

APBA

MODIFIED OUTBOARD RACING COMMISSION MEETING

January 27, 2022

Orlando, FL

1. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Tom Sutherland and a moment of silence was observed for members who had passed.
2. Roll call was taken. In attendance were: Tom Sutherland, Mary Williams, Josh Kimble, Gary Miller, Scott Miller, Alex Jennings III, Bob Koschka, Jasen Dircksen, Brian Palmquist, Fred Hauenstein, Daren Goehring, Steve Dunn, and approximately 10 members. Chairman Sutherland announced that Steve Dunn will be replacing Wyman Boatwright as the commissioner from region 4.
3. The oath of office was administered to all commissioners present.
4. Minutes were presented from the January 25, 2021 meeting, the April 15, 2021 teleconference, and the April 21, 2021 teleconference. Motion by Gary Miller, seconded by Scott Miller to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
5. The chairman announced that the temporary rules passed in 2021 need to be removed from the rulebook. The secretary will notify headquarters to have this done.
6. The Modified budget was presented. Motion by Alex Jennings, seconded by Gary Miller to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
7. The chairman's appointments were presented. Motion by Daren Goehring, seconded by Steve Dunn to approve the appointments. Motion passed unanimously. Appointed were; Josh Kimble – Chief Referee, Tracy Trolan – Chief Scorer, Gary Miller – Chief Inspector, Mary Williams – Secretary, Erin Proctor – Safety Representative, Tom Sutherland – Insurance Representative, Bob Koschka – Technical Committee Chairman, and members of the Technical Committee Gary Miller, Cliff Johnson, Daren Goehring, Mike Wienandt, Mike Akerstrom, and Steve Wheeler.
8. Status of existing classes was discussed. Motion by Alex Jennings, seconded by Daren Goehring to place the 250cc Mod Hydro and the 250cc Mod Runabout on probation. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Chairman Sutherland announced that Modified will have three (3) inductees into the Hall of Champions for the 2022 season.
10. Prototype motors were discussed. Motion by Brian Palmquist, seconded by Daren Goehring to approve the 15 cu in Mercury (AX motor) in the 125 Modified classes. The motion passed unanimously.
11. The chairman announced the awards for this year:
  - a. Paul Kalb Award went to Erin Pittman
  - b. Bob Goller award went to Wyman Boatwright
  - c. Rookie of the Year award went to Ronnie Harkless
  - d. There was no service award for this year.
12. The equipment report was given:
  - a. Gary Miller reported that there is one 331 Yamato motor complete with the MORC exhaust package and a modified gear foot. Price for a new Modified driver would be approximately \$3,800.

- b. Ric Montoya's written report was passed out.
  - i. Yamato 80 motors had discontinued parts of megaphone holder, 14 mm cylinder heads, carburetor covers, and intake funnel
  - ii. Yamato 102 motors had discontinued parts of cylinder block, gear case housing and cone, ignition coil, carburetor cover and intake funnel, 14 mm cylinder heads.
  - iii. Yamato 300 Series motos are still in production. Discontinued parts are carb cover and intake funnel (on the 302), tower housing (on the 302) and 14 mm cylinder heads.
- c. The final shipment of parts has arrived to provide 50 motors. These need to be inspected and repacked.
  - i. No spare parts have been ordered at this time. Tom Johnston and Mike Ward have been able to supply the parts needed.
- d. 125 Classes
  - i. Gary Miller reported that Daren Goehring has 1 complete motor for sale located in the west. Price is approximately \$3,500. There is a complete used powerhead on a Cliff Johnson mid-section and gearcase available.
  - ii. Jerry Davids reported later in the meeting (moved here for clarity) that he has 2 complete 125's race ready which are owned by the MORC. One has a Roskowski tower and the other an OMC tower. There is also 1 complete powerhead and 4 OMC adaptor plates owned by the MORC available. Miscellaneous parts owned by David's Motorsports are available for purchase as needed. Jerry will put together motors for people at no charge.
- e. Pipe Kit program – Jerry reported that all pipe kits are now supplied from David's Motorsports. Kits are available for Model 80's and 302's. Price is \$550 for everything except the pipe which can be ordered directly from Derrick Gessler.
- f. Tohatsu – Alex Poliakof reported later in the meeting (moved here for clarity) that parts, short blocks, and cowlings are available now. He also has prop shafts, bearings, and gears.

