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Flying Snail Racing Darts to the Front

With speeds topping 80 MPH the Schnells have had no engine failure. They count on AMSOIL.

Six years of racing, three years in nostalgia class boats, has taught Boyd and Robin Schnell of Spokane, Wash., a lot about racing. One of the biggest lessons is don't skimp on the quality of the motor oil. The Schnells, now AMSOIL Dealers, use AMSOIL Synthetic 5W-30 in their boat motors. They crew "The Flying Snail" race team. Robin is the driver and Boyd is the mechanic, financier and emotional support.

Nostalgia boats are flat-bottom boats generally built between 1963 and 1980. The motors are finely tuned works of sheer power. The Schnell boat is no snail. "Bored enele$$" is a 1970 Laveycraft with a 402 engine pulled from a Corvette. The red and white boat streaks around three-quarter-mile courses like a water bug, topping out at speeds in excess of 80 MPH. There's little margin for failure.

"The Flying Snail" has captured two ski boat class championships. While the boats of friends and competitors are breaking down, the Schnells are always looking ahead to the next race. "We believe the AMSOIL products we use are greatly helping to keep everything alive and well. We've had no motor or V-drive failures of any kind," says Robin Schnell.

When not wrenching for his wife, Boyd Schnell likes to climb in a boat, too. He has a 1974 Laveycraft with all original paint called "Coming Thru." Guess what? The same AMSOIL products go into that boat's engine, too. To date there have been no failures. "We are very pleased with the performance of the products."

Their use of AMSOIL products doesn't stop with their boats. Robin uses Series 2000 20W-50 Synthetic Racing Oil in her Ford Festiva, which is nearing the 150,000-mile mark, and to keep their trailers in top shape they use AMSOIL Water Resistant Grease. They even count on the quality of AMSOIL for their personal health. "We even use the Altrum vitamins."

The Schnells are not about to miss the boat when it comes to racing on a budget and competing to win. "The life of the products is unbelievable. It's much less expensive in the long run. We have used the same oil in the 'Bored enele$$' boat for two years. We had the oil tested after last season and it passed. We were pleasantly surprised. Therefore, we just put the same oil back in the boat again, with still no problems."

Robin Schnell, AMSOIL Dealer, pilots the boat for Flying Snail Racing.

Hipsag Looking to Move Up One More Rung in 2004

Paul Hipsag wins with AMSOIL synthetic motor oil.

Paul Hipsag has one more rung to climb. The Elk River, Minn. driver finished just short of the WISSOTA modified championship at Princeton Speedway last season. He's dedicated to reaching the top in 2004, but not in the way one might think at first glance. Close is not good enough for Hipsag. He's used to being the best . . . and using the best.

The four-person team was formed back in 1990. They've nailed down three track championships and have finished in the top five in points nine times. Time and miles have a way of wearing down a car. Hipsag had been running the same car without changing the rear suspension for two seasons and won two championships. But, conventional wisdom said to change the suspension before it goes away altogether. Change is not always for the better, or at least the benefits of change aren't always apparent right away. It took fully until mid-season before the team got a handle on the nuances of the new rear end suspension. Before long they found themselve in the hunt for another track title.

Hipsag battled for a Princeton, Minn. track championship in 2004.

The points lead swung back and forth between Hipsag and competitors. The championship chase came down to the end of year with only six points between runner-up and winner's cup. It was exciting for fans, but a little disappointing for the team. Still, four feature wins and 12 top five finishes in 19 events spoke volumes about the heart of the team, the excellence of the car and the quality of AMSOIL products. "We are proud to have the AMSOIL company logo on our car. We've used AMSOIL products in our race car and personal vehicles for years."

Hipsag will change cars this year, but not his motor oil.

Hipsag says he's ready to move from mods to late model racing and he won't be looking for a runner-up finish. He doesn't settle for second best in racing or in his car's motor oil. The team may switch classes, cars, even suspensions, but they won't change their choice of synthetic lubrication. They'll stay with AMSOIL.

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