

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



ERCU shows well at Spring Regional

Clean racing and mostly dry (but cloudy) skies were the highlight of the day, as a total of 14 boats celebrated the first official race of the 2012 model hydroplane racing season.

Nelson Holmberg enjoyed his day quite a bit, taking three firsts and a third (after jumping the gun in the final heat with two other boats), winning the event with 1,425 points with his 2010 Formula Boats, which continues to get stronger and stronger. Mitch Dillard impressed everyone with his brand new Tide, which ran great right out of the box, and ended up second in the modern standings with 1,069 points. Third place went to Ron Forister driving the 1999 Miss

Madison with 921 points. Dale Van Wyk drove his Spirit of Detroit to a fourth place finish with 525 points, while Mike Schultz was fifth with 521 and Nels Enquist was sixth with 488 points.

With just five modern boats registered for the event at the drivers meeting, it was decided to run all of the modern hulls together and follow a points race format for modern, while keeping the winner-take-all final heat format for the vintage class.

Dillard had a perfect day in the vintage class, running his Gale V to four wins, including the final where he came from behind to overtake Robbie Roberts' Miss Burien on lap four. Roberts took second in the fi-

nal, and in the points standings, with 1,300 points. Forister was third in the vintage class, too, with his 1971 Miss Madison, scoring 1,019 points. Fourth place went to Steve Dumanis with his brand new 1969 Pride of Pay 'n Pak Outrigger (1,000 points), fifth was Schultz with his Miss Thriftway (994), Enquist was sixth with his Marverick (869), Ryan Opfer was seventh with his

Gales Roostertail (394 points), and eighth was Craig Bradshaw with his Miss Budweiser (296).

This was the first of three NAMBA Regional races for 2012. The next event is to be hosted by ERCU on Sunday, Aug. 26 at Cottage Lake in Woodinville.

upNEXT: season opening champion spark plug regatta at centralia [april 14 | @fort borst park]

statGEEK tidBit: Hawaii Ka'i III is the last "Roger Boat" active in ERCU ... representing our Czar admirably as series champ

insideTEASE: lots of new boats coming ... rules changes recap ... rumor mill ... and more

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A few rules changes in effect for 2012

bigBoatSTUFF

Silly season is here, and there are a few kind of fun things going on around the world of HI Unlimiteds and the big boat teams. Most are real news, some are rumors.

NEWS:

Tommy Alfano, most recently of the U-25 Superior Racing team, has joined the U-22 Webster Racing crew ... **Dr. Ken Muscatel** has purchased the "Winged Wonder" from **Dave Bartush** in Detroit. The Good Doctor's intent is to restore it as the 1973-75 Pay 'n Pak ... **Peters & May** has renewed its support for the U-II.

RUMORS:

Will the U-13 really be back in 2012? ... What's up with Sacramento? ... Has Muscatel really decided to hang up the driving suit? ... Is it true that the U-10 will be back this year, possibly with a world champion in the cockpit? ... China in 2012?

Every year, the new season is welcomed in with a few tweaks to the rulebook, based on experiences from the previous season.

This year is no different.

Some of the club's procedural rules have changed, including a couple of changes to the racing rules, while other changes were made to membership fees, boat registrations and single-event memberships.

A New Class

The club also voted to establish a "classic" class (essentially those modern boats without turbines, articulated canards, and canopy-covered cockpits. This rule is in the book effective in the 2012 season. The classic and modern classes won't be officially split, however, until such a time that enough boats in each class are consistently participating in events.

Contest directors do have the authority to run separate classic and modern divisions at their races, provided the boat count is sufficient for a split according to the club's rules concerning boat counts that constitute a legal race. All points earned in any such split will be recorded in the

collective season and career points for the modern class.

Membership Year

The club membership also voted to approve changing the membership year to a fiscal year that starts November 1 and ends on October 31. This means boat registrations will expire on October 31 of each year. A two-month period (through December 31) will be allowed for renewals to keep registrations. As of January 2, all unregistered boats will be eligible for anyone to register by anyone who desires to own the given registration.

New Racing Rules

The club adopted a new trailer start procedure, which will provide for a five-second clock after the official start, thereby eliminating the guessing of whether a trailer boat starts on time or not, and provides for consistency on courses of varying sizes.

