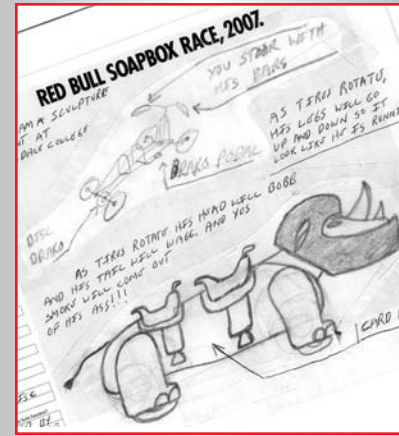
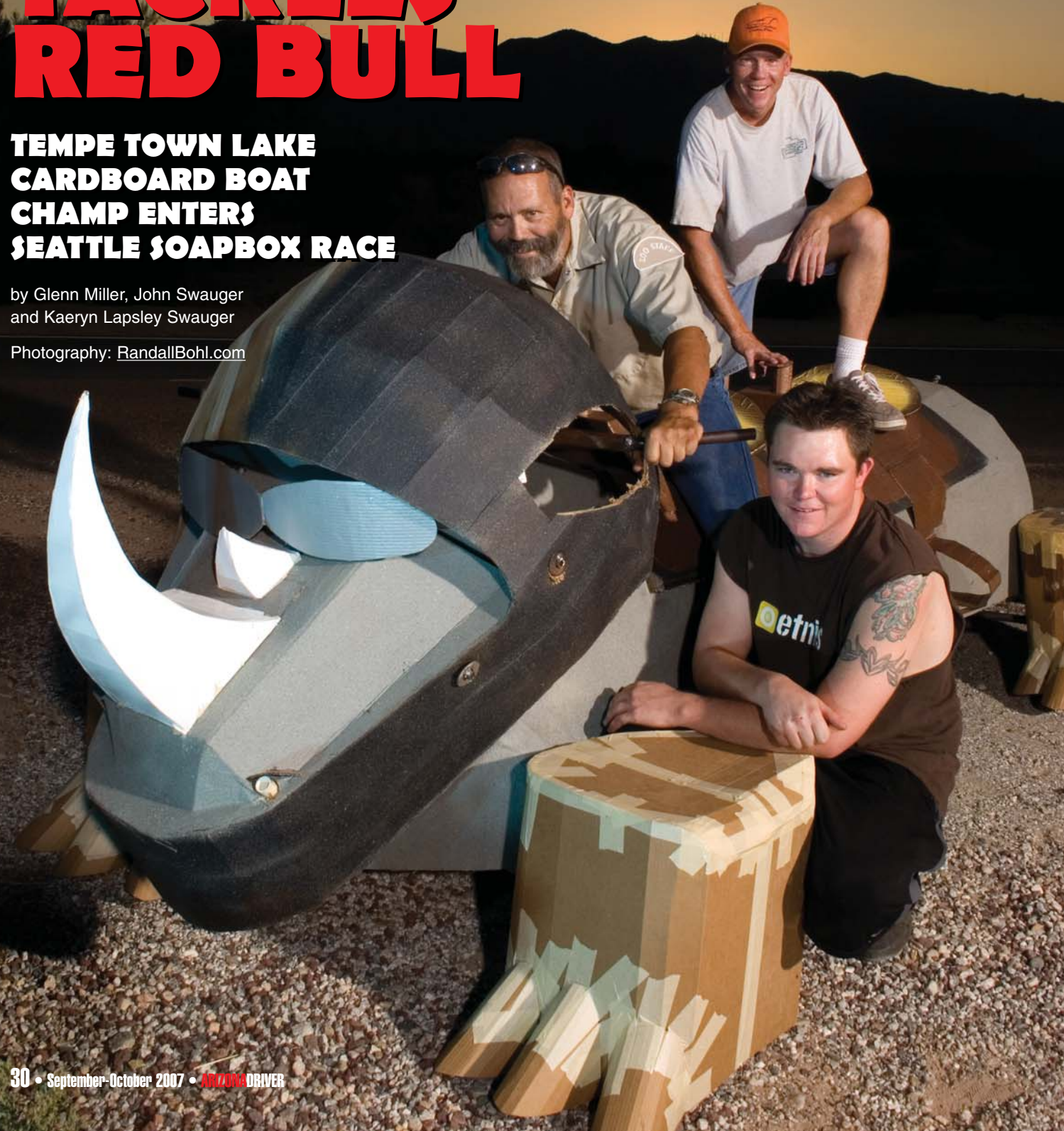


