



BUGGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2009 Members Only Raceday Preview

Dear Members,

From all of us at Buggy Alumni Association HQ, we want to thank you for your membership and feedback during the year. Since we formed the organization at Homecoming, we've added over 50 dues paying members like yourself, on top over 200 members on our website, cmubuggy.org. On top of the races, there will be plenty to see during Carnival weekend:

Th. 10am - 2pm	Design Competition	UC Wiegand Gymnasium
Th. 12pm - 2pm	Matt Wagner's "The Science and Art of Buggy"	UC Peter/Wright/McKenna
Fri. 8am - 12pm	Prelim Races	
Fri. 11:30am-1pm	Buggy Alumni Association Reception	Top of Hill 1 (rain: Baker Hall coffee lounge)
Fri. 1pm-2:30pm	Tom Wood's "History of Buggy"	Baker Hall Giant Eagle Auditorium
Sat. 9am - 12pm	Final Races	

We've had a great time putting together the rolls reports, but this is it, the last one of the season, your members-only Raceday Preview. Truck weekend is over, the heats are set, the drivers are qualified, and the teams are as ready as they're going to be. We'll leave the cynical comments and predictions to the little green gnome, and instead we'll give you the background info you'll need to make your own forecast.



The Sweepstakes committee kept things moving at a good pace on most weekends, but there were some snags along the way. Several nasty looking crashes sent hearts sinking; cars, bicycles, joggers, and dogs made their way onto the course; and even with an early start to freeroll practice in February, the weather didn't often cooperate and a lot of teams barely scraped together their qualifying rolls. Still, seven new buggies were unveiled, and some of them will no doubt end up on A teams.

The Pittsburgh winter hasn't been kind to the roads that make up the buggy course. Hill one is unusable in lane 2, so there will be only two buggies per heat. The back hills aren't much better, and passing will be done at the risk of scraping bottom. Several pushers from the record-setting teams last year have graduated, possibly leaving the door open for other teams to catch up. All that being said, here's a closer look at all of the organizations. Enjoy!



cmubuggy.org

Alpha Epsilon Pi

Kamikaze is the team's first brand new buggy since 2006, and their second in twenty years. It stopped once in the chute just before Truck Weekend, but otherwise it has rolled faster than the rest of the fleet. This boost in technology might be enough to raise the bar for the pushers, who look to be in great shape this year. Despite having two newer buggies, Camo is still rolling strong. Zephyrus did make an appearance this semester, but only to be used for Camo's pass test on Truck Weekend. Watch for the wagging tail in the chute as this veteran strolls by.

Kamikaze '09



Camo '86



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 16th (2008), Women 17th (2006)

Team records:
Men 2:31.7 (2007), Women 3:38.6 (2006)

Beta Theta Pi

After teaming up with Fringe last year, Beta is reviving their own program. Attendance has been spotty at freerolls, but they've made up for it by rolling with other orgs for several days of practice. The team seems to have been put together at the last minute, and their absence on Sunday of Truck Weekend will keep everybody guessing about their push teams until race day.

Problem Child '04



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 5th (2004), Women 2nd (2004)

Team records:
Men 2:09.16 (1986), Women 2:39.83 (2004)

Carnegie Involvement Association

Strong in numbers, and growing as an organization without sacrificing fun for performance. They've lent a hand to Sweepstakes whenever they could, as when three of their six drivers flagged the chute barricades one morning. Their multitude of mechanics are rumored to have begun building a new buggy, but it won't be racing this year. Instead, they'll continue to thrill onlookers with their dropping (and usually rising) pushbars.

Firebird '04



Mirage '00



Conquest '92



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 9th (2005), Women 6th (2004)

Team records:
Men 2:10.42 (1986), Women 2:41.48 (1986)

Fringe

Fringe celebrates 40 years as an organization this year, and they've come a long way since their times as underdog architects. Last year saw a 3rd / 3rd finish, setting a new sub-2:08 team record in the men's races. The new buggy, Bedlam, looks quick, and it looks like they've been keeping up in the current wheel war. They'll need an inspired performance from their pushers to stay with SDC and PiKA this year, but luckily the UAA track meet isn't scheduled during Carnival this year.

Bedlam '09



Bristol '08



Banyan '07



Blizzard '05



Brazen '01



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 2nd (2005, 2007), Women 1st (2005)

Team records:
Men 2:07.84 (2008), Women 2:34.7 (2001)

Kappa Delta Rho

KDR had a respectable finish last year, with both the men and women placing 5th. Their new buggy, Polaris, had a rough start to the year, finally getting around the course on its fourth try. The pushers look solid, but their buggies are in the middle of the time sheets. As long as the mechanics keep the wheel covers and hatches on their buggies, they might still have a shot at 2nd day.

