

# UNLIMITED NewsJournal

A CHRONICLE OF SPEED

JUNE/JULY 2021

## Let's go racing!



**A**t last! After sitting on the beach for the past 21 months, the hydroplanes are finally getting ready to race again. The 2021 campaign will represent a return to normalcy after most activities were forced to be canceled a year ago in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Crews are working on the boats, drivers are ready, and the H1 Unlimited Racing Series is set to get back into action again.

With the Covid-19 vaccine now widely available throughout the country, health restrictions are beginning to loosen and life is beginning to return to normal. That means events that were canceled a year ago are returning—including the sport of unlimited hydroplane racing. As

of the end of May, four of the five events originally scheduled remain on the 2021 racing calendar:

- ◆ The season will get underway on June 26 and 27 for the Guntersville Lake Hydrofest in Guntersville, Alabama. Tickets are still available.

- ◆ Organizers of the race in Madison, Indiana, have received needed funding and are making progress toward an event on the Ohio River July 2 to 4.

- ◆ The on-and-off race in the Tri-Cities is on again according to a recent decision by event officials. The board of

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the Tri-City Water Follies organization announced in early May that their event would be canceled, but a few days later Washington Governor Jay Inslee said he wanted most activities in the state to return to normal by June 30. That led to an announcement on May 21 that the race was back on.

The event will take place on the Columbia River on the dates originally scheduled—July 23 to 25. “After careful consideration of Washington State event guidelines changing and collaboration with the cities of Kennewick, Richland,

and Pasco, Water Follies is a go!” said Hector Cruz, board president.

“Details are being ironed out, but the event will look a little different as we navigate how to comply with the state Covid guidelines,” explained Kathy Powell, the event director. “More than likely there will be more general admission and less private hospitality. We ask race fans to be patient as we gear up for the best weekend in the Tri-Cities.”

◆ The San Diego Bayfair organization has received funding and tickets are now on sale for a race on Mission Bay on

September 17 to 19.

That leaves the Seattle race as the only contest to be canceled this season. The organizers of Seattle’s Seafair Festival not only canceled this year’s hydroplane race, but also most of its other events scheduled this summer.

In preparation for the 2021 H1 Unlimited Racing Series, we’ve assembled the following background about the drivers who may appear during the 2021 campaign and the boats they will drive. We hope it will help you be an informed race fan during the coming year.

# THE 2021 HYDRO FLEET:

## U-1 Miss HomeStreet



Lon Erickson

**Owner:** City of Madison, Ind.  
**Driver:** Jeff Bernard  
**Race Team:** Miss Madison Racing  
**Boat Shops:** Madison, Ind., and Tukwila, Wash.  
**Built:** 2007 (Hull #0706)  
**Builder:** Miss Madison Racing Team  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine  
**Previous Boat Names:** *Oh Boy!* *Oberto* (2007-13), *Oberto* (2014-15), *Miss HomeStreet* (2016-18), *Oberto Super Salami* (2019).  
**Previous Drivers:** Steve David (2007-13), Jimmy Shane (2014-18), and Jeff Bernard (2019).  
**Race Victories:** 23 (including 2014, 2015, and 2017 Gold Cups)  
**National Titles:** 8 (2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017)

## U-1 Miss HomeStreet

**Owner:** City of Madison, Ind.  
**Driver:** Jimmy Shane  
**Race Team:** Miss Madison Racing  
**Boat Shops:** Madison, Ind., and Tukwila, Wash.  
**Built:** 2018 (Hull #1801)  
**Builder:** Miss Madison Racing Team  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine



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**Previous Boat Names:** *Miss HomeStreet* (2018-19)  
**Previous Drivers:** Jimmy Shane (2018-19)  
**Race Victories:** 2 (including 2019 Gold Cup)  
**National Titles:** 1 (2019)

## U-3 Griggs Ace Hardware



H1 Unlimited

**Owner:** Ed Cooper  
**Driver:** Jimmy King  
**Race Team:** Go3 Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Evansville, Ind.  
**Built:** 2002 (Hull #0203)  
**Builder:** Rick Bowles and Dale Van Wieringen  
**Power:** Turbocharged V-12 Allison  
**Previous Boat Names:** *Vacationville.com* (2002-04), *Master Tire* (2003-09), *Toyota of Kirkland* (2003, 2005), *Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep* (2003), *Llumar Window Film* (2003), *Miss Chrysler Jeep* (2005-09), *U-3* (2005, 2010), *Conover Insurance* (2006), *Acura*

of Seattle (2006), *Hoss Mortgage Investors II* (2007), *Hoss Mortgage Investors Too* (2008), *Hoss Mortgage Investors* (2008), *Grand View on the Lake* (2009), *Griggs Ace Hardware* (2015-19), *Miss Home-Street Bank* (2015), *Miss DiJulio* (2016), and *Roostertail* (2018).

**Previous Drivers:** Mitch Evans (2002-04) and Jimmy King (2005-10, 2015-19).

**Race Victories:** 3 (including 2003 Gold Cup)

**National Titles:** None

## U-7 Spirit of Detroit



Chris Denslow

**Owner:** Dave Bartush

**Driver:** Bert Henderson

**Race Team:** Detroit Unlimited

**Boat Shop:** Detroit

**Built:** 1996 (Hull #9601, T-5), Rebuilt in 1997

(Redesignated Hull #9712)

**Builder:** Hydroplanes, Inc.

**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Miss Budweiser* (1996-2004), *Formula II* (2006-08), *Graham Trucking* (2009-11, 2016), *Air Guard* (2010), *Graham Trucking II* (2014-16), *Spirit of Detroit* (2017-19), *Spirit of Detroit/Boitano Homes* (2019), and *Spirit of Detroit presented by Boitano Homes* (2019).

**Previous Drivers:** Mark Evans (1996), Dave Villwock (1997-2004), Mike Allen (2006-08), Jeff Bernard (2007, 2011, 2016, 2018), J. Michael Kelly (2009-10, 2016), Cal Phipps (2014), Jesse Robertson (2015), and Bert Henderson (2017-19)

**Race Victories:** 24 (including 2000 Gold Cup)

**National Titles:** 5 (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2006).

## U-8 Miss Tri-Cities



Chris Denslow

**Owner:** Vanessa and Darrell Strong

**Driver:** J. Michael Kelly

**Race Team:** Strong Racing

**Boat Shop:** Auburn, Wash.

**Built:** 2014 (Hull #1496)

**Builder:** Ron Jones, Jr. and Mike Hanson

**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Qatar* (2014), *Ellstrom E-Lam Plus* (2015), and *Oh Boy! Oberto* (2016-17).

