

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



Photo by Ben Keller

Club News: Board elections about to close

It's time for ERCU's annual Contest Board elections. Below is a ballot for you to vote online. Only one ballot per member, please.

Voting will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013.

Only votes from current club members will be counted, so please only vote if you are a current member of ERCU. Your name on the ballot is REQUIRED in order to make sure there's only one vote per member.

There's a ballot on the club website, which you can find by typing <http://e-rcu.com/2013/09/20/2013-14-contest-board-ballot/> into your web browser and clicking on the guys you want to vote for. The code at the bottom of the ballot is there to stop spammers from sending in the form, and is case-sensitive. You will be required to input your name and email address when submitting your ballot in order to be verified.

Please do be sure to vote!

Shane to be Special Guest at ERCU End of Season Banquet

H1 Unlimited high points champion Jimmy Shane will be the special guest at this year's ERCU End of Season Banquet, the club announced today.

Shane, who just finished his second year as a full-time driver for Ted Porter's 5 LA Structures Northwest presents Graham Trucking by winning the Albert Lee Appliance Cup at Seafair, the Diamond Cup in Coeur d'Alene and the Bill Muncey Cup at Bayfair and clinched the national championship by winning the final heat at San Diego, will be joined by his fiancée (who will be his wife by the time of the banquet) Bianca Bononcini at the banquet.

This year's banquet will be at the Sizzler Restaurant in SouthCenter (16615 Southcenter Parkway in Tukwila). Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and the program beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2.

More information is forthcoming

soon. Keep an eye on your email inbox and the club website to learn more.

Sayres Memorial Canceled; won't be made up

High winds and rough water on Lake Washington caused cancellation of Sunday's ERCU Stan Sayres Memorial at Juanita Beach Park.

The Contest Board, having reviewed its options, has determined that the race will not be rescheduled or made up during the 2013 Corwin Beverage Championship Series presented by Peters & May.

The race was called at around 8:15 a.m., Sunday, when the high winds created whitecaps across the lake, which bounced back and forth across the race course. Forecasts for the day's weather showed continued high winds, so the decision to cancel the race was made by Contest Director Ron Daum.

upNEXT: ercu end of season banquet [saturday, nov. 2 @sizzler restaurant southcenter]

statGEEK tidBit: ron forister and nelson holmberg are the only two drivers to win the oryx cup; in 2012 forister won modern and holmberg won vintage; in 2013 holmberg won modern and forister won vintage

insideTEASE: the mill ... oryx cup recap ... big boat news ... updated stats

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Photo by Chris Denslow

Big Boat News: David retires; Shane wins three

bigBoatNOTEBOOK

1 Oh Boy! Oberto:

Speculation is already rampant about who replaces Steve David.

5 Graham Trucking: Second U-1 for Ted Porter since he bought the Bud stuff in 2006.

9 Miss Red Dot: After CdA damage, did not compete in San Diego.

11 Miss Peters & May: Best finish ever with a 2nd at San Diego.

14 Miss DiJulia: Took third at San Diego with a skeleton crew.

21 Miss Albert Lee: Stayed in Maple Valley for the last two races.

22 Webster Racing: Ran well again at CdA and San Diego.

37 Miss Beacon Plumbing: Ran faster than ever before in CdA, but had fuel flow issues in SD.

48 Snoqualmie Casino: Also remained home in Maple Valley for the last two races.

57 Miss Fedco: Major damage to the bottom of the boat, and the gearbox, in qualifying at SD kept them from racing there.

95 Spirit of Qatar: Finished third in the high points standings in 2013, the team's best finish ever.

100 Central Coast Airbrush: Mechanical gremlins troubled the 100 team in San Diego. They're preparing for 2014 already.

There's two leads to this story: 1) Steve David has retired as an unlimited hydroplane driver; and 2) Jimmy Shane ended the 2013 season by winning three straight, and clinching the national championship in the last final heat of the year.

So let's start with David. After a 40 year career racing boats of various classes, and more than 20 in unlimiteds, the last 13 win the Oh Boy! Oberto/Miss Madison racing team, David has hung up his driving suit.

A six-time drivers national champion and four-time team national champion, David certainly has made an incredibly positive impression on the sport. His ever-present smile and fan friendliness is something that will be missed by many.

David made his announcement on Friday, Sept. 13 at the Bill Muncey Cup at Bayfair in San Diego. He was on a collision course with a perfect weekend — top qualifier, winner in all of his heats and the final — too, until jumping the gun by just 1/30th of a second in the final.

That split-second error, however, won't leave a mark on his career, which is steeped in extraordinary success.

Shane was the beneficiary of the gun-jump in San Diego, as he entered the final heat just 163 points behind David in the closest points race in recent history.

Photo and video evidence shows that Shane hit the start right on the money in Ted Porter's Graham Trucking hull, but was unable to secure lane one, settling for lane two. After

four and a half laps of chasing David, Shane got word of the penalty and cruised for the win and the national championship.

Kip Brown finished second on the course in his 95 Spirit of Qatar, but post-race data inspections showed an N2 violation that caused a DQ of the 95 for the heat.

