

E-RCU News

www.e-rcu.org

Volume 1, Issue 2

OCTOBER 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 4 ERCU MEMBER MEETING
Site and time TBA

Nov. 12 ERCU/RCU AWARDS BANQUET
Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum, time TBA

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!



The Slo-Mo and the Kai mix it up during the Bernie Little Memorial at Bellevue Pond.

FEATURED WEBSITES

U-8 Unlimited Hydroplane
www.u-8hydro.com

Miss Thriftway Project
www.missthriftway.com

A special thanks to Jim Clark and Jerry Courtway for the photos used in this newsletter

Campbell, MiniCzar win again at Bernie Little

After being displaced by milfoil, weddings and dock repairs, the Bernie Little Memorial Race finally settled for Bellevue Pond on September 25.

The weather was perfect with sunshine and no wind the entire day. At the five-to-the-five, 16 vintage and nine modern boats were charged up and ready to go.

The mill start was continued, with all boats required to be moving at the one-minute gun. The starts were exciting, and the small pond made for many close starts and also a lot of jumping the gun violations.

The modern class was hotly contested with no single boat dominating. Five different boats won preliminary heats, and lots of speed was evident throughout the day.

The final was won by **Jeff Campbell** in the Pay N Pak, with **David Newton** driving **Jerry Courtway's** Olympia Beer into second place. Third place went to **Mike Gossler** and the Squire Shop, with



fourth taken by **Mike Campbell** and the Country Boy, winner of the consolation race. Fifth was taken by **Gary Hansen** and the Vernors, and **Mark Hansen** was sixth with the Notre Dame. Boats also in attendance were the Squire of **Steve Twardus**, **Rick Lentz's** Red Man and **Bob Vanden-Akker's** Candyman.

The vintage class was able to run two consolation heats. In the second connee, **Mike Campbell** won with the Miss U.S. 1, followed by Miss Pay N Save with **Steve Twardus**, Miss Vernors and **Robbie Roberts** and **Ron Daum's**

Miss Pepsi. \$ Bill and **Craig Bradshaw** was not able to start.

In the first connee, **Roger Newton** and the Hawaii Kai survived a wild heat to win, with **John Williams** and the Miss Bardahl the only other finisher. DNF's went to the Notre dame of **Bob Vanden-Akker**, **Ron Daum's** Such Crust III and **Rick Lentz**, running Miss Wahoo for the first time this year.

The vintage final was one of the tightest point-wise of the year. Every preliminary heat winner was represented,

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Gardner takes Apple Cup's return to Lake Chelan

A cold and breezy day greeted 10 die-hard racers with their 12 boats in tow as they joined 45 R/C Unlimited club members on Sunday at their season-ending Gold Cup and Norm Evans Memorial race in Chelan.

With the special permission of the RCU Board, the 1/10th scale boats were able to run between R/CU Heat Sections. Because the day was already pretty full with the 1/8th scale nitro boats, we were limited to two

heats at a time, hence the 12-boat maximum field and exhibition non-points format.

On Saturday several boats made test runs on the full nitro course. Unfortunately, **Dave Reiser** ran his beautiful new Breathless II over one of the buoys and took out the drive gear, retiring it for the weekend. To keep the heats balanced, **Ron Daum** withdrew the Miss Pepsi, which set up a 10-boat field for Sunday.

On Sunday we ran on the nitro course, but shortened it somewhat by eliminating the

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NEWSBRIEFS

A new race site appears to be on the way

Negotiations are under way with Seattle Parks Department for multiple race dates next year on Waterway No. 3. It's fair to say, too, that there is huge potential for more sponsorship of the club if we acquire rights to this race site. Keep an eye on your newsletter, and the club website for more information as it becomes available. Stay tuned.

A touch of history

When **Gary Hansen** accepted the Bob Gilliam Memorial Trophy for winning the second consolation heat at the Gold Cup with Muvalong, he related personal experience with **Bob Gilliam** he had as a boy. Bob taken him and some others out to dinner for helping him trailer launch the old Fascination at Jets Boatyard on Lake Washington. Gary said "the dinner that he bought us at Zesto's was the 49er. Hamburger, fries and a Green River drink for 49 cents." Gary later went on to say: "I hadn't thought about **Bob Gilliam** in years. We actually formed a fan club for him for the 1966 Gold Cup. He was the only local boat. The Hilton HyperLube. I remember him finishing one heat with the help of a patrol boat lending him some rope for the throttle. The throttle linkage had come loose." What great memories and tidbits of history.