**Previous Drivers:** Kip Brown (2014), Jean Theoret (2014-16), and J.W. Myers (2017).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None

## U-9 Pinnacle Peak Consultants



Chris Denslow

**Owner:** Vanessa and Darrell Strong

**Driver:** Corey Peabody

**Race Team:** Strong Racing

**Boat Shop:** Auburn, Wash.

**Built:** 1992 (Hull #92102)

**Builder:** Ron Jones, Jr.

**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Coors Dry* (1992), *Miss Circus Circus* (1993), *Miss Exide 2* (1994, 1996), *Miss Cost Less Carpets* (1998), *Miss Sammamish Lake Watch* (1998), *Jones Racing* (2000), *Miss WABX* (2001-03), *Carpenter Communications* (2000), *Miss Go Bowling* (2000), *Sun Harbor Mortgage* (2000-03), *Miss Bello's Pizza* (2001-03, 2012), *Tubby's Grilled Submarines* (2001-02), *Fiesta Bowl & Casino* (2001), *Skyway Park Bowl & Casino* (2001-03), *Miss Jack-Sons Sports Bar* (2002), *Al Deeby Dodge* (2003), *Jack-Son's Kennewick* (2006), *Miss Car Pros Kia* (2006), *Conover Insurance* (2007), *Miss Tri Arc Electric* (2007), *U-9* (2009, 2012-13), *Oh Boy! Oberto* (2011), *Miss VisitTriCities.com* (2011), *Corporate Fleet Services* (2012), *Miss Sound Propeller Services* (2012), *Red Dot* (2013), *Qatar* (2014), *Les Schwab/Red Dot* (2014-15), *Red Dot/811 Call B4 You Dig* (2015), *Call 811/Les Schwab/Red Dot* (2015), *Bello's Realtrac Performance* (2016), *Les Schwab* (2016), *Delta Research/Realtrac* (2016), *Delta Realtrac* (2017-19), *Les Schwab Tires* (2017-18), and *Auxier Marketing presents Delta Realtrac* (2019).

**Previous Drivers:** Dave Villwock (1992-93), Jimmy King (1994), Mark Weber (1996), Mike Jones (1996), Lindsey (1998), Mike Hanson (2000-03), Chris Bertram (2006-07), David Williams (2009), Jon Zimmerman (2011-14), Scott Liddycoat (2015), and Andrew Tate (2016-19).

**Race Victories:** 12 (including 2001 and 2018 Gold Cups)

**National Titles:** 1 (2018)

## U-10 Spirit of Detroit II



**Owner:** Dave Bartush  
**Driver:** Patrick Haworth  
**Race Team:** Detroit Unlimited  
**Boat Shop:** Detroit  
**Built:** 1989 (Hull #8901, T-3) Rebuilt in 1995

(Redesignated Hull #9501)

**Builder:** Hydroplanes, Inc.  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Miss Budweiser* (1989-2000), *EMCOR* (2006), *Al Deeby Dodge* (2006), *Solutions Plus* (2006), *Todd Hoss presents Fairweather Masonry* (2006), *Designer Glass and Shower* (2006), *Ahern Rentals* (2007-08), *Hoss Mortgage Investors* (2007-08), *Miss Dover Environmental* (2008), and *Degree Men* (2012).

**Previous Drivers:** Jim Kropfeld (1989), Tom D'Eath (1989-91), Scott Pierce (1991), Chip Hanauer (1992-96), Mike Hanson (1994), Mark Evans (1995-97), Dave Villwock (1997-2000), Nate Brown (2006), J.W. Myers (2006), David Bryant (2007-08), and Scott Liddycoat (2012).

**Race Victories:** 33 (including 1989, 1992, 1995, 1997, and 1998 Gold Cups)

**National Titles:** 6 (1989, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1998)

## U-11 J&D's



**Owner:** Shannon and Scott Raney  
**Driver:** Jamie Nilsen  
**Race Team:** Unlimited Racing Group  
**Boat Shop:** Cle Elum, Wash.  
**Built:** 1994 (Hull #9401, T-4)  
**Builder:** Hydroplanes, Inc.  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine  
**Previous Boat Names:** *Miss Budweiser* (1994-95), *Llumar*

*Window Film* (2003), *Llumar* (2004-05), *Miss Seattle* (2006), *Miss Beacon Plumbing* (2006-08), *Miss Bello's Pizza* (2009), *Miss DYC* (2009), *Hoss Mortgage Investors* (2009), *Renton Coil Springs* (2009), *Miss Peters & May* (2009-10), and *Peters & May* (2013-16).

**Previous Drivers:** Chip Hanauer (1994-95), Mike Hanson (1994), Mark Evans (1995, 2003), Nate Brown (2003), J.W. Myers (2004, 2009-10), Jean Theoret (2005-09), and Tom Thompson (2013-16).

**Race Victories:** 7 (including 2006 Gold Cup)

**National Titles:** None

## U-11 J&D's



**Owner:** Shannon and Scott Raney

**Driver:** Jamie Nilsen

**Race Team:** Unlimited Racing Group

**Boat Shop:** Cle Elum, Wash.

**Built:** 1993 (Hull #9302) Rebuilt in 2009

(Redesignated Hull #0925)

**Builder:** Dale Van Wieringen

**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Miss T-Plus* (1993-95), *Miss D.O.C./Acuvue* (1996), *Harvey Motorsports* (1996), *ARC Construction* (1996-99), *Trendwest Resorts* (1996), *KISS 106/Trendwest* (1996), *Molson's Jack Hammer* (1996), *The Dole Cannery* (1996), *Miss Detroit Ford Dealers* (1997), *PrimeStar* (1997), *Gargoyles* (1997), *Pit Stop* (1997), *U-2* (1997-99), *Déjà vu* (1997-98), *Miss Chrysler Jeep* (1998-2001, 2004), *Miss Molson* (1998), *Freddie's Club* (1998-2000), *Gaylord's* (1998), *Trendwest* (2001-02), *Miss APBA* (2004), *Graham Trucking* (2004), *Graham Trucking/Sinbad's Roostertail* (2004), *Superior Racing* (2007), *Jarvis Construction* (2007), *Procraft Windows* (2008), *Buffalo Federal Savings Bank* (2009), *Mister Home Loan* (2009), *U-25* (2009-10), *Boylard Nissan* (2010), *Miss Car Pros* (2010), *Peters & May* (2010-12), *Miss J&D's* (2017), *Miss DiJulio presents J&D's* (2017), *Reliable Diamond Tool presents J&D's* (2017-18), and *J&D's presented by Reliable Diamond Tool* (2019).

**Previous Drivers:** Steve David (1993-99), Mark Tate (1999-2000, 2004), Scott Pierce (2001), Greg Hopp (2004, 2007), J.

Michael Kelly (2004), Ken Muscatel (2007-10), Jon Zimmerman (2010), J.W. Myers (2011-12), Tom Thompson (2012-18), and Jamie Nilsen (2019).

**Race Victories:** 2

**National Titles:** None

## U-12 Graham Trucking



Chris Denslow

**Owner:** Rob Graham  
**Driver:** Andrew Tate  
**Race Team:** Graham Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Milton, Wash.  
**Built:** 2001 (Hull #0001, T-6)  
**Builder:** Hydroplanes, Inc.  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine  
**Previous Boat Names:** *Miss Budweiser* (2000-04), *Formula* (2006-10), *Valken.com* (2011), and *Graham Trucking* (2012-19).

**Previous Drivers:** Dave Villwock (2000-04), Mike Weber (2006), Mike Allen (2006), Jeff Bernard (2006-10), Scott Liddycoat (2011), Jimmy Shane (2012-13), and J. Michael Kelly (2014-19).

