

# E-RCU News

www.e-rcu.org

Volume 2, Issue 1

JANUARY 2006

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 3-5 . . . NW Hobby Expo. at Puyallup Fairgrounds [www.nwhobbyexpo.com](http://www.nwhobbyexpo.com)
- Feb. 5 . Super Bowl (go Hawks)
- Feb. 12 . . . AstroFlight order and payment due
- Feb. 12 . . . Member Meeting HARM
- Feb. 12 . . . ERCU Swap Meet
- Feb. 18 . . . RCU Expo at HARM

## YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!



The Czar's collection – Spokane for Patrick Gleason, Wahoo repaired for Steve Brown, the checkerboard Bardahl and the Maverick.

## FEATURED WEBSITES

Newest ABRA Race Team [www.freedomracingteam.com](http://www.freedomracingteam.com)

## New Year kicks off with Fun Run at Shady Lake

The year 2006 started out with the traditional Fun Run at Shady Lake, and judging by all reactions, it was a big success.

A total of 28 people were there for some part of the day.

Many new boats were unveiled in varying stages of completion, including a handful of boats being built by **Jeff Campbell**.

Jeff does some testing with the boats he's built before the "decor" — paint and decals — and he used the Shady Lake opportunity to do just that with boats for **Rick Lentz** and **Bob VandenAkker**.

Other new boats in attendance at the Fun Run were **Nigel Steere's** T-Plus, the Czar's checkerboard Bardahl, the Hansen family's 72 Notre Dame and the Muvalong. As the club's new sponsor, the Hansens are enthused about



"OK Campbell, tell us how you make these things run so fast, or else!"

the coming year, which is a good thing.

**Jerry Courtway** brought his Olympia Beer (watch the website for more news about that . . . coming soon), and **Kirk Pagel** had his Hurri-

cane out for testing as well.

**Ron Hornung** had his "tennis shoe" Hurricane progressing as well.

Ron reports that the mold is close to ready for the hull to pop out.

## Red Dot joins forces with ERCU as Series Sponsor

Electric Radio Controlled Unlimiteds (ERCU) announced recently that Red Dot Corporation has joined the organization as its series sponsor for the 2006 racing season, said ERCU Chairman **Ron Daum** and Red Dot Vice President of Engineering **Gary Hansen**.

The ERCU racing series, which will begin in April, includes as many as 12 races across the Puget Sound region. The club's racing includes 1/10-scale models of unlimited hydroplanes in two divisions — vintage (pre-1971) and modern (since 1971).

All of the boats are exact duplicates in smaller scale (roughly three feet long) of their real-life unlimited hydroplane inspirations.

"We're really excited about the opportunity to associate our company with a great organi-

ation like ERCU," Hansen said, "and we're proud to announce that this year's ERCU series will be known as the 'BUILT TO SURVIVE! High Point Championship presented by Red Dot Corporation.'"

Red Dot will be recognized in all of ERCU's print materials, on its website

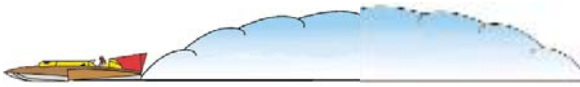
and throughout the season during races. It will also receive promotion during all of ERCU's events.

"Red Dot is a top-notch organization, and we're proud to bring them into the ERCU family," Daum said.

Founded in Seattle, Wash., in 1965, the Red Dot Corporation is a leading manufacturer of HVAC products for the heavy vehicle industry, both on- and off-highway.

Welcome to the club Red Dot!





## NEWSBRIEFS

### Swap Meet Final Call

At the January meeting, the members voted to move the February ERCU meeting to February 12 to avoid conflict with the Super Bowl. This will also be Swap Meet Sunday, so we will be holding it one week later than originally scheduled. The Swap Meet will be held before & after the February ERCU meeting.

Remember the Museum has a limited number of tables, and we use them for our meeting. Bring your own table.

