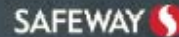


# TRI-CITY WATER FOLLIES

July 28-30, 2017  
COLUMBIA RIVER

BOATRACES.COM



[www.waterfollies.com](http://www.waterfollies.com)



# **TRI-CITY WATER FOLLIES MEDIA GUIDE 2017**

**HAPO Columbia Cup for H1 Unlimited Hydroplanes**

**HAPO Over-the-River Air Show**

**Plumbers and Steamfitters UA Local 598 & Signatory Contractors  
Grand Prix World Regatta**

**Washington National Guard 5-Liter Hydroplane Regatta**

**Legends of Thunder Vintage Hydroplane Demonstration**

**July 28 – 30, 2017**

Get ready for the biggest weekend of hydroplane racing all year long! Don't miss this thrilling action on the water thanks to the H1 Unlimited Hydroplanes, plus the high speed action of Grand Prix, 5-Liter, and Vintage hydroplanes. Combine that action with the HAPO Over the River Air Show, and it's a weekend you won't want to miss. Mark your calendar now for **July 28-30, 2017**, and enjoy the 52nd year of the Tri-Cities annual celebration of high-speed action on the Water and in the Air!

Bring your family and friends and join us on the shores of the Columbia River for an action-packed, energy filled weekend. Tens of thousands of spectators from throughout the Northwest and across the Country will line the river for this high-speed weekend, while countless others will watch on television and the internet.

The Tri-City Water Follies, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, uses all proceeds on the event and for making park improvements, scholarship donations and contributions to local civic organizations that help make this event happen each year. The Tri-Cities community is proud to host this annual tradition.

## **TRI-CITY WATER FOLLIES CONTACTS**

Tri-City Water Follies office: (509) 783-4675 toll free (877) 73-HYDRO

[www.waterfollies.com](http://www.waterfollies.com) info@waterfollies.com

Event Director: Kathy Powell (509) 783-4675

On-site Media Trailer: Brett Bowen (509) 302-5242

Media Liaison: Heath Lambert (509) 492-1340

President: Craig Marcum (509) 531-6230

Race Director: Dennis Janikowski (509) 366-1877

Air Show Director: Matt Boehnke (760) 447-5150

**2017 HAPO Columbia Cup**  
**Schedule of Events (Subject to change)**

**Saturday, June 17, 2017**

Miss Tri-Cities Dessert and Silent Auction @ Kennewick Red Lion

**Saturday, July 22, 2017**

Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program @ Kennewick High School

**Wednesday, July 26, 2017**

Hydros at the Mall @ Columbia Center, Kennewick, WA

**Friday, July 28, 2017**

8:00 AM Park Opens  
8:15 AM H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Testing  
9:15 AM 5 Liter Hydroplane Testing  
9:45 AM Grand Prix Hydroplane Testing  
10:15 AM H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Testing  
11:30 AM HAPO Over the River Air Show  
1:30 PM WA National Guard 5 Liter Hydroplane Heat 1  
1:50 PM H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Qualifying  
3:55 PM Vintage Hydroplane Dash  
4:20 PM WA National Guard 5 Liter Hydroplane Heat 2  
4:40 PM Grand Prix Hydroplane Dash  
5:05 PM O'Reilly Auto Parts H1 Unlimited Dash for Cash

**Saturday, July 29, 2017**

8:00 AM Park Opens  
8:15 AM Grand Prix and 5 Liter Hydroplane Testing  
9:00 AM Vintage Hydroplane Exhibition  
9:40 AM WA National Guard 5 Liter Hydroplane Heat 3  
10:00 AM H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Testing  
11:30 AM HAPO Over the River Air Show  
12:00 Noon - Atomic Screenprinting All Drivers Autograph Session at the Stage  
1:30 PM WA National Guard 5 Liter Hydroplane Heat 4  
1:50 PM Plumbers & Steamfitter Local 598 Grand Prix Hydroplane Heat 1  
2:20 PM Frontier Communications H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 1A  
2:40 PM Fast Signs H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 1B  
3:00 PM HAPO All Pilots Autograph Session at the Stage  
3:10 PM Vintage Hydroplane Exhibition  
3:50 PM Plumbers & Steamfitter Local 598 Grand Prix Hydroplane Heat 2  
4:20 PM SM El Pueblo Market H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 2A  
4:40 PM SM El Pueblo Market H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 2B

**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

7:00 AM Park Opens  
8:00 AM H1 Unlimited, Grand Prix and 5 Liter Hydroplane Testing  
9:00 AM Vintage Hydroplane Exhibition  
9:20 AM WA National Guard 5 Liter Hydroplane Heat 5  
9:50 AM Opening Ceremonies  
10:20 AM Atomic Screenprinting H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 3A  
10:40 AM Atomic Screenprinting H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 3B  
11:00 AM Plumbers & Steamfitter Local 598 Grand Prix Hydroplane Heat 3  
11:30 AM HAPO Over the River Air Show  
1:30 PM WA National Guard 5 Liter Hydroplane Final  
2:00 PM Co-Energy H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 4A  
2:20 PM Co-Energy H1 Unlimited Hydroplane Heat 4B  
2:50 PM Plumbers & Steamfitter Local 598 & Signatory Contractors Grand Prix Hydroplane Thunder Cup  
3:20 PM Vintage Hydroplane Exhibition  
4:00 PM HAPO Columbia Cup for H1 Unlimited Hydroplanes

**OFFICIAL EVENT NAMES (Please Address Accordingly)**

### **HAPO Columbia Cup for Unlimited Hydroplanes**

Unlimited Hydroplanes reach speeds up to 200 miles per hour on one of the fastest race courses in the Country.

### **HAPO Over-the-River Air Show**

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, spine-tingling military aerial performances will entertain the crowds. The roar of afterburners will once again rumble the shores of the Columbia with amazing performances by the USAF F-22 Fighter Jet.

### **Plumbers and Steamfitters UA Local 598 and Signatory Contractors Grand Prix World Regatta**

Grand Prix World is a class and club in the American Powerboat Association. These slightly smaller than unlimited boats are automotive powered and bring "back the thunder" for fans of boat racing.

### **Legends of Thunder Vintage Hydroplane Demonstration**

Tri-Cities Water Follies brings the roar of the World War II V-12 piston engines back to the shores of the Columbia River in 2017 with the 'Legends of Thunder' vintage hydroplane exhibition. Multiple vintage "thunder boats" from the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum will perform in a series of exhibition heats that will evoke memories of the original Atomic Cup races.

### **Washington National Guard presents 5-Liter Hydroplanes**

Returning to the Columbia Cup this year is the 5 Liter hydroplane class. 5-Liter hydroplanes ("E" boats) race at speeds approaching 115 mph and are powered by mildly modified marine-based 305 ci (cubic inch displacement) and 350 ci Chevrolet V-8 engines. Because this is a stock engine class, it puts a premium on driver skill and securing the inside lane. The newly approved 350 ci engine, with nearly 400 hp, has given this class a significant speed boost. The added speed has led to numerous broken records and exciting racing over the last two years

### **EXPECTED ATTENDANCE**

More than 70,000 people over the 3-days.

## TICKET INFORMATION

### Weekender Two-Day Admission Ticket

Saturday and Sunday General Admission passes for Columbia Park, Kennewick and Wade Park, Pasco. Same price if purchased in advance or at the gate.