**Race Victories:** 27 (including 2003 and 2016 Gold Cups)  
**National Titles:** 3 (2003, 2004, and 2013)

## U-21 Go Fast Turn Left Racing



Chris Denslow

**Owner:** Greg and Brian O'Farrell  
**Driver:** Brian Perkins  
**Race Team:** Go Fast Turn Left Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Maple Valley, Wash.  
**Built:** 2019 (Hull #1999)  
**Builder:** Go Fast Turn Left Racing Team  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine  
**Previous Boat Names:** *Darrell Strong presents PayneWest Insurance* (2019), and *CARSTAR powers Miss Rock* (2019)

**Previous Drivers:** Brian Perkins (2019)

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None

## U-27 Wiggins Racing

**Owner:** Milt Wiggins  
**Driver:** Cal Phipps



Chris Denslow

**Race Team:** Wiggins Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Gadsden, Ala.  
**Built:** 2007 (Hull #0717)  
**Builder:** Nate Brown  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Red Dot* (2007, 2010-12), *Our Gang Racing* (2008, 2014), *U-17* (2009), *West Pasco Family Dental* (2009), *USNW Express* (2009), *Seal Shield* (2009), *O'Brien Law* (2010), *Qatar* (2013), *Fox Plumbing and Heating* (2014), *Dalton Industries* (2015-16), *Wiggins Racing* (2017), *Chase Building Group* (2018), and *Oberto* (2018).

**Previous Drivers:** Nate Brown (2007, 2009-10, 2012), Kip Brown (2008-13), Cal Phipps (2011, 2015-16, 2018), Jeff Bernard (2014), and J.W. Myers (2017).

**Race Victories:** 1 (2013 Gold Cup)

**National Titles:** None

## U-40 Miss Beacon Plumbing



Chris Denslow

**Owner:** Sharon and Kelly Stocklin  
**Driver:** Dave Villwock  
**Race Team:** Bucket List Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Snohomish, Wash.  
**Built:** 2007 (Hull #0721)  
**Builder:** Ron Jones, Jr.  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *Meyer's Auto Tech* (2007), *The Plumbing Joint* (2007), *All Access Rentals* (2007, 2015), *Albert Lee Appliance* (2010-13, 2015-17), *Go Fast Turn Left Racing* (2010, 2014), *Lakeridge Paving* (2011, 2014), *TapouT* (2011), *Miss HAPO* (2012), *Snoqualmie Casino* (2012-13), *Miss Al Deeby Dodge* (2014-15), *Fasteners* (2015), *PayneWest Insurance* (2016-17), *Miss Al Deeby* (2016), *All Access Equipment* (2016) and *Darrell Strong presents PayneWest Insurance* (2018).

**Previous Drivers:** Brian Perkins (2007, 2010-13, 2015-18), and Jamie Nilsen (2013-14)

**Race Victories:** None  
**National Titles:** None

## U-98 Graham Trucking American Dream



Lon Erickson

**Owner:** Rob Graham  
**Driver:** TBA  
**Race Team:** Graham Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Milton, Wash.  
**Built:** 1998 (Hull #9899)  
**Builder:** Fred Leland  
**Power:** Lycoming T-55/L-7 turbine

**Previous Boat Names:** *U-99* (1998), *Miss Bell Forklift* (1998), *United Furniture Warehouse* (1998), *PICO American Dream* (1998), *Miss PICO* (1999), *Znetix* (2001), *Miss U.S.* (2002), *Miss Chrysler Jeep* (2002), *Miss Raben Tire* (2003), *Mariann Travel Inn* (2003), *ReMax* (2005), *Demaree Automotive Group* (2005), *Miss Rebecca* (2005), *Miss Beacon Plumbing* (2005), *Lady Lexus* (2005), *Mirageboats* (2008-09), *U-100* (2009-10, 2012-13), *Miss Jarvis Paintin'* (2009), *Jerry's Tavern* (2009), *Jarvis Property Restoration* (2010), *Fleury Auto & Truck Parts* (2010), *Miss Lay's Kettle Cooked* (2010), *HAPO Summer* (2011), *Leland Unlimited* (2011, 2015), *Xtreme Precision Products* (2012), *Fifth Third Bank* (2012), *Fox Plumbing & Heating* (2012), *Sahara Pizza* (2013-14), *Central Coast Airbrush* (2013), *Tony Roma's* (2014), *Miss CARSTAR* (2015), *Dooley's/Miss CARSTAR* (2015), *CARSTAR/Miss Rock* (2016),

*CARSTAR-powered Miss Rock* (2017), *KISW Miss Rock powered by CARSTAR* (2017), *CARSTAR powers Miss Rock* (2018), and *Graham Trucking American Dream* (2019).

**Previous Drivers:** Rick Christensen (1998), Mark Weber (1998), Greg Hopp (1998-03, 2005, 2008-12, 2017), Mark Evans (1998), Chip Hanauer (1999), Ryan Mallow (2011-13), Dave Warren (2013-14), Kevin Eacret (2015-16), Aaron Salmon (2018), and Corey Peabody (2019).

**Race Victories:** None  
**National Titles:** None

## U-440 Bucket List Racing



Lon Erickson

**Owner:** Sharon and Kelly Stocklin  
**Driver:** Dustin Echols  
**Race Team:** Bucket List Racing  
**Boat Shop:** Snohomish, Wash.  
**Built:** 2012 (Hull #1218)  
**Builder:** Dale Van Wieringen  
**Power:** Lycoming T-53 turbine  
**Previous Boat Names:** *Bucket List* (2012), *Bucket List Racing* (2014, 2017-19), and *Snuskitush* (2015-16).  
**Previous Drivers:** Kelly Stocklin (2012, 2014-15), and Dustin Echols (2016-19).  
**Race Victories:** None  
**National Titles:** None

# THE 2021 DRIVERS:

## JEFF BERNARD

**Hometown:** Kent, Wash.

**Age:** 36

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9399:

*Lakeridge Paving* (2005) ... Hull #9610: *Lakeridge Paving* (2006) ... Hull #0001: *Formula* (2006-10) ... Hull #9712: *Formula II* (2007), *Graham Trucking* (2011), *Graham Trucking II* (2016), *Spirit of Detroit* (2018) ... Hull #0717: *Red Dot* (2012), *Our Gang* (2014), *Fox Plumbing and Heating* (2014) ... Hull #9010: *Graham Trucking II* (2016) ... Hull #0706: *Oberto Super Salami* (2019).



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**Race Victories:** 3 ... 2008 Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 2008 San Diego Thunderboat Regatta, San Diego; and 2009 Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.

**National Titles:** None

## DUSTIN ECHOLS

**Hometown:** Monroe, Wash.

**Age:** 41

**Boats Driven:** Hull #1218:

*Snuskitush* (2016), *Bucket List Racing* (2017-19).

**Race Victories:** None  
**National Titles:** None



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## PATRICK HAWORTH

**Hometown:** Valleyfield, Quebec

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9712: *Spirit of Detroit presented by Boitano Homes* (2019).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



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## BERT HENDERSON

**Hometown:** Brockville, Ontario

**Age:** 49

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9712: *Spirit of Detroit* (2017-19), *Spirit of Detroit/Boitano Homes* (2019), and *Spirit of Detroit presented by Boitano Homes* (2019).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



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## J. MICHAEL KELLY

**Hometown:** Bonney Lake, Wash.

**Age:** 42

**Boats Driven:** Hull #0302: *Miss APBA* (2004), *Graham Trucking* (2004-05), *Graham Trucking/Sinbad's Roostertail* (2004), ... *Dick Scott Automotive Group* (2005) ... Hull #8700: *Acura of Bellevue* (2006), *Spirit of Detroit* (2007), *Car Pros* (2007), *Graham Trucking* (2008), *Miss DYC* (2008) ... Hull #9712: *Graham Trucking* (2008, 2016), *Air Guard* (2010) ... Hull #1188: *Degree Men* (2011), *Miss Beacon Plumbing* (2012-13), *Performance Chevrolet* (2013) ... Hull #0001: *Graham Trucking* (2014-19).

