

INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE RACES™

NEWS:

For Immediate Release

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8th INTERNATIONAL SUBRACES UNDERWAY AT NAVY TEST FACILITY

...boats competeing in human-powered design event...

BETHESDA, MD. June 28, 2005 –One and two-person teams are racing this week in the 8th running of the International Submarine Races™ (ISR), a 16-year-old biennial engineering design competition at one of the world's largest indoor tanks--the Naval Surface Warfare Center's Carderock Division David Taylor Model Basin in Bethesda, Maryland.

Some of the hottest competition is between world record-holder OMER 5 from Montreal, Canada, and a new team from the University of Delft, Netherlands. Both are using computer-aided variable pitch propellers. Teams from Maryland, Florida and elsewhere are also turning in excellent timed runs.

This is the fifth staging of the event in the 3,200-foot-long David Taylor test tank at NSWC. The submarine race is a contest that began in 1989 and has grown to include the participation of universities, colleges, corporations, research centers, high schools and privately sponsored teams from the North America and Europe. Typical teams consist of student athlete/engineers, wearing scuba gear as the subs are "wet", meaning filled with water, who provide propulsion and navigation as their subs run against the clock along a fixed underwater course. The principal objective is education: encouraging innovation in the use of materials, hydrodynamic design, buoyancy, propulsion and underwater life support. Previous races saw the creation of world speed marks and the emergence of a new category of high-speed underwater performance from one-person designs.

"The Naval Surface Warfare Center is proud to host the 2005 International Submarine Races at its David Taylor Model Basin," said Captain Charles D. Behrle, USN, Division Commander. "We are pleased to be able to once again support such an outstanding educational and engineering endeavor."

Participating teams:

Everett Community College, WA
US Merchant Marine Academy
Sussex County Technical School, NJ
Virginia Tech
Florida Atlantic University
University of Washington
Hernando County (FL) Schools
Villanova University
Millersville University

University of Michigan
Ecole de Technologie Superieure, Montreal
Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal
Texas A&M University
University of Delft, Netherlands
Independents: Don Burton, Bruce Plazyk,
Wheaton Submarine Works (2 subs)

The building of human-powered submarines dates back more than 200 years. Contemporary submarines represent many months, if not years, of effort in labs, workshops and garages by engineering students or individual entrepreneurs. The goal is to design an underwater vehicle that can be powered successfully by scuba-clad teams through the course without malfunctioning, crashing into the bottom, popping to the surface or simply failing to move through the water.

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