Adult: \$25      \*Children 6 - 12: \$10      Children 5 and under: Free

### Saturday General Admission Ticket (Available at the gate)

Adult: \$15      \*Children 6-12: \$5      Children 5 and under: Free

### Sunday General Admission Ticket (Available at the gate)

Adult: \$25 gate      \*Children 6-12: \$5      Children 5 and under: Free

### Bleacher Ticket (does not include park admission)

Available as an upgrade at the entrance to the bleachers in Columbia Park.

\$5 per day for adults and children 6 and older. Children 5 and under: Free.

**One Day Pit Access** (Does not include Park admission) Friday: \$10 Saturday: \$10 Sunday: \$10

**Three Day Pit Pass** (Includes park and pit admission) \$45

\*Kids age 6-12 tickets are available for free at local Jack In The Box Restaurants.

### Parking (Fee will be charged each time vehicle re-enters the event site)

Columbia Park general lot - Friday and Saturday: \$5 at the gate. Sunday: \$10 at the gate

Pasco - Friday: Free Saturday: \$5 at the gate Sunday: \$10 at the gate

Private viewing areas and special hospitality packages are available. For information contact the Water Follies office.

## EVENT ACCESS AND HOSPITALITY

### Transit available

Spectators are encouraged to avoid traffic and parking fees by using Ben Franklin Transit. BFT Boat Race Event Service - Saturday and Sunday from the Knight St Transit Center in Richland and the Huntington Transit Center in Kennewick. [www.bft.org](http://www.bft.org).

### Disabled Access Parking and Viewing

The Special Needs Area is located next to the bleachers in Columbia Park. For handicap parking, use the main Highway 240 entrance into the main lot. Golf cart shuttles from the parking lot to the viewing area are available, and Ben Franklin Transit offers service for pre-qualified Dial-A-Ride patrons. *Hosted by Sunrise Rotary.*

### Fun in the Sun Shoreline Festivities

**Radio Controlled 1/8<sup>th</sup> Scale Hydros** - One-eighth the size, nearly forty radio-controlled Hydroplanes will race on the Family Fishing Pond Friday and Saturday. The R/C Hydros reach top speeds of over 60 miles per hour. The boats are 42-50 inches long and 19-24 inches wide, and weigh an average of 13 pounds. In addition to the long-time nitro class, you'll get a chance to see the "FE" or "Fast Electric" class, powered by a Lithium Polymer battery and brushless electric motor.

**Atomic Screenprinting Autograph Session** - The autograph session provides race fans an opportunity to greet and even take pictures with the race boat drivers. Takes place on Saturday, 12:00 at the Stage in Columbia Park.

**HAPO All Pilots Autograph Session** - The autograph session provides race fans an opportunity to greet and even take pictures with the air show pilots. Takes place on Saturday, 3:00 at the Stage in Columbia Park.

**UpAngle Drone Services Pit Tours** - Tours are available with the purchase of a Booster Button souvenir lapel pin (\$5). Non-profit organizations representing children, disabled or underprivileged clients may arrange for complimentary tour of the pits on Friday 1 to 3 p.m. Reservations should be made with the Water Follies office. Race fans can see the inner-workings of the Unlimited Hydroplanes and the piston-powered vintage boats Friday, noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. While the purchase of this year's souvenir Booster Button lapel pin includes a free pit tour, it also raises money for a worthwhile cause.

**Kid's Zone** - The Kids Zone will operate on both the Kennewick and Pasco sides of the river. Kennewick hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4p.m. Pasco hours are Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3p.m.

The Kennewick Kid's Zone is located at the Stage. The Pasco Kids Zone is just east of the Bulldog Beach Club.

The Kennewick Kids Zone will feature Big Top the Clown and Walter Chimal from 1:30 to 2:30 on Sunday. Both Kids Zones will also have face painting and arts & crafts.

**Driver's Church Service** - The boat driver's tradition continues this year and, as always, is open to anyone who would like to attend. Everyone in the park is welcome to attend this brief service at 7:00 a.m. Sunday at the stage behind the pits.

**Exhibit Area at the Memorial** – US Military recruiters and more with interactive displays.

**Laser Tag** - Red Dot Paint Ball will have a Laser Tag course set up across from the bleachers in Columbia Park.

**Helicopter Rides** - Inland Helicopter will be offering helicopter rides Friday through Sunday out of the Heli-pad landing area within the Columbia Park Golf Course driving range. Reserve your seat at the Golf Course Club House during event hours.

## **EXCITING EVENTS WATER FOLLIES WEEK**

### **Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program – July 22nd**

The annual Miss Tri-Cities Pageant takes place July 22nd at Kennewick High School. Contestants compete for more than \$35,000 in scholarship money. For more information, visit [www.misstricities.org](http://www.misstricities.org). Executive Director Dot Stewart can be reached at (509) 627-5622 or (509) 539-3252 or [dotstewart@charter.net](mailto:dotstewart@charter.net).

### **Hydroplanes at Columbia Center– Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00, July 26th**

A select group of Unlimited Hydroplanes will be on-site at the Columbia Center Mall Wednesday afternoon before heading to the pits. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to get a close-up look at these amazing machines, take pictures, and visit with the teams.

### **Speed and Feed (Sponsored by Castle Events Catering) – Friday, July 28**

Sponsors, Hydroplane owners and drivers, and Air Show Pilots get together to celebrate at the Speed and Feed dinner scheduled for 5:30pm, Friday, July 28 at the stage in Columbia Park.

## FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT

### HAPO COLUMBIA CUP FOR UNLIMITED HYDROPLANES

The Unlimited Hydroplanes test and qualify on Friday, time trials are on Saturday morning and the first two heats of racing are Saturday afternoon. The remaining heats and championship race is Sunday. The world's fastest race boats demonstrate high-speed, cutting-edge technology on one of the fastest courses in the country. Unlimited Hydroplanes reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. Unlimited Hydroplanes are powered by retired military Chinook helicopter turbine engines, and can travel the length of a football field in one second. They also shoot a plume of water -- "Rooster Tail" -- in the air behind them that carries more than a ton of water. The Tri-Cities is one of only five cities across the country to host this unique and exciting form of motor sport racing and is one of the longest continually operating race sites.

### 2017 H1 UNLIMITED HYDROPLANES SCHEDULE

Dates	Event	Location
June 30 – July 2	Mainsource Bank Indiana Governor's Cup	Madison, In
July 28 - 30	HAPO Columbia Cup	Tri-Cities, Wa
Aug 5 - 7	Albert Lee Cup at Seafair	Seattle, Wa
Aug 25 - 27	Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers Hydrofest	Detroit, Mi
Sep 15 - 17	HomeStreet Bank Bayfair	San Diego, CA

#### Race Course

2 1/2 mile oval, technically referred to as the "McNary pool" on the Columbia River between Kennewick and Pasco. An Unlimited Hydroplane race course must be laid in waters at least 10 feet deep and surveyed per H1 Unlimited specifications. There must be an escape route outside each turn, in which no spectator boats are permitted. For all courses, a minimum of five buoys are located in each turn. The minimum number of buoys in each straightaway is five for a 2-1/2-mile course.

#### H1 UNLIMITED HYDROPLANES AT TRI-CITIES 2017 (subject to change)

Go to [www.h1unlimited.com](http://www.h1unlimited.com) for detailed information on each hydroplane. An updated roster will be made available at the Media Trailer just inside the pit fence on race weekend.

