

E-RCU News

www.e-rcu.org

Volume 2, Issue 3

MARCH 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 19 . . . ERCU Test Session
South Lake Union

April 2 . . . ERCU Member Mtg.
HARM

April 15 Champion Spark
Plug Regatta
Fort Borst Park, Centralia

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!



A pair of electric-powered deep vees race on Dobson Ranch Lake in Mesa, Ariz. These boats are powered by motors from cordless drills. They use NiMH batteries (3300), same as ours, but only six cells each.

FEATURED WEBSITES

U-5 Racing Team site
www.u5racing.com

Formula Boats site
www.formulaboats.com

March 4 Lake Pleasant test session proves readiness

A preseason test session on Saturday, March 4 at Lake Pleasant proved to be a valuable step in showing teams' readiness for the 2006 ERCU season.

One valuable step **Bob VandenAkker** hosted was a test session and driving school for rookie drivers including **Judy Fenton**, **Dawna Gross** and **Kirk Pagel**.

During the session, Fenton and Gross "traded seats" in the G-7 Such Crust IV, and both displayed good skills that will make them good drivers in the future.

"It was fun," Gross said. "Bob is a patient teacher, but I was pretty nervous."

That feeling was mutual for Fenton.

"I didn't want to flip or wreck the Such Crust with Bob watching."

Pagel drove his Hurricane VI for several good test laps, along with two three-lap heats with VandenAkker driving his U-7 Notre Dame to simulate heat racing.

"Bob gave me an opportunity to drive with a second boat dicing around me," Pagel said. "It was good practice, but **Mike Gossler** will be driving the Hurricane VI for me at the first



Bob VandenAkker gives "driving lessons" during a test session at Lake Pleasant set up to provide stick time and familiarity with driving radio controlled race boats, as well as to show off the Bothell course.

few races of the 2006 season.

"I've got a ways to go before I'll be a qualified driver."

Lake Pleasant lived up to its name, staying flat and calm for the 3½-hour test session.

Also during the session, VandenAkker showed everyone the course layout, the pit area and the picnic area for the upcoming Leo Vandenberg Challenge, to be held on Lake Pleasant on June 4, 2006.

— Kirk Pagel

South Lake Union test day set for March 19

This Sunday at noon is a "run what you bring" ERCU test session at South Lake Union.

It will be an informal test session, with maybe four corner buoys, according to ERCU secretary **Rick Lentz**.

The session needs to be set up in the informal fashion in order to stay within the Seattle Parks Department guidelines of not staging a "race" without prior confirmation.



The South Lake Union course site.

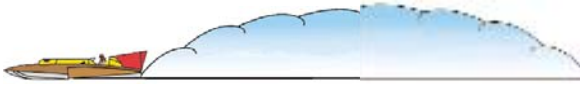
There will also be no limit on the number of boats allowed, and no time limits.

With racing season roughly a month away — the first race of the season is April 15 in Centralia — this would be a great opportunity to make

sure everything is in working order before it's too late.

Besides, it's always fun to get together with your boat racing buddies for some bench racing. Plan to run your boat to get ready for the coming season, or come out to see what everyone else is up to.

The site is located at the southwest corner of the lake, just across Westlake Avenue from Jillian's, Bonefish and Outback restaurants. There should be ample parking available right beside the course. The waterway will be open for the entire afternoon.



NEWSBRIEFS

Gardner dealing with painful spine treatment

David Gardner has recently had spinal injections as treatment for some back issues he'd been having. If you've got a moment, it would obviously be appreciated for Dave's fellow racers to drop him a note. Everyone obviously wishes Dave a speedy recovery. Get well soon, Dave.

Club still seeking someone to take 2006 trailer duty

The club is looking for a member to step forward and volunteer to take responsibility for the 2006 season. Duties for this person include arrangement of a place to park it, and to make sure it is delivered to each race at a time and direction of the race contest director.

Webmaster issues statement of a new record

Webmaster **Jim Lilly** reports that in the month of February, the club's website www.e-rcu.org, was the recipient of a record-number of visitors during the month. An average of 389 unique visitors hit the E-RCU website to set the new monthly record. During the week that included the last three days of February and the first five of March, the number was all the way up to 468 visitors per day.