### 13. Committee Reports

- a. Tom Sutherland reported that the rate for a 2-day race has increased from \$2,750 to \$2,799. This fee includes an attached driving school and a testing day. There have been problems with the application forms being filled out by hand. These are to be typed.
- b. Erin Proctor reported that the safety committee had lots of discussion on helmet colors for restrained drivers but no discussion for non-restrained drivers.
- c. Gary Miller reported that they will be removing inactive Inspectors from the list. If your name is not on the list, you cannot be on a sanction. He also said that Modified needs to be looking for the next Chief Inspector.

### 14. Championships

- a. The Eastern Championship will be held in Jesup, GA 3/29 – 4/1. The Western Championship will be held at Silver Lake, Castle Rock, WA 4/30-5/1. Motion By Alex Jennings, seconded by Daren Goehring to approve the two championships. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Divisional Championships were announced by the Commissioners in each division:

- i. Northeast – Franklin, PA 9/24-25 hosted by TRORA.
  - ii. Southeast – Wilson, NC 10/8-9 hosted by CVRA
  - iii. Central – Constantine, MI 6/25-26 hosted by IOA
  - iv. West – Silver Lake, Everett, WA 6/4-5 hosted by SOA
- c. Nationals – Depue, IL July 26-30 hosted by US Title Series. Josh Kimble gave an update on the plans at this point. The race officials have been chosen. The plan is to have the Mods race each morning and the Pros in the afternoon. The pit spaces and camping spaces will be reserved through the Depue website. The website will be the main source of information for the racing schedule, event schedule (with sign-up), driver’s meeting times and places, hotels and restaurants in the area, as well as volunteer sign-ups
- d. No bids have been received for the 2023 nationals at this time.

15. North American Championships

Class – Hosting Club – Site

125ccR		
200ccR		
250ccR		
350ccR	TRORA	Kittanning, PA
500ccR	TRORA	Kittanning, PA
750ccR	IOA	Constantine, MI
850ccR	IOA	Huntington, IN
125ccH	IOA	Huntington, IN
200ccH	IOA	Constantine, MI
250ccH		
350ccH	TRORA	Kittanning, PA
400ccH	IOA	Hillsdale, MI
500ccH	IOA	Constantine, MI
750ccH	MHRA	Constantine, MI
850ccH	IOA	Huntington, IN

Motion by Jasen Dircksen, seconded by Scott Miller to approve the awarding of the North American Championships. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Proposals

- a. Proposal to add sentence to General Racing Rule 2.4. New rule to read: The same boat and motor must be used in all heats of a race where points of a heat are counted in the

final standings. It shall be legal to change engines between heats only if there is irreparable damage to the engine. However, the contestant must notify the Inspector, make proper notifications and registration prior to the finals at the registration stand, and present both engines to the Inspector for inspection immediately following the final heat. It shall not be legal to change boats between heats unless the boat is deemed damaged and unsafe by the Inspector or Referee. Drivers in different qualifying races or heats may not use the equipment previously used in qualifying for the same event. If a change of either engine or boat is made, all points earned in the previous heat of the race shall be forfeited. In a class where multiple gear ratios are permitted, in the finals, after qualifications are complete, and the race committee changes the length of the course, it is legal to change gear cases in the Inspection area. Both cases must be presented for inspection. **For clarification, the engine is a powerhead, tower and gear foot package. Seals can only be broken for restrictor plates or broken parts and must be broken in the presence of the Inspector or his representative.** Motion by Jasen Dirksen, seconded by Daren Goehring to approve the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. A proposal to change the Modified Technical Manual, Combustion Chamber Volume Fluid Measuring section by removing the current rule and inserting a new rule: **A mixture of 50% kerosene and 50% Marvel Mystery Oil shall be used to measure the combustion chamber volume.** Motion by Fred Hauenstein, seconded by Scott Miller to approve the proposal. After discussion the motion and second were rescinded. A new motion by Daren Goehring, seconded by Brian Palmquist to retain the existing rule and add the 50% kerosene and 50% Marvel Mystery Oil to the existing rule. Rule would then read: **A mixture of 50% Mineral Spirits and 50% Marvel Mystery Oil or 50% Kerosene and 50% Marvel Mystery Oil shall be used to measure the combustion chamber volume.** The motion passed unanimously.
- c. A proposal to add a new General Racing Rule #20 to state: **At a championship event, the Modified Outboard Chairman will not be required to fulfill any duties of official capacity. However, the chairman may volunteer to assist in pit area duties when time permits.** Motion by Steve Dunn, seconded by Daren Goehring to approve the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. A proposal to add the Mercury 25XS to the listing of approve motors in the 400 Modified Hydro class using the same specifications as the motor uses in the 350 ccMR class and with the requirement of the restrictor plate. Weight would be 420 pounds and the motor would run at a height of ½ inch below the bottom of the boat at the center of the prop shaft. There was no motion on this proposal.
- e. A proposal to add the Tohatsu M70B/C to the 850 cc classes. There was no motion on this proposal.

