts was unable to start after a steering issue caused him to park his 1973 Miss Budweiser on the infield before the start.

Enquist did a terrific job as contest director and ran a smooth race with a lot of fun had by most everyone. There were no controversies and the day moved nicely. Thanks also go out to Shutt for serving as drivers rep, and to Dumanis for serving as chief referee and also for setting a very nice NAMBA course in the south lake of Twin Lakes.

## theMILL

**NELSON HOLMBERG** is planning to change his 2012 championship Formula Boats hull to the black 2013 Graham Trucking this offseason, and keep the wrapped orange 2013 Graham as well; he also has his sites set on a "classic" hull that's still under wraps ... **RON HARTLEY** has a 2000 Pico American Dream [dustbuster nose] in the works ... **JIM DOTSON** seems to be the leader in the clubhouse for most improved modern driver, but there are still four races left ...

**RON FORISTER** plans to repaint the 1999 Miss Madison this winter, and is already planning his paint booth ... **ALAN KINSMAN** still has plans to complete the 1988 Competition Specialties, which he has tested and likes the ride ... **JOHN EARNEST** is excited about the last two races of the season, having made improvements to all three boats, and had successful testing ... **CRAIG MULLEN** still intends to return to racing in ERCU when he gets his 1969 Notre Dame from the repair shop ... **NELS ENQUIST** might just build a 22 Boitano Homes boat for future racing.

### 2013 MODERN BOAT STANDINGS

(Through 10 races)

#	Boat	High Points
1.	2012 Graham Trucking	10,184
2.	2000 Znetix	9,464
3.	1999 Miss Madison	9,333
4.	2010 Oh Boy! Oberto	6,493
5.	2007 Formula Boats (T-6)	5,998
6.	1972 Lincoln Thrift	4,509
7.	1978 Miss Budweiser	3,924
8.	1972 Pride of Pay 'n Pak	2,846
9.	2009 Formula Boats	2,279
10.	1980 KWWW	2,025

### 2013 MODERN DRIVER STANDINGS

(Through 10 races)

#	Driver	High Points
1.	Nelson Holmberg	10,184
2.	Robert Roberts	9,464
3.	Ron Forister	9,333
4.	Craig Bradshaw	6,493
5.	Nels Enquist	4,509
6.	Mick Shutt	3,136
7.	Ron Cole	2,846
8.	Lance Sponberg (R)	2,279
9.	David Newton	2,150
10.	Steve Dumanis	2,025

### CAREER STANDINGS

#### VINTAGE

#	Driver	Career Points
1.	Jeff Campbell	93,361
2.	Mike Campbell	84,080
3.	Bob Vanden Akker	72,259
4.	Bill Smiley	66,677
5.	Ron Daum	59,368
6.	David Newton	51,948
7.	Gerry Bordon	49,411
8.	Rick Lentz	47,418
9.	Craig Bradshaw	47,401
10.	Nelson Holmberg	43,084
11.	Robbie Roberts	40,240
12.	Gary Hansen	39,244
13.	Ryan Opfer	36,926
14.	Craig Mullen	35,124
15.	John Earnest	32,265

### CAREER STANDINGS

#### MODERN

#	Driver	Career Points
1.	Mike Campbell	111,981
2.	Mike Gossler	77,432
3.	Nelson Holmberg	74,849
4.	Jeff Campbell	51,655
5.	Craig Bradshaw	43,810
6.	Gary Hansen	41,665
7.	Rick Lentz	41,110
8.	Bill Smiley	32,814
9.	Steve Twardus	28,048
10.	Ron Daum	27,721
11.	Mick Shutt	25,136
12.	Henry Marvin	25,125
13.	Mark Hansen	24,762
14.	Craig Mullen	23,941
15.	Jerry Johnston	21,349

### 2013 VINTAGE BOAT STANDINGS

(Through 10 races)

