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World Championship model boat race coming to Vancouver

The American Power Boat Association's National Championship Electric Radio Controlled Unlimited competition, this October, will be in Klineline Pond in Salmon Creek Park, reports Vancouver ERCU member and coordinator of the championship event **Nelson Holmberg**.

The unlimited radio-controlled electric powered boats are exactly one-tenth the size of unlimited hydroplanes like Slo-Mo-shun and Miss Budweiser, powerful racing boats 30 feet long that reach speeds in excess of 200 miles an hour.

The three-foot-long models that will compete are capable of speeds approaching 55 miles per hour, powered by lithium polymer batteries that energize brushless electric motors. These high-performance models are, for the most part, built of carbon fiber, fiberglass and other composite materials, and cost from \$3,000 to \$6,000 to build.

“The small scale versions that will participate in this event are really no different from the real thing,” Holmberg says. “These models are truly hydroplanes in their own right. The drivers are skilled at radio control, boat building and maintenance.”

Several of the real unlimited hydroplanes, most of which are based in and around Seattle, pass through Vancouver on I-5 or I-205 every year, before and after their annual late September race in San Diego. They’ve raced in Vancouver just one time, though—in August of 1979, when the Miss Budweiser, Atlas Van Lines and Squire Shop hydroplanes staged an exhibition event on the Columbia River at Marine Park.

The event, sanctioned by the North American Model Boat Association will also be a fundraiser for the Parks Foundation of Clark County. The races begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. There is no admission charge, but the Parks Foundation will have a booth set up to accept donations.

In addition to Holmberg, other Clark County residents racing are **Mick Shutt, Jesse Shehan and John Earnest**.

For further information, call Holmberg at **521-1590**, or go to www.e-cru.org.

Car prowlers breaking into just-parked cars downtown

Because of a series of car prowls over the past few weeks, Vancouver Police are asking motorists to keep valuables out of their parked vehicles, reports **Kim Kapp**, Vancouver Police Department public information coordinator.

In the past month, Vancouver Police have received 28 commercial parking lot auto prowls/theft reports. In many of the incidents, parked cars near gyms across the city have been hit during early morning and mid-afternoon hours, cars near day care centers during drop off/pick up times and restaurants during peak meal times.

Thieves are smashing car windows and taking purses, wallets, cell phones, GPS units and other personal electronic equipment that are inside the vehicle, often within minutes of the vehicle’s being parked and the driver’s entering the establishment. This includes valuables stored in the trunk.

Vancouver Police are following up on all potential leads, but citizens can assist by practicing these simple crime prevention measures and by reporting crimes immediately. For crimes with no suspect information a report can be made online at www.vanpolice.org or at any of the Vancouver Police Department precincts during



Nelson Holmberg's 1/10 scale radio controlled electric unlimited racing boat Red Man will be among competitors at national championship races at Klineline Pond in October. Other local racers are John Earnest, Jesse Shehan and Mick Shutt.

office hours. For crimes where there is suspect information, please call 911.

WSU Vancouver opens Cougar holiday card design competition

Artists and photographers of all ages are sought for the design of the 2008 Washington State University Vancouver holiday cards. The contest will benefit the education of current WSU Vancouver students, with the \$5 entry fees going toward the campus scholarship program.

The campus Office of Development and Alumni Relations sends an annual holiday card to all of the campuses' yearly donors and friends. "We are looking for a holiday-themed photograph, watercolor painting, crayon drawing or sketch that we can incorporate into a card," says **Melissa Ray**, development coordinator at WSU Vancouver, "and, of course, one which captures the Cougar pride of WSU Vancouver."

Design selection will be based on creativity, incorporation of WSU Vancouver name and marks, and the design's capturing the holiday spirit.

The winning artist will be able to designate all of the funds generated from this contest for an already established scholarship fund at WSU Vancouver.

To submit a design, complete the online form link at <http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/alumni> and send it with design by Oct. 1. For further information, call **Lea Pfau, 546-9600**.

Calendar

Community Choices and Steps Partners are celebrating the results of a five-year, \$2.3 million health initiative from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening in Pearson Air Museum, 1115 E 5th Street. Admission is \$25. for further information, call **576-1067**. <> The City/County Telecommunications Commission meets in regular session at 7 p.m. this evening in City Hall. <> The Southwest Washington Blood Program is holding two blood drives Thursday, Sept. 4, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at First Independent, 1220 Main Street, and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the parking lot at Pendleton Woolen Mills, 2 17th Street, Washougal.

Wednesday on the air

City Minutes (8/24)—4 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Business Journal Top Projects (7/24)—4:30 p.m. CVTV

First Walk (8/23)—5:30 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Vancouver Code Enforcement Appeal Hearings (8/28)—10 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the Weather

Mary Madura making the A-List.<> **Staci Searls** making a deal. <> **Janice Simonsen** sharing Ikea ideas.<> **Marjorie Casswell** promoting food co-op dinner. <> **Cindy Johnson** not missing a beat. <> **Wednesday**, partly cloudy, 53-74. **Thursday**, mostly sunny, 56-78. **Friday**, partly cloudy, 59-82.