#### H1 Unlimited Roster:

Team	Driver
U-1 HomeStreet Bank	Jimmy Shane
U-3 Grigg's Presents the Miss Ace Hardware	Jimmy King
U-9 Les Schwab Tires	Andrew Tate
U-11 J&D Hydraulics & Repair	Tom Thompson
U-12 Graham Trucking	J. Michael Kelly
U-440 Bucket List Racing	Dustin Echols
U-27 Wiggins Racing	Cal Phipps
U-16 Ellstrom Racing	JW Meyers



U-21 Darrell Strong presents PayneWest Insurance

Brian Perkins

U-99.9 Carstars/KISW Miss Rock

Kevin Eacret

The fastest race boats in the world, the Unlimited Hydroplanes race at speeds in excess of 200mph. They represent the product of over 100 years of evolution in race boat design and incorporate powerful engines, advanced construction techniques and the best safety systems available in boat racing today.

Most of today's unlimited hydroplanes are powered by a single [Lycoming T-55 L-7](#) turbine engine. These engines once powered our military's Chinook helicopters from as far back as the Vietnam War. The turbine is capable of producing 3000 horsepower and runs on Jet-A (kerosene) fuel.

Driving is a delicate balance between gliding over the top of the water and having the boat take off into the air like an airplane on a runway. Losing control can be disastrous when traveling at roughly the speed of a football field per second over a body of water that looks soft but impacts with the rigidity of concrete at those speeds.

Nothing compares to the sight of six unlimited hydroplanes racing to the line, trailing enormous walls of water in their wake, as they compete for valuable points to make the final heat. 2014 was a nail biter for the high-points Championship, coming down to the last race of the season. With the addition of new teams, 2016 should prove to be equally exciting, if not more.

In general, Unlimited Hydroplanes are between 28-30 feet long, approximately 14 feet wide, approximately 6500 pounds, and are powered by a Lycoming T-55/L-7 Turbines what outputs around 3000 HP.

## H1 Unlimited Team Information

**U-1 Miss HomeStreet Bank** – Jimmy Shane drove the Miss HomeStreet bank to a national points title in 2016, the inaugural year for their new sponsor. Shane was penalized for a collision with Jean Theoret in the U-16 Oh Boy! Oberto in the 2016 Columbia Cup final heat. This appeared to give the win to J. Michael Kelly in the U-5 Graham Trucking. However, the team filed an appeal with APBA and five months after the race, was declared the winner. Prior to 2017 spring training, HomeStreet Bank announced they had signed a five-year deal with the Madison based team. With sponsorship stability, the current most successful team in hydroplane racing will be tough to beat in 2017. Since his first victory in 2012, driver Jimmy Shane has won three of four races on the Columbia River.

**U-3 Grigg's presents the Miss Ace Hardware** – The only piston powered Unlimited Hydroplane returned to Tri-Cities in 2016, again with sponsorship help from local businessman Charlie Grigg and his Grigg's Ace Hardware store. The team attended two races in 2016, their best finish being 3rd at the Columbia Cup. Fans always love the roar of the pistons, so hopes are high the team will return in 2017. Owner Cooper picked up his first victory on the Columbia River in 1989. Ironically, this was the last time a piston powered hydroplane won in Tri-Cities. The current U-3 is also the last piston powered hydroplane to win the Gold Cup, which it won in 2003 with Mitch Evans driving. Returning to the pilot seat is Cooper's longtime driver Jimmy King. King is a veteran of many years of Grand Prix and Unlimited Hydroplane Racing. King joined Ed Cooper's team in 2005, saying, "This is the best boat I've ever had a chance to drive." King won several heats and has stood on the podium 14 times as a top-three finisher, but he has never taken home a first-place regatta trophy. He thinks Cooper's boat offers a chance to change that. "It's a foregone conclusion that this boat can win," King said.

**U-9 Les Schwab Tires** – The U-9 made a big breakthrough in 2016, winning the Albert Lee Cup at Seafair with rookie Driver Andrew Tate at the wheel. Tate served notice at Tri-Cities that he wasn't your ordinary rookie driver by qualifying 2nd fastest for the Columbia Cup. Unfortunately, a propeller failure ended the team's weekend early. At the next race in Seattle, The U-9 team notched its first victory since 2002. Tate drove the U-9 to the top qualifying speed at San Diego and a second place finish in the final race of the Season. The U-9 has shown steady improvement over the last few seasons and the addition of Tate as driver seems to have been the missing ingredient to get them to the



winners circle. As a fourth-generation boat racer, Andrew Tate was born to drive hydroplanes. The Tate legacy began in 1930's with hydroplane pioneer Joe Tate, Sr., who built and raced his own boats. The desire to go fast on water was passed on to his son, Joe Tate, Jr., who drove Grand National (7-litre) hydroplanes until he was 70 years old. The Tate name was etched into boat racing history by Andrew's father, Mark, who was inducted into the APBA Hall of Champions four times, winning the APBA Gold Cup twice. Mark married California native and champion 145c.i. driver Sandy Wray, creating a family embedded in a world of high speed on the water. Driving his first hydro at 9 years old, Andrew honed his skills at the beginning of his career by piloting various types of kneel-down outboard hydroplanes. Since 2006, Andrew won nearly 100 races in various APBA outboard hydroplane categories, including nine national titles, and has been inducted into the APBA Hall of Champions twice (2010 and 2016). Most recently, Tate has been driving the Grand Prix Hydroplane- GP-101 "Fat Chance". In his rookie campaign last year, he won two races, including the APBA Grand Prix National Championships. .

**U-11 J&D Hydraulics** - Longtime sponsor Peters and May exited the sport prior to the 2017 season, but that has done nothing to dim the U-11 team's enthusiasm to go boat racing. Scott Raney and the U-11 crew are hard at work repairing the hull that was badly damaged during an accident at Doha Qatar in 2013. That rebuilt hull will be taking over for the former Budweiser T-4 hull the team had been campaigning since 2013. The U-11 team improved to 6th place in national high points in 2016. They made 4 of 5 final heats and their best finish was a 4th place at San Diego. Driver Tom Thompson is one of the most versatile chauffeurs in racing, successfully driving boats of every inboard class. 2016 will be his fourth full season driving for owners Scott and Shannon Raney. His best career finish was a second place at San Diego in 2013. Thompson will also be driving Randy English's new Staudacher built Grand Prix boat on the Hydroplane Racing League (HRL) Grand Prix circuit.

**U-12 Graham Trucking** – On April 28th, Rob Graham ended months of speculation by confirming that he purchased one of Ted Porter's unlimited hydroplanes and will begin his involvement in unlimited hydroplane racing as a team owner after more than two decades as a sponsor in the sport. Graham purchased the T-6 (U-5) unlimited hydroplane, a trailer, hauler and all equipment needed to run the T-6 from Ted Porter. This winter, the team tore the boat down to the frame and rebuilt most of the hull, including new materials and hardware. Graham has chosen the number U-12 for his new race team Driver J. Michael Kelly will continue as Graham Trucking's driver. JMK conquered the Mount Everest of powerboat racing by Winning THE APBA Gold Cup in 2016. The then U-5 finished second in national high points. JMK is a 30-year veteran who has set more the 23 world records in various classes of boats, six of which are still current. He's also a three time APBA Hall of Champions inductee and the first person in APBA history to win four national titles at a single event. Kelly has seven unlimited wins to his credit, all coming when driving for owner Ted Porter.