#	Driver	High Points
1.	1971 Miss Madison	14,625
2.	1957 Hawaii Ka'i III	6,969
3.	1960 Miss Burien	6,126
4.	1958 Coral Reef	5,482
5.	1969 Pay 'n Pak Outrigger	4,507
6.	1970 Parco's O-Ring Miss	3,889
7.	1962 Gale V	3,369
8.	1965 Gale's Roostertail	3,325
9.	1962 \$ Bill	3,190
10.	1971 Hallmark Homes	2,335

### 2013 VINTAGE DRIVER STANDINGS

(Through 10 races)

#	Driver	High Points
1.	Ron Forister	14,625
2.	Robbie Roberts	6,126
3.	Nelson Holmberg	5,869
4.	Craig Bradshaw	5,538
5.	Steve Dumanis	4,507
6.	Gerry Bordon	3,889
7.	John Earnest	3,594
8.	Jim Latimer	3,190
9.	Nels Enquist	2,759
10.	Ryan Opfer	2,494

### CAREER

#### RACE WIN STANDINGS — VINTAGE

#	Driver	Race Wins
1.	Jeff Campbell	34
2.	David Newton	19
3.	Mike Campbell	15
4.	Bill Smiley	8
	Ron Forister	8
6.	Jesse Robertson	5
	Nelson Holmberg	5
8.	Gerry Bordon	4
	Roger Newton	4
	Bob Vanden Akker	4

### CAREER

#### RACE WIN STANDINGS — MODERN

#	Driver	Race Wins
1.	Mike Campbell	52
2.	Jeff Campbell	19
3.	Nelson Holmberg	12
4.	Mike Gossler	10
5.	David Newton	8
6.	Bill Smiley	6
7.	Gary Hansen	4
	Ron Forister	4
9.	John Williams	3
	Craig Bradshaw	3
	Robert Roberts	3

### APRIL

**13 Champion Spark Plug Regatta**  
 Centralia, Fort Borst Park  
 CD: John Earnest/Howard Price  
 (M) '86 Boat; (V) '71 Miss Madison

**21 Apple Cup**  
 Lakewood, Waughop Lake  
 CD: Ben Keller  
 (M) '07 Formula; (V) '71 Madison

### MAY

**4 Atomic Cup**  
 Elma, Vance Creek Park  
 CD: Ron Daum  
 (M) '99 Madison; (V) '71 Madison

**18 Governor's Cup**  
 Adna, Lake Silverado  
 CD: Craig Bradshaw  
 (M) '10 Oberto; (V) '71 Madison

### JUNE

**1 Seafair Trophy Race**  
 Marysville, Twin Lakes Park  
 CD: John Earnest/Howard Price  
 (M) '00 Znetix; (V) '57 Hawaii Ka'i

**9 President's Cup**  
 Maple Valley, Lake Wilderness  
 CD: Ben Keller/Craig Bradshaw  
 (M) '00 Znetix; (V) '71 Madison

**15 Diamond Cup**  
 Woodland, Horseshoe Lake  
 CD: Nelson Holmberg  
 (M) '12 Graham; (V) '58 Coral Reef

**29 Oregon Emerald Cup**  
 Centralia, Fort Borst Park  
 CD: Nelson Holmberg  
 (M) '00 Znetix; (V) '71 Madison

### JULY

**20 Columbia Cup**  
 Longview, Lake Sacajawea Park  
 CD: Mick Shutt  
 (M) '12 Graham; (V) '71 Madison

### AUGUST

**11 Bernie Little Memorial**  
 Marysville, Twin Lakes Park  
 CD: Nels Enquist  
 (M) '12 Graham; (V) '71 Madison

### SEPTEMBER

**8 Roger Newton Memorial**  
 Maple Valley, Cherokee Bay Club  
 CD: David Newton

**14 ERCU Gold Cup**  
 Adna, Lake Silverado  
 CD: ERCU Contest Board

**22 Stan Sayres Memorial**  
 Kirkland, Juanita Bay Park  
 CD: Monte Steere & Ron Daum

**28 Oryx Cup**  
 Woodland, Horseshoe Lake Park  
 CD: Nelson Holmberg