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For info and photos or video of last year's regatta: [www.SolarBoatRace.net](http://www.SolarBoatRace.net)

## **STUDENTS AND ADULTS TO RACE SOLAR BOATS IN MRES SOLAR BOAT REGATTA**

On May 21, teams from schools and organizations across Minnesota will race solar boats they've created in the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Solar Boat Regatta. The free event includes slalom, speed, endurance and solar-only races and three classes: student, adult, and experimental. The regatta begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. at Lake Phalen near the Beach House at 1400 Phalen Drive, St. Paul. The Nick Hass Trio will return with live music.

"We are expecting 15 student and adult teams to participate in the event this year from the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota," said Doug Shoemaker, organizer of the event for the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES). "We also plan to have a solar powered pontoon boat at the event this year. It will be a day at the lake with family fun in the sun," said Shoemaker.

Teams are returning from Brooklyn Center High School, Odyssey Academy from St. Paul, Roosevelt High from Minneapolis, City Academy from St. Paul, Royalton High School and Orono High School.

The team from Royalton High School won a design award last year from MRES. Team members were recently honored when NASA advisor Joyce Winterton invited them to apply for a NASA internship after seeing their solar boat. They were further honored by being invited to Hong Kong and Australia to show their boat.

Over the years, hundreds of students have participated in the boat projects, gaining valuable and unique experience with solar electricity, wiring, motors, fluid dynamics, boat design and modification, construction and teamwork. The boats make use of the sun's radiation, generating electricity that is either stored in a battery or used directly to run the boat's motor. No other power source is allowed. The public is invited to attend the Regatta, which offers a chance to show support for solar power and the students' interest in renewable energy in action. The Solar Boat Regatta has been organized to coincide with WaterFest 2011 at the Lake Phalen Park Pavilion ([www.rwmwd.org](http://www.rwmwd.org)).

*The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) is a member-run, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in Minneapolis in 1978 to promote the use of and to engage in advocacy for renewable energies in Minnesota through education and through the demonstration of practical applications. MRES is involved in education, awareness, and advocacy efforts for all forms of renewable energy, with a particular emphasis on solar technologies. For more information about MRES, go to: [www.mnRenewables.org](http://www.mnRenewables.org)*

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