There was also a new rule approved that makes it the responsibility of drivers who damage property that does not belong to ERCU or its members at a race site to pay for repair or replacement of that damaged equipment.

Process for Protest

The Contest Board also recommended to the membership adding the NAMBA Protest Process into the ERCU rulebook to make it crystal clear what process should be followed in the instance that a protest is needed or desired. Membership approved the rule at the January meeting.

Gold Cup

While time trials for the Gold Cup have been optional for quite some time, there's never been any incentive given to members to make the time trials mean something.

Starting in 2012, those who choose to participate in Gold Cup time trials will be awarded extra points, in accordance with their fastest time in the time trials period. Points awarded in time trials will apply to determining eligibility for the connies and finals.

Read the Book

The new rulebook has been posted on the ERCU website by clicking on "Forms & Documents" under the "Resources" tab. All of the changes are printed in red in the book.



A number of new boats expected in new year

A quick scan of the club's landscape shows a number of new hulls being prepared for the 2012 season.

Holmberg is building the 1988 Sutphen Spirit to add to his fleet. It'll be his third boat.

Robbie Roberts and his son Robert are working on a pair of new modern boats, too. Robbie's 1984 Executone is just about finished, while completion of Robert's 2000 Znetix hull is expected in time for the 2012 season opener in Centralia, too.

Craig Bradshaw, following

his quest to put the 2010 Oberto ahead of the Formula Boats model representing the same year, has recently completed a new plug for the Oberto hull. He's also working on the completion of a new U-10 hull, which started out as the 1988 Competition Specialities. It may end up being the white Winston Eagle, or the Vantage Ultra before all is said and done. Stay tuned for more from Bradshaw.

Steve Dumanis recently completed construction of his

new 1969 Pride of Pay 'n Pak Outrigger, and debuted the hull at the NAMBA Spring Regional in Marysville.

Dave Reiser recently completed, and tested, his new model of the Island Security Systems. Also down south, Jesse Shehan recently finished a new model of the Karelsen Miss U.S.

There may be other new boats out there that we're not aware of, as well.

If you're not keeping up, you might need a program to recognize new boats in 2012.

rumorMILL

Craig Mullen will be back in ERCU, at least at some races, in 2012. He's the proud new owner of the 1969 Notre Dame ... **Mike Campbell**, who's making a return to big boat racing with the U-9 this year, says he'll make some ERCU events this year ... **Jim Dotson** of Edmonds, Wash., has become ERCU's newest member, buying **Craig Bradshaw's** 2010 Peters & May, and joining the club right after the NAMBA Spring Regional in Marysville ... **Ron Forister** of Classic Thunder also joined ERCU at the Spring Regional, bringing in his 1999 Miss Madison, 1971 Miss Madison and 2010 Air Guard boats for a few races in 2012.

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2011 MODERN BOAT STANDINGS

#	Boat	High Points
1.	1986 The Boat	14,169
2.	1982 Executone	14,163
3.	1978 Miss Circus Circus	10,344
4.	2010 Formula Boats	10,021
5.	2010 Oh Boy! Oberto	8,094
6.	1972 Lincoln Thrift	7,178
7.	2009 Buffalo Federal	4,944
8.	2003 Llummar Window Film	3,846
9.	1977 Charlie's Girl	3,269
10.	1976 Miss Vernor's	2,700

2011 MODERN DRIVER STANDINGS

#	Driver	High Points
1.	Mike Campbell	14,169
2.	Mike Gossler	10,344
3.	Nelson Holmberg	10,021
4.	Craig Bradshaw	8,094
5.	Nels Enquist	7,178
6.	Ron Daum	5,366
7.	Ryan Opfer	4,944
8.	Mick Shutt	4,594
9.	Bill Smiley	3,296
10.	Jesse Shehan	3,125

VINTAGE CAREER STANDINGS

#	Driver	Career Points
1.	Jeff Campbell	93,361
2.	Mike Campbell	80,975
3.	Bob Vanden Akker	69,338
4.	Bill Smiley	55,541
5.	David Newton	49,360
6.	Ron Daum	49,103
7.	Rick Lentz	47,193
8.	Gerry Bordon	37,922
9.	Craig Bradshaw	35,718
10.	Craig Mullen	34,814
11.	Gary Hansen	34,325
12.	Roger Newton	31,413
13.	Ryan Opfer	28,028
14.	Jason Hartley	28,018
15.	Henry Marvin	27,907

