

Meeting: APBA Region 7 – Spring
Date: March 18, 2017
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Embassy Suites, 1200 S. Moorland Road, Brookfield, WI 53005
Secretary: Michael Mackey
Attendees: “Big” Don Allen, Dee Berghauer, Ryan Burdick, Dan Evans, Mark Gabrielson, Pat Gorchals, Darrel Ludwig, Michael Mackey, Andrew Marquis, Jim Nerstrom, Bob Ollhoff, Cassandra Olson, Tad Olson, Brandon Ortlieb, Brian Palmquist, Bill Pavlick III, Kai Pavlick, Jennifer Przybyla, Roger Przybyla, Edgar Rose, Jeff Scheffler, Mark Schmerbauch, Kris Shepard, B. Strang, C.D. Strang, Mark Thompson, Brent Walbrun, Bob Wartinger, Chris Wilde, Steve Wilde, Mike Wienandt, George Young, Ron Young.

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. sharp by Region Chairman Kris Shepard. Chairman Shepard announced the news of Fred Miller’s passing and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance. Edgar Rose announced there will be a memorial for Fred at the 2017 Trenton race. Fall 2016 Region 7 meeting minutes were read by Secretary Michael Mackey. Shepard motions to accept the minutes as read; seconded by Edgar Rose; voted and unanimously approved; motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Chairman Shepard provided the following Treasurer’s report.

- \$2,200 remains in the Safety Fund. Due to potential tax issues, this account will need to be renamed and it will now be held by APBA HQ in a separate account.
- \$500 remain in the Doc Wilson Scholarship Fund. No recipients this year.
- Shepard motions to reinstate Bob Ohloff as Treasurer; seconded by “Big” Don Allen; voted and unanimously approved; motion passed.

National Meeting Report

- Allen reports Stock Outboard meetings were completed in one-half day (unprecedented).
- Member count stands at 341 (down by eight from previous year).
- R7 is the third-largest with 39 members (down by 14 from previous year).
- R7 will have only one Commissioner this year.
- R6 and R10 are the largest regions by membership count.
- No Tohatsu engines were sold last year, and it is unclear whether Alex Polikov is still building engines. Chairman Brewster asked to form a committee regarding the Tohatsu situation.
- Yamato engines continue to be difficult to import.
- Sidewinder is doing well, selling over 100 engines and 20 orders on the books.

National Meeting Report (Continued)

- 2017 Nationals will be held at Grass Lake; the Mod category is still undecided on its attendance status.
- 2019 Nationals will be held in Wakefield; the Pro category will attend.
- APBA ballots are out; please vote.
- Limited discussion about the water inlet on the Yamato engines. To drill or not to drill; that is the question. It was advised that if racers choose to drill and are unsure of the correct procedure to consult a machinist to avoid potential costly errors.

Modified Report

- Brian Palmquist reports the Mod Nationals will be June 22-25 in Constantine, MI.
- Pell Lake will be held May 20-21.
- A 500MH rig was sold to a new Minnesota racer (Mark Miner, who attended the September 2016 MRC Racing School at Oshkosh).
- Category searching for good Yamato 80 engines to convert to 350 mod engines.

Pro Report

- Kristi Ellison (written report submitted as read by Shepard) acknowledges the division caused by USTS leaving APBA in 2013 has caused decreased membership.
- The Pro Nationals will be combined with the Modified Nationals in 2017.
- Encourages local clubs to add the Pro category to their sanctions.
- K-Pro records will be grandfathered to 2002.
- USTS departure from APBA has been devastating to the series. Efforts to realign with APBA have been met with a “No” answer. It was suggested that a committee be formed to get the two sides back to the table and talking again.

OPC Report

- Dee Berghauer reports the 2016 season was “uneventful.”
- Reports that the harness rule has been relaxed from a 6-point restraint back to a 5-point restraint to entice Texas drivers to rejoin APBA. Much discussion about this safety move, and it was suggested to keep the 6-point restraints.
- There are too many promoters and not enough boats.
- Nationals were successful; 60 boats provided “good, quality racing.”
- Berghauer recognized Mark Schmerbauch as the World Champion and Hall of Champions recipient.
- Berghauer also recognized Donny Allen for being inducted into the HOC and for also setting a speed record.

- Floor yielded to Bob Wartinger, who added, “To relax safety to bring in more boats puts us on a slippery slope.” Wartinger stated that the data indicates there are clear safety benefits of 6-point (and 7-point) restraints over 5-point systems, and urges OPC drivers to continue using 6-point harnesses if they’re already installed in their boats.

Insurance

- Dee Berghauer advises Race Committees to tell the insurance company of their intentions before the race rather than ask for forgiveness after the fact. He said in most cases, the Committee will find that their requests are already covered and there is no need for concern.
- The Junior Category racers must have their waivers signed on the day of the race by a parent or legal guardian; no longer just a “responsible adult.” If parents and/or legal guardians will not be at the race with the Junior racer, a written, notarized letter must be submitted.
- The rules for snow fencing and outer course markers have been relaxed, but Berghauer advises the Race Committees to review their applications first before assuming anything. If in doubt, make a call before racing commences.
- Only a properly dressed driver can be inside a race boat (i.e., no more victory laps with the crew chief riding upon or in the boat).

Inboard Report

- No inboard report provided; no inboard representatives in attendance.

New Business

- Pell Lake is approved by the DNR.
- MRC/BSOA schedule provided (see www.marineracingclub.com for details).
- Mod/IOA added S.O. (June 3-4; Huntington, IN).
- Combined Mod/Pro Nationals June 24-25, 2017 in Constantine, MI.
- Memorial for Fred Miller at Trenton. Shepard will ask Cindy at APBA to make the formal announcement as the date draws closer.

Building R7

- Chairman Shepard indicated that a look around the meeting room tells us our membership is too old, and that new blood is desperately needed.
- Racing Schools are OK, but we need more.
- Plan is targeted toward the Junior Category. Clubs need good, mid-pack J-rigs for new Junior drivers to get kids and their parents interested in into the sport. The

idea is the rigs are free, all-access, on the condition the Junior racer has an adult family member racing already.

- Allen to reach out to Robin Shane.
- Committee formed to start building this program. Shepard, Bill Pavlick III and Mackey are the seedlings for this committee.

Doc Wilson Scholarship

- As reported by Berghauer, Dr. Wilson started this fund in 2004.
- Great Lakes Boat Club (GLBC) has \$500 (one more award) left in the account.
- GLBC has pledged a \$250 contribution to the fund each year for the next six years.
- Asked MRC and BSOA to contribute as well.
- MRC and BSOA representatives indicated their clubs would have answers to Berghauer before the banquet starts (6 p.m.).

12:45 p.m. Ryan Burdick motions to adjourn. Motion seconded, voted and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: TBA.