

ERCU



THE NEWSLETTER

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Up Next

Oct. 31 . . . Tualatin Pumpkin Race
Lake of Tualatin (Ore.) Commons

Nov. 14. . . . ERCU Awards Banquet
Great American Casino, Tukwila

Dec. 6 . . . ERCU Member Meeting
11 a.m., location TBA

On the Web

Nostalgic Unlimiteds
www.nostalgicunlimiteds.com

Northwest Speedshots
www.nwspeedshots.com

Qatar Marine Sports Federation
www.qms.org/2009/index.html

Stat of the Month

≡ Only three different drivers - **Bob VandenAkker**, **Jeff Campbell** and **David Newton** - have won the total of seven vintage class ERCU Red Dot Championships over the club's history. In the modern class, four different drivers have won championships over seven seasons.

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Nelson Holmberg

VANDENAKKER, CAMPBELL WIN RED DOT TITLES

For the first time since 2004 someone not named **Jeff Campbell** has won the ERCU Red Dot Championship Series for the vintage class.

Bothell's own **Bob VandenAkker** claimed his first high points championship in 2009 after piloting the 1963 Notre Dame to one of the most consistent seasons in club history, along with three race wins.

Bob's championship is the first of his career in 1/10-scale hydroplane racing and ended Campbell's string of four consecutive high points championships. **David Newton** won the club's first two in 2003 and 2004.

In 2009, Bob won the season opener and back-to-back races later in the summer, but spent most of the year in the top three in points, and with solid days late in the season, he clinched his title.

Bob has always been labeled "Mr. Consistency" thanks to the performance of the Notre Dame, and finally was able to claim the championship.

In the modern class, **Mike Campbell** won his third title, this time with the new 1982 Executone. His first two came with the 1974 Country Boy.

Mike is one of four different drivers to have claimed high points championships in the modern class over the club's seven year history.

Like Bob in the vintage class, Mike spent most of the year in the top three of the modern standings. But he did it with two boats in the top three.

Mike won a total of six races with the Executone in 2009, and at the end of the year was able to hold off 2008 champ **Mike Gossler**, who provided stiff competition for the modern high points crown all season.

As Mike C.'s backup driver for finals, Jeff Campbell drove the Country Boy to a trio of wins this season, as well.

Congratulations to both of the 2009 ERCU Red Dot Championship Series champions.



THE MILL A MOMENT WITH ... MITCH DILLARD

Family: Wife Lynda, son Andre and daughter Morgan (dog Pandora)
 City he calls home: Renton, Wash.
 Job (when not boating): DSHS Support Enforcement Officer
 College football loyalty: Washington State University, GO COUGS!
 Favorite current unlimited hydro: .. Leaning toward the U-3, but after enduring several broken hearts and engines, U-7 is gaining my favor.

Favorite unlimited hydro of the past: 1954 Gale V
 Boats he races in ERCU: 2000 Freel and 1952 Sio-Mo-Shun IV

What was your first car? 1985 Saab 9005

What was your first job? ... Auto claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance (bodily injury unit)

When and how did you get involved in scale racing? In 1993 I met Pete Schille and Jon Zimmerman at Stan Sayres pits during a hydro expo event. I got one look at their first 1/10th scale electrics, got a schedule went to all of their races in 1993. I was hooked when I

saw them pull slowly away from the dock and get on plane without a toss start. I had seen nitro boats and didn't like the right hand turning. By 1994 I was out racing my 58 Gale V.

Have you ever had a manicure/pedicure? (come on, manly-man, admit it): I'm still hoping to get one or both of those done ... professionally of course.

Unfortunately, I'm embarrassed by what years of abuse in sports have done to my feet and hands. UGLY!

Coke or Pepsi? Coke.



ERCU NEWSROOM

Busy election week just ahead

The first week of November will be a busy week for voters. Tuesday, Nov. 3 is the date of the general election, and Thursday, Nov. 5 is the last day to have your ballot for ERCU board member election and banquet reservation postmarked. If you haven't mailed yours yet, this would be a good time.

Banquet planned for November 14

The 2009 ERCU Awards Banquet is set for Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Great American Casino in Tukwila, where it's been each of the last two years.

First winter meeting set for Dec.

The first ERCU members meeting of the winter is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. The location of the meeting is still to be determined, so stay tuned. We'll get that information out to the membership as soon as we can.