ARIZONA RHINO TACKLES RED BULL

TEMPE TOWN LAKE CARDBOARD BOAT CHAMP ENTERS SEATTLE SOAPBOX RACE

by Glenn Miller, John Swauger and Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger

Photography: RandallBohl.com



RED BULL SOAPBOX RACE

*The only race where fast is good, outrageous is better.
Seattle: September 29, 2007*

The Emerald City will be seeing red at the start line of the Red Bull Soapbox Race in Seattle on September 29. Speed and silliness are sure to be in abundance as non-motorized racers including a baby buggy, a Mellow Tubmarine and Fremont's own landmark troll will maneuver a steep half-mile downhill course on Fremont Avenue (from 36th to 41st Streets) as they battle to beat the clock.

After poring over nearly 300 applications, 46 teams were chosen, along with a wildcard entry picked through online voting, to race their human-powered racing dream machines down the track.

How may these gearheads achieve speedway stardom? Judging is based on three criteria: speed, creativity and showmanship. So you can't just be fast... you have to be fast with flair.

FULL HOUSE

It's a good thing the Fremont neighborhood offers the freedom to be peculiar, because no ordinary racers are likely to be hitting the track on race day. The lineup in Soapbox Seattle includes TV's Bob Saget,



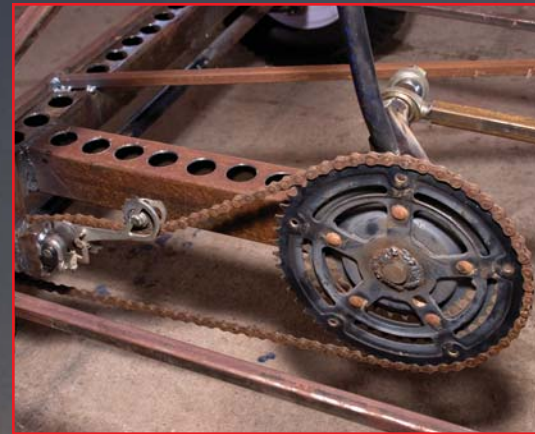
KEEP RIGHT >>



Tempe Town Lake 2004 : Photo by Glenn Miller



Tempe Town Lake 2006 : Photo by Glenn Miller



a few Elvises and even everyone's favorite childhood toy—Lincoln Logs. Teams hail from as far away as Florida and as close as the Fremont district itself. Best of all, our state will be represented by the Knuckleberry Express team from Waddell AZ.

While these auto amateurs are the latest bunch to hit the Red Bull Road, there have been many behind the wheel before them. The first Red Bull Soapbox Race took place in Belgium in 2000, and the event has since visited close to 30 countries including Austria, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, the Czech Republic and Australia, to name a few. The first US pit stop was in St. Louis in 2006.

PUMP THE BRAKES

It may be the most outrageous race around, but there are still a few rules of the road. All driving machines must be entirely human-powered—no stored power or external energy sources are allowed. All vehicles must be less than six feet wide, less than 20 feet long and reach no more than seven feet above the ground. And the craft must weigh no more than 176 pounds (not including the driver and any crew).