MiniCzar selling photos of real hydros

David Newton has started a website with pictures for sale. Newton's site includes photos he has taken in recent years as well as all of the photos collected over the years by **Roger Newton**. There are pictures of most every boat from the early 1950s through last season. There currently roughly 2000 photos posted online, and there are plenty more to come. If the collection doesn't include the boat you'd like to see, feel free to email David (miniczar@u.washington.edu) and he'll do everything he can to find it for you. Stop by www.newtonmarine.smugmug.com to see the collection. It's impressive.

Noslen Communication challenges other companies to sponsor

Noslen Communication president **Nelson Holmberg**, a proud ERCU member has challenged other companies owned by ERCU members, or employing ERCU members to step up and sponsor races. Noslen Communication is sponsoring both the Diamond Cup and the Apple Cup this season, for the second straight year.

News & Rumors

Mike Gossler has several built 1/24th and 1/48th scale models, assembled and decorated by **Czar**. Mike brings the small boats to each club meeting, if you want to see them, or if you want one . . . **Rick Lentz's** new U-95 is close to being finished. All it needs is a rudder assembly and installation of all the radio and running gear, the Air Force logo on the fairings, and of course the stripes on the driver's helmet . . . Bragging about testing time and nice weather came back to bite **Nelson Holmberg** on March 2 when his 1973 Red Man sank in Lake Havasu during a testing session. The boat was swamped by a wake while struggling to get back on a plane and the weight of the water pulled it to the bottom of the lake in a three-foot deep area. Now that everything is dried out, and put back together, the boat is working fine, and there's more floatation on board.

Big Boat News



FINALLY! BUD GEAR SOLD

Precision Performance Engineering, LLC (DBA U-5 Racing), a second year unlimited hydroplane team that finished fifth in National High Points in 2005 has entered into an agreement with Lakeland, Fla., based Hydroplanes, Inc. to purchase a significant amount of the remaining assets of the Miss Budweiser Racing Team including the two newest hulls, known as the T-5 and T-6, and supporting racing equipment.

The addition of the two new hulls brings the U-5 Racing Team to three including the boat raced in 2005. The team plans to race two of the three boats at all seven events in the 2006 American Boat Racing Association Unlimited Hydroplane Series. The U-5 team will once again be sponsored by Formula Boats of Decatur, Ind., a nationally recognized manufacturer of quality recreational powerboats.

Mike Weber will return as the driver of the U-5, and will take on the additional responsibility of team manager for both teams. The second boat will be the registered as the U-7. Driver and sponsorship information is undecided at this time.

Precision Performance Engineering, LLC also of Decatur, acquired the U-5 Racing Team from former owner **Chad Sanderson** of Auburn, Ind., last month. The teams will be based in Decatur.

"BILLY THE KID" IS BACK!

During the recent ABRA meetings, **Bill**

A Moment With . . .

JIM LILLY



Family:Wife Heather, son Travis (10), daughters Kate (7) and Michelle (7).
City he calls home:Kennydale.
Job (when not boating):Art & technology teacher, track & field coach.
College Football Loyalty:Pomona College Sagehens. The Pomona College vs. Occidental College rivalry is the oldest west of the Mississippi.
On a local note I did get my teaching degree from UW.
Favorite Current Unlimited Hydro:Jim Harvey's U-2.
Favorite Unlimited Hydro of the past:1972 Pride of Pay 'n Pak.
Boats he races in ERCU:1966 My Gypsy.
What was your first car?1972 Mercury Capri.
What was your first job?Pearl Diver (dishwasher).
When and how did you get involved in scale racing?I saw some footage of some 1/16th scale boats at Seafair and my brother and I chased down Tracy Osterhout of Electric Thunder. I started printing decals of various boats and trading him for gear.
Have you ever had a manicure/pedicure? (Come on manly-man...admit it!):No!
Coke or Pepsi?Coke, though I accidentally bought Coke with Lime and have been drinking those lately.

RED DOT CORPORATION

HEAVY DUTY CLIMATE CONTROL SOLUTIONS

Continued on page 4

Minutes of the March 5, 2006 Membership Meeting

Chairman **Ron Daum** opened the meeting with 28 members in attendance. The minutes from the February meeting were approved as submitted. At the time of the meeting 40 members and 82 boats have been registered so far for 2006.

Race coordinator **Roger Newton** has prepared a 15 race schedule for the year. The Apple Cup in Chelan and a new race in Port Ludlow are scheduled as exhibition races. As discussed earlier, season high points will be determined by up to



Jerry Courtway's Thriftway Too, Oly and '71 Atlas Van Lines.