Make your plans now for the ERCU/RCU Awards Banquet

This year's awards banquet, complete with a no-host bar and a catered meal, is set for November 12, 2005 at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum in Kent. **Dr. Ken Muscatel** is confirmed as the guest speaker and special guest. We're planning a social hour to begin the evening, followed by dinner and awards ceremonies for both ERCU and RCU. The chairmen of both clubs have agreed to keep the awards ceremonies as brief as possible to keep the event from running too long. Keep an eye on your e-mail inbox and your mail box for a formal invitation and more information about the banquet, but be sure to mark your calendars now!

Member meeting set for November 6

The next Members Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 6 at the Hydroplane Museum in Kent, beginning at 2 p.m. The board has been reviewing the option of allowing a lithium polymer battery option to supplement the sub-c cells currently used. The Li-po cell would be a 4000mAh rating, and has comparable voltage to the 3300-3800 NiHM cells currently being used. The advantage to the club is the low cost of the packs for comparable performance. The price of the packs will likely be under \$30 each if the club decides to allow them for use next year. This would be the only Li-po pack allowed for use by the club next year if approved, as this unit will have undergone extensive testing prior to the meeting. The decision to accept this type of battery will have to be made at the November 6 meeting in order to capture this low price, so come with questions and be prepared to voice your opinion.

A Moment With . . .

MONTE STEERE

Family: Ellen, Grady, Nigel, Mia.
City Called Home: Bellevue, Seattle.
Job: Hydroelectric Maintenance Mechanic for Seattle City Light.
College Football Loyalty: Huskies.
Favorite Current Unlimited: Whatever Jerry or Greg Hopp are driving.
Favorite Unlimited Hydro of the Past: The Grand Old Lady . . . Mo IV
Boats he races in ERCU: . . . What else? Mo IV or V
What Was Your First Car: 1955 V.W. Bug
What Was Your First Job: . . . Picking strawberries in Marblemount.
How did you get involved in scale racing: A 1972 walk around Green Lake, a Slo-Mo-Shun IV model, Roger Newton.
Have you ever had a manicure/pedicure (Come on manly-man . . . admit it!): Daily.
Coke or Pepsi?: Orange without the fizz.

Nominations Open

The 2005 Contest Board will accept nominations for three board positions for 2006. Contact Rick Lentz to nominate a member. The election will be held at the December 4 meeting.

AL TWARDUS STEVE TWARDUS

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A big thank you to all of our sponsors, especially this year's E-RCU title sponsor, Twardus Iron & Wire Works.

Big Boat News

With all the changes this season, it probably wasn't too much of a surprise that the Eilstrom family's Miss E-lam boat won the national championship this season. But, there's a breath of fresh air atop the driver's standings.

Everyone's favorite driver, **Steve David** clinched the first driver's championship of his career this season. David is the first in a long line of great Miss Madison drivers to win the driver's crown.

That's not all of the great ABRA first season news.

With loads of damage at three of the last four races, who knows what the level of frustration is for the Cooper Racing Team. The hull is one of the best on the circuit, and the level of the team's competitiveness is high enough that they should be expected back in 2006.

In the U-5 Formulaboats.com, **Mike Weber** fought an older boat most of the season, but his fighting was well worth it, as he was consistent all year, making the finals at every race.

While no one in the Miss Madison camp is giving any specific details, it does appear that one way or another the U-6 will be a new hull next year. Rumor still has it that the Miss Madison Racing Team is negotiating with **Joe Little** to buy the T-5. In Nashville, while talking about a potential new boat, David looked like the cat that ate the proverbial canary. There's also some talk that the U-6 team is taking a look at the backup E-lam hull.

San Diego's race brought more damage to the same sponson of the U-8 Lumar Window Film that was broken during the Gold Cup, but the Lumar boat won two races this season with **Jean Theoret** at the controls, and was in the running for the national championship most of the season. Expect this team to be back with even more strength next season.

No news updates have come from the Jones Racing Team since last month. We'll be sure to update if something new comes to light.

Kim and Debbie Gregory have taken delivery of their new boat (the former Miss Budweiser T-3) at their Las Vegas boat shop, and work has begun to make it race ready for next season.

It seems like **Dave Bartush** and his gang from the U-13 Spirit of Detroit team have had a great season, and have enjoyed themselves since entering the circuit during the Gold Cup in Detroit. With the former backup to the U-10, **Terry Troxell** kept the boat competitive, and the team was a factor. There is talk that Bartush wants a newer boat, so keep an open ear on the offseason with this team.

As news came out that **Dr. Ken Muscatel** had sold his boat, truck, three engines and other various equipment, it only took a week for the rumors to start about what he's up to next. The latest rumor is that there is some stirring in the U-25 shop that's centered around the former Free-I.com hull that set the world straightaway record in 2000.