- f. A proposal to add a new Rule to the Modified Technical Manual, 500 cc and 750 cc Mercury Motors. The new rule would read: **It is permissible to use any water jacket on all four-cylinder Mercury engines, providing the water jacket design does not interfere with the spark plugs or the measuring of cc's.** Motion by Steve Dunn, seconded by Brian Palmquist to approve the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. A proposal for a new General Racing Rule 2-17. The new rule would read: **Before boats may take the course for a heat of racing, all boats still under power from the previous heat must have cleared the course.** Motion by Alex Jennings, seconded by Scott Miller to approve the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.
- h. A proposal for a new General Racing Rule 4-10. The new rule would read: A boat shall be disqualified that approaches the starting line at other than a right angle, or nearly so, within 500 foot of the starting line. A buoy shall be located as near as possible at a point 500 feet from the starting line. A boat will not be required to approach the 500 foot buoy on a line at right angles to the starting line. Action on this was tabled so that the rule could be submitted to the Stock Category also.
- i. A proposal to add to General Racing Rule 4.1. The new rule would include prohibiting the short three (3) minute clock at record races. Action on this was tabled so that the rule could be submitted to the Stock Category also.
- j. A proposal to legalize the Tohatsu in stock form, with the exception of permitting 4 blade props and no height restriction in the 750cc Mod classes. Motion by Daren Goehring to approve, there was no second.
- k. A proposal to change the weight for motors running the closed exhaust in the 400 cc Modified Hydro class. After discussion, motion by Daren Goehring, seconded by Steve Dunn to remove the section from the Modified Technical Manual covering the closed exhaust motors. The section to be removed is:

Motor	Mercury 15 cu in	Mercury 20 cu in	Mercury 22 cu in	OMC 22 cu in	Hot Rod 15 cu in	Hot Rod 20 cu in
Bore	2.112	2.440	2.566	2.500	2.166	2.500
Stroke	2.125	2.125	2.125	2.250	2.0225	2.0225
R	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750
S	.850	.850	.850	.850	.850	.850

1. Any gear ratio
2. No more than 2 single barrel carburetors are permitted
3. Any ignition

4. **Stroke Tolerance is 0.010**
5. **Maximum overbore is 0.070**
6. **Tuned or closed exhaust system only. No open pipes or megaphones are permitted**
7. **No superchargers or turbochargers are permitted**
8. **Minimum weight is 420 lbs.**

After discussion, motion by Daren Goehring, seconded by Jasen Dircksen to table this item.

- l. A proposal to legalize the use of the 66 cu in Mercury motor in the 850 cc Modified classes. There was no motion on this proposal.
  
- m. A proposal to make a 2-person 850 cc Modified Runabout class legal under the following rules:

**Rules:**

- 1 **All Modified safety rules and racing rules will be followed, including proper safety gear for the rider.**
- 2 **The rider must be a racing APBA member, a member of a local club, and be at least 16 years of age.**
- 3 **Equipment: any legal 850 cc Modified Runabout hull with an 850 cc Modified motor which meets the specifications in the Modified Outboard Tech Manual is legal. The cockpit(s) of the boat must be large enough to accommodate two people safely with handles for the rider to hold onto.**
- 4 **The driver and the rider must start the race, run the race, and finish the race together in the boat. If either or both are tossed out of the boat, said boat cannot continue the heat.**
- 5 **At registration, the driver shall fill out the forms the same as if he was entering the regular 850 cc Modified Runabout class. The rider shall also enter name, date, etc. and sign the same entry blank.**

Motion by Alex Jennings, seconded by Brian Palmquist to approve this proposal. Motion passed unanimously. Gary Miller will take this proposal to the New Class Committee for approval.