**U-16 Ellstrom Racing** – Ellstrom Racing has not announced their plans for 2017, but they have announced who will be driving if they compete. After a five year absence from Unlimited racing, JW Myers returns to the team where he scored his only win on the H1 Unlimited circuit. In 2005 JW won the Madison Regatta driving for Ellstrom Racing. He also scored second place finishes in Evansville and Detroit. The week following the Madison victory, Myers got the bright orange Elam Plus high into the Detroit sky in a spectacular flip in front of the Detroit Yacht Club during a prelim. Boat and driver both survived the accident and ended up on the podium with a second place finish in the Gold Cup. He was then fired by the team and replaced with Dave Villwock. It should be interesting to see how his second tenure with Ellstrom Racing develops. The U-16 is the newest and most likely fastest boat in the fleet, but a series of penalties and bad fortune have kept them out of the winners circle. JW's unlimited career began in 2003, driving for Leland Unlimited and he was the 2003 H1 Unlimited Rookie of the Year. In 2011 and 2012 Myers drove the U-11 Peters and May for Scott and Shannon Raney's Unlimited Racing. John W. Myers III began his racing career in 1982 at age 9, following in the footsteps of his father John, a well known outboard racer. He quickly made a name for himself as an outstanding outboard driver, scoring four national high point championships and setting 11 world records in a 20 year career. In 1999 he moved to the Unlimited Lights Series where he was the Rookie of the Year.

**U-21 Darrell Strong presents PayneWest Insurance** – The U-21 was a surprise team in 2016, upping their competitiveness and finishing a very close 4th in national high points. The team finally broke their string of bad luck in Seattle with a 3rd place podium finish. They made every final heat of 2016, with the lone blemish being a DNF in San

Diego due to a rudder failure. Go Fast Turn Left welcomes back Darrell Strong and PayneWest Insurance as title sponsor for the HAPO Columbia Cup. Strong has been a long-time race team sponsor in previous Columbia Cup events. He has been a Consulting Broker specializing in employee benefits since 1985 and is among the top licensed agents in the Northwest – in the top 5% in Washington and #1 with PayneWest Insurance. Veteran Brian Perkins returns for his 11th year as chauffeur of the U-21. Perkins qualified as an Unlimited driver in 2007 and has four podium finishes to his credit. His inboard resume includes victories in the Unlimited Light class and a National Championship driving 5-liter hydroplanes in 2013.

**U-27 Wiggins Racing** – After a strong 2015 season, Wiggins Racing looked to be poised for a victory in 2016. Unfortunately, while running second place at Madison, the boat took off and performed a spectacular flip. The crash extensively damaged the hull, knocking it off the circuit for the majority of the season. The team returned to race in San Diego, but had to withdraw due to boat damage. The former "Our Gang" Racing entry was a great performer during the 2015 season for rookie owners Milt and Charlie Wiggins. Driven by Cal Phipps, the U-27 hull had its best season to date, finishing third in 2015 national high points. Owners Milt and Charlie Wiggins have owned and raced in many different inboard classes from 1-Liters to Grand Prix Hydroplanes, at times campaigning as many as three boats. For their first year effort as unlimited owners, Wiggins Racing was recognized with both the Crew of the Year and Owner of the Year awards for the 2015 season. Driver Cal Phipps began his Unlimited Hydroplane driving career in 2010 for Dave Bartush's U-13. In 2011, he drove Nate Brown's U-17 in the APBA Gold Cup. In 2014, owner Ted Porter offered Phipps a job driving the U-7 Graham Trucking II. Phipps has finished third in national points the last two seasons. He has driven various classes of boats for Wiggins Racing for 14 years to date.

**U-99.9 Carstars/ KISW Miss Rock** – Leland Unlimited returns for 2017 with the Carstars and Miss Rock sponsorships in tow. Fans were thrilled to see the classic Miss Rock paint scheme and logos on the water in 2016. The team finished 9th in the 2016 points race, with the high point being a heat win at the final race in San Diego. The team suffered through equipment attrition in 2016 and hopes for better luck in the 2017 season. 2015 Rookie of the Year Kevin Eacret returns as driver.

**U-440 Bucket List Racing** – 2016 saw a series of gearbox failures derail the Bucket List's season before it could get started. The boat has been extensively renovated and repainted during the offseason. The new bright orange color will be hard to miss on the race course. The team also changed their number to 440, to match Stocklin's number from racing flat bottoms at APBA events. The 440 team participated in preseason testing results were very positive. Dustin Echols returns as driver in 2017. Echols was the longtime driver of Rick and Shawn Bridgeman's GP-17 Shockwave Racing, before moving over to drive Scott Pierce's GP-55 last season. Echols briefly retired from driving following the 2015 season, but is now back with for a shot at qualifying as an Unlimited driver in the 440.

## Tri-City Water Follies past winners

YEAR	RACE	WINNER	OWNER/DRIVER
2016	HAPO Columbia Cup	Miss HomeStreet Bank	City of Madison/Jimmy Shane
2015	HAPO Gold Cup	Oberto	City of Madison/Jimmy Shane
2014	HAPO Columbia Cup	Oberto	City of Madison/Jimmy Shane
2013	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Oh Boy! Oberto	City of Madison/Steven David
2012	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Graham Trucking	Ted Porter/Jimmy Shane
2011	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Spirit of Qatar	Ellstrom Family/Dave Villwock
2010	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Oh Boy! Oberto	City of Madison/Steven David
2009	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Oh Boy! Oberto	City of Madison/Steven David
2008	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Oh Boy! Oberto	City of Madison/Steven David
2007	Lamb Weston Columbia Cup	Miss Elam Plus	Ellstrom Family/Dave Villwock
2006	Atomic Cup	Miss Elam Plus	Ellstrom Family/Dave Villwock

2005	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Elam Plus	Ellstrom Family/Dave Villwock
2004	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Joe Little/Dave Villwock
2003	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Llumar	Bill Wurster/Mark Evans
2002	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Elam Plus	Ellstrom Family/Nate Brown
2001	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Znetix II	Fred Leland/Terry Troxell
2000	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Elam Plus	Ellstrom Family/Mark Evans
1999	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Dave Villwock
1998	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Dave Villwock
1997	Budweiser Columbia Cup	PICO's American Dream	Fred Leland/Mark Evans
1996	Budweiser Columbia Cup	PICO's American Dream	Fred Leland/Dave Villwock
1995	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Smokin' Joe's	Steve Woomer/Mark Tate
1994	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Chip Hanauer
1993	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Chip Hanauer
1992	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Chip Hanauer
1991	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Winston Eagle	Steve Woomer/Mark Tate
1990	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Tom D'Eath
1989	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Cooper's Express	Ed Cooper Jr. & Sr./Mitch Evans
1988	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Tom D'Eath
1987	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Tom D'Eath
1986	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miller American	Fran Muncey/Chip Hanauer
1985	Budweiser Columbia Cup	Miller American	Fran Muncey, Jim Lucero/Chip Hanauer
1984	Budweiser APBA Gold Cup	Atlas Van Lines	Fran Muncey, Jim Lucero/Chip Hanauer
1983	Columbia Cup	American Speedy Printing	Bob Taylor/Jack Schafer
1982	Columbia Cup	The Squire Shop	Bob Steil/Tom D'Eath
1981	Columbia Cup	The Squire Shop	Bob Steil/Chip Hanauer
1980	Columbia Cup	Atlas Van Lines	Bill Muncey/Bill Muncey
1979	Columbia Cup	Atlas Van Lines	Bill Muncey/Bill Muncey
1978	Columbia Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Ron Snyder
1977	APBA Gold Cup	Atlas Van Lines	Bill Muncey/Bill Muncey
1976	Columbia Cup	Atlas Van Lines	Bill Muncey/Bill Muncey
1975	APBA Gold Cup	Pay n'Pak	Dave Heerensperger/George Henley
1974	World Championship	Pay n'Pak	Dave Heerensperger/George Henley
1973	APBA Gold Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Tom Friedkin/Dean Chenoweth
1972	Atomic Cup	Atlas Van Lines	Joe Schoenith/Bill Muncey
1971	Atomic Cup	Miss Madison	Miss Madison Inc./Jim McCormick
1970	Atomic Cup	Pay n'Pak Lil'Buzzard	Dave Heerensperger/Tommy Fults
1969	Atomic Cup	Myr's Special	Joe Schoenith/Dean Chenoweth
1968	Atomic Cup	Miss Eagle Electric	Dave Heerensperger/Warner Gardner
1967	Atomic Cup	Miss Bardahl	Ole Bardahl/Bill Schumacher
1966	Atomic Cup	Miss Budweiser	Bernie Little/Bill Brow