Polaris '09

Perun '07

Powder '03



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 4th (2005), Women 2nd (2005)

Team records:
Men 2:11.37 (2005), Women 2:39.05 (2005)

Phi Kappa Theta

Since their 3rd place time in 1998, PhiKap has DQd or spun 5 times, and missed the Finals the other 5 years. They have two buggies out this year, one of which is 15 years old (making it the third oldest buggy behind the buggies built in 86 and 92). Thier freeroll times are about 10 seconds slower than the leaders, so it will be all about the pushers this year.

Svengali '04

Schadenfreude '94



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 8th (2004), Women 17th (2004)

Team records:
Men 2:11.6 (1998), Women 2:43.16 (1995)

Pi Kappa Alpha

PiKA will be defending a record 7 consecutive victories in the men's race after setting the new course record of 2:04.35 in 2008. Chimera, their A buggy from last year, had a bad crash in the fall but the driver and buggy returned to put up fast times in the Spring. The women put up a good time last year, but it was still more than seven seconds off of SDC's record. From its absence at Truck Weekend, it looks like the new buggy won't be racing. The men's Hill 1 is still pushing sub 17, but some of the other hills have changed personnel. Will they make it eight straight?

RD2k9 '09



Chimera '08



Knightfall '07



Zeus '00



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 1st (2004-2008), Women 1st (2006)

Team records:
Men 2:04.35 (2008), Women 2:29.83 (2004)

Pioneers

Most of the members from last year's team are gone and graduated, leaving a few die-hards and new leadership from former CIA driver and chairwoman Vincent Zeng. Despite the depleted manpower, Pioneers has managed an impressive number of rolls and continues to impress with their enthusiasm. The team last saw themselves in the Finals five years ago, but it's debatable if any other team is enjoying themselves more this year. A little help from Kappa Sigma should keep their times up the hill respectable.

Chaos '03



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 13th (2004), Women 9th (2005)

Team records:
Men 2:15.55 (2002), Women 2:49.51 (2002)

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

It's been a rough decade for Sigma Alpha Epsilon, but they seem to be having a good time with it, and they're returning to buggy this year for the first time since 2003 (2:53.91; 28th place). They started out the year in a joint effort with Kappa Kappa Gamma, but after two weekends, the team was known only as SAE. Despite difficulty making it out to freerolls over the year, they qualified by the end of truck weekend. While they might not be competitive yet on the hills, the venerable Limo is rumored to be entering the Design Competition.

Rubicon '99



Best result in last 5 appearances:
Men 9th (2000), Women n/a

Team records:
Men 2:14.7 (1991), Women 2:58.02 (1994)

Sigma Nu

Sigma Nu's buggies hadn't been keeping up with the top runners in recent years. With new wheels, all that has changed leading into Raceday, and now Zoo, PiKA, Fringe and SDC are rolling within a second of each other. The men's pushers will have to fight for a trophy, though. The women are likely to be strong again, given their top 5 finish in 4 of the last 5 years.

Bungarus Krait '09



Skua '04



King of Spades '92



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 5th (2005), Women 3rd (2004)

Team records:
Men 2:09.05 (1985), Women 2:41.64 (1995)

Sigma Phi Epsilon

When their 2008 entry, Messiah, broke at the drop line mid-semester, the balanced men of Sigma Phi Epsilon lost their 7th place machine and are down to two buggies for the year. The new buggy (ooooooooooh - Barracuda!) looks good enough for A team while their pushers look to be in good form, and if they can squeeze a little more performance out all around, they could slip into the top five again.

Barracuda '09

Pandora '06



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 3rd (2004), Women 5th (2005)

Team records:
Men 2:13.65 (2004), Women 2:55.96 (2005)

Student Dormitory Council

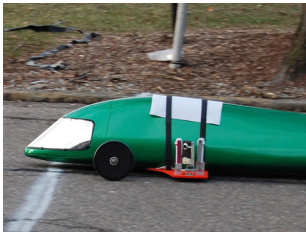
SDC returns from a record setting year with a new women's record of 2:28.84 and two men's times below the previous record. The women are two-time defending champions and the men have placed in the top three in 3 of the past 5 years. Their 2008 A team buggy hit the hay hard just before truck weekend, ripping the axle off the left side and putting all the pressure on their new machine, Malice. Luckily for them it has been posting the fastest freeroll times of the season. Psychosis made a full recovery for Truck Weekend and came back in peak form, although Rage had some haybale encounters of its own. The graduation of their men's Hill 1 pusher left big shoes to fill there, but it looks like they've filled it nicely, and without a doubt, every race they enter will be exciting.