The swap meet will give any and all members an opportunity to bring surplus parts, motors, batteries, speed controls and other electronics. Or you may have photos, decals, boat covers, spare drivers, dash boards, dummy motors or anything else pertaining to the hobby that can be brought in to sell or trade.

And remember technical inspection begins on this date as well. So bring the boats you have registered or intend to register for the 2006 racing season. All boats, current and new, will need to be inspected prior to their first race.

The Swap Meet will start at noon, break for the meeting at 2 p.m., resume at 3:30 or so after the meeting, and stay open as late afterwards as commerce will dictate.

### Second Annual R/C Hydro Show is on the calendar

Be sure to reserve Saturday, Feb. 18 to attend the Second Annual R/CU-ERCU Hydro Show at the Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum, from noon-4 p.m.

The event had a great turn out last year and, once again, all racers are encouraged to bring your boat displays, work in progress, or just a good story about the race that got away last year.

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 from 6-15. Children under 5 are free, just like museum members. Memberships in the Hydroplane & Raceboat Museum begin at just \$35 per year.

This year, we will have pizza and pop available on site for a nominal fee. The Second Annual R/C Hydro Show is sponsored by the APBA and the Oberto Sausage Company and presented as a joint effort by R/CU and ERCU.

For further information, contact **Marc Connelly** at: [marc@jn-ad.com](mailto:marc@jn-ad.com).

## News & Rumors

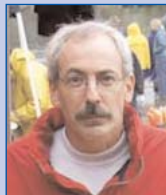
Craig Bradshaw is doing a new Winston Eagle to replace the one he built and sold . . . Howard Price's Gale V is nearing completion, and we saw a sneak peak of it at the last member meeting . . . Jeff Campbell is working feverishly on two new boats for Rick Lentz, including the U-95. Reports from Rick are that the boat will likely be fast, but it might be a little heavy in back. If so, Rick is planning to take the wings off and paint shark teeth on the sponsons. Any ideas on how he can sink it in the first heat, if need be? . . . Other boats in Campbell's construction shop include the Madison and Parco/Timex . . . John Williams is moving forward on his '71 Madison while Jim Clark's '67 Bardahl is also making progress . . . Nelson Holmberg is currently in Arizona, snowbirding, but that didn't stop him from taking along his boat. He recently repaired a lot of the body damage that resulted from wear and tear during last season, and touched up paint. He's also busy building battery packs, and getting ready to race. MickNellie Racing Team has announced that Nelson's preseason testing will occur at Lake Havasu, Ariz., throughout March and early April . . . There are a handful of great off-season photos on pages 4-5 of this newsletter.

## Big Boat News

The biggest, and most sad, news of the off-season so far came in mid-December when we heard that Ed Cooper Sr. had passed away in Indiana. The man who brought the U-3 to the sport, and kept the "thunder" alive in unlimited hydroplane racing, Cooper Sr., worked hard to make sure the sport he loved remained alive for years . . . In other sad news, Lumar Window Film announced it would not continue its sponsorship of Bill Wurster's U-8 racing team into the future. Lumar's parent company is in bankruptcy, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court is said to have something to do with the decision to not renew Lumar's sponsorship in the sport. After Budweiser left, Lumar was the longest-running contiguous national sponsor. Oberto Sausage Company now becomes the longest-running national sponsor . . . Joe Little declined the challenge issued by Erick Ellstrom for a best two-out-of-three match race between the U-1 Miss Elam and one of the former Miss Budweiser hulls. Ellstrom is said to have put up \$400,000 for the winner to take home . . . Still no word out of the Superior Racing Team shop as to whether they'll be racing in 2006, but it doesn't sound like it. In early November, word came out that the former Miss Free-I had been moved closer to the entrance of Dr. Ken Muscatel's shop, but according to different crew members, it doesn't sound like there's much action at the shop. The team's website currently has a goodbye message on it. Looks like the U-25 team really is done . . . Why they chose Indianapolis, I suppose we'll never know (maybe to honor the Cooper family), but this year's ABRA Awards Banquet is set for March at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis. ABRA meetings will be a part of the weekend's schedule of events.

