



NEWS RELEASE

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Oberto Championship Series Brings Gold Cup to Chelan

CHELAN, Wash. — The R/C Unlimiteds Oberto Championship Series comes to an end with the 2003 Gold Cup and Norm Evans Memorial October 4-5 at Chelan Riverwalk Park.

2003 Oberto Championship Series R/CU GOLD CUP

Who: R/C Unlimiteds members.

What: Oberto Championship Series R/CU Gold Cup.

When: Saturday, October 4, 2003, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, October 5, 2003, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Where: Chelan Riverwalk Park.

Why: Final race of the 2003 Oberto Championship Series.

How:

Saturday: two sections of three-lap sprint heats. Sunday: four sections of five-lap heats, followed by two consolation finals and the Gold Cup winner-take-all championship final heat.

Defending series champion **Dave Brandt** (Kennewick, Wash.) and **Don Mock** (Seattle) are locked up in a battle for the series crown this season. Last season, the championship also came down to the final race of the season as Brandt edged Mock at the end.

Mock leads the series standings with 17,663 points, and four race wins. Brandt is in second place with 16,975, with five race wins to his credit this season. Other race winners were **David Newton** (Renton, Wash.) at the Apple Blossom Regatta in Quincy, Wash.; **Kirk Maupin** (Monroe, Wash.), who won the Columbia Cup in the Tri-Cities; and **Bill Brandt** (Kennewick, Wash.), who was the Diamond Cup winner in Spokane.

Spectators and media are welcome and invited to come join the R/CU Oberto Championship Series during its visit to Chelan Riverwalk Park. More information about R/CU, its schedules, the boats, and the drivers is available online at www.rcunlimiteds.org, or at the race course. R/CU normally opens the pits to spectators for 15-20 minutes between the second and third sets of heats.

Weekend Schedule

Practice and testing will take place from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4. Racing begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday with two sections of three-lap sprints. The course opens at 9:30 a.m. for one hour of testing on Sunday, Oct. 5. Racing begins at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Four sections of heats consisting of

five-lap heats will make up the format on Sunday. Two five-lap consolation heats will then precede the five-lap winner-take-all final. The driver who earns the most points throughout the weekend will be awarded the Norm Evans Memorial Trophy.

R/CU's History In Chelan

The Gold Cup is the oldest, most prestigious race in R/C Unlimiteds history. It has been run every year since the club was founded in 1984. It has been run in Chelan since 2000. R/CU has been racing in Chelan annually since 1993. **Don Mock** has won three of the 10 races at Riverwalk Park. **Dave Brandt** and **David Jensen** (Kenmore, Wash.) have each won twice here.

Celebrating Anniversaries

Oberto Sausage Company is celebrating its 85th year in business this year, the same year that R/C Unlimiteds is celebrating its 30th year of racing.

Defending Champ Dominates Gold Cup

Defending Gold Cup champion **David Jensen** (Kenmore, Wash.) dominates the race history, having won 12 Gold Cups in his career. Jensen is the club's leader in career wins with 41. At one time, Jensen won six straight Gold Cups, and he's currently on a streak of two in a row.

Real Gold Cup Winner to be in Attendance

Local hero **Mitch Evans** has been a regular in the pits during the Oberto Championship Series' visits to Chelan in years past. This year, Evans brings the excitement of his successful year driving the world's fastest piston powered unlimited hydroplane with him. Evans drove the U-3 to three wins in six races on the HydroProp Budweiser Unlimited Hydroplane Series this year. Included in Evans' wins was the American Power Boat Association Gold Cup.

"Get Chet Tour" Comes to an End

The "Get Chet Tour", a season-long personal challenge between R/CU veteran **Chet "The Jet" Lepinski** (Richland, Wash.), and rookie **Marc Connelly** (Olympia, Wash.) comes to a head at the Gold Cup as the two are scheduled for a grudge race on Saturday afternoon immediately following the first two sections of heat racing. Connelly has a commanding lead in the "Get Chet Tour", with 5,080. Lepinski has 3,962 this season.

Big Boat-Little Boat

Roger Newton (Renton, Wash.) is not only the founder of R/C Unlimiteds and the inventor of racing these types of models, he's also the crew chief for the real unlimited hydroplane known as Silver Dollar Casinos presents Mister Home Loans. The U-25 Superior Racing Team is Newton's 'real job', now that he's retired from a career with the Renton Fire Department. Newton is second in all-time career points in the R/C Unlimiteds ranks. Newton and his son David drive the current Miss Budweiser hulls (T-5 & T-6, respectively) on the Oberto Championship Series.

Roundnoses Versus Pickleforks

It is not at all uncommon to see the old days relived at R/CU Oberto Championship Series races, as the old roundnose boats, as well as the conventional hulls (driver behind the engine) square off against the technological sleds of today in R/CU heats. In 2003 three different eras are represented by the top five boats: including the 1984 Atlas Van Lines, the 1995 PICO American Dream, the 1997 Close Call, and the 2002 Miss Budweiser (T-6). The 1972 Hallmark Homes is the club's top roundnose boat, sitting 15th overall.

Team Brandt Still Not Close to Family Record

Despite six wins between them this year, **Bill** and **Dave Brandt** are still four wins short of tying a club-record for wins by a father-son duo in the same season. **Lee** and **Jesse Robertson** combined to win 10 races in 1999.

Triple Crown Update

With just the Gold Cup left to go in terms of completing the Triple Crown, competition is close. **Don Mock** leads the standings, but by just 100 points over **Lee Robertson**. Both **Bill** and **Dave Brandt** are each just 550 points back. **Gary Grembowski**, **Robert McIntyre**, and **David Newton** all have a chance to win the Triple Crown as well. The Triple Crown is awarded to the driver who scores the most points in the Atomic Cup, Diamond Cup and the Gold Cup. Mock has won the last three Triple Crowns. No one else has ever won three in a row. The Triple Crown will be decided in Chelan.

Three Dot Notes

Ellensburg's **Jeff Heimkes** made it to the final for the first time in his career, winning the first consolation at the Silver Cup with his 82 Executone, and taking fourth place in the final ... **Bill Brandt's** Diamond Cup win moved him from a tie for 43rd in career wins, to a tie for 33rd in career wins ... The 2003 season is the second straight year that **Dave Brandt** has won five or more races in a single season ... It's also the fourth straight in which **Don Mock** has won at least two races in a single season ... Locals expected include **Mike Walcker** (Cashmere) who is expected to bring his Miss Spokane, **Bryan Cook** (Wenatchee) is expected to run the 1988 Miss Madison. Other club members from the area are: **Craig Bonar** and **Jim Sherrell** (East Wenatchee), Waterville's **Paul Hadley**. Wenatchee natives — and school chums — **Jim Latimer** (Lacey, Wash.) and **Mick Shutt** (Vancouver, Wash.) also return to their home area for the race weekend.