Malice '09

Envy '07

Psychosis '03

Rage '96



Best result in last 5 years:
Men 2nd (2008), Women 1st (2008)

Team records:
Men 2:04.5 (2008), Women 2:28.84 (2008)

Spirit

Spirit was resurgent in 2008, inspired by a race against the record setters and finishing with their first sub-2:10 since 1998. They'll be looking to prove that last year's fourth place was no fluke, and they will no doubt want to avoid a DQ to get their women into the finals where they belonged. Seraph spun on three consecutive days of rolls in the Spring but recovered to become more stable albeit slow. Fuko was taken out of retirement to use as a third buggy and test bed for new Xootr-style wheels, and it's poised to be the A team buggy.

Seraph '04



Zulu Machafuko '96



Kufa Haraka '95



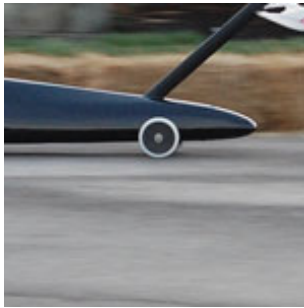
Best result in last 5 years:
Men 2nd (2004), Women 3rd (2005)

Team records:
Men 2:06.2 (1988), Women 2:33.03 (1995)

The Wheel War of '09

Wheels are the top story in buggy tech this year. Nearly every team has their own brand of rubber or polyurethane this year. Over the course of the semester, we've seen black, white, red, green, yellow, orange, and beige rubber in round, flat, wide, thick, and thin profiles. Sometimes they're shiny and smooth, other times they come back from a freeroll cracking and falling apart. It's mostly cast onto Xootr hubs that became hugely popular in 2002. Once the stock formula for Xootrs changed for the worse, most teams scrambled for better rubber and looked to the inline skate industry for help with compounds. With that there's been a lot of crossover between Soap Box Derby and buggy, taking us back a couple of decades to when almost every team ran on derbies.

SAE and sometimes PhiKap and Spirit are clinging to Panaracer pneumatics for their buggies, and PiKA is still using them in the back end. The last race to be won on pneumatics was in 1998 (Spirit). Beta and CIA still do their own thing, AEPI has derbies on Camo, and it looks like SigEp figured out something new for Barracuda. SDC and Sigma Nu have made the biggest strides in performance in the last couple of years while PiKA and Fringe have made incremental improvements, and now you could throw a blanket over the four teams' freeroll times.



2008 Full Results

Women's Day 1

Place	Team	Time	DQ / Notes
1	SDC A	2:31.15	
2	PiKA A	2:38.25	
3	Fringe A	2:39.14	
4	SN A	2:51.34	
5	PiKA B	2:53.84	
6	KDR A	2:55.34	
7	Spirit B	3:05.19	
8	CIA A	3:10.25	
9	SigEp A	3:10.95	
10	SN B	3:21.30	
	Spirit A	2:39.75	failed drop
	SDC B	2:53.64	loss of mass
	KDR B	2:59.84	failed drop
	SDC C	3:10.00	loss of Mass
	Fringe B	3:13.25	transition violation

Men's Day 1

Place	Team	Time	DQ / Notes
1	SDC A	2:05.55	Beat '88 record
2	PiKA A	2:06.09	Beat '88 record
3	Fringe A	2:07.84	
4	PiKA B	2:14.10	
5	Fringe B	2:14.60	
6	KDR A	2:14.60	
7	Spirit A	2:15.10	
8	Fringe C	2:20.40	
9	SigEp A	2:20.67	
10	Spirit B	2:21.40	
11	SDC C	2:22.39	
12	SN B	2:24.60	
13	CIA A	2:30.39	
14	SigEp B	2:31.79	
15	Pioneers A	2:36.35	
16	SN C	2:37.69	
17	CIA B	2:38.70	
18	AEPi A	2:39.69	
19	Pioneers B	2:52.09	
20	SDC B	2:53.84	
21	AEPi B	3:12.55	
	Fringe D		scratched
	SN A	2:17.50	failed drop
	KDR B	2:23.63	loss of mass
	PhiKap A	2:24.40	5-second rule
	SDC D	2:28.40	5-second rule
	KDR C	2:33.64	over start line
	PiKA C	2:41.55	5-second rule
	SigEp C	3:18.50	1/2 Transition

Women's Day 2

Place	Team	Time	Notes
1	SDC A	2:28.84	<i>new women's record</i>
2	PiKA A	2:36.60	
3	Fringe A	2:37.25	
4	SN A	2:49.00	
5	KDR A	2:54.59	
6	PiKA B	3:05.90	

Men's Day 2

Place	Team	Time	DQ / Notes
1	PiKA A	2:04.35	<i>new course record</i>
2	SDC A	2:04.50	
3	Fringe A	2:08.54	
4	Spirit A	2:09.75	
5	KDR A	2:13.25	
6	PiKA B	2:14.85	
7	SigEp A	2:15.19	
8	Fringe C	2:24.19	
	Fringe B	2:13.79	over start line
	Spirit B	2:19.64	1/2 transition