

## “Coach” Nate Brown

Nate and power boats – a match-up from the beginning. His parents stored hydros on their land for other drivers; as often as he could, the young Nate would slip into the cockpit, to dream about racing. At the age of 21, Nate bought his own boat, which he still owns, and began racing on his own. In 1981, Nate built a new boat with plans to drive it himself. In 1982, he burst onto the hydro scene, as evidenced by the following: winning the national high point championship, setting three records, and experiencing his induction into the APBA Hall of Champions.

Over the next decade, Nate spent time with a variety of unlimited teams, each time building upon his already considerable skills. He functioned as a crew chief, hull specialist, and driver, among others. During this time, he collected many more accolades; from top three finishes in major unlimited races to Rookie of the Year awards, to sportsmanship and inspirational awards voted on by his peers.

Starting in 2000, Nate returned to his original desire – driving, and winning, unlimited races. Among his accomplishments:

- 2001 – Racing in a brand-new boat, he set the fastest qualifying time at the Tri-Cities, WA race, won the Seattle Seafair hydroplane race in front of his hometown fans, and finished the season with a win at the San Diego race.
- 2002 – Won the Madison, IN and Tri-Cities, WA races
- 2003 – Propeller problems kept him from any wins, however he continued to be one of the fastest boats that season; winning heats and experiencing podium finishes.
- 2004 – Gold Cup winner in Detroit, MI.
- 2007 – Turned his dream of creating and leading an all-volunteer Hydro team into reality when he created Our Gang Racing, based in Preston, WA. Far ahead of his planned schedule, they raced for the first time at the Seattle Seafair race.
- 2008 – Continued racing, with Kip Brown driving, helps refine and perfect the boat and further develop the team. Sponsorship dollars come in as local companies agree to support the team for some regional races.
- 2009 – Continued refining the boat, making it faster yet. Raced in a Tri-Cities heat to keep driver qualifications current. Raced in Evansville and Doha filling in for Kip with a 5th place finish in Evansville.

