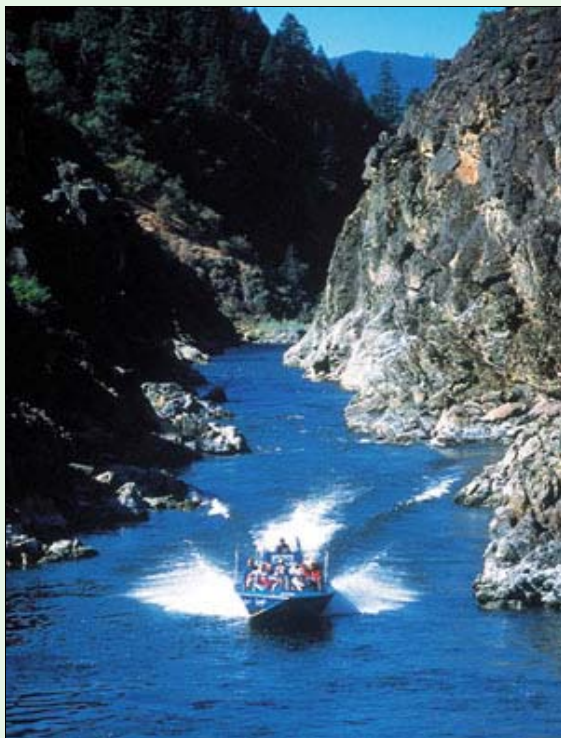


Hellgate pleased with propane engine performance tests



Hellgate Excursions will convert 70 boat engines to dual fueling systems

By Sue Kupillas

Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coordinator

For the past 51 years, Travis Hamlyn's family has been taking people from around the world down one of the country's most celebrated rivers. Hellgate Jetboat Excursions operates jet boat trips on the Rogue River for folks who want to experience the sheer walls of Hellgate Canyon, the cry of an osprey overhead or the splash of cold water on their face. But because Mr. Hamlyn wants to sustain the river's beauty, he has been working with the United States Coast Guard to develop a modified LY6 VVT GM dual fuel boat engine that runs on both propane and gas. It will be the first propane boat engine in the United States, although propane has been used successfully as a marine fuel in Canada, Australia and New Zealand

"Hellgate Jetboat Excursions has always been a green company, looking for the most environmentally safe ways to operate on the Wild and Scenic stretch of the Rogue River," Mr. Hamlyn said. He spoke to the Rogue Valley Clean Cities Board of Directors meeting on April 14. Read the minutes on the news page at www.roguevalleycleancities.org

Mr. Hamlyn chose propane because it is safe, efficient and has the power (BTU output) of gasoline. He tested the propane-powered engine recently in Canada and found no differences in revolutions, torque or engine performance.

For a company that uses more than 100,000 gallons of fuel during its four months of annual operation, the conversion to propane will reduce operating costs. Propane has many advantages, Hamlyn said: it is domestically produced, reduces pollution (the emissions are CO₂ and water vapor), eliminates the risk of spill contaminants (if the vessel sinks, propane will dissipate to the atmosphere and not remain in the water), significantly reduces the amount of oil to service the engines, reduces engine wear and tear and oil changes, reduces labor costs and cuts fuel costs in half.

"A significant difference in the dual fuel engine is the computers that gauge fueling needs to meet power requirements," Mr. Hamlyn said. "The dual fuel system has redundancy so if boats run out of propane, the engine automatically switches to gas." *Learn more on the web <http://www.hellgate.com/>*

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AFV on ice: resurfacers burn natural gas

By Melissa Stiles

Rogue Valley Clean Cities

Alternative fuel vehicles are showing up in some cool places in Oregon. The Bill Collier Community Ice Arena in Klamath Falls is home to a natural gas-powered ice resurfacing machine.

"It was affectionately christened The Suz just before it made its debut in our Snowflake Parade in downtown Klamath Falls," said Suzette Machado ice arena volunteer executive director. "The Suz runs beautifully and makes one mean sheet of ice on a daily basis from November through March of each year."

The Olympia brand machine arrived in December 2008 from Becker Arena Products in Minnesota. It was recommended by arena designer Brad Lemberg of ICE Engineers. "As we were an outdoor arena and we also had the capability of bringing in natural gas, it made great economic sense for us to go with compressed natural gas," Ms. Machado said. To learn more about winter events at The Bill Collier Community Ice Arena, visit the website <http://klamathicesports.org/> The arena is located at 5075 Fox Sparrow Drive, Klamath Falls, OR, 541-850-5758.



The Suz at The Bill Collier Ice Arena in Klamath Falls is powered by natural gas



Rogue Valley Clean Cities will host an Odyssey Day event

October 15 in Medford. RVCC will showcase an alternative fuel vehicle for local high school students. Odyssey is a national, one-day event to promote the use of alternative fuels and energy-efficient vehicles. This year's event marks the 15th anniversary of the USDOE/Clean Cities Program. Odyssey's goals include hosing 125 sites across the United States, attracting 200,000 people and expanding Odyssey audiences to include high schools and green companies. If you have a vehicle to showcase at a high school campus this fall, send us an email or call, melissa@roguevalleycleancities.org, 541-779-0569.

The Chronicle is a monthly publication of Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition. The Coalition is made up of businesses and agencies with a shared goal of reducing the nation's dependence on imported oil. Contact Sue Kupillas, coordinator, by email, sue@roguevalleycleancities.org. Learn more:

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