## **HAPO OVER-THE-RIVER AIR SHOW**

This thrilling over-the-river air show takes place between 11:30 and 1:30 Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

All Media are invited to attend the Media Open House scheduled for 1:00 pm Thursday, July 27 at Bergstrom Aircraft, 4102 N. Stearman Ave. Tri-Cities Airport Pasco WA 99301

Air Show Director is Matt Boehnke 760-447-5150

Media / Hospitality Coordinator is Jane Powers 509-551-1005

### **USAF F-22**

The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft. Its combination of stealth, supercruise, maneuverability, and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in warfighting capabilities. The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions allowing full realization of operational concepts vital to the 21st century Air Force.

The F-22, a critical component of the Global Strike Task Force, is designed to project air dominance, rapidly and at great distances and defeat threats attempting to deny access to our nation's Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps. The F-22 cannot be matched by any known or projected fighter aircraft.

### **Heritage Flight P-51 Mustang**

The United States Air Force Heritage Flight program presents the evolution of USAF air power by flying today's state-of-the-art fighter aircraft in close formation with vintage fighter aircraft.

The HAPO Over the River Air Show's Heritage Flight performance involves a state of the art F-22 Raptor piloted by Maj. Dan Dickinson and flown with WWII era P-51 Mustang, Vahalla, piloted by Lt. Col. Greg Anders (retired). The Heritage Flight formations of modern fighters flying with World War II, Korean, and Vietnam era fighters dramatically display our U.S. Air Force air power history and proudly support our Air Force's recruiting and retention efforts.

Vahalla comes to us from the Heritage Flight Museum located at Skagit Regional Airport in Burlington Washington.

### **Misty Blues – Skydiving Team**

Since the early 1980's The Misty Blues All Woman Skydiving Team has been thrilling audiences at air shows, corporate events and other special occasions around the world. These exceptionally talented and brave ladies delight in displaying their parachuting talents that make them some of the most skilled skydivers in the world.

Not only are these women great skydivers, but they are also highly successful professionals with full-time careers ranging from an accounting consultant to a welding instructor. Although there are eight women on the team, four of them go to every show.

The ladies' favorite part of their job is landing after an astonishing jump and walking out to meet as many fans as possible.

### **Brad Wursten**

Flying the MXS-R aerobatic aircraft by MX Aircraft, Brad brings power and performance to the Tri-Cities. Watch as he pushes the envelope of one of the most advanced aerobatic aircraft in the world today. Brad will delight and amaze the audience while remaining well within his tight margin of safety. Sit back, strap in and enjoy, Brad Wursten's Power Addiction Airshows aerobatic performance.

## **Ryland (Buck) Roetman – Wild Horse Aviation**

Expect to see things you never imagined an aircraft could do. Buck Roetman will tumble his aircraft end-over-end, all smothered in smoke and noise. He currently flies a modified Christen Eagle. The airplane was completed in 2003 and has been an airshow plane its entire life. It differs from most planes here today in that it has a Lycoming IO360 4-cylinder engine, built by Penn Yan Aero, and pumped up to 250 HP. This is a performance you will remember for years to come.

## **Barry Hancock – Pilot Makers Air shows**

BIG, LOUD AND FILLING THE SKY WITH SMOKE TRIALS, we call our act "Smoke, Noise, and a Tribute." The T-6 is always a crowd favorite. Pilot Maker Air Shows will give Tri-City Water Follies fans a high impact, beautiful and graceful show demonstrating all the maneuvers flown by WWII military pilots. A perfect change of pace from the unlimited aerobatic acts, this crowd pleasing performance is a tribute to the men and women who sacrificed all for the freedoms we have today, and a reminder of the values and noble goodness of our great nation.

Over the past 15 years Barry Hancock has been a leader in the warbird community, and for over a decade he has been restoring, selling, and instructing in piston and jet warbirds. With over 3500 flight hours to his credit, including leading large formations at air shows across the country, Barry is now bringing that professionalism, passion, and enthusiasm to his solo T-6 act in the Pilot Maker, and is living proof that it's never too late to chase and achieve your dreams.

## **Renny Price – Hammerhead Aerobatics**

Renny is a retired airline captain and has logged over 23,000 hours since his first flight in 1969. Renny holds FAA ratings of Airline Transport Pilot, Flight Engineer, Multi-engine instrument flight instructor, Aerobatic competency evaluator, and FAA safety counselor. When he is not performing airshows for your company, he flies an Astra private jet.

World class aerobatics are a spectacle, but almost nothing comes close to the performance of the Russian designed and built Sukhoi-29. The Sukhoi is considered to be the very best two place unlimited competition aircraft in the world today.

## **US Coast Guard Sector North Bend**

The H-65 helicopter built by Eurocopter America is the U.S. Coast Guard's primary rescue helicopter. The Dolphin is certified for operation in all-weather and night-time operations, with the exception of icing conditions. With her crew of 2 pilots, 1 flight mechanic and 1 rescue swimmer the missions of Group North Bend include maritime search and rescue, enforcement of laws and treaties, providing aids to navigation, and marine environmental protection. In addition, the Air Station frequently assists Federal, state and county agencies by responding to calls for assistance with inland searches and medical evacuations (medevacs) of injured loggers.

## VINTAGE HYDROPLANES –

The theme of this year's vintage hydroplane exhibition could be 'Rolls-Royce's Revenge'. The 2017 Columbia Cup hosts a trio of Rolls-Royce powered vintage unlimited hydroplanes. These boats dominated the sport from 1973 to 1981. Overall, they have won 68, 7 gold Cups and 9 national titles. While they were on top, few could challenge them

### **1973 Pay n' Pak**

Years Active: 15  
Fastest Qualifying Speed: 133.044 (1974)  
Fastest Competition Lap: 124.576 (1987)  
Wins: 22  
Gold Cup Wins: 2  
Tri-Cities Wins: 2  
National Titles: 4  
Power plant: Rolls Royce Merlin

Pioneering race hull nicknamed the "Winged Wonder" due to its unique silhouette with the rear stabilizer. The Pak was the first hydroplane to be built primarily of honeycomb aluminum. She won 4 races in her first year and a national title. The Pak was also leading the 1973 Gold Cup in Tri-Cities before a propeller failure in the final heat. After winning three national titles and two Gold Cups, Owner Dave Heerensperger retired from the sport. He sold the "Wonder" to Bill Muncey, who raced it to another national title in 1976. The hull won 21 races, two Gold Cups, and four national titles in its first four seasons. After a brief curtain call in 1977, the boat was sold to Madison, Indiana. The Madison team switched the hull to a turbocharged Allison engine and it campaigned for 11 years as the Miss Madison. The hull eked out one last victory in 1983 at Lake of the Ozarks. The hull was part of Dave Bartush's collection during his attempt to start a hydroplane museum in Detroit. It was frequently on display during the Gold Cup in Detroit. Ken Muscatel purchased the hull in 2012. Ellstrom Racing crew chief Mike Hanson led the restoration effort and now the PAK is truly back.

