

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



Photo by Ben Keller

## Shane expresses interest in ERCU at banquet

TUKWILA, Wash. — Reigning H1 Unlimited high points champion Jimmy Shane was the club's special guest at the ERCU End of Season Banquet, and during his presentation, Shane might have surprised a few with his comments.

He's considering joining ERCU.

Shane said he'd gotten his start in boat racing with RC boats when he bought the first boat he ever owned off of eBay, when he purchased an RC boat. He's raced a number of different types of boats, including Sport 40 with a CMB "red head".

He said he's now considering the idea of getting a modern and vintage boat — budget and free time allowing, of course, just like the rest of us — and racing with us when he can. And when he can't he says he'd like to hand the controls of his boat to another young person that would compete with it, in an effort to help grow the hobby.

Jimmy's presentation, and his question and answer session was excellent, and it appeared the membership enjoyed having him there. Our thanks go out to Jimmy for being a part of our special evening.

Nearly 40 people turned out to attend this year's banquet — an excellent turnout — which was held Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Sizzler in Southcenter.

Honorary ERCU members Bob and Karen Senior attended and brought along some RC memorabilia from his own archive (i.e. basement) to auction off for the club's treasury. That on its own was really fun because Bob incorporated us into a tradition he's always done at Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum and Royal Order of the Turbine (ROTT) events.

As always, the club also presented its 2013 season awards, and the awards went to:

### Rookie of the Year (modern)

It's not often that a guy who's got more than three decades of experience racing model boats is considered a rookie, but by a quirk the ERCU rule-book, he was a rookie this year when he brought out a brand new boat — his first in the modern class. This year's modern class Rookie of the Year is John Earnest.

### Rookie of the Year (vintage)

This year's decision to award Rookie of the Year in the vintage class was almost as unique as the modern class was. Our winner started out the season attending the ERCU races that were close to his home, and he impressed right from the start. The points he had earned in the three races he attended in the beginning of the season were more than enough to stay in, or close to, the Top-15 all season long, and we

**upNEXT:** member meeting [saturday, dec. 14, 10 a.m., king county library des moines]; member meeting [saturday, jan. 11, 10 a.m.]

**statGEEK tidBit:** in looking at drivers' first two seasons, incredibly, four of our chauffeurs have scored more than 20,000 points in their first two seasons in ERCU [David Newton, 2003-04; Ron Forister, 2012-13; and Mike & Jeff Campbell, 2004-05].

**insideTEASE:** big boat news ... updated stats



Photo by Chris Denslow

## Big Boat News: "Silly Season" sets in

### bigBoatNOTEBOOK

**1 Graham Trucking:** J. Michael Kelly returns to Ted Porter's team as driver of the 1.

**6 Oberto:** Still no announcement about who the new driver will be.

**9 Miss Red Dot:** Just took delivery of five new Fairlane gearboxes from Detroit.

**11 Miss Peters & May:** Sponsor Dave Holley was in Seattle in mid-November.

**14 Centurion Racing:** Bartush's boat has been returned to Detroit.

**21 Miss Albert Lee:** The new boat is still under construction.

**22 Webster Racing:** Engine work continues at the Webster shop.

**37 Miss Beacon Plumbing:** Scott Liddycoat has been named the new driver of the 37. Bob Catipovic remains as crew chief and Villwock as team manager.

**57 Miss Fedco:** Fedco has chosen to not renew sponsorship with the 57 team.

**95 Spirit of Qatar:** Very quiet at the 95 shop.

**96 Spirit of Qatar:** New boat will be ready for 2014 season. New driver still TBA.

**100 Central Coast Airbrush:** Pretty quiet, but some work is apparently going on in Kirkland.

"Silly Season", is how most fans and teams refer to all of the crazy things that happen in the offseason of most sports.

Unlimited hydroplane racing is no exception.

This year's Silly Season has set in, and it's quite possibly crazier than ever.

Shortly before Halloween, the U-5 Racing Team announced that Jimmy Shane had left the team, presumably to become the new driver of the 6 Oberto.

While the Miss Madison Racing Team has still not made any announcement of who their new driver is, it's still presumed it will be Shane.

Just a few days later, J. Michael Kelly announced he was leaving Schumacher Racing Team, and after a couple of weeks without a ride, Kelly returned to Ted Porter's team, as driver of the 1 Graham Trucking.

While speculation continued swirling around Shane, many fans were disappointed that Scott Liddycoat was still without a ride after Porter hired Kelly, there were rumors flying that Dave Villwock would get the 37 ride, but he's happy being team manager, and Liddycoat

will open his "office" in the 37's cockpit next summer.

The 96 Spirit of Qatar will be back in 2014, with a brand new boat, and there's still no real hint of who Erick Ellstrom will hire as a new driver, since Villwock retired in February.

With so many available drivers, Silly Season continues to plow forward, with rumors continuing to abound, almost uncontrolled.

Rumors have it that Cal Phipps will have one of the better rides this year, or that Jeff Bernard will be the 96 driver. Or is it Shane that's going to get the newest seat in the fleet?

