NSWC Carderock Hosts International Sub Races

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock hosted the 10th International Human-Powered Submarine Races (ISR) at its David Taylor Model Basin June 22-26.

The biennial design competition hosts universities, high schools, corporations and privately-sponsored teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico and United Kingdom who design, build and operate a human-powered submarine. “The teams were here for a week, putting their ideas and their designs to work in the water to accomplish the task of the highest speed underwater on a 100-meter course,” said Daniel Dozier, the acting department head of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division’s Ship Systems Integration and Design Department. “They met with some successes, and some things that needed to be re-thought.

“The learning experience is exactly what this event is all about, which is having an idea, putting it into hardware, testing it, and then evaluating the results and then going forward from there,” said Dozier, who is also the chief liaison between Carderock and the Foundation for Underwater Research and Education for hosting the submarine races in the David Taylor Model Basin.

The teams propelled and steered their uniquely designed subs by maneuvering through an underwater course to best their competitor’s time. The competition focuses on the educational aspects of submarine team efforts, on use of materials, hydrodynamic efficiency and underwater life support.

“We are excited to be a part of such an outstanding and rewarding educational and engineering endeavor,” said Carderock Division Commander, Capt. Mark Thomas, “particularly since it promotes the type of science and technology that is central to Carderock’s mission.”