- n. Jill Glossner requested the Commission discuss a standardized way of scoring races which have elimination heats. Commission decided to table this until the next day.

The meeting was recessed for the day.

The meeting was reconvened on Friday, January 28 at 9:00 AM. All members previously listed were in attendance.

Items Tabled from yesterday were brought back up:

- a. # h - a Proposal on approaching the starting line. There was no motion.
  - b. # I - a Proposal on including record races in the list of events at which a short three-minute clock cannot be used. Motion by Steve Dunn, seconded by Gary Miller to approve this. Motion passed unanimously. The new General Racing Rule 4.1 shall read: **At all races a preparatory signal shall be given three (3) minutes before the start of the heat, and, at this time, at the judge's stand, a green flag will be displayed. The race committee may extend the period prior to the start of the heat to four or five minutes for some or all classes if local conditions warrant. Additionally, at non-record, non-championship races, and Divisional Championship races a "short" three-minute period (less than three minutes) may be used when announced at Drivers Meeting and all boats entered in that heat are on the course, planed off and in the milling area.**
  - c. # k – a Proposal to remove the closed exhaust section of the 400 cc Mod Hydro in the Modified Technical Manual. The tabled item was brought back up and the motion passed 9 in favor, 1 opposed.
  - d. Motion by Steve Dunn, seconded by Jasen Dirksen to permit all remaining engines in the 400 cc Modified Hydro class to be able run expansion chambers. After discussion this proposal was withdrawn as this is already legal in the Modified Technical Manual for this class.
17. Erin Pittman reported on the second Safety Committee meeting. This was a presentation showing a device to put on the steering wheel which would show with lights which flag is being displayed at the judges' stand. Josh Kimble reported that currently there is no Kevlar on stock at Lifeline. He said that Kristi Ellison (Category Representative to the Board) is working with the Board of Directors and the Historical Society to do a program to pre-fund inventory for Kevlar clothing.
18. The Commission discussed the idea of a set method of scoring elimination heats at local races. There was no motion.
19. Becky Nichols presented what the Stock Category did with the 1,000-foot buoy at championship events. There was no motion on this.
20. A request from the floor to raise the Hot Rod weight (currently 365 lbs.) in the 250 ccMH and 250cc MR classes to achieve parity with the 20H Mercury motors. There was no motion on this.
21. Adam Allen, representing CVRA, gave a brief update on the Stock nationals being held in Springfield, Ohio July 12-17. He stated that Modified classes have been added to the sanction. They will run 2 races Friday and Saturday. All Modified classes will be included with no minimum entry requirements. They will be changing the course for these races. He did advise that the Stock Nationals and J class NAC's will have priority if there is a weather delay.

22. Bob Koschka reported that he and Gary Miller are working on a major update to the Modified Technical Manual. This should go to the commission for review soon.

23. Josh Kimble requested a \$2,000 donation for the Mod/Pro nationals. This donation will be matched by the Pro Category. Motion by Gary Miller to award the \$2,000 with the provision that the money is used to offset expenses for the Modified category. Seconded by Alex Jennings. Motion passed unanimously.

24. Brian Palmquist requested a moment of silence in memory of Mark Wheeler.

25. Daren Goehring asked for ideas on promoting the 125 cc classes. Josh Kimble will post the listing of equipment for sale on line. Gary Miller said he will work to get a “free” ad in the Propeller magazine to promote the classes.

26. Gary Miller requested a discussion on where the commission thought Modified should go. The commissioners discussed ideas such as:

- promoting key core classes
- the need for local clubs to run all classes at races to pay the bills
- the need for the commission to be very cautious in making national rules that can adversely affect different regions
  - rule changes which do not get new people in the sport should not be done
  - less rule changes to provide stability to new people
  - provide training courses to new people on how to work on their motors which might lessen the fear people have on being able to compete mechanically in the category
  - continue to support drivers’ schools
- Brian Palmquist offered to work on an updated vendor list for Modified
- In answer to a question, Daren Goehring shared that SOA gets school entrants from boat shows, car shows, and the large Seafair Race held in Seattle

27. Chairman Tom Sutherland thank everyone for their attendance and the good meeting. Motion by Alex Jennings to adjourn, seconded by Steve Dunn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Williams

Modified Secretary