**Race Victories:** 11 ... 2009 Oryx Cup UIM World Championship, Doha, Qatar; 2014 Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 2014 Albert Lee Appliance Seafair Cup, Seattle; 2014 San Diego Bayfair, San Diego; 2014 Oryx Cup UIM World Championship, Doha, Qatar; 2015 Albert Lee Appliance Seafair Cup, Seattle; 2016 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2017 HAPO Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2019 HAPO Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2019 HomeStreet Bank Cup, Seattle; and 2019 HomeStreet Bank Bayfair, San Diego.

**National Titles:** None



Strong Racing

## JIMMY KING

**Hometown:** Memphis, Mich.

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9210: *Miss Exide 2* (1994) ... Hull #9299: *Miss Wellness Plan* (1995), *Miss Jennifer* (1996), *Empire Contractors* (2004) ...



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Hull #8808: *Lynnwood Honda* (1996), *Pflueger Honda/KPOI Radio* (1996), *LLumar Window Film* (1999-02) ... Hull #8401: *Carpenter/Miss Exide* (1996), *Miss Exide* (1997) ... Hull #9516: *Miss E-Lam Plus* (1998-99) ... Hull #0203: *Master Tire* (2005-09), *Miss Chrysler Jeep* (2005-09), *U-3* (2005), *Toyota of Kirkland* (2005), *Conover Insurance* (2006), *Acura of Seattle* (2006), *Hoss Mortgage Investors* (2007-08), *Hoss Mortgage Investors Too* (2008), *Grand View on the Lake* (2009), *U-3* (2010), *Griggs Ace Hardware* (2015-19), *Miss HomeStreet Bank* (2015), *Miss DiJulio* (2016), *Roostertail* (2018).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None

## J.W. MYERS

**Hometown:** Kenmore, Wash.

**Age:** 48

**Boats Driven:** Hull #0010: *Tony Roma's* (2003), *Miss Nicole Marie Yacht Charters* (2003), *Miss Epoch Events* (2003), *Von's presents American Pride* (2003), *Miss Peters & May* (2010) ... Hull #9401: *LLumar* (2004), *Miss DYC* (2009), *Hoss Mortgage Investors* (2009), *Miss Peters & May* (2010) ... Hull #0116: *Ellstrom* (2005) ... Hull #9501: *Al Deeby Dodge* (2006), *Solutions Plus* (2006), *Todd Hoss presents Fairweather Masonry* (2006), *Designer Glass and Shower* (2006) ... Hull #0925: *Peters & May* (2011-12) ... Hull #0717: *Wiggins Racing* (2017) ... Hull #1496: *Oh Boy! Oberto* (2017).

**Race Victories:** 1 (2005 Belterra Casino & Resort Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.)

**National Titles:** 0



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## JAMIE NILSEN

**Hometown:** Fife, Wash.

**Age:** 36

**Boats Driven:** Hull #0721: *Albert Lee* (2013), *Go Fast Turn Left Racing* (2014), *Miss Al Deeby Dodge* (2014), and *Lakeridge Paving* (2014) ... Hull #9610: *Snoqualmie Casino* (2013) ... Hull #0925: *J&D's presented by Reliable Diamond Tool* (2019).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



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## COREY PEABODY

**Hometown:** Kent, Wash.

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9210: *Spirit of Detroit* (2016) ... Hull #9899: *Graham Trucking American Dream* (2019).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



Robert F. Peters

## BRIAN PERKINS

**Hometown:** North Bend, Wash.

**Boats Driven:** Hull #0721:

*Meyer's Auto Tech* (2007), *The Plumbing Joint* (2007), *All Access Rentals* (2007), *Albert Lee Appliance* (2010-13), *Go Fast Turn Left Racing* (2010), *Lakeridge Paving* (2011), *Tapout* (2011), *Miss HAPO* (2012), *Snoqualmie Casino* (2012-13), *Fasteners* (2015), *Albert Lee Appliance* (2015-17), *Al Deeby Dodge* (2015), *All Access Rentals* (2015), *PayneWest Insurance* (2016-17), *Miss Al Deeby* (2016), *All Access Equipment* (2016), *Darrell Strong presents PayneWest Insurance* (2018) ... Hull #9399: *Spirit of the Navy* (2008), *Albert Lee Appliances* (2008), *Whirlpool* (2009) ... Hull #9610: *Albert Lee Appliance* (2009) ... Hull #1999: *Darrell Strong presents PayneWest Insurance* (2019) and *CARSTAR powers Miss Rock* (2019).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



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2013 Albert Lee Appliance Cup, Seattle; 2013 Diamond Cup, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; 2013 San Diego Bayfair, San Diego; 2014 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2014 HAPO Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2015 HAPO Gold Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2015 UAW/GM Spirit of Detroit Hydrofest, Detroit; 2015 San Diego Bayfair, San Diego; 2016 Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 2016 HAPO Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2016 HomeStreet Bank San Diego Bayfair, San Diego; 2017 Albert Lee Appliance Seafair Cup, Seattle; 2017 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2018 Midwest Tube Mills Madison Regatta, Madison, Ind.; 2019 Guntersville Lake Hydrofest, Guntersville, Ala.; and 2019 APBA Gold Cup, Madison, Ind.

**National Titles:** 6 (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019)



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## CAL PHIPPS

**Hometown:** Avon Lake, Ohio

**Boats Driven:** Hull #8700:

*Miss DYC* (2010), *Miss Jillian's* (2010), *Alternative Automotive Technologies* (2010), *Tubby's* (2012) ... Hull #0717: *Red Dot* (2011), *Dalton Industries* (2015-16), *Chase Building Group* (2018), *Oberto* (2018) ... Hull #9712: *Graham Trucking II* (2014).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



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## ANDREW TATE

**Hometown:** Canton, Mich.

**Age:** 31

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9210:

*Bello's Realtrac Performance* (2016), *Les Schwab* (2016), *Delta Research/Realtrac* (2016), *Delta Realtrac* (2017-19), *Les Schwab Tires* (2017-18), and *Auxier Marketing presents Delta Realtrac* (2019).

**Race Victories:** 8 (2016 Albert Lee Appliance Seafair Cup, Seattle; 2017 President's Cup, Detroit; 2017 HomeStreet Bank Bayfair, San Diego; 2018 Guntersville Lake Hydrofest, Guntersville, Ala.; 2018 HAPO Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2018 Albert Lee Appliance Seafair Cup, Seattle; 2018 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; and 2018 HomeStreet Bank Bayfair, San Diego)

**National Titles:** 1 (2018)



H1 Unlimited

## AARON SALMON

**Hometown:** Bonney Lake, Wash.

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9899:

*CARSTAR powers Miss Rock* (2018).