Obey the traffic laws and you could score big. The first place prize is an unforgettable NASCAR experience including flight and hotel for four team members. Second prize is the ultimate driving day or weekend at one of the most challenging courses in the country—where speeding will be a must! (The venue for second prize will depend partly on the home base of the winners; advantage: Arizona.) Each member of the third place team will get a day of go kart racing. (Ditto.) There will also be a People's Choice award selected on the day of the event, by the crowd's SMS voting. Don't wait for the flag to drop... get your "motor" running and start following the Red Bull Soapbox Race online: www.redbullsoapboxusa.com

THE ARIZONA SOAPBOX TEAM

TEAM NAME: Knuckleberry Express

GARAGE LOCATION: Waddell, Arizona

DRIVER: John Swauger

MECHANICS: Steven Dahho, Anton Frobenius, David Patterson, John Wallick

NUTS AND BOLTS: John Swauger really wants to ride a rhino. Specifically, a rhino named Bam Bam at the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield, Arizona. As a maintenance worker for the zoo, you'd think Swauger would have an in—but unfortunately his boss refuses to allow it. So he's ready to take a spin in Seattle on the next best thing: a rhino-inspired soapbox racer.

John has pulled out the tools before, winning the best of show for the past three years in the cardboard boat races at Tempe Town Lake. He has experience in dryland competition, as well, having competed in the Phoenix Jaycees' soapbox derby race—in 1973. He built the 9-foot-tall Millennium High School Tiger, located on the south end of their football field, out of rebar. And he builds way-cool AzSandRods. John is clearly very creative, and for the Red Bull Soapbox, his entry is going to be a fully-animated charging rhinoceros with two saddles on it. A sketch of the entry secured the team's spot in the event.

His excitement is evident: "Soapbox means building something wild and crazy that will put a smile on a kid's face when it passes by, and make dads everywhere holler, 'Holy crap! Did you see that thing?'"

There are a total of five people on the team. Swauger will be the pilot. Co-worker

John Wallick will be co-pilot. Swauger's son, Steven Dahho, nephew David Patterson, and army buddy Tony Frobenius will be helping to build the soapbox and push the craft down the hill. Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger takes care of gophering needs.

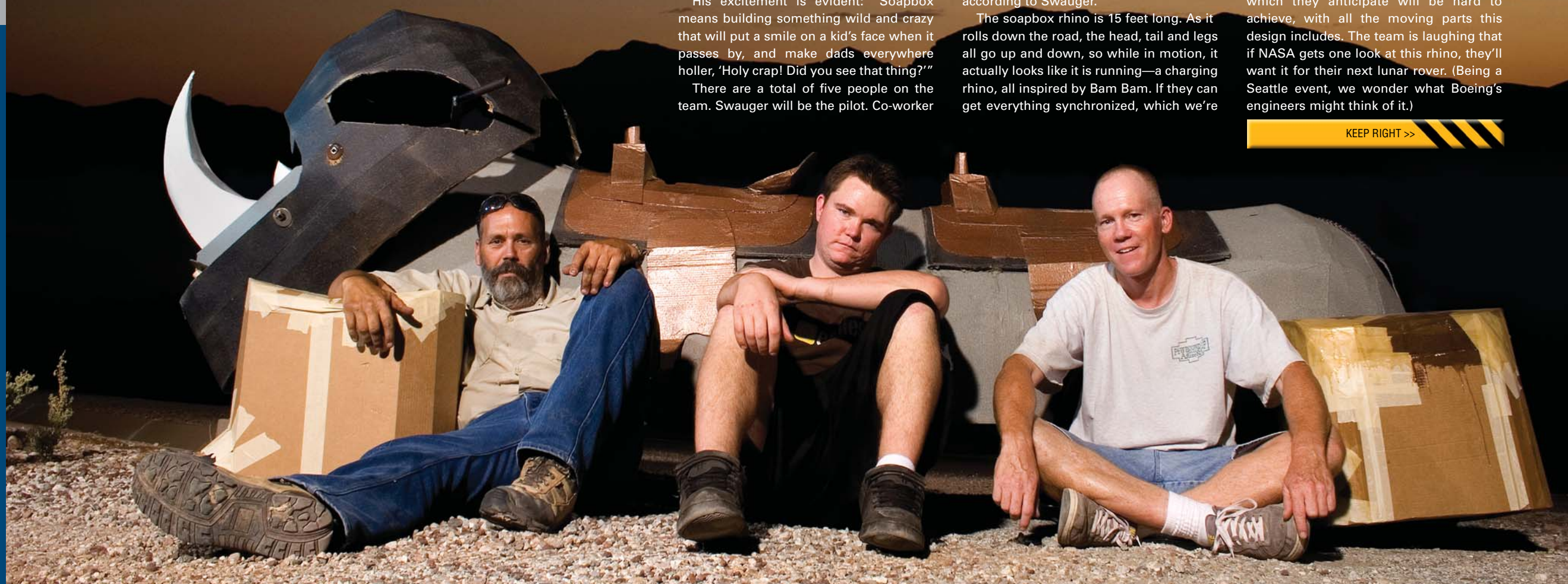
Swauger and his teammates are constructing their animalistic automobile out of steel, cardboard and fiberglass. The building process may seem a little nerve-racking when you consider the team's history of mishaps: between the five of them they've had 33 broken bones, six concussions, one finger and one leg sewn back on—"all in the name of having fun," according to Swauger.