## A Moment With . . .

### JEFF CAMPBELL



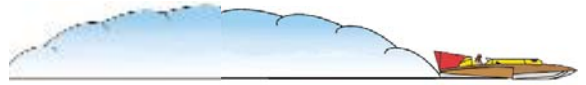
Family: . . . . . Wife Teri, daughter Kelsey (22), son Kyle (19)  
City he calls home: . . . . . Seattle since 1986, born in Lake Oswego, Ore.  
Job (when not boating): . . . . . Red Dot Corp.  
College Football Loyalty: . . . . . none  
Favorite Current Unlimited Hydro: . . . . . Any one that Villwock is NOT driving  
Favorite Unlimited Hydro of the past: . . . . . 1970 Hemi Pay 'N Pak  
Boats he races in ERCU: . . . . . 1970 Hemi Pay 'N Pak, 1970 Pay 'N Pak Lil Buzzard, 1971 Hallmark Homes  
What was your first car? . . . . . 1969 Datsun 510  
What was your first job? . . . . . Paper Route  
When and how did you get involved in scale racing? . . . . . My brother had built one, so I had to build one too  
Have you ever had a manicure/pedicure? (Come on manly-man . . . admit it!): . . . No, but I am open for offers  
Coke or Pepsi? . . . . . Mountain Dew

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## Minutes of the January 8, 2006 Membership Meeting

Chairman **Ron Daum** opened the meeting with 28 members in attendance. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as submitted. Treasurer **Henry Marvin** reported that the balance in the club treasury is \$2319.97 as of the end of 2005. Member and boat registration forms for 2006 were distributed to the members present. By the end of the meeting there were 28 members and 50 boats already signed up for the year.

Race Coordinator **Roger Newton** reported that eight of the 12 race sites had been arranged so far, with a full schedule available for the next meeting. **Ron Daum** provided an update of the South Lake Union site.

Available dates for races have been approved for April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23 and August 27 if they are desired. The site is available for testing at any time during the year. There are pilings located along the west side of the waterway which are scheduled to be removed, possibly this spring. The course is fully usable even with the pilings in place — just don't run into them!

An order for AstroFlight motors and accessories is being prepared by **Dave Gardner**. The final order and payment will be due at the next meeting on February 12. If more than 10 motors are ordered the price will be \$125 each, otherwise the list price of \$135 will be charged.

**Dave Gardner** and **Mike Campbell** encourage members to bring their boats to the upcoming meetings for inspection prior to the first race. The remaining meeting dates before racing commences are February 12, March 5 and April 2.

**Jim Lilly** reported that the website is receiving an average of more than 300 unique hits per day over the past month. In order to keep it up to date he needs information from all of us. He can post most things but needs people to compose entries so he can post them.

**Jerry Courtway** has prepared several ideas for a new club logo. They were circulated for comments, and he will compress the comments into a recommendation for review at the next meeting. If anyone has any ideas please send them in for consideration before the February 12 member meeting.

**Ron Daum** presented the 2005 year-end award plaques to those recipients identified in previous posts.

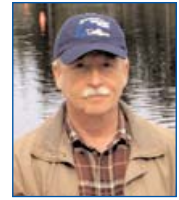
The board is considering rule changes for the 2006 season. Ideas were presented to the membership for comments, and the recommendations will be considered in the final writing of the rules for the year.