**Race Victories:** None

**National Titles:** None



H1 Unlimited

## DAVE VILLWOCK

**Hometown:** Monroe, Wash.

**Age:** 67

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9031: *Miss*

*Circus Circus* (1990) ... Hull #92102: *Coors Dry* (1992), and *Miss Circus Circus* (1993) ... Hull #8401: *Miss Circus Circus* (1993) ... Hull #9399: *American Dream* (1994), *U-100* (1994), and *PICO American Dream* (1995-96) ... Hull #9610: *PICO American Dream* (1996) ... Hull #9501: *Miss Budweiser* (1997-2000) ... Hull #9712: *Miss Budweiser* (1997-2004) ... Hull #0001: *Miss Budweiser* (2000-04) ... Hull #0116: *Ellstrom* (2005-09), *Amos W. Hoss* (2008), and *Spirit of Qatar* (2010-12) ... Hull #1188: *Cost Less Carpets* (2014), *Miss Beacon Plumbing* (2014), and *Miss Seattle* (2014).

**Race Victories:** 67 ... 1992 Budweiser Cup, San Diego; 1994 Texaco Cup, Seattle; 1994 Bayfair, San Diego; 1996 Gila River



Bucket List Racing

## JIMMY SHANE:

**Hometown:** Covington, Wash.

**Age:** 35

**Boats Driven:** Hull #9299: *Formula II* (2007) ... Hull #9010:

*Formula II* (2008, 2010), *Formula* (2011) ... Hull #0001: *Graham Trucking* (2012-13) ... Hull #0706: *Oberto* (2014-15), *Miss HomeStreet Bank* (2016), *Miss HomeStreet* (2017-18) ... Hull #1801: *Miss HomeStreet* (2018-19).

**Race Victories:** 19 ... 2012 Lamb Weston Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities, Wash.; 2012 Oryx Cup UIM World Championship, Doha, Qatar; 2013 Oryx Cup UIM World Championship, Doha, Qatar;

Casino Unlimited Regatta, Phoenix; 1996 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 1996 Pontiac Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, IN; 1996 Budweiser Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 1996 Texaco Cup, Seattle; 1996 Canadian Cup, Kelowna, BC; 1997 Chrysler Jeep APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 1997 Pontiac Thunder On The Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 1997 Budweiser Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 1997 Virginia is for Lovers Cup, Norfolk, Va.; 1998 Pontiac Grand Am Thunder, Evansville, Ind.; 1998 Chrysler Jeep APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 1998 Virginia is for Lovers Cup, Norfolk, Va.; 1998 Budweiser Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 1998 Texaco Cup, Seattle; 1998 Budweiser Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 1998 Bayfair Bill Muncey Cup, San Diego; 1998 Las Vegas Cup, Las Vegas; 1999 Budweiser Thunderfest at Barrie, Barrie, Ont.; 1999 Budweiser Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 1999 Virginia is for Lovers Cup, Norfolk, Va.; 1999 Budweiser Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 1999 General Motors Cup, Seattle; 1999 Budweiser Thunderfest, Kelowna, BC; 1999 Bayfair Bill Muncey Cup, San Diego; 1999 JN Chevrolet Hydrofest, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; 2000 Mojave Unlimited Hydrofest, Lake Havasu City, Az.; 2000 Budweiser Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 2000 Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 2000 Chrysler Jeep APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2000 General Motors Cup, Seattle; 2000 Bayfair Bill Muncey Cup, San Diego; 2001 Budweiser Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 2002 Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville,

Ind.; 2002 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2002 General Motors Cup, Seattle; 2003 Budweiser Madison Regatta, Madison, Ind.; 2003 General Motors Cup, Seattle; 2004 Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 2004 UIM World Championship, Madison, Ind.; 2004 Budweiser Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 2004 General Motors Cup, Seattle; 2004 Washington Mutual Bill Muncey Cup, San Diego; 2005 Budweiser Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 2005 Thunderboat Regatta, San Diego; 2006 Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 2006 Madison Regatta, Madison, Ind.; 2006 Atomic Cup, Tri-Cities; 2007 Thunder on the Ohio, Evansville, Ind.; 2007 Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 2007 Chrysler Jeep APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2007 Lamb Weston Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 2008 Chevrolet Cup, Seattle; 2009 Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; 2009 Chrysler Jeep APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2009 Chevrolet Cup, Seattle; 2010 Jarvis Restoration APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2010 Air National Guard Championship, San Diego; 2010 Oryx Cup UIM World Championship, Doha, Qatar; 2011 APBA Gold Cup, Detroit; 2011 Lamb Weston Columbia Cup, Tri-Cities; 2011 Air National Guard Championship, San Diego; 2012 Lucas Oil Indiana Governor's Cup, Madison, Ind.; and 2012 NYC presents APBA Gold Cup, Detroit.

**National Titles:** 10 (1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, and 2011)

# STANDING COURSE RECORDS:

## GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA:

2.5-mile course:	SPEED	DRIVER	BOAT	YEAR
Qualifying.....	162.422 mph	Jimmy Shane	Miss HomeStreet	2019
Competition lap.....	164.431 mph	Jimmy Shane	Miss HomeStreet	2019
7.5-mile heat (3 laps).....	159.311 mph	Jimmy Shane	Miss HomeStreet	2019
12.5-mile heat (5 laps).....	152.004 mph	Andrew Tate	Delta Realtrac	2018
15-mile heat (6 laps).....	106.719 mph	Ron Musson	Miss Bardahl	1964
Race avg. (45 miles).....	147.880 mph	Andrew Tate	Delta Realtrac	2018

## MADISON, INDIANA:

2.5 mile course:	SPEED	DRIVER	BOAT	YEAR
Qualifying.....	166.852 mph	Chip Hanauer	Miss Budweiser	1993
Competition lap.....	152.954 mph	Nate Brown	Tide	1994
7.5-mile heat (3 laps).....	151.578 mph	Dave Villwock	Ellstrom	2009
12.5-mile heat (5 laps).....	145.573 mph	Mark Tate	Smokin' Joe's	1996
Race avg. (35 miles).....	147.501 mph	Dave Villwock	Ellstrom	2007

## TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON:

2.5 mile course:	SPEED	DRIVER	BOAT	YEAR
Qualifying.....	170.471 mph	Dave Villwock	Miss Budweiser	1999
Qualifying (5-lap avg.).....	160.212 mph	Jean Theoret	Ellstrom E-Lam Plus	2015
Competition lap.....	162.666 mph	Dave Villwock	Spirit of Qatar	2011
7.5-mile heat (3 laps).....	156.957 mph	Chip Hanauer	Miss Budweiser	1994
10-mile heat (4 laps).....	151.412 mph	Andrew Tate	Les Schwab Tires	2017
12.5-mile heat (5 laps).....	150.422 mph	Dave Villwock	Spirit of Qatar	2011

## TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON (Con't):

2.5-mile course:	SPEED	DRIVER	BOAT	YEAR
Race avg. (35 miles)	152.157 mph	Chip Hanauer	Miss Budweiser	1994
Race avg. (42.5 miles)	146.610 mph	Dave Villwock	Spirit of Qatar	2011
Race avg. (47.5 miles)	146.280 mph	J. Michael Kelly	Graham Trucking	2016
Race avg. (52.5 miles)	144.911 mph	Jimmy Shane	Miss HomeStreet	2017

## SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

2.5-mile course:	SPEED	DRIVER	BOAT	YEAR
Qualifying	173.384 mph	Dave Villwock	Miss Budweiser	1999
Competition lap	164.919 mph	Mark Tate	Winston Eagle	1993
7.5-mile heat (3 laps)	161.712 mph	Mark Tate	Winston Eagle	1993
12.5-mile heat (5 laps)	153.550 mph	Dave Villwock	Spirit of Qatar	2010
Race avg. (35 miles)	152.631 mph	Dave Villwock	Spirit of Qatar	2010

