

Four (4) council-members-at-large shall be elected annually by the membership for 3-year terms.

Bob Wartinger **Des Moines, WA**

Bob Wartinger – Candidate for APBA Council Member at Large

Bob Wartinger brings a unique combination of elite racing experience, technical education, and decades of international safety leadership to the APBA Council. His competitive career includes 3 World Championships, 25 National Championships, and 148 National and World Speed Records, including his long-standing 176 mph world outboard record. Bob holds a Master's Degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the University of Washington and a Master's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science from Bastyr University. He serves as President of the UIM Safety & Medical Commission, remains active on the APBA Safety/Rescue Committee, and is a published author of two books on boat racing safety.



Future Objectives:

As Council Member at Large, Bob will focus on the continuous effort of finding solutions for the APBA's current and upcoming technical and operational challenges by prioritizing education, technology, and practical enforcement. His efforts include:

- **Continue to Modernize Regulations:** Developing safety frameworks to support the growth of existing and new categories.
- **Data-Driven Safety:** Utilize digital data systems to track accident trends and lower risks, mirroring successful international programs like *Target Zero*.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Continuing to adapt safety data and testing methods from premier motorsports organizations like NASCAR, FIA, and ICMS that is appropriate for boat racing. Continue the development of personal safety equipment for the unrestrained driver.

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Jeff Buckley ***Tailors, SC***

Jeff “Capt. Nemo” Buckley

Colonel/USAF(ret)



APBA’s Council Chairman Jeff “Capt. Nemo” Buckley hails from the foothills of South Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains. An avid boat builder, restorer, racer, marine mechanic, and USCG master captain, he continues to bring a wealth of experience and leadership to APBA. Growing up in South Georgia, Nemo began building hydroplanes for he and his high school pals when racing in the local rivers and ponds was all they could afford. Professionally, a 36-year USAF career took him around the globe and he’s credited with 154 combat missions. Upon retirement, he reopened the acclaimed Boathouse Marineworks & Performance.

Witnessing the 2012 tragedy of three back-to-back deaths on the Vintage & Historic circuit, Buckley vowed to make a difference in the safe operation and exhibition of APBA’s legacy hulls. When asked to lead APBA’s V & H Committee in 2020, Nemo assembled a cadre of seasoned and respected members who could lead the division into the future and ensure its longevity. He declared three achievable objectives for the Division: Communication, Safety, and Growth. Through his leadership, each of these goals was achieved as V&H found its course, gathered steam, and once again continued to prosper. A respected driver, mechanic, inspector, and referee, his coined safety adage is known and practiced countrywide: Safety is Paramount! A true veteran and spokesman of diverse background, Nemo represents the core of professionalism and sportsmanship. Bringing a wealth of experience to every category, committee, and division of APBA, he most recently led the APBA membership in the near-unanimous reinstatement of the Council at Large at the National Meeting in Reno. Offering unbiased vision and guidance to ALL of APBA, “Capt. Nemo” seeks election to APBA’s Board of Directors.

He and wife, former Senator Judi Buckley, reside on their farm in Tailors, SC. Operating by the simple mantra: “Leave it better than you found it”, he’s done just that for APBA over the past 25+ years. Cast your vote for his continued leadership and consistent representation: Jeff “Capt. Nemo” Buckley

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Matt Varno ***Lynnwood, WA***

Matt has been involved with boat racing nearly all of his life, being born into an inboard family and started racing JSH at a young age with Seattle Outboard Association. After racing multiple classes of Outboards, he moved into OPC while also driving various Inboards classes. Currently he drives two Vintage boats owned by his parents.



Matt has been involved in multiple categories of boat racing and has previously been the Commodore of Seattle Inboard Racing Association, SOA Board of Director, Region 10 Vice Chairman along with other regional positions. Event involvement includes being Referee, Risk Manager and Race Director at Inboard, SO, MO, PRO, J, OPC and Co Race Chair for the 2018 SO, MOD & J National. For the past two years has been the H1 Unlimited Assistant Referee.

Previously, Matt has served on the APBA Board of Directors, Council at Large, Safety Committee, Vintage Committee along with the Inboard and Stock Outboard Racing Commission.

Boat racing is a passion and after a decision to stop racing he committed to dedicating time in helping the sport grow on the local and national level. Matt will be a great addition to the APBA Council at Large and is willing to listen openly to the members from all categories for input for what is in the best interest for the organization!