

# **INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE RACES™**

## **NEWS:**

For Immediate Release

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## **10<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SUBRACES TO CELEBRATE ISR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

***... Record Number of Subs Expected in Human-Powered  
Engineering Design Competition...***

CARDEROCK, MD. Dec. 16, 2008 -- The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary running of the International Submarine Races™, the world's only engineering design competition for human-powered underwater vehicles, will be held June 22-26, 2009, at the U. S. Naval Surface Warfare Center's Carderock test tank facility in Bethesda, MD.

This will be the 10<sup>th</sup> in a series of biennial races that test the creative skills of young engineering students from colleges, universities and technical and high schools from throughout the world. Teams wearing scuba gear compete in one- and two-person "wet" submarines designed to run submerged along a 100-meter measured course in Carderock's model basin.

The 8.035 knot speed mark, set in 2007 by the OMER 5 submarine from the Ecole de Technologie Superieure, Montreal, Canada, will be difficult to beat, according to ISR Head Judge Claude Brancart. It is a speed most human-powered submarine enthusiasts previously deemed unachievable. Speeds have steadily improved over the 20-year history of the ISR.

ISR officials said 2009 will feature a record number of entries. By early December, 30 teams had indicated their plans to participate in the competition. Two more were expected. The teams are:

University of California San Diego  
Sussex County NJ Technical School  
University of British Columbia, Canada  
Wheaton MD Submarine Works  
University of Houston  
Millersville University, PA  
University of Florida  
Virginia Tech  
Scuba Sub Team, MD  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
Texas A&M

University of Maine  
Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico  
Ecole de Technologie Superieure, Quebec, Canada  
Hernando City Schools, FL  
Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada  
Faux Fish Technologies, IL  
University of Washington  
Western Washington University  
Everett WA Community College  
Universidad Simon Bolivar, Venezuela  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, NY  
Florida Atlantic University

(Note: some schools are fielding more than one team.)

## International Submarine Races

As part of the observance of the ISR's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, plans include a display of previous winning OMER submarines, Bruce Plazyk's exotic designs from past races, and a full-scale replica of the Revolutionary War submarine, the *Turtle*.

"The purpose of the sub races is to provide an educational opportunity for aspiring young engineers," said Nancy Hussey, ISR Executive Director. "Their participation in the design, construction, and operation of a human-powered submarine offers real-time application of theoretical knowledge, hands-on creativity, problem solving and teamwork skill opportunities. The subrace engineering design competition is an investment in the future of our young people, not only to help them compete in the global technology economy, but to provide a better trained and experienced resource pool of bright and industrious students to help the defense industry and the government fill future national needs. The ISR experience increases their value to potential employers. Studies show that students who can put their classroom skills to practical use fare far better in the post-college job market."

The Platinum 10th ISR sponsors are the USN Naval Sea Systems Command, NSWC, the Electric Boat Corporation and the Oceanic Engineering Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Many Gold and Silver sponsors contribute as well. This will be the seventh time that the ISR will be staged at the 3200-foot-long David Taylor Model Basin at NSWC. The submarine races began in Florida in 1989 in the open ocean and have grown to see the participation of teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

The 10<sup>th</sup> ISR Contestant Manual is available at the ISR website, [www.isrsubrace.org](http://www.isrsubrace.org). All contestant inquiries about the race should be addressed to Claude Brancart, ISR Contestant Liaison and Head Judge, at (207) 729-7873 or by email at [c.brancart@ieee.org](mailto:c.brancart@ieee.org).

Organizations or individuals interested in sponsorship, including in-kind, may contact Nancy Hussey, ISR Executive Director, at [seacure@earthlink.net](mailto:seacure@earthlink.net), or by phone at (843) 278-1474 and cell (843) 830-5008, or Dave McGee, Assistant Race/Executive Director, at [edavemcgee@cox.net](mailto:edavemcgee@cox.net) or (703) 399-7617.

The ISR organization is all volunteer; those interested in becoming volunteers may contact Sue Peterson, Volunteer Coordinator, at [speterson@chesapeake.net](mailto:speterson@chesapeake.net).

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