MODERN DRIVER STANDINGS

#	Driver	Career Points
1.	Mike Campbell	107,281
2.	Mike Gossler	74,015
3.	Jeff Campbell	51,655
4.	Nelson Holmberg	49,252
5.	Rick Lentz	40,762
6.	Gary Hansen	37,046
7.	Steve Twardus	27,766
8.	Bill Smiley	27,604
9.	Mark Hansen	26,502
10.	Craig Bradshaw	25,525
11.	Henry Marvin	25,125
12.	Craig Mullen	23,641
13.	Jerry Johnston	21,349
14.	John Williams	18,929
15.	Brian Gilmore	18,927

2011 VINTAGE BOAT STANDINGS

#	Driver	High Points
1.	1957 Hawaii Ka'i III	14,119
2.	1970 Parco's O-Ring Miss	12,133
3.	1975 Miss Vernor's	9,259
4.	1960 Miss Burién	8,995
5.	1958 Coral Reef	8,314
6.	1962 Thunderbolt	8,172
7.	1964 Miss Smirnoff	7,463
8.	1957 Miss Wahoo	7,213
9.	1959 Maverick	6,812
10.	1971 Hallmark Homes	6,394

2011 VINTAGE DRIVER STANDINGS

#	Driver	High Points
1.	Mike Campbell	12,525
2.	Gerry Bordon	12,133
3.	Ryan Opfer	9,259
4.	Robbie Roberts	8,995
5.	Nelson Holmberg	8,513
6.	Craig Bradshaw	8,314
7.	Steve Dumanis	8,172
8.	Bill Smiley	8,019
9.	Nels Enquist	6,812
10.	Scott Fetterly	5,929

RACE WIN STANDINGS — VINTAGE

#	Driver	Race Wins
1.	Jeff Campbell	34
2.	David Newton	18
3.	Mike Campbell	14
4.	Jesse Robertson	5
	Bill Smiley	5
6.	Roger Newton	4
	Bob Vanden Akker	4
8.	Jason Hartley	3
	Craig Mullen	3
	Nigel Steere	3
11.	Gerry Bordon	2
	Nelson Holmberg	2
	Ryan Opfer	2

RACE WIN STANDINGS — MODERN

#	Driver	Race Wins
1.	Mike Campbell	39
2.	Jeff Campbell	19
3.	Mike Gossler	9
4.	David Newton	4
	Bill Smiley	4
6.	Nelson Holmberg	3
	John Williams	3
8.	Gary Hansen	2
	Rick Lentz	2

APRIL

- 14 **Champion Spark Plug Regatta**
Centralia, Fort Borst Park
CD: Nelson Holmberg
- 28 **Apple Cup**
Lakewood, Waughop Lake
CD: Ben Keller

MAY

- 5 **Atomic Cup**
Elma, Vance Creek Park
CD: Ron Daum

JUNE

- 2 **Seafair Trophy Race**
Marysville, Twin Lakes Park
CD: Nels Enquist, Scott Fetterly
- 10 **Maple Valley Days/President's Cup**
Maple Valley, Lake Wilderness
CD: Scott Fetterly
- 30 **Oregon Emerald Cup**
Tualatin, Lake of Tualatin Commons
CD: Nelson Holmberg

JULY

- 7 **Stan Sayres Memorial**
Bellevue, Bellevue Downtown Park
CD: Monte Steere
- 21 **Columbia Cup**
Longview, Lake Sacajawea Park
CD: Mick Shutt

AUGUST

- 11 **Bernie Little Memorial**
Marysville, Twin Lakes Park
CD: ERCU Contest Board
- 19 **Roger Newton Memorial**
Maple Valley, Cherokee Bay Club
CD: David Newton

SEPTEMBER

- 15 **Gold Cup**
Kirkland, Juanita Bay Park
CD: ERCU Contest Board
- 22 **Governor's Cup**
Adna, Silverado Ski Pond
CD: Craig Bradshaw

OCTOBER

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

TRIPLE CROWN SERIES

- March 18 — Hosted by Classic Thunder
Twin Lakes Park, Marysville
- August 26 — Hosted by ERCU
Cottage Lake, Woodinville
- Oct. 14 — Hosted by Classic Thunder
Woodland Creek Park, Lacey