

E-RCU News

www.e-rcu.org

Volume 2, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 5 ...ERCU Member Mtg.
HARM

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

April 2 ...ERCU Member Mtg.
HARM

April 15Champion Spark
Plug Regatta
Fort Borst Park, Centralia

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!



You have to look closely, but two crackerboxes narrowly miss one another in a NAMBA race at Lake Havasu City, Ariz., on February 11, 2005. That's the London Bridge in the background.

FEATURED WEBSITES

Unlimited Lights
www.ulrs.org

Miss Elam Team site
(Photos of offseason work included)
www.u16hydro.com

First E-RCU Swap Meet is judged a success

The first ERCU Swap Meet was held on Sunday, Feb. 12, and by all indications, the event was a huge success.

Half a dozen tables were spread around the floor between the hydroplanes on display at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum. The big boats are back from the Museum of Flight so Tempo VI, Slo-Mo-Shun V, and the 1962 Miss Bardahl have been added to the display.

Plenty of sales and club-sponsored commerce took place. Motors, speed controls and LiPo batteries along with 1/24th scale hydros.

Amidst the Swap Meet tables plenty of new boats in various stages of completion were on display.

Jeff Campbell brought in the new Miss Madison, Notre Dame and Miss Bardahl hulls, and **Roger Newton** had his new Checkerboard Bardahl.

John Earnest of the Columbia Division brought along his beautiful 1951 Slo-Mo-Shun IV, along with **Kerry Kjos** and his Thriftway for display.

As advertised the Swap Meet started at noon, and continued until 2:15 p.m., for the members meeting, and then finished up from 3:15-5 p.m.

Most agreed we should do this again. Maybe in December?

— **Kirk Pagel**

Kerry Kjos' Miss Thriftway is ready to defend its great 2005 season, when David Newton drove it to many of his drivers' championship points.



The Columbia Division's John Earnest and Slo-Mo enthusiast Monte Steere showed off Earnest's Slo-Mo-Shun IV.

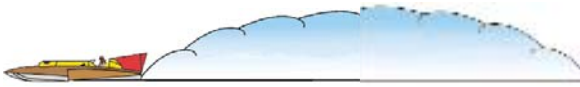


Photos by
Rick Lentz

Roger Newton's new Miss Bardahl was on display at the Swap Meet.



Thanks to Kirk Pagel for his hard work in organizing the Swap Meet.



NEWSBRIEFS

Portland guys agree to put on Centralia race

Kudos go out to the guys from ERCU's Columbia Division, who recently agreed to help out by being the contest directors for the race in Centralia. **John Howell, John Earnest, Kerry Kjos, Nelson Holmberg, Dave Reiser, Mick Shutt.** Earnest agreed to be the race sponsor, and the group decided the name of the race will be the Champion Spark Plug Regatta. It is scheduled for April 15 at Fort Borst Park in Centralia, and will be the 2006 season opener.

Looking for a big ERCU contingent at R/C Model Boat Show

If you can get away for another weekend day, make sure to pack up your boats and attend the R/C Model Boat Show, Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum in Kent. The event will take run noon-4 p.m. All racers are encouraged to bring boat displays, work in progress, or just bench racing stories. It is a lot of fun to visit with fellow club members, see what everyone is working on in the off season, meet racers from other clubs, and tour the exhibits at the Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and kids 6-15. Children under five are free, just like museum members. Pizza and pop available on site for a nominal fee.

Oberto announces RCU sponsorship renewal

R/CU treasurer **Chet Lepinski** recently announced that the Oberto Sausage Company has agreed to sponsor the R/CU Championship Series through the 2006 racing season. It will be the fourth season of R/CU sponsorship by Oberto.

"This is a sweet day for all of us in R/CU and model hydro racing," said **Marc Connelly**, R/CU chairman for the 2006 season. "We know how hard it is to secure a sponsorship in hydro racing — regardless of the size of the boats. To have Oberto — a legacy sponsor in unlimited racing — on our team is really very impressive. It is a big win for us."

The Oberto sponsor relationship has grown largely through the efforts of Lepinski and **Larry Oberto** and **Cindy Klapperich** at Oberto.

"I think that the Oberto folks recognize R/CU as the one place where almost anyone with the desire can truly participate in the sport of unlimited hydroplane racing," Lepinski said, "and this draws families and kids to our racing events all over the state, which is a good sponsorship fit for Oberto too."

A Moment With . . .