# STANDING SPEED RECORDS:

## ALL-TIME SPEED RECORDS:

	SPEED	DRIVER	BOAT	LOCATION	YEAR
Qualifying	173.384 mph	Dave Villwock	Miss Budweiser	San Diego	1999
Competition Lap	166.221 mph	Steve David	Miss T-Plus	Pearl Harbor, HI	1992
Heat Avg.	161.712 mph	Mark Tate	Winston Eagle	San Diego	1993
Race Avg.	156.830 mph	Mark Tate	Close Call	Pearl Harbor, HI	1997

## SPEED RECORDS ON A 2.5-MILE COURSE:

Qualifying	173.384 mph	Dave Villwock	Miss Budweiser	San Diego	1999
Competition Lap	166.221 mph	Steve David	Miss T-Plus	Pearl Harbor, HI	1992
Heat Avg. (3 Laps)	161.712 mph	Mark Tate	Winston Eagle	San Diego	1993
Heat Avg. (5 Laps)	154.260 mph	Mark Tate	Close Call	Pearl Harbor, HI	1997
Race Avg.	156.830 mph	Mark Tate	Close Call	Pearl Harbor, HI	1997

# 2021 H1 Unlimited Racing Series

**June 26-27 ..... Guntersville, Alabama ..... Guntersville Lake Hydrofest**

**July 2-4 ..... Madison, Indiana ..... APBA Gold Cup**

**July 23-25 ..... Tri-Cities, Washington ..... HAPO Columbia Cup**

**September 17-19 ..... San Diego, California ..... HomeStreet Bank Bayfair**

## THE SWAMI SEZ:

# 2021: It's time to return.

BY BRIAN ANDERSON

*After an entire year wiped out due to Covid, the Unlimiteds return to the water for the first time since 2019. The owners, drivers, and fans are eager to get the season underway and, even though it will be only a four-race season, a ton of action should be packed into the shortened schedule.*

*Of the five races held in 2019, the only one that is not going to make it back on the schedule will be Seattle. As was the case in 2019, the season will begin in Guntersville, Alabama, with the Southern Cup in June and it will wind up in San Diego in September. Madison will be held on the traditional Fourth of July weekend and Tri-Cities will host its race in late July.*

All of this is great news to the fans who have been missing their events and are anxious to return to the races. By far the biggest headline-grabbing news from this off season is the formation of a new team headed by owner Darrell Strong. Strong, who has been active in recent years of sponsoring Greg O'Farrell's U-21, jumped in big time by purchasing the U-9 from Mike Jones and the U-16 from Erick Ellstrom, a hull that last ran as *Oberto* in 2016.

The former Ellstrom boat will be driven by J Michael Kelly and will carry the number U-8, which will make this team the front runner immediately. Early news reports the boat as being named *Miss Tri-Cities* to promote tourism to that area of Washington state. The U-9 craft will be piloted by Corey Peabody, will keep its U-9 number, and will sport a silver/black/red paint scheme. Pinnacle Peak Consultants signed on to sponsor.

Other big news has to be the return of Dave Villwock, the sports all-time winningest driver. With 67 career wins, Villwock has signed on with Sharon and Kelly Stocklin's Bucket List Racing and will drive their new hull, which was acquired last year from Greg O'Farrell. The hull will sport a primarily orange paint scheme with black and yellow trim and will be sponsored by Beacon Plumb-



ing of Seattle. This hull, combined with Villwock's talent in boat setup and propeller knowledge, will make this team a contender right from race one.

From out of the Detroit area, Dave Bartush's team is rumored to be preparing two hulls: the U-7, which raced in 2019, returns with Bert Henderson driving, and the U-10, which will be piloted by Patrick Haworth. Both drivers live

in Canada, though, which means that if they go to a race, they'll have to meet Covid quarantine requirements in order to return home.

Shannon and Scott Raney's Unlimited Racing Group returns again with the U-11 with expected sponsorship from J&Ds. They are expected to campaign the former T-4 *Budweiser*, a craft that they last raced in 2016 as *Peters & May*.

Ed Cooper has been preparing the turbo-Allison-powered U-3, but no plans for participation have been announced. An appearance at Tri-Cities as a minimum would be a safe bet.

In news that left fans wondering why, the Madison team will use their back-up hull this year and will use two drivers during the first two races of the season. Jimmy Shane and Jeff Bernard will share duties in the *Miss HomeStreet* entry.

With just a four-race season to work with, the team that comes out on top needs to be fast and consistent from Heat 1A in Guntersville to the final at San Diego. A broken propeller or a racing mishap early on will take any team right out of contention.

Gone are the days of a 10-race schedule where you could recover from a bad race. This form of racing leaves no margin for error and, as always, the



Chris Denslow

The Swami's favorite for 2021 is the U-8 *Miss Tri-Cities*, driven by J. Michael Kelly

fans can never get enough and really deserve more. And, with any luck, once this Covid stuff completely disappears, the sport can rebuild itself and maybe those 10-race seasons will return.

The Swami, as always, predicts the season.

## A shootout between these top two:

### 1) U-8 *Miss Tri-Cities*

**DRIVER:** J Michael Kelly, 11 career wins

**OWNER:** Vanessa and Darrell Strong, no career wins

**HOME:** Auburn, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** The *Miss Tri-Cities*, with "The Tri" boldly lettered on the deck, should come out of the starting gate strong with veteran J Michael Kelly driving. Darrell Strong's first-year team will do well with this boat. Expect top qualifying speeds, a couple of wins, and the national championship in this short season. The test session on June 4 showed us how good this team is.

### 2) U-40 *Miss Beacon Plumbing*

**DRIVER:** Dave Villwock, 67 career wins

**OWNER:** Sharon and Kelly Stocklin, no career wins

**HOME:** Snohomish, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** How can you go against

a new hull and the sport's all-time winningest driver? Combine this with the fact that they have already got some testing in, and you have a winner. Will be top qualifier at one of the races and should win two races and will battle the U-8 down to the wire in San Diego. Don't be surprised if they win it all.

## Chasing very closely

### 3) U-12 *Graham Trucking*

**DRIVER:** Andrew Tate, 9 career wins

**OWNER:** Rob Graham, 4 career wins

**HOME:** Milton, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** Tate will make this boat an instant contender. The boat is still a rocket and turned in some impressive runs in the preseason test. This combo has a legitimate shot at a victory.

### 4) U-9 *Pinnacle Peak Consultants*

**DRIVER:** Corey Peabody, no career wins

**OWNER:** Vanessa and Darrell Strong, no career wins

**HOME:** Auburn, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** With the purchase of the fast U-9 from Mike Jones, this just may be the team to beat, but with limited time for the driver to get acquainted with the boat, it just may take some time. And with only four races, time is not what any team has in great supply. But it should be fast and consistent enough to make every final heat. A victory could happen.

## A step back

### 5) U-11 *Miss J&D's*

**DRIVER:** Jamie Nilsen, no career wins.

**OWNER:** Shannon and Scott Rainey, no career wins

**HOME:** Cle Elum, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** The sheer lack of consistency over the last few years has kept this



Chris Denslow

Dave Villwock in the cockpit of the U-40 *Miss Beacon Plumbing* at the test session in early June. The Swami says it will be a threat to take it all in 2021..

team from finishing better. Perhaps the different boat will improve their luck? With the way the competition is shaping up, this team will most likely stay at mid-pack.