There have also been some more far-fetched rumors thrown around, none of which appear to have

much fact behind them. For example, there's the one about how the 100 team is going to close up shop and quit racing. Yet, crew members say that there's limited work happening in the shop.

Another one going around is that the 9 Jones Racing Team will not race next year. Or that they'll team up with Miss Madison Racing Team as a two-boat team in 2014. There's been no

confirmation of either, and the Jones Racing Team continues to work hard on rebuilding their boat and recently shared a photo of five brand new gearbox cases that were just delivered to them from Fairlane Tool.

Very few really know what's happening, because all of this is exactly what it is: unconfirmed chatter mostly spread by those who claim to have some insight.

Be careful what rumors you start to believe during Silly Season, and consider the source.

One thing we do know for sure is that Graham Trucking will be back for another year as the title sponsor on Porter's 1 Graham Trucking hull.

Rob Graham, owner of the trucking company that's sponsored boat racing since 1987, said he signed the agreement early because of how he feels about the team.

"In 26 years of sponsorship I have never been more confident in an ownership and crew," Graham said. "I would like to thank Ted Porter and his family for giving us the opportunity to be a small part of this amazing organization."

Porter was also grateful.

"I am deeply thankful to Rob for his level of confidence in us, and for the commitment he has made to our team," Porter said. "It is crystal clear that Rob's commitment is very serious, and that he really, really wants to win and remain as the U-1 National Champion."





Photo by Ben Keller

ultimately decided that was worthy of this year's award. So this year's vintage class Rookie of the Year is Lance Sponberg.

**Most Improved Driver (modern)**

Our winner in this category was pretty easy to determine, even though there were a couple of others who could have earned this award as well. But our modern class most improved driver actually doubled his points total from 2012 this year, and won the club's points championship. For those reasons, this year's modern class Most Improved Driver is Robert Roberts.

**Most Improved Driver (vintage)**

Our vintage class most improved driver didn't quite double his points production, but after he posted his first vintage win in ERCU at the season opener at the Champion Spark Plug Regatta in Centralia, the winner of this year's award rolled off eight more wins and more or less had the points title wrapped up by the Columbia Cup. For that, Ron Forister is this year's vintage class Most Improved Driver.

**Sportsmanship Award**

Over the past two years, ERCU has put an even higher standard than ever on sportsmanship, and as a result the number of people who could win this award has grown dramatically. One example is a guy who's had so much bad luck over the last two years, while making strides in the improvement of his driving skills over his first two years in the club. Despite his boat being crashed more than once, speed controls & motors giving him trouble, and the like, Jim has always had a smile on his face, an infectious laugh to share, and a desire to continually help out wherever he could. This year, we recognize Jim Dotson with this year's Sportsmanship Award.

**Contest Director of the Year**

Some guys simply have too much time on their hands, and this year's winner of

the Contest Director of the Year award seems to be one of those guys. He puts on three races a year, helps other club members in the identification of and development of new race sites, and works to promote not only the races he directs, but also the rest of the races on the schedule.

In thanks for all of his hard work putting on races, Nelson Holmberg is this year's Contest Director of the Year.

**Sponsors of the Year**

Without our sponsors, many of our races would be extremely difficult – if not impossible – to put on. As your chairman, I'm also proud to say that the money our sponsors so generously provide for us is always used to help us pay for insurance, our website, race site rental fees, trailer and equipment maintenance, and more. We also value our sponsors because their contributions help us keep down the costs that our members bear for the club.

So, this year, while we are grateful to all of our terrific sponsors, tonight we are recognizing three of them with awards for their extra special contributions and support.

- These awards go to:
- Corvin Beverage Company
  - AllRisk Auto Insurance
  - SeaTac Self Storage

Thank you to all of our sponsors, but especially to these three, our 2013 Sponsors of the Year.

**Special Act/Service Award**

These awards are an opportunity to say thank you to a few members who go above and beyond to provide a great amount of leadership, hard work and their own time for the benefit of the club. This is often one of the most difficult awards to determine because so many members help out and it's never fun to leave someone out. That said, thank you to all of the members who help the club all season every season.

This year's Special Act/Service Awards go to:

- Craig Bradshaw
- Gerry Bordon
- Ron Daum
- Nels Enquist
- Nelson Holmberg
- Robbie Roberts

**Hall of Champions**

The Hall of Champions was created by Mike Campbell and the 2007-08 ERCU Contest Board, spurred by Roger Newton's passing. It is an award intended to recognize a member who makes exceptional contributions to the club and who also demonstrates excellence on the race course.

Roger was recognized, posthumously in 2008, as one of the club's founders and prime developer in its early years by being given induction into the club's Hall of Champions. In 2009 Jeff Campbell was given the award and in 2010 it went to Mike Campbell. In 2011, it went to Nelson Holmberg, and last year, I was honored with this award, so it's a pleasure for me to pass it along to this year's winner.