Sites that do not provide power will be identified prior to race day.

Technical inspector **Dave Gardner** reported that due to lack of volume, AstroFlight will be discontinuing production of the 325-5 motor used by the club. Availability of motors and parts should be adequate for this racing season, but testing for equivalent new motors will commence. The goal is to find alternate motors comparable to the AstroFlight motors to help with a smooth transition to new power sources without having to abandon the current motors. AstroFlight will be assisting with this study as well. Alternate motors can be tested by anyone at races during the year, with boats so used not receiving race points for any heats so run that day.

Equipment purchases being investigated include a new amplifier, cable and speakers for the public address system, a club-owned generator, a frequency monitor and a printer for the newly-purchased laptop



Rick Lentz's new U-95, built by Jeff Campbell, is just about done.

the best 10 finishes of the season, regardless of the number of races attended. Races are scheduled for Sundays except a handful that are scheduled for Saturday. The full schedule for the season is shown to the left.



Mike Gossler's Miss Circus Circus looks ready to go.

computer.

March 19 has been scheduled for a test day at the new South Lake Union site in Seattle. Testing can commence at noon, and the water will be open and available all day. A question on possible conflicts with the city's concert series was raised. The concerts have moved from the waterfront to this park to Gasworks Park, with

alternate locations still being investigated. It does appear that the South Lake Union location has been abandoned by the series, at least for the present time. In the worst case basis it is conceivable that the race could peacefully co-exist with the concert, if that were to occur.

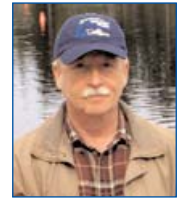
Jerry Courtway presented information on an exhibition race being considered for the Port Ludlow area. The event would be a part with their annual village celebration in September. The course would be

set on a pond adjacent to the marina, restaurant and inn, for those familiar with the area. Testing to confirm salt-free water will be done prior to the race.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Review of the trailer contents and ideas for packing, including the chase boat provided by **Steve Twardus**.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 2 at 2 p.m., again at HARM.

This will be the last opportunity to have boats inspected before the racing season begins, so bring your boats.



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
22	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 (non-points)	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.

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Statistics — End of Season

Vintage Driver Points

Place	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	Miss Thriftway/Maverick	David Newton	13,113
2.	Lil Buzzard	Jeff Campbell	12,014
3.	Miss US 1	Mike Campbell	10,311
4.	Notre Dame	Bob VandenAkker	9,568
5.	Such Crust III	Ron Daum	7,979
6.	Miss Exide	Henry Marvin	7,946
7.	Hawaii Kai III	Roger Newton	6,240
8.	Miss Bardahl/Miss US 5Miss Wahoo	Rick Lentz	5,997
9.	Muvalong/Timex	Jason Hartley®	5,809
10.	My Gypsy	Jim Lilly	5,619

Modern Driver Points

Place	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	Pride of Pay 'n Pak	Jeff Campbell	12,125
2.	Country Boy	Mike Campbell	11,748
3.	Miss Vernors/Country Boy/Olympia	David Newton	8,284
4.	Squire	Mike Gossler	7,228
5.	Twardus Fleet	Steve Twardus	5,429
6.	Red Man	Rick Lentz	4,785
7.	Notre Dame	Mark Hansen	4,390
8.	Pay 'n Pak	Gale Whitestone	4,363
9.	Squire Shop/Vernors	Gary Hansen	3,936
10.	Natural Light	Jerry Johnston	3,442

Vintage Boat Points

Place	Year	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	1970	Lil Buzzard	Jeff Campbell	13,014
2.	1960	Miss Thriftway	David Newton	12,319
3.	1957	Miss US 1	Mike Campbell	10,311
4.	1965	Notre Dame	Bob VandenAkker	9,568
5.	1956	Slo-mo-shun IV	Grady/Monte & Nigel Steere	8,079
6.	1955	Such Crust III	Ron Daum	7,979
7.	1964	Miss Exide	Henry Marvin	7,946
8.	1954	Muvalong	Jason Hartley/Gary Hansen	6,711
9.	1957	Hawaii Kai III	Roger Newton/David Newton	6,640
10.	1959	Miss Pay 'n Save	S.Twardus/G.Whitstone/M.Hansen	6,340

