



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Oberto Championship Series to Make Third Ellensburg Stop

**ELLENSBURG, Wash.** — The R/C Unlimiteds Oberto Championship Series will make its third appearance of the year in Ellensburg, August 16-17, as it brings the Silver Cup to Irene Reinhardt Park.

Defending series champion **Dave Brandt** (Kennewick, Wash.) has won both of the two previous Ellensburg races this year. In fact, Brandt has won each of the last four races in Ellensburg, dating back to the 2002 season.

**Don Mock** (Seattle) leads the series standings with 15,259 points, and is threatening to break the club's record for most points in a single season. Brandt is in second place with 13,269. Dave Brandt's father, **Bill Brandt**, enters the Silver Cup with 11,554 points, good for third place.

The club held its Bill Muncey Memorial and the Governor's Cup in Ellensburg this year. Dave Brandt won the Muncey race June 22; and the Governor's Cup on July 13. The Governor's Cup was originally scheduled for Olympia, but milfoil problems in the pond forced the race to be moved to Ellensburg — one of the more popular race sites on the circuit.



Spectators are welcome and invited to come join the R/CU Oberto Championship Series during its visit to Irene Reinhardt Park. More information about R/CU, its schedules, the boats, and the drivers is available online at [www.rcunlimiteds.org](http://www.rcunlimiteds.org), or at the race course. R/CU normally opens the pits to spectators for 15-20 minutes inbetween the second and third sets of heats.

Practice and testing will take place from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16. The course opens at 8 a.m. for two hours of testing and practice on Sunday, Aug. 17. Racing begins at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. Four sections of heats consisting of three-lap sprints will make up the format of the race day. Two five-lap consolation heats will then precede the five-lap winner-take-all final.

#### 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.

#### Oberto Series Flagships Expected

At least four different Oh Boy! Oberto hulls are likely to make an appearance in the R/CU pits during the Columbia Cup. Expected are the 2000 Oh Boy! Oberto (Nelson Holmberg), 1990 Oh Boy! Oberto (Marty Schallenberger), 1982 Oh Boy! Oberto (Ron Hartley), and the 1975 Oh Boy! Oberto (Marty Schallenberger).

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**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, 2002 Miss Budweiser (T-6), and the 1983 Miss Rock. The 1972 Hallmark Homes is the club's top roundnose boat, sitting 16th overall.

**Maupin Wins Columbia Cup, Breaks Brandt's Streak**

**Kirk Maupin** (Seattle, Wash.) won the Columbia Cup, July 26, in Kennewick. By doing so, Maupin snapped **Dave Brandt's** four-race winning streak, which was just two short of matching the club's longest winning streak.

**Ellensburg Local**

One driver on the Oberto Championship Series, **Jeff Heimkes** is from Ellensburg. Heimkes runs his brand new 1982 Executone, which was severely damaged during the Governor's Cup. Heimkes, however, had the boat repaired in time for the Columbia Cup (July 26). Heimkes and his Executone are expected to run in the Silver Cup, too.

**Final Berths**

Through nine races this season, 20 different drivers have earned spots in the final heat. Nine different drivers have made it to the final more than once, and only one driver, Mock, has been in each of the nine finals this season.

**Rookie Race**

It's about time to start the watch for the 2003 R/CU Rookie of the Year Award. Three candidates are in the running this year, **Robert McIntyre** (Seattle, Wash.), 6,152 points; **Marc Connelly** (Olympia, Wash.), 3,504 points; and **Dave Helton** (Seattle, Wash.), 3,321 points. While none of the three has made a final, they've all been in connies this year. With five races still to go, it could be an all-out battle for the Rookie of the Year award this year. The last five Rookies of the Year are: **Steve Schmitz** (2002), **Kyle Bannister** (2001), **Mick Shutt** (2000), **John Stubbers** (1999), and **Jeff Stubbers** (1998).

**Used to Being Up Front**

**Don Mock** (Seattle) is used to being up front in Oberto Championship Series races this year. In nine races, he's finished either first or second seven times, third once, and fourth once. Mock needs just one more win to collect his 30th career race championship. He'd be only the second driver in R/CU history to win 30.

**Next Stop on the Oberto Championship Series**

The next race of the 2003 Oberto Championship Series is the Diamond Cup, set for September 1 in Spokane, Wash. **Lee Robertson** (1978 Squire Shop) is the defending champion.