## 6) 440 Bucket List Racing

**DRIVER:** Dustin Echols, no career wins

**OWNER:** Sharon and Kelly Stocklin, no career wins

**HOME:** Snohomish, Wash,

**SWAMI SEZ:** The small boat in Stocklin's two-boat arsenal has had bad luck with breaking things, but this enthusiastic bunch will keep it going. Not a lot of expectations and will most likely be finished after the prelims, but with plans to attend all four races, it should have a decent point accumulation.

## 7) U-1 Miss HomeStreet

**DRIVERS:** Jimmy Shane, 19 career wins, and Jeff Bernard, 3 career wins.

**OWNER:** City of Madison, Ind., 32 career wins

**HOME:** Madison, Ind.

**SWAMI SEZ:** Will be using the back-up hull and the drivers will share duties. This team will be consistent, but not contend for the title. Should make the final heat in their appearances.

## 8) U-3 Go 3 Racing

**DRIVER:** Jimmy King, no career wins

**OWNER:** Ed Cooper, 4 career wins

**HOME:** Evansville, Ind.

**SWAMI SEZ:** Hopefully we will see this team at all four races, but nothing has been announced. Griggs Ace Hardware will likely sponsor for its appearance in Tri-Cities. The boat is still fast but a lack of attendance will keep it from finishing any higher. Will qualify well and, if it holds together, it will be in the final for every race it shows up at.

## 9) U-7 Spirit of Detroit

**DRIVER:** Bert Henderson, no career wins

**OWNER:** Dave Bartush, 1 career win

**HOME:** Detroit



Robert F. Peters

**SWAMI SEZ:** Plans uncertain but a solid contender, not flashy but should see some strong heat finishes. Will have decent qualifying speeds and should make most finals, but don't expect a victory. Participation may depend on Covid restrictions because Henderson lives in Canada and, to go home, he would have to meet quarantine requirements.

## 10) U-10 Spirit of Detroit II

**DRIVER:** Patrick Haworth, no career wins

**OWNER:** Dave Bartush, 1 career win

**HOME:** Detroit

**SWAMI SEZ:** Bartush's second boat remains a bit of a mystery but should run solid at any races it appears at. Hampering the team's involvement is the fact that Haworth has the same issue in facing a Covid quarantine as his teammate.

## Where O where?

### U-21 Go Fast, Turn Left Racing

**DRIVER:** Not named

**OWNER:** Greg O'Farrell, no career wins

**HOME:** Maple Valley, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** Plans uncertain, but would love to see them.

### U-98 Graham Trucking American Dream

**DRIVER:** Not named

**OWNER:** Rob Graham, 4 career wins

**HOME:** Milton, Wash.

**SWAMI SEZ:** Plans unknown here and, with the departure of both their drivers, their plans are uncertain at press time.

## We need you back

### U-27 Wiggins Racing

**DRIVER:** Cal Phipps, no career wins.

**OWNER:** Wiggins Racing, no career wins

**HOME:** Gadsden, Ala.

**SWAMI SEZ:** Repair work is ongoing, but don't expect to see it this year.

## Perhaps

### Last known as U-2

**OWNER:** Dave Bartush

**HOME:** Detroit

**SWAMI SEZ:** Former Trendwest hull is rebuilt and ready for hardware. Could race (eventually) with Spirit of Detroit team or more than likely will be up for sale.

### Last known as U-37

**OWNER:** Jane and Billy Schumacher, 4 career wins

**HOME:** Seattle

**SWAMI SEZ:** Did some sponsor hunting in the off season, but no deal was signed. ❖

# Surprises abound at the not-so-secret test session.

BY CHRIS TRACY

Due to the pandemic, there was no official hydroplane testing publicity, but it became fairly well-known that there would be an Unlimited test session in the Tri-Cities on Friday, June 4.

**T**he beans were then completely spilled in a surprise announcement on local TV on Thursday evening. The *Graham Trucking* team announced that they would race the entire circuit, but the real bombshell was the introduction of their new driver: Andrew Tate.

Tate said he would be piloting the *Graham Trucking* boat at Friday's test session. But, as it turns out, this was only the first of several eyebrow-raising surprises.

The boats started to gather on Thursday and by that evening, five boats were in the pits: U-8 *Miss Tri-Cities*, U-9 *Pinnacle Peak Consultants*, U-12 *Graham Trucking*, U-40 *Miss Beacon Plumbing*, and U-440 *Bucket List*. The U-11 *Miss J&D's* arrived on Friday morning.

Friday's weather was a typical summer day in Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco—90 degrees for the high and some wind expected in the afternoon. As spectators started arriving in the morning, they were surprised that one boat was not in the pits. Where was the U-1 *Miss HomeStreet Bank*? Some fans wondered why HomeStreet Bank would skip a promotional opportunity to showcase their brand at testing in an area where they have business operations.

The conspicuous absence fueled speculation. Whether fact or fiction, the rumor on the beach was that the Madison team's older hull, previously thought to be sponsored by Goodman Real Estate during the 2021 season, would likely be



Chris Denslow

Boats at the dock preparing to test on the Columbia River.

campaigned in Guntersville, Alabama, and Madison, Indiana. The defending champion boat would be readied for races in Tri-Cities and San Diego, where HomeStreet Bank has a significant business presence. But why they decided not to test either boat was a mystery.

During the testing session, Dustin Echols took *Bucket List* out, ran one lap at 124.901 mph, and returned to the pits. The team felt the gearbox was not right for that course and they were done for the day.

First out for testing was *Miss Tri-Cities* with J. Michael Kelly driving. The boat has a unique paint scheme: silver, white, and black. On tilt, it's one of the most impressive paint jobs. On the racecourse, though, fans will need to recognize the colors, since one can't read the name very easily. Look for the white on the cowling.

Kelly ran many laps throughout the

day, the fastest being 159.456 mph. That was the top speed for the day and Kelly and the boat looked like strong contenders. New owners Vanessa and Darrell Strong were likely pleased with the performance.

Andrew Tate took *Graham Trucking* out several times. The boat was all red and no sponsorship decals had been applied. I was told that it was a fairly recent decision to test and they didn't have time to detail out the signage.

It looked like the set ups they ran pretty much glued the boat down and it ran flawlessly. Tate appeared to have the smoothest boat ride of all boats. Fastest lap was 157.972 mph. Tate drove the boat with the comfort of someone who had piloted the boat for ages. This is another contender.

*Miss Beacon Plumbing* sported likely the best-designed paint job to showcase

their sponsor. It included dramatic colors and easy-to-read sponsorship branding when the boat was running.

It was clear that this team was there to test many combinations. Dave Villwock's first time out was a bumpy ride with the sponsors beating the Columbia River. Second time out, that issue was remedied. Villwock needs to requalify as a driver and the hope was that the laps would count toward his requalification. Villwock's fastest lap was a respectable 153.762 mph.

The second hull owned by the Strong family is *Pinnacle Peak Consultants*, driven by Corey Peabody. Peabody took the boat out to test several times.

The paint scheme is similar to *Miss Tri-Cities*, but there is some crimson on the boat and no white on the cowling. Like the other boat in the Strong stable, the boat looks terrific on tilt. Peabody tended to navigate a little wider track around the course compared with Kelly, Tate, and Villwock, but posted a solid fastest lap at 150.315 mph.