This year we honor one of our members who has expressed his contributions to the club both off and on the water in vastly different ways. This year's inductee has three wins in the modern class and earned his first two vintage race wins this year. He's also consistently been in the top-10 in high points in both classes for multiple years.

He has served the club as an official, a CD, a Contest Board member, an excellent sportsman, and as one of the people who consistently helps with set up and break down, and he takes care of the inventory of our trailer as well. He's also become one of the top 1/10-scale hydroplane builders in the world.

Craig Bradshaw has spent a lot of time, effort, sweat and blood for the benefit of ERCU over the years and in thanks for that, the club presented him with this year's Hall of Champions induction.

### 2013 MODERN BOAT STANDINGS

(Final)

#	Boat	High Points
1.	2000 Znetix	11,889
2.	2012 Graham Trucking	11,284
3.	1999 Miss Madison	10,658
4.	2010 Oh Boy! Oberto	7,297
5.	2007 Formula Boats (T-6)	6,523
6.	1972 Lincoln Thrift	4,509
7.	1978 Miss Budweiser	3,924
8.	1982 Oh Boy! Oberto	3,479
9.	1972 Pride of Pay 'n Pak	2,846
10.	1974 Miss Cott Beverage	2,619

### 2013 MODERN DRIVER STANDINGS

(Final)

#	Driver	High Points
1.	Robert Roberts	11,889
2.	Nelson Holmberg	11,284
3.	Ron Forister	10,658
4.	Craig Bradshaw	7,297
5.	Nels Enquist	4,509
6.	John Earnest	3,479
7.	Mick Shutt	3,136
8.	Ron Daum	3,109
9.	Ron Cole	2,846
10.	Gary Hansen	2,619

### CAREER STANDINGS

#### VINTAGE

#	Driver	Career Points
1.	Jeff Campbell	93,361
2.	Mike Campbell	84,080
3.	Bob Vanden Akker	73,709
4.	Bill Smiley	68,702
5.	Ron Daum	60,662
6.	David Newton	51,948
7.	Craig Bradshaw	49,645
8.	Gerry Bordon	49,411
9.	Rick Lentz	47,418
10.	Nelson Holmberg	43,884
11.	Robbie Roberts	42,950
12.	Gary Hansen	40,738
13.	Ryan Opfer	39,726
14.	Craig Mullen	36,524
15.	John Earnest	35,360

### CAREER STANDINGS

#### MODERN

#	Driver	Career Points
1.	Mike Campbell	111,981
2.	Mike Gossler	77,432
3.	Nelson Holmberg	75,949
4.	Jeff Campbell	51,655
5.	Craig Bradshaw	45,244
6.	Gary Hansen	43,215
7.	Rick Lentz	41,110
8.	Bill Smiley	32,814
9.	Ron Daum	29,240
10.	Steve Twardus	28,048
11.	Mick Shutt	25,136
12.	Henry Marvin	25,125
13.	Mark Hansen	24,762
14.	Craig Mullen	24,036
15.	David Newton	21,704

### 2013 VINTAGE BOAT STANDINGS

(Final)

#	Driver	High Points
1.	1971 Miss Madison	14,625
2.	1957 Hawaii Ka'i III	8,869
3.	1960 Miss Burien	8,836
4.	1958 Coral Reef	7,557
5.	1962 Gale V	5,714
6.	1969 Pay 'n Pak Outrigger	5,257
7.	1962 \$ Bill	4,165
8.	1961 Miss Supertest II	3,944
7.	1970 Parco's O-Ring Miss	3,889
10.	1971 Atlas Van Lines	3,351

### 2013 VINTAGE DRIVER STANDINGS

(Final)

#	Driver	High Points
1.	Ron Forister	14,625
2.	Robbie Roberts	8,836
3.	Craig Bradshaw	7,782
4.	John Earnest	6,689
5.	Nelson Holmberg	6,669
6.	Steve Dumanis	6,426
7.	Ryan Opfer	5,294
8.	Jim Latimer	4,165
9.	Bill Smiley	4,050
10.	Gerry Bordon	3,889

### CAREER

#### RACE WIN STANDINGS — VINTAGE

#	Driver	Race Wins
1.	Jeff Campbell	34
2.	David Newton	19
3.	Mike Campbell	15
4.	Ron Forister	9
5.	Bill Smiley	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	13
4.	Mike Gossler	10
5.	David Newton	8
6.	Bill Smiley	6
7.	Gary Hansen	4
	Ron Forister	4
	Robert Roberts	4
9.	John Williams	3
	Craig Bradshaw	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  
(M) '00 Znetix; (V) '58 Coral Reef
- 14 **ERCU Gold Cup**  
Adna, Lake Silverado  
CD: ERCU Contest Board  
'11 Peters & May; '61 Supertest
- 22 **Stan Sayres Memorial**  
Kirkland, Juanita Bay Park  
CD: Monte Steere & Ron Daum  
Canceled due to weather
- 28 **Oryx Cup**  
Woodland, Horseshoe Lake Park  
CD: Nelson Holmberg  
(M) '12 Graham; (V) '71 Madison