

#35: First SCI Quadriplegic to RACE A DRAGBOAT

May, 2009: First SCI Quadriplegic to race a dragboat. (Marine Creek Lake in Ft. Worth, Texas.)

At the recent SDBA Nationals, Patrick Rummerfield achieved another world's first, by becoming the first fully functional spinal cord injury (SCI) quadriplegic in history to successfully race a drag boat.

In the sultry Texas heat, Patrick raced the Stock Eliminator class drag boat in front of a cheering crowd gathered at Marine Creek Lake in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Watch the race: <http://rummerfield.com/videos/>

Patrick was able to establish his newest world's first thanks to the support of Mike Albright, of Albright and Associates, in Odessa, TX, who made his "747 Wat'er the ODDS" drag boat available to Patrick.

"It's always an honor to go down in history as being part of a first time record.", said Mr. Albright. "Since this was Patrick's first run we detuned the motor just a little to be on the cautious side. But after watching him at the starting line and through the run, we thought he was great — he raced like a pro! Pat is an inspiration to everyone!"

"I made it a point to ensure that my life's experiences are proof to those who are experiencing difficulties, that a 'can-do' attitude, determination, and an iron will plays a major role in going from the depth of despair to the feeling that the sky's the limit", said Patrick. "Every world's first is dedicated to those who never give up, to their friends and families, and to all those who support their efforts."

Patrick, who is rumored to be in talks with a car racing team for races in the NASCAR, ARCA, and ADRL circuits, navigated the drag boat at a speed around 100 mph. "Still quick for the water, but I'm sure he's going to go a lot faster!", commented Mike Albright.

Patrick commented that he will use this experience to prepare himself for the upcoming attempt at breaking another world record. Ed Dempsey, founder of Dempsey's World Record Associates (DWRA), is supporting Patrick's effort by supplying the electric motors and running gear, and by modifying the boat that will be used by DWRA race team to set the new world water record. Mr. Dempsey has also expressed an interest in developing an electric powered airplane to allow Patrick to take his electric racing records to the air.

"Can you imagine? A world record for speed in electric vehicle set on land, water, and air. This is what dreams are made of. This is what the American spirit is all about: you can't break it. You just can't break it!", commented Patrick, whose primary focus, when setting these records, is to bring awareness to the importance of activity based restorative therapy and paralysis research.