BIG BOAT NEWS

The fleet, consisting of 10 Unlimited class hydroplanes, left Jacksonville, Fla. on September 28 for a four-week cruise 7,671 miles away, into Doha, Qatar. They are expected to unload sometime around the end of October. The Oryx Cup, UIM World Championship race is set for November 21-22 in the saltwater Doha Bay. The final heat is set for Saturday afternoon, November 22.

The saltwater density is said to be almost one-and-a-half times greater than that of San Diego. Extra filtration will be necessary in the air intakes on the various salt water cowlings now in use with the 10 boats competing in Doha.

A boat such as **Nate Brown's** U-17 will have a drastic change on the air scoop cowling.

The race course is set as a 2.5-mile (3.2 km oval) and will have a minimum qualifying speed of 130 mph (209 kmh).

The container shipping magnate Peters & May handled the official shipping (round trip) for the ABRA. Making the trip were all 10 boats, aboard the Hoegh-Bangkok RoRo (roll on-roll off) vessel, along with trucks, equipment and support vehicles. Not since the 11 races held in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii has the fleet gone overseas en masse. This is the first trip ever to the eastern hemisphere.

Following the Evansville race, the Cooper's U-3 called it a year, declin-

ing the invitation with a fair amount of hull repairs ahead, caused by a thrown prop on the Ohio River. The 10 boats that boarded the vessel are the U-1, U-5, U-7, U-16, U-17, U-22, U-25, U-37, U-48 and U-100.

After Evansville, the U-16 came back to Seattle for repairs, and the U-17 returned for general maintenance. The rest of the fleet scattered, with the Porter-owned U-5 and U-7 making a quick stop in Celina, Ohio to prepare for the trip.

Likewise for the Madison-based Oberto, U-22 stayed in Ohio to travel with the Formula Boats entries down to Florida. U-37 stayed back east to prepare for the trip, and U-100 went down to Florida right after the race to stay a Leland associate's warehouse. The U-25 returned to the

boat shop in Pacific, Wash. for a little more work before heading for Florida. By Friday, September 18, all 10 teams, boats, trucks and equipment were in Jacksonville, preparing for the departure.

Greg O'Farrell's new U-21 hull needs some preseason attention from **Dale VanWeirengen** before it is ready for racing. They took the U-50 (Navy) hull that raced in Evansville. Webster's U-22 traveled south with the others.

This is "old hat" to **Fred Leland**. In prepping the U-100 for its overseas voyage, he said the last thing they will do, is spray Pam cooking oil on all the surfaces top and bottom of the U-100. It protects against the salt air. Then, the big boat tarp covers the top and partial bottoms of all the boats.

As if scripted in Hollywood, this year's high points chase will come down to this final race at Doha.

Oberto, Ellstrom and Formula Boats are all in the running for the 2009 Championship. And on top of it all, the UIM granted the sanction a World Championship.

Will Oberto repeat? Will Ellstrom regain the crown? Will Formula Boats take it in final race? Stay tuned to this column. More to come in November.

Compiled by Kirk Pagel, ace reporter



Chris Denslow



THE MILL

2009 ERCU SCHEDULE

MARCH

Date	Event	Location
15	ERCU Spring Training/Test Day	Cherokee Bay

APRIL

Date	Event	Location
4	Champion Spark Plug Regatta Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Bob VandenAkker	Centralia
25	Rose Festival RC Regatta Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Jeff Campbell	Portland

MAY

Date	Event	Location
9	Bill Brow Memorial Winners: M-Jeff Campbell; V-Bill Smiley	Marysville
30	Diamond Cup Winners: M-Jeff Campbell; V-Jeff Campbell	Friday Harbor

JUNE

Date	Event	Location
14	President's Cup/MV Days Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Craig Mullen	Lake Wilderness
27	Seafair Trophy Race Winners: M-Mike McIntosh; V-Craig Mullen	Monroe

JULY

Date	Event	Location
11	Bernie Little Memorial Winners: M-Mike Gossler; V-Jason Hartley	Bellevue
18	Oregon Emerald Cup Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Craig Mullen	Tualatin

AUGUST

Date	Event	Location
15	Columbia Cup Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Bob VandenAkker	Tualatin
30	Stan Sayres Memorial Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Bob VandenAkker	Cherokee Bay

SEPTEMBER

Date	Event	Location
12	Sahara Cup Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Mike Campbell	Marysville
20	ERCU Gold Cup Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Jason Hartley	Lake Wilderness
27	Roger Newton Memorial Winners: M-Jeff Campbell; V-Mike Campbell	Cherokee Bay

OCTOBER

Date	Event	Location
18	NAMBA Fall Regional Winners: M-Mike Campbell; V-Craig Mullen	Twin Lakes

Season high points for boats and drivers will be based on the 10 best finishes for the year. This schedule is always subject to change. See www.e-rcu.org/schedule.html for the most up-to-date schedule.