### **1977 Atlas Van Lines**

Years Active: 5  
Fastest Qualifying Speed: 133.044 (1980)  
Fastest Competition Lap: 140.625 (1980)  
Wins: 24  
Gold Cup Wins: 3  
Tri-Cities Wins: 3  
National Titles: 2  
Powerplant: Rolls Royce Merlin

The 1977 Atlas Van Lines, the original "Blue Blaster" was one of the most dominant hulls in the history of Hydroplane racing. Nearly unbeatable between 1977 and 1979. It carried driver Bill Muncey to twenty-four victories, including three straight Gold Cups and two National Championships. Only in 1980, with the emergence of the griffon-powered Miss Budweiser, would Muncey and the Atlas be challenged. After losing five straight races to the Bud in 1980, Muncey rallied to win the Columbia Cup in record fashion. But the hull's best days were behind it. Muncey and the Atlas were thoroughly thrashed for the majority of 1981 season by the Budweiser. Despite being overmatched, Muncey continued to race hard. While leading the World Championship race in Acapulco, Mexico, Bill Muncey was killed in a blowover accident. The hull was cosmetically repaired for display after the accident, but sat in storage for a number of years until it was acquired by the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum for restoration.

## 1980 Miss Budweiser

Years Active: 11

Fastest Qualifying Speed: 143.426 (1980)

Fastest Competition Lap: 138.8176 (1980)

Wins: 22

Gold Cup Wins: 2

Tri-Cities Wins: 0

National Titles: 3

Powerplant: Rolls Royce Griffon

Bill Muncey's nemesis and the hull that he lost his life pursuing was the 1980 Miss Budweiser. This was the second of Bernie Little's Griffon powered hydroplanes, the first being destroyed in a speed record attempt in 1979. To house the huge Griffon engine, the new Miss Budweiser had to be larger and heavier than its contemporaries. The new hull was an intimidating sight, earning the nickname 'The Juggernaut.' With driver Dean Chenoweth behind the wheel, it debuted in 1980 with five straight wins and did not lose a single heat until the final in Tri-Cities. A lost rudder in Seattle sidelined the boat for the remainder of 1980, but it came back ever stronger the next year. In 1981, the Budweiser and Chenoweth were nearly invincible, winning six of eight races. But as with Muncey and the Atlas, Chenoweth and the Miss Budweiser suddenly found their dominance challenged in 1982. Chenoweth was killed at the 1982 Columbia Cup when the Bud blew over backwards while trying to set a qualifying record on Saturday. After losing the sports two winningest drivers just six months apart, major safety changes would eventually lead to the modern Unlimited Hydroplanes you see today. Only one driver has lost his life since that dark day in 1982. The 1980 Miss Budweiser would be repaired and race for several more years. It eventually won 22 races, two Gold Cups and three national titles. Ironically, it was never able to win on the Columbia River. After 1984, the writing was on the wall that the future of the sport was the turbine engine. So, in 1985, Bud owner Bernie Little sold the boat. The hull raced the remainder of its career as a "backmarker", and eventually found its way to the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum for restoration

## **PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS UA LOCAL 598 & SIGNATORY CONTRACTORS GRAND PRIX HYDROPLANE REGATTA**

Grand Prix West Hydroplane Racing Association (GPW) brings their loud, fast and exciting brand of racing to the Columbia River as part of Water Follies 50 th anniversary celebration. GPW is an American Power Boat Association (APBA) class of inboard Hydroplanes featuring supercharged big-block 468 engines producing as much as 1500 horsepower. These 26 foot craft routinely attain speeds in excess of 170 miles-per- hour on the straight-aways. Long a premier class on the east coast of North America and in Canada, 'Grand Prix West' is the first club to organize GP racing on the west coast. GPW is known for their loud roaring deck to deck action and has quickly established itself as one of the premier boat racing attractions in the United States.

### **Grand Prix Hydroplane Teams**

#### **GP-3 Grant Boat Racing**

Owner: Grant Boat Racing LLC.

Driver: Chris Grant

Grant Boat Racing looks to rebound from a challenging 2016 campaign that saw them finish out of the top ten in national points. Driver Christopher Grant has raced since 2003 from the 5-liter class then to the Unlimited Lights. Now racing in the Grand Prix Class, and with a competitive hull, he's eager to score his first victory. Grant Boat Racing is a family operation, with father David Grant serving as crew chief.



## **GP-12 Schellhase Racing**

Owner: Bob Schellhase

Driver: Greg Hopp

Driver Greg Hopp and the GP-12 team won their third straight APBA national title in 2016. The GP-12 team has won the national title five of the last six years. Expect to hear driver Hopp's signature victory whoop several more times in 2017. Driver Greg Hopp has won four of the last six Grand Prix races in the Tri-Cities. In 2014, the G12 set an unofficial APBA record for the fastest lap by a Grand Prix ever recorded at 134.500 MPH.

## **GP-15 Hopp Racing**

Owner: Jerry Hopp

Drivers: Jerry Hopp & Brent Hall

The elder statesman of the GP class, Jerry Hopp continued his career of excellence with a 2nd place finish in national points. Hopp has finished in the top three of the national points race six of the last seven years. He won the points championship in 2013. Hopp set a quarter mile straightaway record of 170.620 mph in 2016 at Oroville, Ca. Jerry Hopp began boat racing in 1969, after returning from a tour in Vietnam with the Army. He's driven everything from outboard hydroplanes to Unlimiteds. He drives a school bus for Snohomish School district and the kids call him the "World's Fastest Grandpa".

## **GP-17 Shockwave Racing**

Owner: Rick & Shawn Bridgeman

Driver: Travis Johnston

New driver Travis Johnston showed flashes of brilliance at times during his initial season with Shockwave racing in 2015. Unfortunately, a fire at the Black Lake Regatta and other various mechanical problems limited the team to a 6th place finish in high points. Then GP-17 sat out the 2016 season, but should come roaring back in 2017. Johnston began racing inboards in 2000. Driving Justin Weymouth's 5-liter, he was the 2005 co-National Champion and a two-time Summer National Champion (2008, 2013). He is also a multiple time Seattle Drag and Ski, Seattle Inboard Racing Association, and Tacoma Inboard Racing Association Champion. Receiving the Neil Yapachino Memorial Award (2008) and the Terry Troxell Memorial Award (2012) count as a couple of achievements of which he is proudest.

## **GP-19 D's Wicked Cider**

Owners: Tom Eckenberg

Driver: David Warren

Dave Warren drives the GP-19, owned by Tom Eckenberg out of Everett, WA. 2016 was a breakthrough year for the GP-19 team, as they notched a victory at Tri-Cities for the first time. Driver Warren only finished one heat in Tri-Cities, but it was the final heat. Through a series of attrition and penalties, Warren was declared the race winner. Warren is in his 12th year as a driver, but began his contact with boat racing on the APBA Region 10 rescue team. He was on the rescue team for the Tri-Cities and Seattle Unlimited races for 11 years. Eventually, he became a boat team crew chief. This led to an opportunity to "test drive" the boat. After that, he purchased his own Grand Prix hydroplane and became a regular in the Grand Prix West series. He has driven for Tom Eckenberg's GP-19 team the past five seasons.