RICK LENTZ



Family: Wife Margie, son Justin, daughter Jody
 City he calls home: Bellevue
 Job (when not boating): Commercial architect
 College Football Loyalty: Da Cougs!
 Favorite Current Unlimited Hydro: Whoever's name is on the U-3
 Favorite Unlimited Hydro of the past: Miss Spokane
 Boats he races in ERCU: 1958 Miss Bardahl & 1974 U-95
 What was your first car? 1953 Buick Roadmaster
 What was your first job? After P.I. paperboy, ranchhand on a ranch in Montana
 When and how did you get involved in scale racing? Another in a long line of Green Lake lookie-loos who got hooked on the models. I raced a gas boat in 1978-79, then took 23 years off for my family stuff, only to resurface with ERCU in 2003 with Doug Gunter's Miss Burien
 Have you ever had a manicure/pedicure? (Come on manly-man . . . admit it!): . . . Never have, never will. It's even in my will to make sure it doesn't happen after I die
 Coke or Pepsi? Mountain Dew

News & Rumors

The 1973 Red Man, with new ownership, is ready to hit the water for testing at Lake Havasu City, Ariz. New owner **Nelson Holmberg** will test throughout February in Lake Havasu, then move the testing schedule to Mesa, Ariz., Scottsdale, Ariz., and San Diego, Calif., before returning home to the Northwest for the ERCU season . . .

Rick Lentz is in the midst of having three boats built for him this winter, a new Bardahl and the U-95 by **Jeff Campbell**, and the Solo (right) by **Jerry Courtney** . . .



Jerry Courtney is also building the 1971 Atlas Van Lines for **Kirk Pagel** . . . At the Swap Meet, we heard updates on lots of boats,



including **Robbie Roberts'** new Shanty (at left). **Gary Levander's** Tahoe Miss (below right) is ready to run, and **Jim Clark's** beau-

tiful new 1967 Miss Bardahl (below left) is well on the way to being ready . . . **Monte Steere** had both of his Slo-Mo's on display, and despite their 12 years of use, they're still going strong . . . **Patrick Gleason's** 1960 Miss Spokane is ready to go for the 2006 season . . .



John Williams is continuing work on a 1/6-scale 1971 Miss Madison, just for fun . . . **Mike Gossler** is preparing 1/24th scale kits featuring laser-cut



frames and pre-formed cowlings . . . **Jeff Campbell** continues work on the '61 Miss Madison.

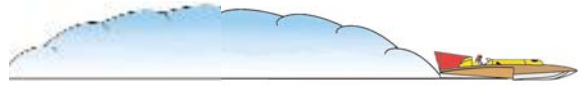
Big Boat News

We all know, Lumar Window Films has pulled its sponsorship of the U-8 Team, due to its parent company being in bankruptcy, but the news came out recently that Lumar had also pulled its title sponsorship of the Nashville race, and thus, there will be no ABRA event in Nashville this season.

The future of the race site is also up in the air . . . It's official: **Dr. Ken Muscatel** has hung up his driving suit, unless he finds a season-long sponsor, and is able to get a boat ready in time for the season . . . Hydroplane sponsorship and marketing guru **Steve Lampson** has joined USA Racing Partners, to help **Kim Gregory** find sponsorship for the 2006 season. Lampson is largely responsible for signing many, if not all, of **Fred Leland's** sponsors over the last several years. Nothing has yet been said about what Leland will do to replace Lampson.

RED DOT CORPORATION

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Minutes of the February 12, 2006 Membership Meeting

Chairman **Ron Daum** opened the meeting with 32-1/2 members present (**Nigel Steere's** nine-month old daughter Hudson made her first official visit to the club). The minutes from the January meeting were approved as submitted.

At the time of the meeting there are 72 boats registered, with 45 of those being active and another 16 "almost ready" to run. Desired frequencies are being requested along with the new registrations to assist with race day operations. Anyone purchasing a new radio is encouraged to consider the Spectrum

radios, as they operate across the frequency bands and eliminate conflicts.

Technical and scale inspections are ongoing. Members are reminded that all boats must pass inspections prior to participating in their first race of the year.

The upcoming Member meetings on March 5 and April 2 would be great times have these inspections completed.

The E-RCU domain name for the website has been renewed for the coming year. Everyone is encouraged to send information to **Jim Lilly** to place on the site. Especially important will be the hull updates and pictures to keep the "Boats" section up to date. Anyone with any item of interest should pass that on to Jim.

The updated Racing Rules for 2006 have been completed and will be available the week of February 13 for posting on the website and distribution to the active mem-

bers.

The tentative race schedule for the year was presented by the **Czar**. Pending any last-minute changes, it will be as posted in the box on this page.

A reminder of the RCU show scheduled for February 18 from noon-4 p.m. — ERCU members are encouraged to bring their boats and help with the displays.

The club trailer will be at the March 5 meeting for cleaning and reorganizing. It was reported that a motor and battery for the chase boat has been provided by **Steve Twardus**.

Mike Gossler is preparing laser-cut wood frames and plastic cowlings for 1/24th scale boats. Now we just need to find the motor and battery to use.

Jeff Campbell reported that the li-po batteries should be available in the next few weeks. The members present decided that the battery pack to be used will be 2-2S/2P units in two packs totaling 4200Mah, rather than a single unit. A Deans connector will have to be installed on each pack. This became necessary as the originally ordered 4S1P pack was not available from the distributor.

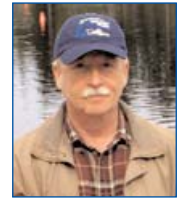
Those members who have placed orders will be notified when they are to arrive, and they will be available for pick-up at the March 5 meeting.