ERCU RUMOR MILL

The boat-building gang from Rose City Model Yacht Club (John Howell, Dave Reiser and John Earnest) is prepping a club boat for race visitors to use in order to get a taste of this hobby and what we do. The boat - a model of the Thriftway Too donated by Bradshaw Boat Works - has a custom bright yellow paint job and AstroFlight power donated by various different members who've



switched to brushless, and will carry a custom number and name, so as not to be confused with actual scale hulls . . . A contingent of 1/10-scale hydro modelers are expected to take part in the Tualatin Giant Pumpkin Regatta festival at the Lake of Tualatin Commons on Halloween. Ron Daum is included in that group, as he and Phyllis plan to make a weekend of it . . . Look for at least two new



Jim Clark

Oberto boats coming to a pit area near you in 2010 . . . More new "current modern" boats are expected in 2010 also, including at least one piston packer and a couple of purple boats . . . There's also a possibility that the 2009 U-5/U-7 Racing Team boats may be represented by 1/10-scale replicas in full at some point in 2010 . . . Kirk Pagel has sold the 1957 Shanty I outside of ERCU and is now seeking a longer, wider vintage hull for 2010. Stay tuned for more.

CLUB CLIPPINGS

Mick Shutt & John Earnest (separately) enjoying the tropics - the rest of us "enjoying" liquid sunshine . . . Nelson Holmberg counting down the days . . . Henry Marvin updating . . . Mitch Dillard organizing . . . Jeff Campbell lending a helping hand . . . Rick Lentz songwriting . . . Craig Bradshaw pulling hulls . . . Terry Harmer and Mark Gran sending along good luck . . . Ben Keller putting in his first laps as a driver . . . Kirk Pagel in the market . . . Mike McIntosh using eBay.

RULES REMINDER - REGISTRATION

- Members are allowed four hull registrations at any one time. Registration can be made at any time by mail or in person to the club's Registrar/Treasurer. Boat registration is on a first-come first-served basis. Registrations will be active from January 1 to December 31 of a calendar year. All registrations expire on December 31, regardless of the initial date of registration. Any member giving up a registration may re-register said boat if it has not been registered by another person after the lottery draw. However, payment of applicable fees will still be required.



ELECTRIC SCALE UNLIMITEDS DEBUT AT NW CHAMPIONSHIPS

SMOKEY POINT, Wash. – On October 18, 1/10-scale racers from District 8, for the first time, had the opportunity to try out the recently adopted NAMBA rules for our class of boats.

The race was put together rather quickly through the cooperative efforts of the Rose City Model Yacht Club, Puget Sound Fast Electrics, Electric Radio Controlled Unlimiteds and Classic Thunder. I would like to thank the members of all four clubs for their contributions. It is our hope that we will be able to have a few regional points races each year and plan to present the idea at the next District 8 meeting.

The attendance for this first race was rather small compared to individual club events we've seen. I think some folks assumed the weather was going to be a carbon copy of the horribly wet stuff they saw the day before.

Surprisingly enough, the light rain of Sunday morning subsided and we had almost perfect weather and perfect water throughout the whole day.

A total of 17 1/10-scale boats showed up to compete. There were also six of the 1/7-scale boats on hand to help fill out the day. It was a fairly quick day and we wrapped up three preliminary heats in each class, one consolation heat, all of the final heats and an awards presentation by about 3 p.m. In spite of the low numbers in the modern class and 1/7-scale, we kept with the "winner take all" final heat format for all of the classes.

1/7-Scale Exhibition

The 1/7-scale competition started the day off with **Craig Mullen** driving **Ben Keller's** Hawaii Ka'i III to a win in Heat 1 followed by **Jeff Campbell's** Li'l Buzzard, **Mike McIntosh's** Miss Timex and **Bob VandenAkker's** Notre Dame. **Mike Campbell's** Miss Burien and **Gary Simmons' Eagle Electric** did not finish.