Long respected as someone with deep care for the sport, **Fred Leland** will undoubtedly be back in 2006, with at least one boat, maybe more if a national sponsor can be found.

Other talk that's circulating around ABRA includes hope that many new teams will join the circuit next year.

Now that **Kevin Aylesworth** and his family have purchased the U-25, they're working on plans for the 2006 season. There's some hope they can use the Rolls Royce Griffons they found in England.



Another season comes to a close

The third E-RC/U racing season has now come to a close and what a season it was. We have seen growth in our membership and in the number of boats, both vintage and modern, that made it into competition this year. Speeds are up and overall our driving habits have improved. I still have an unfortunate tendency to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and possess an affinity for large unmoving solid objects, but that's another story.

In addition to the great things happening on the race course, your Contest Board and several involved members have been working on securing new venues for 2006 and the list is impressive: **Bob Vandernakker** and **Judy Fenton** are arranging for Lake Pleasant in Bothell; **Jerry Courtway** worked to get Long Lake in Kitsap County near Port Orchard; **The Czar** has identified a lake in Lacy; I worked with the City of Monroe for Lake Tye and last but not least, **Monte Steere**, **Rick Lentz** and myself are working with Seattle Parks for Waterway No. 3 at South Lake Union Park.

On the technical side, **David Newton** debuted the Spektrum radio system so say goodbye to frequency

duplication hassles. Our Lithium Polymer battery committee is formulating their report and recommendations. Weight, voltage and runtime in the demonstrations to date were impressive.

One very important thing that we are about is having fun and accurately modeling the boats we love. I for one had a whole lot of fun this year and can't wait to begin 2006. The appearance of the new boats this year was simply spectacular. We have garnered many complements from spectators on the great workmanship and detail we have put into our craft. In pictures our boats look deceptively full size. One more touch of realism is the one minute mill start we are now using.

Our next activity is the Annual Awards Banquet. This year we will be joining with R/CU at the Hydroplane Raceboat Museum on November 12 for what should be truly great event. This is one you won't want to miss, so I will see you there.

Well done E-RCU 2005!



*Chairman's
Chatter*
Ron Daum

Boat shop news: A Hurricane (V) has hit

Kirk Pagel has sent along a photo update of progress on his new boat, which is a former Hawaii Kai III.

It's a conversion project from the Pink Lady to the Hurricane V, which debuted at the Bernie Little Memorial.

Thanks for sharing your progress Kirk! The whole club is looking forward to you joining the circuit next year.



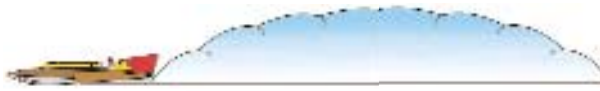
Kirk Pagel's project of changing the Hawaii Kai III into the Hurricane V. Clockwise from upper left: 1) The Kai after taking delivery from Newton Racing Team; 2) After sanding; 3) New cowl and cockpit is complete and primed; 4) Bottom of the boat is painted; 5) It's coming right along, as the deck paint is complete; 6) All done!; 7) The happy new owner and his boat getting ready for the first race.



Three-dot notes ...

AS OF THIS printing, the season-closing Brewer's Cup is underway, and undoubtedly the offseason's bench-racing is almost undoubtedly started . . . **OVERHERAD AT THE** Apple Cup in Chelan, "go faster, go faster" as R/CU high points champion **Dave Brandt** drove the Gale V in one of the preliminary heats. **Don Mock** also drove the Gale V in a heat. Judging by all of the smiles, all who participated in the race, RCU and ERCU members alike, clearly had a lot of fun . . . **DUE TO FINANCIAL** Washougal's **Grant Miller** has decided not to pursue his plans to purchase the Miss U.S. 5

and begin racing in ERCU's Columbia Division this year. He does, however, have interest in perhaps joining the club at another time . . . **SPEAKING OF THE** Columbia Division, **Nelson Holmberg** and **Mick Shutt** have plans to work with **Dave Reiser**, **John Howell**, and **John Earnest** to get things going and schedule some races for 2006 in the Portland/Vancouver area . . . **THERE'S NO WORD** reaching the newsletter editor yet whether there will be a 2006 Polar Bear Run on or around New Year's, but maybe it's time to start conversation about whether it should be done.