The soapbox rhino is 15 feet long. As it rolls down the road, the head, tail and legs all go up and down, so while in motion, it actually looks like it is running—a charging rhino, all inspired by Bam Bam. If they can get everything synchronized, which we're

confident they will, this one entry should be a whole show in itself.

The rhino has two saddles, and John and John will ride it like a horse. Well, like two guys riding a horse. Swauger will be driving it and Wallick will be in the back saddle leaning left and right, so they don't flip it over through the turns. That's the plan.

As we go to press, they've started their test runs. Pulled behind Wallick's truck, they took the still-under-construction craft up to 35 mph. It had a little vibration, so they are preparing minor adjustments, shooting for 45 mph on their next test pull. The goal is 50 mph without any vibration, which they anticipate will be hard to achieve, with all the moving parts this design includes. The team is laughing that if NASA gets one look at this rhino, they'll want it for their next lunar rover. (Being a Seattle event, we wonder what Boeing's engineers might think of it.)



KEEP RIGHT >>

Knuckleberry Racing includes:

John Swauger—Captain, designer and builder of the soapbox rhino, which is modeled after his buddy (and possibly distant cousin) Bam Bam, a real rhinoceros at the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield, Arizona, where John works as groundskeeper and general maintenance. John has a wide range of interests and talents, including bronze sculpture, mechanics, sand rail/hotrod building, decorative iron works and just generally communing with anything on four legs, particularly mules, steers and goats.

John Wallick—Crew member and back seat driver. John is a maintenance, groundskeeper, and aquarium exhibit specialist at Wildlife World Zoo. A former mountain bike racer who now spends his time raising his family, building rock crawler Jeeps and is the owner of Tubular Creations where he builds Balldraggers custom bicycles. John dreams

of being a professional prankster.

Steven Dahho—Swauger's son and crew member. Steve currently works for UPS and is pursuing a degree in geology at ASU with the help of the GI Bill. He spent five years in the US Army as a Cavalry Scout out of Fort Hood, Texas, and 11 months in Baghdad, Iraq. He golfs, plays football, and occasionally moonlights as a bouncer for a local night club. Steve fancies himself a ladies' man and wants to change his name to McLovin.

Anton Frobenius—Crew member. (That's Fro-bee-nee-us, not flea-bite-us or free-bone-ee-us or whatever John may tell you.) Tony is the product of a mortician and a police woman and so is unfazed by much. He is also attending school: Universal Technical Institute in Phoenix, on the GI Bill. He served with Steve in Iraq and moonlights as a bartender/pizza schlepper.

Tony could be the womanizer Steve wants to be but he's too chicken to talk to any women.

David Patterson—Swauger's nephew and crew member. Strong, silent type though a little on the scrawny side. Kinda happens when you spend your days chasing wife beaters, druggies and criminals in the Arizona heat. Dave is formerly US Army and is currently a policeman with the El Mirage, Arizona, Police Department. Cows have been named after David due to both sporting the same hair-dos in their youth.

Kaeryn Lapsley Swauger—Cat lover, postal worker (ungrunted). Knuckleberry's unofficial secretary, school marm and general gopher.

We wish the team a wild and successful ride. Watch for results in our next issue. ■

**John Swauger,
Steve Dahho,
John Wallick**



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