## **GP-20 Blown Income Racing**

Owner: Larry Linn  
Driver: Ed Preston

Larry Linn's GP-20 "Blown Income" race team finished third in national highpoints in 2016. Driver Ed Preston will return for a third season of Grand Prix competition. Preston has always had an interest in going fast, especially in boats. It probably comes from growing up camping with his family and watching his father, Don Preston, drive the Little Huck (136), Hot Stuff (280) which later became the Miss Heidelberg (280); and the U-Bet (blown 7 liter). Ed bought his first 100mph flat bottom boat at the age of 16 running it up and down the Puget Sound for fun! He then built a pickle fork jet boat, again for fun!

## **GP-55 Whispering Turbines presents Cabo Marine**

Owners: Susie & Scott Pierce, Larry Garcia  
Driver: Jamie Nilsen

Hull Designer/Built Auld The GP-55's 2016 season was derailed by owner Scott Pierce's quintuple bypass surgery in early May. Pierce recovered admirably and decided to race the boat near the end of the season. The GP-55 appeared at San Diego and Manson and won them both. Jamie Nilsen returned as driver of the GP-55. Nilsen had a nightmarish 2014 season where he flipped both and unlimited, the U-21, and a GP, the GP-55 in the same year. He exorcised those demons by winning at San Diego last year, the very same course he crashed at in 2014. After two dominant victories to close out 2016, the GP-55 looks like one of the teams to beat in 2017.

## **GP-74 PREMONITION/Marine Dream Racing**

Owner/Driver: Rob Hall

Rob Hall's GP-74 Marine Dream Racing team finished seventh in national high points in 2016. Mechanical difficulties plagued the boat in it's third season and they will look to bounce back strong in 2017. The GP-74's unique Staudacher design makes it easy to identify within the pack of Grand Prix World hydros. Rob Hall is an accomplished APBA inboard chauffeur. Prior to building the GP-74, he was the 2.5 Liter Modified National High Points Champion, Babcock Award Winner and Western Divisional Champion in 2007 and 2008.

## **WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD PRESENTS THE 5 LITER ("E" CLASS) HYDROPLANE REGATTA**

Back on the Columbia Cup schedule this year is the 5 Liter hydroplane class. 5-Liter hydroplanes ("E" boats) race at speeds approaching 115 mph and are powered by mildly modified marine-based 305ci (cubic inch displacement) and 350ci Chevrolet V-8 engines. Because this is a stock engine class, it puts a premium on driver skill and securing the inside lane. The newly approved 350ci engine, with nearly 400 hp, has given this class a significant speed boost. The added speed has led to numerous broken records and exciting racing over the last two years.

## **E-6 Raining Thunder Racing – Leisure Pool-n- Spa**

Owner: John K Bosserman  
Driver: Michael Jarvis

John K Bosserman's E-6 Raining Thunder Racing is dedicated to getting out the message of support and encouragement for our troops and returning veterans. They also collect funds for veteran's charities. The E6 used consistency to score a surprise second place in last year's 5-liter event. The boat has undergone extensive refurbishment in the offseason and the initial results at the Soap Lake regatta were very positive. Bosserman thinks they can find a bit more speed for new driver Michael Jarvis.

## **E-9 Indian Peaks Marina**

Driver: Jeff Bernard  
Owner: Harry Clack

The E-9's road to last year's Columbia Cup ended in a blown engine at the Soap Lake regatta. This year, driver Jeff Bernard is putting the finishing touches on a brand new 5-Liter hydroplane he hopes to debut at the 2017 Columbia Cup. Former 5-Liter National Champion Jeff Bernard teams with Lafayette Louisiana owner Henry Clack to campaign this new 5-Liter for the 2017 season. Additional Sponsors: Advanced Transmission Center, Block Head Machine, Goodridge, Security Race Products, Scott Baker Racing Props, Porkos Pals

## **E-24 Miss Demeanor**

Owner/Driver: Jim Hill

Hill looks to get his radical 5-Liter hull up on plane this year with a new 350ci power plant. This hull looks nothing like the other 5-Liters in competition. Longtime Unlimited Hydro fans will notice the similarities between this hull and the famous Winston Eagle 'Lobster Boat'. Hill hopes to have better luck with his 5-Liter than that particular design had at the unlimited level.

## **E-26 Flight Time**

Owner/Driver: Kurt Myers

The team chose an apt name 'Flight Time' as they seemed to spend a bit of time riding high of the water in 2016. Look for a calmer ride and more speed in 2017. This hull took home a national championship in 2013 with unlimited drivers Brian Perkins and Jamie Nilsen sharing the cockpit. Purchased by Wilson Creek, WA native Kurt Myers, the boat joined the circuit late last year and was somewhat flighty. Myers looks to improve his hull's stability and step up to compete with the rest of the APBA Region 10 5-liter fleet.

## **E-31 Mauldin Well Service**

Owner/Driver: Jim Mauldin

Mauldin returned to 5-liter racing in 2016 after sitting out the 2015 season. His 5-Liter is one of the newest and fastest in the country. It was either feast or famine for Mauldin at the 2016 Columbia Cup. He was unable to start two heats, but won the other four he competed in. This was good enough to give him a 3 rd place finish overall at the event. Mauldin set a world record during a heat at the 2017 Soap Lake Regatta.

## **E-53 Belzona**

Owner/Driver: Cody Holmes

Holmes hopes to return in 2017 with a better motor and refurbished hull. This should lead to more consistent racing results for the Belzona team. He continues to leverage the unique protective coatings and composites technologies of his sponsor Belzona as part of his race program.

## **E-57 The Cheetah**

Owner: Chris and Pat Bertram

Driver: Chris Bertram

Father and son racers Chris and Pat Bertram purchased this 5-Liter in the offseason. They hope to make this older hull more competitive with a 350 engine. Chris Bertram has driven almost every class of inboard boat including Unlimited Hydroplanes.

## **E226 Fully Loaded Racing - Cascadia Supermoto**

Owner/Driver: John Reifel

John Reifel was one of the initial graduating class of the ABPA driver school on the west coast last year. After graduating, he didn't take long to make a splash, closing a deal to buy J. Michael Kelly's former E42 5-Liter. The hull won a national championship in 2014. Reifel looks to shed his rookie status and be racing up with the front of the pack by the time the Columbia Cup rolls around this year.

## **THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO WATCH A BOAT RACE: TRI-CITIES**

The Tri-Cities is perhaps the only place in a populated area that has more than a mile of continuous, unobstructed riverside space available on both sides of a river for people to watch a boat race. When you consider the 100 or more pleasure boats anchored at both ends of the course, Tri-Cities makes possible a 300-degree view of water racing.

- You can't get any closer to watch the 200 mile-per-hour Hydroplanes race than in the Tri-Cities, where the 2 1/2 mile oval course fits snugly between the two riverbanks.
- With the help of the McNary Dam 20 miles downstream, three historic rivers – the Snake, Yakima and Columbia create a pool ideal for racing.
- Three nearby highway bridges facilitate traffic to and from the race site. Freeway and highway systems make it an easy trip to the races from the north (Spokane), the west (Seattle and the Coast) and the south (Portland and Northern Oregon).

## **A GRASS-ROOTS EFFORT**

Year after year, since racing started in the Tri-Cities in 1966, improvements have been made to the race site. When something was needed, money was found through various fundraisers and donations and with the help of volunteers, ideas and needs became a reality. With the Water Follies organization as the catalyst, the "greening" of the spectator areas began. In the past 30+years, thanks to volunteers, Water Follies has helped some 80 acres of grass to be planted, complete with underground sprinkler systems, on both sides of the river.