Statistics — Through Bernie Little Memorial

Vintage Driver Points

Place	Boat	Driver	Total
1	Miss Thriftway/Maverick	David Newton	12,313
2	Lil Buzzard	Jeff Campbell	10,819
3	Miss US 1	Mike Campbell	9,511
4	Notre Dame	Bob Vandernakker	8,935
5	Miss Exide	Henry Marvin	7,650
6	Such Crust III	Ron Daum	7,439
7	Miss Bardahl/Miss US 5/Wahoo	Rick Lentz	5,772
8	Hawaii Kai III	Roger Newton	5,577
9	My Gypsy	Jim Lilly	4,925
10	Muvalong/Timex	Jason Hartley	4,902

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.	Redman	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	11,819
2.	1960	Miss Thriftway	David Newton	11,519
3.	1957	Miss US 1	Mike Campbell	9,511
4.	1965	Notre Dame	Bob Vandernakker	8,935
5.	1964	Miss Exide	Henry Marvin	7,650
6.	1955	Such Crust III	Ron Daum	7,439
7.	1956	Slo-mo-shun IV	Grady/Monte/Nigel Steere	7,079
8.	1959	Miss Pay 'n Save	Twardus/Whitstone/M.Hansen	6,340
9.	1957	Hawaii Kai III	Roger Newton/David Newton	5,977
10.	1971	Halmark Homes	J.Campbell/J.Hartley/M.Hansen	5,718

Modern Boat Points

Place	Year	Boat	Driver	Total
1.	1970	Pride of Pay 'n Pak	Jeff Campbell	12,125
2.	1971	Country Boy	Mike Campbell	11,748
3.	1970	Redman	Lentz/Holmberg/Steere	7,854
4.	1978	Squire	Mike Gossler	7,228
5.	1976	Miss Vernors	D. Newton/Marvin/Twardus/Hansen	6,277
6.	1974	Olympia Beer	David Lilly/David Newton	6,071
7.	1977	Squire Shop	Twardus/Vandernakker/D.Newton/Hansen/Hartley	5,720
8.	1972	Notre Dame	Mark Hansen	4,390
9.	1971	Pay 'n Pak	Gale Whitestone	4,363
10.	1977	Natural Light	Jerry Johnston	3,442

Bernie Little Memorial produces repeat winners

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and two boats, **Kerry Kjos'** Miss Thriftway driven by **David Newton** and **Henry Marvin's** Miss Exide had perfect days, each taking 1,200 points into the final. They were joined by **Jeff Campbell** and the Lil Buzzard, Slo-Mo IV with **Monte Steere**,



Muvalong with **Gary Hansen**, and **Jeff Campbell's** Hallmark Homes, driven in the final by **Mike Campbell**. **Roger Newton** brought the Hawaii Kai in as the trailer by winning the consolation heat.

After the waves had settled, Miss Thriftway came out on top, followed closely by Miss Exide in its best finish ever. Third place went to Lil Buzzard, followed by Slo-Mo IV and Muvalong. Hallmark Homes and Hawaii Kai succumbed to unseen gremlins and did not finish.

As usual there was lots of help setting up, running through the day, and tearing down, which is always very much appreciated. A big thank you to **Jeff and Mike Campbell** for staging another great event.

Apple Cup — the Chelan exhibition — draws loads of interest

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right-hand turn buoys, and of course we ran in the "correct" direction — counter-clockwise. In the first heat **David Newton**, driving **Howard Price's** Gale V, showed that it was not difficult to make 90-degree turns at the right-hand buoys. Three preliminary sections of two heats each were run, with heat wins picked up by **Dave Gardner's** Thriftway Too, Skip-a-long piloted by **Ron Hornung**, **Robbie Roberts** with the Miss Vernors and Gale V steered by **David Newton**. The Gale driving duties were shared with **Dave Brandt** and **Don Mock** of R/CU, testing their skills with the electrics.

Due to time constraints, a Connie was not run, and **Bob Vandernakker** was determined to be the Connie finalist based on total points earned, entering the final as the trailer. These boats, along with the Miss Wahoo driven by **Rick Lentz** and the Such Crust III with **Ron Daum** charged into the final heat. When the waves settled, Thriftway Too was the winner, followed in order by Gale V, Skip-a-long, Notre Dame, Vernors, Wahoo and Such Crust. **Bill Smiley** with his Miss

Thriftway and **Nelson Holmberg** driving the USV were also present.

Chip Hanauer — who attended the entire weekend's racing — helped with the awards ceremony, posing for pictures with each of the participants.

A special thanks goes to **Jim Hendricks**, looking a lot like **Roger Newton**, who provided a great running commentary throughout the day.

A big thank you" also goes to **Zane Courtway**, who helped with launching all day long, and did a great job for everyone.

A thanks to each participant as well for helping to make the entire day enjoyable for everyone.