Items under consideration for revision include elimination of the club T-shirt as a membership item. The mill start will be formalized in 2006, with a heat started by a three-minute clock and all boats required to be in and remain in motion at or before the one minute mark. A new countdown clock will be prepared. Discussion about tightening up the race day schedule included having the three-minute clock start as soon as the previous

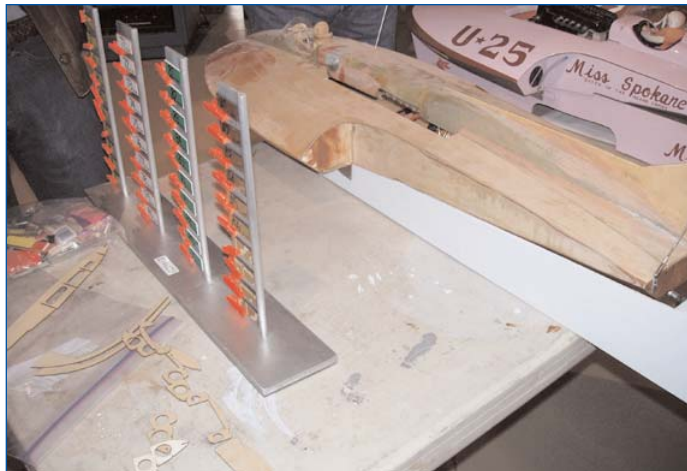
heat is cleared, the continued use of a Pit Boss, and the need for the race CD to maintain control of the day's events.

When a racer has back-to-back heats, discretion regarding start time of the following heat will be addressed.

To encourage attendance at races and general support for the club, a minimum number of races attended will be required in order to retain individual boat registrations. The consensus of the members present was to set the requirement at two races minimum per year.



*From the Secretary's Desk*  
Rick Lentz



*Thanks to Jerry Courtway for building a "tree" for all of our frequency pins, and putting together nice pins. In the background, the boat under construction is Jerry's new Thriftway Too.*

A one-time fee of \$30 in addition to the registration fee will be considered to maintain registration into the second year if a registered boat does not compete in its first year of registration. The registration rule may be changed to allow a member to register up to four boats in any class, instead of limiting to two boats per class. The exact wording of the battery requirements in the rules was discussed and tabled pending further study.

Race CD's will be encouraged to take more control of their race during the day. Assigning turn judges and qualified

referees for the heats will remain the responsibility of the race CD. A referee training session was suggested, and will be considered.

**Jim Clark** is completing a speed control order, and needs orders and payment by January 14 to assure the discount price of \$85, instead of the regular price of \$100 plus shipping.

The club-approved li-po batteries should be available at the February 12 meeting for those who pre-ordered them.

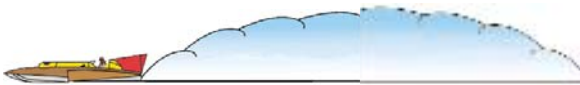
A performance standard for motors will be reviewed to see what is/will be available if the current AstroFlight motor is no longer available. This will not be a concern for the 2006 racing season, so there will be no modifications to the required motor for this coming year.

It will be the intent of the study that any new motor proposed will match the specifications of the current motor so a wholesale change-out will not be necessary by any member.

Note the date and time for the next meeting. Because of the Super Bowl being scheduled for February 5, the meeting and Swap Meet date has been moved to Sunday, Feb. 12. The Swap Meet will start at noon, break at 2 p.m. for the members meeting, and resume afterwards, running until 5 p.m. or as commerce dictates. Reminders will be sent out periodically.

Following Show and Tell, the meeting was adjourned.

A special thank you is extended to all who brought a boat(s) to the meeting. It makes it fun for all to see works in progress and to have examples and ideas available. All are encouraged to continue to bring boats for Show and Tell to every meeting.



## Columbia Division nearly ready for some racing

The New Year is a good time to report that there's activity in the Columbia Division.

While we're still not quite ready for our first race, we are ready for some playing. And as all of you guys up north know, we already have one pretty strong boat in our fleet with **Kerry Kjos's** Miss Thriftway.

As the year begins, we've got five boats that are ready to run, one that's nearing completion, and as many as three others that are in the planning or construction phases.