That meant Tom Thompson in the 11 Miss Peters & May moved up to second and Greg Hopp in the 14 Miss DiJulia took third, with the Oberto in fourth.

It was the first national championship for Shane and for Graham Trucking sponsor Rob Graham, and the second for team owner Ted Porter.

Shane also won four of the seven races on the 2013 H1 Unlimiteds Championship Series, including the February Doha race.



Photo by Ben Keller



Photo by Ben Keller

Graham, Madison win Oryx Cups

WOODLAND, Wash. — A small crowd of seven hearty souls braved the overhyped media reports and forecasts for hurricane-type weather as seven individuals attended the second annual ERCU Oryx Cup at Horseshoe Lake Park.

It was an event that was over quickly — though the worst of the weather was nothing worse than we've endured in previous rainy, windy day events — and those who missed the event missed a good time.

Foregoing the morning testing and practice allowed for setup, registration and the drivers meeting to be done before 10 a.m., so modern heat 1A went off at 10, straight up. By the time all of the racing was done, and the pits were cleaned up and put away, it was 12:30, so the whole gang went over to the Oak Tree Restaurant for lunch together, and a brief awards handout. The whole group also got a head start on the bench-racing season during the lunch.

The day started with a turnout of 11 boats — six vintage and five modern — and because Robbie Roberts was driving his own 1960 Miss Burien and Bill Smiley's 1957 Miss Thriftway, which still needed one more legal finish for the year, the first flight of vintage heats were split into three boat heats. After Roberts took second in Smiley's Thriftway in 1B, he withdrew Smiley's boat and five-boat heats were run for the second and third rounds.

Five boat modern heats were run all day long.

Modern heat winners included Ron Forster (1999 Miss Madison) and 1A and 2A, and Nelson Holmberg (2013 Graham Trucking) in 3A. In vintage heats, Robbie Roberts (1A & 3A) and Holmberg (1B & 2A, with Ben Keller's 1957 Hawaii Ka'i III) were winners.

The race was scheduled to run four preliminary heats, just like the real Oryx Cup does, but when the winds began to stiffen, blowing tents around, it was decided to skip the fourth flight and move on to the finals.

In the modern final, Holmberg crawled up the backstretch to the score-up buoy the same way the real boats do, in order to secure lane one. With the inside lane secured, and a good start, it was off to the races, with Forster's 1999 Miss Madison next to him on the outside. After the first turn, the Graham Trucking pulled away and the race was over. A battle for second ensued, however, when Robert Roberts pulled his 2000 Znetix up next to Forster and the two duelled. "Rookie" John Earnest was in the mix as well, with his 1982 Oh Boy! Oberto. Before the end of the final, however, the Znetix was unable to finish, and second went to Forster in the Miss Madison. Third then went to Earnest with his Oberto.

Bradshaw had withdrawn his 2010 Oh Boy! Oberto after the second flight of heats, due to electrical issues and damage

sustained in a heat 1A flip, so just four boats survived to run in the modern final.

The vintage final had five boats in it, each of which had a legitimate shot to win the race. But Forster was able to recreate the magic he'd run finals with all season long, and claimed his only heat win of the day at just the right time. Second place went to Robbie Roberts with the Miss Burien, while third was Bradshaw with the 1958 Coral Reef. Earnest and Holmberg were unable to finish, with the Miss Supertest II and the Hawaii Ka'i III, respectively.

Despite the weather that was less than threatened by the forecasters, media and emergency planners, a good time was had by all of those in attendance. Unfortunately, the weather negatively affected the turnout at the Lewis River Fall Festival, and crowds were very small on Saturday. Just four people wandered by to check out the boat races.

A special thanks goes out to Ben Keller, Robbie Roberts, Robert Roberts, Ron Forster, John Earnest, Craig Bradshaw, and Nelson Holmberg who all turned out to race, and who all worked hard to make sure everything was done right to put on a race. Warm appreciation also goes out to Dawn Forster and Dianne Earnest who also attended to support their husbands and to lend a hand with the event.

theMILL

RYAN OFFER became the second consecutive driver to sweep the ERCU Gold Cups winning this year's with his own 2011 Peters & May and the vintage cup with **JOHN EARNEST's** 1961 Miss Supertest II ... **RON HARTLEY** has a 2000 Pico American Dream [dustbuster nose] in the works and is looking for some help in finishing the cowlings and making the boat into a plug for molds to make a carbon fiber version of it ... while on the topic of Leland hulls, **ROBERT ROBERTS** showed off his new carbon fiber hull of the 100 he's been running the last two years as the Znetix. The current wood Znetix will not be his primary hull in 2014 ... **MICK SHUTT** has made arrangements to start the transition of the 1976 Miss Vernors into the 1978 Miss Budweiser. West Coast Custom Boats will do some of the hull work ... It was great to see **MONTE STEERE, BOB VANDEN AKKER, GARY HANSEN** and **HARTLEY** at the Gold Cup at Lake Silverado. Thanks for attending guys!

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