- The first grass went in around the Hydroplane pits to provide a better area for boat crews, their equipment and motorhomes. Next came 16 acres of grass to improve a riverside spectator in Columbia Park. Then the 22-acre playfield was created near the main entrance, which does double-duty as a dust-free main parking lot for races.
- In a large undertaking by Water Follies volunteers and the City of Pasco, an underground sprinkler system was installed and grass planted on a mile-long riverfront area that stretches from Road 39 to Road 54 in Pasco.
- The grass and irrigation projects, spearheaded by the Water Follies, were made possible by unique cooperation between companies, businesses, service clubs, community organizations, cities, counties, and other agencies who have provided money, materials, equipment and the volunteer labor to provided a million dollars in community improvements. These improvements are used the year-around for the enjoyment of everyone.

## RACE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE

Hundreds of volunteers dedicate thousands of hours to make the parks ready for the spectators.

- To prepare the spectator areas, each year the Water Follies rents some 4,000 folding chairs, 100 tents and miles of chain link fence. Race fans can bring their own chairs and blankets. Bleacher seating is available. Or, for added comfort and convenience, hosted special viewing areas have been created.
- Of all the race sites, the Tri-Cities pit area is by far the largest and one of the best. As many as two dozen unlimited Hydroplanes can be accommodated. Underground electric and water service is provided to each race boat.
- Over 300-feet of docks have been built over the years by volunteers for use by race boats. The docks are also available for recreational use, fishing derbies and other events.
- Some unlimited race sites have had trouble finding enough large cranes to lift the three-ton unlimited boats in the water. That, of course, has never been a problem in the Tri-Cities because the world headquarters of one of the largest crane companies, the NF Lampson Cranes, is located in the Tri-Cities. Cranes have been generously loaned and operated by the Lampson Cranes every year.
- The three-story official's control tower on the starting line is was built and designed locally. The prefabricated steel structure is 30 feet high, 10 feet wide and 40 feet long. It can accommodate 150 people including referees, race officials, timers, scorers, communications people, TV camera crews and media representatives. The tower consists of three independent modular sections that are trucked to the site and are set up in less than six hours.
- A public address system is in place in Columbia Park to provide spectator information – another park improvement made by the Tri-City Water Follies Association.
- Recent improvements in Columbia Park made by the City of Kennewick have added much to the race. New lighting, curbing, paved parking lots, public restrooms and landscaping have been added.

## AMENITIES

- Concession stands are set-up through the spectator area and provide a wide variety of foods, soft drinks, souvenirs to serve the racing crowd. There is a beer garden located in Columbia Park.
- Round-trip bus service to the race is offered by Ben Franklin Transit. With the purchase of a race ticket, you can catch the bus at a pickup point in each city and be delivered to the race site in Columbia Park.
- **Special Needs Viewing:** This area is available for special needs guests who require **extraordinary** care to enjoy a day at the races. One caregiver is allowed per guest. General Admission passes are required for entry to the prime viewing location in Columbia Park. The Transit System's Dial-A-Ride provides rides each way on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for eligible patrons. Service will run from 8 – 11 a.m. Dial-A-Ride will leave Columbia Park special needs area located west of the bleachers and the Pasco side, 15 minutes after the last race. Reservations must be made by 5:00 p.m. On Thursday for Friday and by noon on Friday for Saturday. Sunday rides must be reserved by Noon on Friday. Call 735-0160 for Dial-A-Ride reservations.
- To signify that the Tri-Cities area is indeed a focal point for boat racing, a full-size replica of an unlimited Hydroplane is on display the year around to greet visitors entering Columbia Park.
- For over 20 years, the Water Follies has hired a professional crowd management company to provide services and to lessen the burden on Tri-City law enforcement agencies during the boat races. The company has people working in various capacities during the week of Water Follies activities.
- Local hospitals staff and operate first aid stations strategically located throughout the spectator areas.

## **COLUMBIA RIVER-FRONT & PARK ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS BY WATER FOLLIES**

**2011-2012** Made improvements to the Columbia Park sound system. TCWF started the permitting process for additional irrigation improvements. TCWF contributed funding for upgrades to the Centennial Stage in Columbia Park.

**2010** Added 300 feet of sod on the Pasco side levee

**1999-2000 Playground of Dreams** - Water Follies contributed \$3,500 to the Hydroplane toy in the Playground. Board members and staff also contributed volunteer hours to the project.

**1999-2000 Hydroplane Monument** - The Miss Tri-Cities Hydroplane monument was refurbished and mounted near the Highway 240 entrance of Columbia Park

**1999-2000 Columbia Park Docks** - Several docks were reconstructed and new docks were built for Columbia Park.

**1998-1999 Franklin County Irrigation/Seeding** - Water Follies, Franklin County and the City of Pasco teamed up to create a one-mile irrigated, grassy stretch of river front along the bike path between Roads 54 and 39 in Pasco.

**1997-1998 Columbia Park Play Field** - Water Follies organized volunteer efforts to turn weedy land into a versatile, 22-acre, irrigated play field near the Highway 240 entrance of Columbia Park. Over 100 volunteers were needed to complete the project valued at \$300,000. Several local businesses and groups contributed cash and in-kind donations. Water Follies contributed \$5,000 cash to the project.

**1996-1997 Columbia Park Docks/Ramp** - Water Follies volunteers built ramps and seven docks for Columbia Park in 1996 and seven more in 1997.

**1995-1996 Columbia Park Scoreboard** - Water Follies built the official scoreboard located behind the Neil F. Lampson Pit Area.

**1993-1994 Columbia River Irrigation/Seeding** - Volunteers helped to irrigate and seed the shoreline north of Columbia Park's main road from the east end lawn area to across from driving range. \$5,000 was also contributed to the project.

**Outdoor Stage in Columbia Park, Bleachers & Pit Area** - Water Follies led volunteer efforts and a donation drive to construct the original outdoor stage in Columbia Park and to irrigate and grass the area around it. Water Follies also purchased the bleachers located northeast of the Columbia Park Driving Range and created & built the Neil F. Lampson Pit Area.

**Ongoing** – The Water Follies continues to make improvement to both the Columbia Park and Pasco shoreline venues.

## **CONTRIBUTING TO CIVIC GROUPS, PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

Tri-City Water Follies contributes an average of \$30,000 a year to civic organizations who use the event as a fund raiser by selling ice and souvenir programs, working event gates, cleaning up after the events, parking cars, selling Booster Buttons, etc.

They perform services at the races in exchange for Water Follies contributions and in turn initiate their own community projects. Many of them grant scholarships for advanced education. More than 20 organizations have been involved in recent years earning anywhere from \$300 to \$5,000.

The Water Follies also contributes scholarship money to Miss Tri-Cities Scholarship Program contestants each year.

## **PROVIDING A BOOST TO THE ECONOMY**

Tri-City Water Follies draw \$2.5 million in direct expenditures, according to the Tri-Cities Visitors & Convention Bureau. Hotels are booked, restaurants report highest sales during the weekend, gas sales are higher than any non-holiday weekend and it's one of the top weekends for convenience and grocery stores.

The Columbia Cup draws national media exposure, shining the spotlight on our area's recreational resources. The races are covered by various local and national television and radio, and national newspapers such as USA Today. Live Internet audio streams, live television coverage on Sunday, July 30 by NBC affiliate KNDU/SWX, national radio coverage and over 100 newspapers across the nation cover the event, by bringing attention to our region.

#### **NON-PROFIT WATER FOLLIES DOLLARS AND SENSE**

Sponsorships are integral to making the event happen each year. Major expenses include the Unlimited Hydroplanes and other boat classes, air show, event infrastructure, security, administration, insurance and advertising.