Kirk Pagel noted that the swap meet held during this same day seemed to be enjoyed and productive, and will probably be schedule again in the future.

Following Show and Tell the meeting was adjourned. Remember to bring boats for inspection to the next meetings before the racing season starts.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 5 at 2 p.m., at HARM.

A testing session has been schedule for the South Lake Union location on Sunday, March 19, starting at noon.



From the Secretary's Desk
Rick Lentz

PROPOSED 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
17	Exhibition (non-points)	Port Ludlow
24	TBD	Long Lake

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.



The Swap Meet and members meeting on February 12 was a huge success, drawing 32 members and a large display of boats, as well as parts and good ideas.

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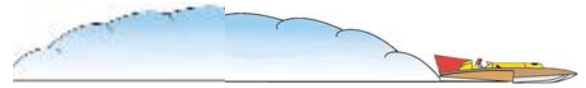
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Patrick Gleason's beautiful new Miss Spokane is ready for the season.



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 Vandernakker	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 Vandernakker	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. Homborg/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/Vandernakker/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

Newton Racing Team to drive Olympia Beer

Jerry and Zane

Courtway will leave the driving to the Newton Racing Team in 2006.

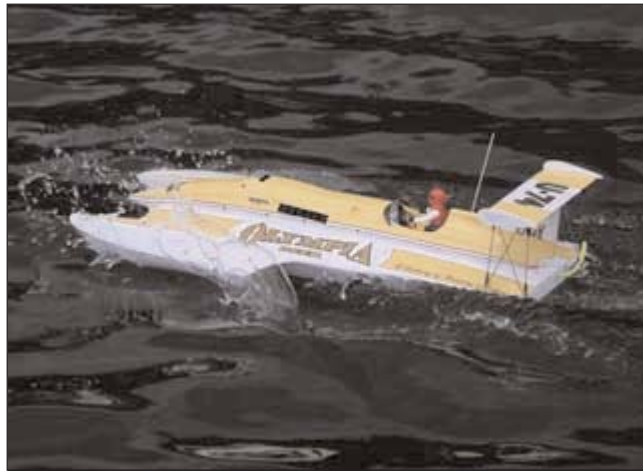
The Courtways, some of the most active owners in the history of Electric RC Unlimiteds (ERCU), has announced that **David and Roger Newton** will drive their boat, the 1976 Olympia Beer throughout the 2006 season of ERCU.

"There was no question in my mind, who I should hire as my co-drivers," Courtway said. "David did a little driving for me last year and proved he had unquestioned control of the boat, not to mention the competitive spirit I want from my team.

"Then there's the Czar," Courtway added. "How could anyone NOT want him to drive the boat. He's the guy that invented all of this, for goodness sake."

The elder Courtway, gushing with his happiness that the Newtons would drive his boat, said that Roger Newton would be the primary driver.

"Roger just has a lot more experience on the stick than David does," Courtway said. "That's no slight to David, but everyone wants David to drive for them, so unlike NASCAR owners, we're letting David have some freedom."



David and Roger Newton will drive the Courtway boys' 1974 Olympia Beer model in the 2006 ERCU season.

Zane Courtway agreed, but insisted that the junior Newton drive the beer wagon at least a couple of times during the season.

"When Jerry called, I thought it was a big deal and it was pretty cool that he asked, so I said 'sure'," Newton said. "David may only drive it a couple of times, though!"

The ERCU season begins in early April, with the official schedule to be announced soon.

E-RCU News

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

David Newton to sell driving duties on eBay

It has been suggested more than once, and now it's really going to happen.

David Newton will put his name up for auction on the internet auction site eBay to become the highest bidder's driver at the 2006 ERCU Gold Cup hydroplane race. All proceeds of the auction will go to the "David Newton Higher Education Scholarship Fund."

In 2005, Newton was the champion driver in ERCU's vintage division, and was third place in drivers points in the modern division, driving **Jerry and Zane Courtway's** 1976 Olympia Beer and two other boats throughout the season.

"There's no doubt he's one of the best young talents out there," legendary hydroplane driver **Chip Hanauer** reportedly said. "David is the guy that everyone should want to drive their boat in the Gold Cup. Between his racing in RCU and in ERCU he's got more career heats under his belt than I do."

The highest bidder will receive Newton's driving talents for the entire Gold Cup, including all testing time all preliminary heats and the Gold Cup final.

"While I can't guarantee that I'll make the final," Newton said. "I can guarantee that I'll do everything in my power to win the Gold Cup championship for whoever I'm driving for."

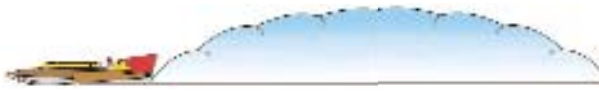


photo by Jim Clark



March 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 ERCU MEMBER MEETING Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum	6	7 National Whiners Day	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Dictionary Day	17	18
19 ERCU TESTING South Lake Union	20 Have a Bad Day Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Use Even if Seal is Broken Day	