

## Regatta Review

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THE CHRYSLER JEEP SUPERSTORES APBA GOLD CUP - JULY 10-12, 2009

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\*\*\* AM I SEEING WHAT I THINK I'M SEEING?!

On Thursday evening of Gold Cup race week I was atop the Pit Tower working on the audio streaming PC and talking with our PA technician on the phone, when I noticed an interesting seaplane fly overhead. Ok, that was cool, and my mind drifted back to the phone conversation.

A few moments later I hear an engine getting louder and look out at the race course... the seaplane is on the water and making a run up the backstretch, going past the Detroit Yacht Club and around the Roostertail turn... hahaha... now THAT was COOL!

I tried to get my camera out of my pocket but just didn't have the time to get it out and powered up before it went by. Did anyone else get a photo of this? I'd love to see it!

\*\*\* THE APBA GOLD CUP FINAL IS ARCHIVED ON THE INTERNET

To replay the final heat of the 100th Running of the APBA Gold Cup visit <http://www.supercatracng.com/webcast.cfm>

\*\*\* THE TRI-CITIES UNLIMITED HYDROPLANE RACE IS THIS WEEKEND!

Be sure to tune into the ABRA race in Tri-Cities this weekend. Visit <http://www.hydroinsider.com> for all the news, photos and links to live Internet streaming.

\*\*\* U-1 OH BOY! OBERTO / STEVE DAVID LEADS QUALIFIERS

Kennewick, WASH - It appeared Dave Villwock was headed to the top of the qualifying speeds when he went out late in the afternoon session on Friday and posted a lap speed of 162.279. But it turns out there was a fuel flow violation, according to ABRA, that wiped out his speed. That left U-1 Oh Boy! Oberto/Miss Madison atop the qualifying board.

U-1 Oh Boy! Oberto, Steve David, 161.957  
U-16 Ellstrom Elam Plus, Dave Villwock, 160.367  
U-7 Graham Trucking, J. Michael Kelly, 157.972  
U-17 West Pasco Family Dental, Nate Brown, 157.667  
U-5 FormulaBoats.com, Jeff Bernard, 155.89  
U-3 Grandview on the Lake, Jimmy King, 152.219  
U-48 Whirlpool Presents Albert Lee, Brian Perkins, 144.624

Nate Brown posted some strong speeds behind the wheel of the U-17 West Pasco Family Dental. "I'm just here to get requalified," said Nate. "Plus, I own the boat. When not take it out for a spin?"

J. Michael Kelly in the U-7 was nursing a banged up knee after the Detroit race, but said he's ready to go "It's good," he said. "The boat felt great. We let it rip."

Jeff Bernard in the U-5 said it was "darn near perfect water conditions" today on the Columbia River and despite finishing fifth in the qualifying rounds on Friday, wasn't worried at all. He said they'll have different setups tomorrow for the heat races. "That's where we do better," Bernard said.

Villwock said no worries. The U-16 looked a little choppy on the morning session, but the crew worked out the kinks. In the afternoon session, the boat looked a little more balanced and ran extremely smooth on the smooth water. "We try to keep an ace in our socks in case we need one," said Villwock.

Steve David ended the day as the leader. "I think there's more (speed) there," said David.

### \*\*\* STEVE DAVID READY FOR WESTERN DUEL - COLUMBIA CUP STYLE

KENNEWICK, WASH. -- Steve David, the 55-year old hydroplane driver for the national champion U-1 Oh Boy! Oberto is readying for combat against ten of the world's fastest unlimited hydroplanes as the fleet returns to the pacific northwest for back-to-back races on the 2009 ABRA hydroplane schedule. David won the Lamb Weston Columbia Cup in 2008 and has been looking forward to defend all season.

David said, "Returning as the defending winner and national champion provides additional motivation. Everyone wants to win, it's a matter of keeping it and not losing it. That creates an even greater energy for our team."

The team is determined to do whatever they can to win. "Whether it's grind on propellers more, mix and match turbine engine parts to find

the ultimate combination, fly the boat more than we have, whatever it takes we're in 'Oberto Land' and we must win," David said.

The 2-1/2 mile Columbia River race course is the fastest of the six race circuit and is considered the super speedway on the circuit.

"The Tri-Cities Columbia Cup is the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of unlimited race courses. She's usually smooth as silk during qualifying but when the qualifying heats start, and six hydros hit the water, turn one resembles the Atlantic Ocean. And where else can you find tumbleweed rolling down the back straightaway!"

David knows that the real duel will probably come down between himself and Dave Villwock, driver of the U-16 Miss Elam Plus. David was second fastest qualifier at the first two races by only 1/2 mph and placed second in the two winner-take all finals behind the sports winningest active driver --Villwock.

The fan favorite David said, "When you race against Villwock you know you're racing with one of the best the sport has ever enjoyed. Whether it's engineering, set up or driving, Villwock is very talented. He's beat me and I've beat him. I think that the Columbia Cup and Seafair will be two of the most competitive races we've ever competed in with each other."

He added, "Trying to get around Villwock is like trying to get around a slow car on the Interstate that speeds up when you try to pass them."

One of the this weekend's race traditions allows the previous year's winner to stage under a large shade tree in pit row. The treasured shade will be welcomed as temperatures are expected to reach in the high 90s for the race. "We have the tree, and now that we have it, we don't ever want to lose it's shade, ever," David said.

- Brian Reed - DRRA Volunteer

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