



Dear drag boat racing fans,

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Marketing Director for the Columbia Drag Boat Association (C.D.B.A. [www.cdbaracing.com](http://www.cdbaracing.com)) and share with you a brief history of my involvement with the fastest show on water.

Some of my favorite memories as a child revolve around my family packing up the motorhome and jet boat and heading to the Colorado River near Yuma, AZ or Lake Billy Chinook in Culver, OR. One would be amazed at what you can fit in a jet boat to go up river. The folks, the kid(s), the dog(s), BBQ, food, lawn chairs, beach towels, life jackets, umbrellas, a cooler or two, the water skis and I'm sure I forgot a thing or two. Once you found your beach or sandbar, you'd sit in your chair in the water because the sand was too hot to navigate with your bare feet. Neighbors and friends would show off their boat or some new part they were trying out. When someone you didn't know sped by, you'd turn your hat around, jump in the boat, chase them down, nag them for a race to see who was faster and instantly you'd have a new friend.



My father was introduced to the liquid quarter mile in 2002 by a family friend. Family is the key word since my mother, sister and I became instant crew members. Our old jet boat was now a race boat. After several years, dad saved enough to buy a quicker boat and left the old boat sitting in the driveway. Always having a love for an adrenaline rush, it was no surprise to anyone that in 2007 I said yes when dad asked me if I wanted to race the old gal.

The first few years I participated in only a few events. The desire to be competitive was too much to handle and I decided to run a full season. In 2010, I was in graduate school working on a career change so I stashed my financial aid money and used the summer weekends to spend with the boat. I had no idea how our family would get two boats to every race but we did it and in my first full season of competing, I won a championship. Friends and family also contributed to help me participate in the Lucas Oil Drag Boat Racing World Finals in Phoenix, AZ ([www.lucasoildragboats.com](http://www.lucasoildragboats.com)). My second full season I managed to be runner up in my class and decided it was time to go faster.

I bought a boat. But a discussion with my father led to a different direction. He would let me drive his boat if I paid for the next motor rebuild. Maintenance, new parts = more horsepower = more speed = one bad chick (and a lot of penny pinching). This meant sitting out the 2012 season and any season thereafter until the darn thing was paid off.

I wanted to stay involved with the club. So at every race, (except our home track where I drove dad's boat and took home a trophy, but that's another story), you'd find me at the top of the boat ramp with a clipboard and radio headset communicating, in some form or another, with the safety tower and the drivers reporting lane assignments and other information. This was a wonderful opportunity to understand what it takes to put on a race, get through a weekend of qualifying and eliminations, as well to meet every driver and their crew. This job paid off.



In October 2012, I traveled to Lake Ming in Bakersfield, CA with one of our club's racers to see how the National Jet Boat Association (N.J.B.A. [www.njbaracing.org](http://www.njbaracing.org)) ran their program. What a great location for a race!

The opportunity to attend the world finals presented itself again, but this time I attended as an interim crew member with Eddie Knox and the Problem Child Top Fuel Hydro Team. Google them! ([www.eddieknoxracing.com](http://www.eddieknoxracing.com) or

[www.facebook.com/problemchildtfh](http://www.facebook.com/problemchildtfh)) I'm getting goose bumps as I think about typing the stats for this team. 8000+ horsepower, 261 miles per hour and a record 3.36 seconds to travel down the 1000 foot track! (Professional classes run on a shorter 1,000 foot track as opposed to the sportsman's classes who run the full 1,320 foot track.) They have the fastest drag boat in the world and after winning in 2012, became 4<sup>th</sup> time world finals champions. Never has a woman been more proud to have grease, oil, brake cleaner, quick wax or any other mechanical product in her hair, under her nails and smeared on her clothes. I also got a ride in a crackerbox boat during one of the heats at finals. ([www.crackerboxracing.net](http://www.crackerboxracing.net)) And the coolest part of the trip was being able to walk through the grandstands or one of the 150+ competitor's pits and be welcomed by name with a smile, a chair, food and/or drink if not all of the above. The drag boat family and sport is nothing short of awesome.

2013 finds me running the ramp again while my spare change gets sent to the motor builder and the mortgage company. I'm also taking on the role of Marketing Director for our club through a volunteered hand raising and no opposing candidates. The purpose for my volunteering is to more actively share my passion, recruit more competitors and broaden our fan base. Our spectators and sponsors are a huge part of our drag racing family. Increasing our communities' awareness of our organization provides opportunities that are mutually beneficial for promoting the goods and services of our club and sponsors alike. In our case, we provide adrenaline filled entertainment in a family friendly environment. Our participants and their crew fill up campgrounds, hotels, restaurants, convenience stores, fuel stations and other businesses in the communities we travel to.



If you currently sponsor C.D.B.A., there are no words to describe our appreciation for your support. One thousand thank yous do not begin to cover it. If you are a new sponsor, or are thinking about sponsoring our non-profit organization, I look forward to visiting with you about opportunities or questions you may have. Invite our drivers to bring their boats down to your grand openings or promotional events. We love to show off our boats and share our passion by attending show-n-shines, sportsman's shows and other expos. We'd love to welcome you into our family.

In other parts of the nation, drag boat racing starts this month. Here in the Pacific Northwest, we are still waiting for things to thaw out. In the meantime, C.D.B.A. racers will be anxious to get on the water as the days get warmer. You'll find us rebuilding motors, watching videos of previous races on the internet or the speed channel. We'll also hope that you will continue to support, or join us in supporting our greatest hobby, drag boat racing. From all of us at C.D.B.A., thank you and may your summer be filled with trips to the lake, horsepower and sunny days.

See you at the track,

*Jessica*



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