Heat 2 saw the Eagle Electric bounce back with a win. Li'l Buzzard was second, Hawaii Ka'i third, Timex fourth and Notre Dame fifth. Miss Burien did not finish.

Heat 3 was won by the Li'l Buzzard, ahead of Eagle Electric and Timex. Miss Burien finished fourth and Notre Dame was fifth. Hawaii Ka'i did not finish.

The 1/7-scale final heat was won by **Gary Simmons** driving his Miss Eagle Electric followed by the Hawaii Ka'i in second, Miss Burien in third, Notre Dame in fourth, Li'l Buzzard was fifth and Miss Timex was sixth.

1/10-scale modern

The six boat field raced together all day long with two boats being scratched from competition during the day. **Craig Mullen** withdrew the Pay 'n Pak after one heat of racing. The boat finished second in its only heat and then was sold to an eager buyer

who is anxious to learn all about running it in future events. **Ron Daum** withdrew his Llumar Window Film after two heats when it developed a problem.

The preliminary heats finished with **Mike Campbell's** Country Boy on top with 1,200 points, followed by **Bill Smiley's** Charlie's Girl with 625, **McIntosh's** T-3 Miss Budweiser 475, **Mullen's** Pay 'n Pak 300, **Matt Sanders' Squire** Shop 275 and **Daum's** Llumar Window Film with 194.

The final heat was for all the marbles and with only four boats remaining, everyone had a chance to win. Country Boy had dominated so far in the day and the others knew they would have to pull out all the stops to have a shot at beating him. It turns out that a couple of them pulled a little too hard.

Charlie's Girl and Budweiser jumped the start, leaving the Squire Shop to take the lead briefly. It wasn't long before Mike got the Country Boy into the lead, and went on to a first place finish. The Squire ran well, but couldn't catch him and finished a strong second. A great battle for third ended with the Bud bringing home third over Charlie's Girl who would finish the day in fourth.

1/10-scale vintage

We started the day with 11 vintage participants. **Mitch Dillard's** Slo-Mo-Shun IV was fast, but had some bad luck early on. The Mo lost a battle with a wall of water in lane 1 going into the first turn in Heat 1A. It led in Heat 2A only to strike something in the water and violently tumble its way to a DNF.

The boat was shelved for the rest of the day in an act of mercy, reducing the boat count to 10 after two flights.

The shining star of the vintage prelims was **Steve Dumanis' Thunderbolt** which accumulated 1,100 points. Mike Campbell's Harrah's Club tallied 927. Keller's Hawaii Ka'i, driven by Mullen had 925, followed by **VandenAkker's** Eagle Electric with 769 and **Simmons' Miss Everett** with 550. Those six boats advanced to the front line of the Final.

The winner of the consolation heat would join the final heat field as the trailer boat.



Ben Keller's Hawaii Ka'i III won the vintage class at the NAMBA Fall Regionals at Twin Lakes Park in Marysville.

Mike Schultz's Miss Exide could not answer the call, so only three boats were left to run in it. **Jeff Campbell's** Pride of Pay 'n Pak Outrigger outran Daum's Thriftway Too and **McIntosh's** Shakey's Special and moved on to the final.

The final was a wild one, full of acrobatics and rollovers. Yep, attrition would take its toll. Four of the seven starters would not finish this one. Harrah's Club had the lead, but blew over. Thunderbolt took over the lead, but was passed by Hawaii Ka'i. Mullen held on to the lead and went on to victory.

Thunderbolt would later go upside down trying to give chase. Such Crust III would also fall prey to the DNF bug. Lastly, the very fast Outrigger Pak would continue to struggle and would not finish. No one was going to catch the Ka'i once it took the lead.

Finishing a solid second was the Miss Everett followed by the Eagle Electric in third.

I want to say thanks for all of the racers who turned out for the event and hope that others will participate in future events like it. We had a good time and I'm hoping that regional events will become a traditional part of 1/10-scale racing in NAMBA Region 8.

I can only imagine how much fun it would be with a little more time to plan so that we can insure that members from all four clubs can attend. I'm definitely looking forward to racing in the next one.

Compiled by Mitch Dillard, a big fan of 1/10-scale hydroplane racing