And, then there was another surprise. Shannon and Scott Raney's *Miss J&D's* was not the boat they raced in 2019! Instead, the boat in the pits was the T-4, last raced by that team in 2016. (T-4 is the designation used to describe the fourth turbine-powered *Miss Budweiser*.)

It sported a similar paint job to the boat they raced in 2019, but slightly different and quite attractive. Because of Covid health restrictions, the pits were closed to most people, except crew members. One crew member from another team speculated to me that the boat didn't look exactly like their old T-4 and wondered if the center section was new or had been completely rebuilt. That's another unresolved mystery for today. Unfortunately, electrical gremlins prevented the *Miss J&D's* from leaving the trailer all day.

After the testing, all eyes are looking to the first race in Guntersville, Alabama. It looks like there will be highly competitive racing in 2021. ❖



Chris Denslow



Chris Denslow



Chris Denslow

**TOP:** The event's big surprise was the announcement the night before that Andrew Tate would be the driver of *Graham Trucking*. **MIDDLE:** J. Michael Kelly drives the U-8 *Miss Tri-Cities* around the turn. **ABOVE:** The *Miss J&D's* team arrived with the former T-4 *Miss Budweiser* hull, but were not able to get the boat on the water because of electrical issues.

# COMMENTS FROM H1

Jan Shaw, Director of Operations



## Roostertails will fly again!

**T**he 2021 season is finally here and soon, for the first time since the boats were at San Diego in September 2019, race fans will once again see unlimited hydroplanes in action. We are anxious to get competition underway at Guntersville, Alabama, on June 26 and 27. That will be followed by races in Madison, Indiana, on July 2 to 4; the Tri-Cities, Washington, on July 23 to 25; and in San Diego on September 17 to 19.

The Covid pandemic that forced the cancellation of last year's entire season claimed only one race victim this summer. The event scheduled in Seattle for August 6 to 8 was canceled due to health restrictions.

We are disappointed that the boats won't be seen in Seattle this year—it would have been the 70th anniversary of city's first unlimited hydroplane race. We recognize that this was a difficult decision for Seafair to make, though, and we will be working with Seafair, the Seafair Boat Club, and their tremendous network of volunteers to get the unlimiteds back on Lake Washington in 2022.

One important step in preparing for competition each season is the development of the racing rules. Under the leadership of Kelly Stocklin and with the help of H1 Unlimited's attorney, Kevin Austin, the members of the Rules and Competition Committee studied the Rule Book to identify and clean up inconsistencies and redundancies. They also recommended that a few rules be changed to improve competition and make the rules easier to understand.

The 2021 Racing Rules were recently adopted by the H1 Board and include the following changes:



- ◆ The definition of the Safety Zone has been changed to include the area that is beyond the outer course markers.

- ◆ The minimum speed before the start remains the same as before: 80 mph. Language describing the rule has been cleaned up to make it more understandable. Enforcement of the rule will be determined by a review of GPS data during or following each heat. All determinations of race data by race officials will be final and not subject to protest or appeal.

- ◆ If a heat is stopped, all of the boats that were in that heat will be allowed to participate in the restart, except those boats that were disqualified during the heat.

- ◆ Patrol boats that are assigned to be within the Safety Zone will be required to remain within a 150-foot radius of a point that is half the distance on an imaginary line between the entrance buoy and the exit buoy.

- ◆ After the start of a heat, the Safety Zone will not include an area that is 30 feet inside the radius of the turn buoys. In other words, if a boat misses a buoy in the turn, it will not be disqualified for entering the Safety Zone.

- ◆ The standard overlap rules will continue to apply between two or more boats that have departed the racing lanes

or are re-entering the racing lanes.

- ◆ Trailer boats (defined as a boat designated as a provisional starter, a second-row boat, an alternate, a back-up hull, or a trailing boat) must not interfere with a boat maneuvering for a front-row starting lane, be on the front row at the start, and occupy lane one at any time prior to the start. It must follow all non-trailer boats past the score-up buoy, cross the start/finish line in the outermost lane, and cross the start/finish line no less than five seconds after the official start of the heat.

- ◆ The number of penalties has been greatly reduced and simplified. In summary, there is a one-lap penalty for racing violations, a \$500 fine for technical violations, and disqualification for performance and severe safety violations.

- ◆ The rules and penalties are determined in the sole discretion of the race officials and are not subject to protest (by any other boat/race team) and are not subject to appeal (by the penalized boat/race team).

Finally, we are happy to announce that Dave Holley has returned to the H1 Board of Directors. The CEO of United Yacht Transport, Holley served on the board several years ago and was instrumental in the transport of the H1 hydroplanes to Doha, Qatar, for the UIM World Championship events from 2009 to 2014. He also was the promoter for the Piston Versus Turbine event in Evansville, Indiana.

As a businessman and a keen motorsports fan, Holley brings with him a wealth of business acumen and ideas on how to modernize the sport and make it more engaging for fans. ❖

# MY \$0.02 WORTH

## Editorial Comment by Andy Muntz



Here's a tip of the hat to the folks who run the civic organizations that hold the hydroplane races.

Last month I mentioned the Schoenith family's taxes and how losing their tax case set in motion a desire by the race teams to become more professional. That created a clash within the sport between two contrasting forces.

On the one hand are the race teams, owners who invest great sums of money to operate their boats. Hydroplane racing is not a cheap pastime, so it's no surprise that the people who must bear those costs—to put on the show we all enjoy—naturally want to get compensated for their efforts.

Yet, it doesn't make much sense to own a race boat unless there is a place to race them. And, that's where the contrast in this conundrum presents itself.

While boat owners want to receive as much money as possible, the people who organize the races must live within very tight budgets.

From the beginning of the sport's

history, the boat races were organized by local yacht clubs. They were an opportunity for the wealthy speedboaters at one club to compete against their counterparts at another club. And, even into the early 1960s, many boat owners were wealthy enough that they were content to receive nothing more than a silver tray or trophy for their effort.

Then, with the desire to become more professional, that attitude changed. Full-blown commercialism arrived, and the involvement of sponsors became critical for the entire system to function.

Which brings us to today.

Early in my career, I had the opportunity to serve as the director of public relations for Seafair. When I took the job, I had in mind the fun task of promoting Seattle's hydro race—telling people about my favorite sport. What could be better than that? The reality of the job was much different, however.

Some people don't mind asking others for money. Turns out, I'm not one of them. The job at Seafair was mainly

one of fundraising—something that I never found enjoyable. Yet, I saw how important it is to the survival of this sport. That's the name of the game in the world of the hydroplane race organizers and I commend them for it.

Fundraising is hard enough, but try asking a donor to contribute or a company to sponsor your efforts when you can't offer them anything in return. Last year, with the Covid pandemic, the people at Seafair, Tri-City Water Follies, Marshall County Tourism & Sports, San Diego Bayfair, and Madison Regatta were left with that very problem.

They had no events to hold, yet their expenses continued. That put all of them in a sizable hole.

Through the hard work of the fundraisers at those non-profit civic organizations, four unlimited hydroplane races will be held this summer. It's a remarkable achievement, given their challenge, and we appreciate all that they have done to make that possible. ❖

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The Unlimited NewsJournal, established in 1973, is published by Unlimiteds Unanimous, an enthusiast club interested in promoting and documenting the sport of unlimited hydroplane racing.

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