Most of us are from the Portland area, with a couple of guys from Vancouver, and all but one of us have experience running the gas boats in R/C Unlimiteds.

We've got about 4-6 sites that we're thinking will be available to us for racing. Due to our small size, we're planning that we'll run classic and modern boats together, with both classes being limited to 12 cells, and all boats using the solid shaft. Other than that, we're following the same rules as ERCU up

north.

Here's a list of the boats we're excited about having down here.

U#	Year	Boat name	Owner	Status
U-27	1956	Slo-Mo-Shun IV	John Earnest	Competition
		Breathless II	Dave Reiser	Competition
U-6	1960	Miss Madison	Roger May	Development
U-60	1964	Miss Thriftway	Kerry Kjos	Competition
U-1	1971	Miss Budweiser	Mick Shutt	Development
U-81	1973	Red Man	Nelson Holmberg	Competition
U-55	1974	Lincoln Thrift	John Howell	Development
U-22	1975	Sunny Jim Jam	John Howell	Competition
U-3	2004	Vacationville.com	Ted Meyer	Development
U-25	2005	Silver Dollar Casinos/Miss Rock	Nelson Holmberg	Development

— **John Howell, ERCU Columbia Division**

## South Lake Union Park ready for a little hydroplane racing

We're getting closer to Greenlake all the time.

Not as that sentence might lead someone to believe, though. With an agreement for us to race on Lake Union, we're physically getting closer to Greenlake, which seems to be our Opus. We're all hoping to be allowed to race there again, where the sport was born.

While that hasn't happened yet, at least the city of Seattle has welcomed us to South Lake Union Park, and has considered model boat racing in its plans for the future of the park.

We have secured five race dates at South Lake Union Park for this year, at Waterway No. 3.

This site was formerly the Naval Reserve Facility.

The map included in this newsletter is what the future of the park entails. So far, there's no pond, bridge or grassy area. Construction will begin on the area of Waterway No. 4 first.

Already scheduled for our races there this year are the Seafair Trophy (July 23) and the Diamond Cup (August 27).



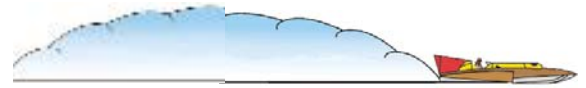
## Fun Run Photo Album



Gary and Mark Hansen participated in the Fun Run with the Notre Dame and the Muvalong.



Nigel Steere's T-Plus as tested, ready for the wing to be installed.



## 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

### 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.Whitstine/M.Hansen	6,340

### 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 Whitstine	4,363
9.	Squire Shop/Vernors	Gary Hansen	3,936
10.	Natural Light	Jerry Johnston	3,442

### 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/Vandemakker/Newton/Hansen/Hartley	5,720
8.	1972	Notre Dame	Mark Hansen	5,490
9.	1971	Pay 'n Pak	Gale Whitstine	4,683
10.	1977	Natural Light	Jerry Johnston	4,136

## Photo Album, continued



The '62 Notre Dame for Bob VandenAkker and the '58 Bardahl for Rick Lentz, tested before decorating.



Czar with the new Checkerboard Bardahl.



Progress on the U-95 being built in the Campbell Racing shop for Rick Lentz.



Craig Bradshaw's new Winston Eagle, which replaces the one he built and sold.

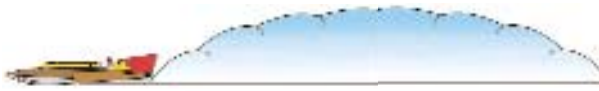


photo by Jim Clark



# February 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
					NW Hobby Expo @ Puyallup	NW Hobby Expo @ Puyallup
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Super Bowl @ Detroit				Old Rock Day		
	NW Hobby Expo @ Puyallup					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ERCU Member Meeting & Swap Meet @ HARM						RCU Model Boat Show @ HARM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Peccoliar People Day			
26	27	28				
	National Popcorn Day					