



## GETTING READY



Sentinel Photos/STEVEN STILT

**GETTING READY** — Remote-control boat racers chat and make last-minute adjustments to their boats between heats of the 2012 Mt. Vernon Regatta. **INSET:** The nearly six-hour trip to Mt. Vernon paid off for David Preusse of Lake Island, who won the River City Racing Club traveling cup at this year's Mt. Vernon Regatta.



# Mt. Vernon Regatta at airport a success

*Organizers report unexpected profit after races, which involved 100 remote-controlled boats*

**BY STEVEN STILT**

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MT. VERNON — The River City Racing Club (RCRC) capped off its two-day 2012 Mt. Vernon Regatta on the lake at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Sunday. Despite the intense heat, Mike Schindler, district director of the RCRC, reported to the dozens of remote-control boat racers on hand that this year's event was an unprecedented success.

"This is the biggest race I can remember having here," said

Schindler. He noted that a total of 100 boats were involved in this year's festivities.

"I don't think we've ever had 100 [boats]," he said.

The high turnout for the Regatta also led to a better than expected bottom line for the event, which has been brought back in recent years after a lengthy hiatus.

"To be honest, we didn't expect to make any money at this race; we took in a grand, and we'll probably end up making \$600 or \$700," reported Schindler, who said the profits

would be used to help participating racing clubs.

Schindler said Mt. Vernon's location made it a good locale to host the race.

The RCRC is based in Evansville, Ind. "There's also a club in St. Louis," Schindler explained, "and we just worked together, and [Mt. Vernon] is halfway between the two."

The weekend races brought participants from across the state, as well as a large representation from both Missouri and Indiana.

Scott Wadlow of Bethalto said he took up the hobby about 20 years ago.

"I used to race real boats, and crashed a couple times and couldn't do that anymore, so I started doing

this," said Wadlow, who has participated in events in Evansville and Hobart, Ind., Huntsville, Ala., and Charleston, S.C., among other places.

While events such as the Regatta offer no cash prizes, winners are recognized with plaques and trophies. But more than the prospect of any prize, the opportunity to interact with other racers in an atmosphere that's both friendly and competitive is what motivates participants to travel across the Midwest and beyond to attend these events.

Wadlow said "the people, the competition, and just boat racing in general" make the races appealing. "Whether it's model boats or real boats, it's always a happening."

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