Modern Boat Points

Place	Year	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	1971	Country Boy	Mike Campbell	13,348
2.	1970	Pride of Pay 'n Pak	Jeff Campbell	12,125
3.	1973	Red Man	R. Lentz/N. Holmberg/M. Steere	8,417
4.	1978	Squire	Mike Gossler	8,222
5.	1976	Olympia Beer	David Lilly/David Newton	7,071
6.	1976	Miss Vernors	D. Newton/Marvin/Twardus/Hansen	6,854
7.	1977	Squire Shop	Twardus/VandenAkker/Newton/Hansen/Hartley	5,720
8.	1972	Notre Dame	Mark Hansen	5,490
9.	1971	Pay 'n Pak	Gale Whitestone	4,683
10.	1977	Natural Light	Jerry Johnston	4,136

ERCU expected to be part of Port Ludlow Funfest

Things are really coming together in the event planning process for the Port Ludlow Funfest on the Bay, and ERCU is expected to be a part of the fun.

This year, we're scheduled to run an exhibition at the same location as the Funfest. In the future, who knows, maybe it will become a full-fledged race for the club.

The planning committee is excited about ERCU's participation. Seems hydroplane racing, no matter what the size of the boats, is still very popular at civic events across the state of Washington.

Funfest on the Bay will run September 16-17, beginning each day at 10 a.m., and running until 5 p.m. The event will include stage entertainment — including a Saturday night music event in the Beach Club, a beer and brats tent, and the usual artsy-craftsy stuff. Organizers are committed to bringing in local talent, artists and crafters, as much as possible.

It looks as if the organizers will be able to budget a monetary gift to ERCU, something that the club will be able to buy a few trophies with. When the question of such a gift was brought up at a recent planning meeting, it was met with enthusiastic agreement by the committee. It's now just a question of how the budgeting process goes before we know how much the committee will provide.

There are committee members, even, who have said they believed they would have no trouble helping the club find a



The proposed Port Ludlow race site. To the right of the pond in this photo is the bay. The pits and launch area would be to the left.

sponsor for the event.

The site also has a campground and plenty of local lodging in the area for anyone who might want to stay overnight and take advantage of the festivities over the weekend.

As the date draws nearer, the fine folks in Port Ludlow will provide the club with more lodging and camping information, which of course will be passed along to the membership.

The campground in the village square can accommodate RVs. It is a beautiful site with a waterfall and a hiking trail.

E-RCU News

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

Big Boat News

Continued on page 2

Wurster announced that he has sold the U-8 Racing Team to another hydroplane racing legend, **Billy Schumacher**. Schumacher plans to change almost nothing. The shop, crew, driver, etc will remain the same. There's little doubt that Billy "The Kid" will have an opinion and be heard once in a while. He'll be a great addition to the sport.

ABRA AWARDS BANQUET

Awards presented at the 2006 ABRA Awards Banquet include: Outstanding Newspaper coverage: **Michael McLaughlin**, Seattle PI; Award of Excellence: **Sven Ellstrom**; Fan Recognition Award: **Jim Harvey**; Special contribution: **Emily Estes, Ed Cooper, Fred Leland**; Marketing Awards: Fire Safe, Llumar, FormulaBoats.com, General Motors; Commercial Sponsor of the Year — Race Site: Chrysler Jeep; Commercial Sponsor of the Year — Boat: Oh Boy! Oberto; Race Site of the Year: Madison Regatta; Photo of the Year: **Bill Osborne**; Outstanding Magazine Coverage: Powerboat; Best Local or National Radio coverage: WORX, Madison; Best TV Coverage: KIRO; Owner of the Year: **Bill Wurster**; Crew of the Year: (tie) Llumar, Ellstrom; Crew Chief of the Year: **Scott Raney**; Rookie of the Year: **Jean Theoret**; National Champion Driver: **Steve David**; National Champion Boat: Miss Elam (not present, accepted on their behalf by **Dr. Ken Muscatel**); Sportsman of the Year: **Dr. Ken Muscatel**; Special contribution: Detroit River Regatta Association; Official of the Year: **Peter Thompson**.

LUCKY 21 JUMPS RIGHT IN

Freedom Racing Team got involved right away, sponsoring a reception on Friday night in Indy.



photo by Jim Clark



April 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 ERCU Member Meeting @ HARM	3	4	5 National Deviled Egg Day	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Champion Spark Plug Regatta @ Centralia
16	17	18	19	20 Underdog Day	21	22
23	24 National Flashlight Day	25	26	27	28	29
30						