

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

Board of Directors

October 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Region Chairman Eli Whitney at 11:30 am with 10 members present.

The minutes were read by Tom Johnston. Motion by Steve Spisak and seconded by Brian Mitchell to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Eli explained the new region meeting format. There was a motion by Greg Kreitzer seconded by Steve Spisak to retain the region offices that we had in the past.

Meeting Reports:

Club; Kevin Kreitzer said that the Inboard category had a couple of hick-ups last year; the outboard categories had no problems.

Officiating; Greg Kreitzer said they talked about one way radios for the drivers. Vintage had an incident where they ran laps under the red flag.

Inboard; Barry Pray reported they had a good meeting; there was a lot of discussion on how to fund Box 21 rescue team and how to bring more races back to Region 6. They went over the 2019 and the 2020 races.

Stock Outboard; Brian Mitchell Said with the new region alignment we picked up the IOA club. He said there was a race at a new race site in Springfield, OH, where the Central Divisionals were held this year. It is the site for the Stock, Modified, and J Nationals in 2020.

Modified Outboard; Tom Sutherland said they reviewed the races fir 2019 and elected a director.

Vintage; Barry Pray said that the red card incident was discussed. Other safety issues were discussed as well as uniforms and helmets.

Old Business:

Eli said that the Region 6 bylaws were sent to the Board of Directors and were rejected. The second attempt was submitted and the President and Board of Directors have not responded.

The Fall Region needs to be held before Nov. 1. Eli requested that the meeting could held one week later.

Eli read the region election results. There were 152 ballots receive with 460 Region 6 total members. A discussion ensued.

The next Region 6 meeting will be Feb. 22/23 or Feb. 29/Mar. 1 2020. Barry Pray asked if the new Holiday Inn will be completed by then. Eli said that he and Tom Johnston will talk to Brenda, the manager, in November.

Motion by Barry Pray seconded by Greg Kreitzer to adjourn at 12:20 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

Club

October 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Kreitzer at 2:30 pm with 8 members in attendance.

The minutes were read by Kevin. There was one mistake in the date for the race at Constantine, it was corrected. Motion by Rick Falcinelli seconded by John Finn accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Marine Prop Riders; Barry Pray said their banquet will be November 9th. The new officera will be installed the first of the month.

DMBRA; Kevin said they had a better show but need more spectators. They need more advertising ideas and maybe a web site.

River Rats; No one was present.

Rocky Fork; Kevin said they are making it bigger and better. There was fireworks and a live band.

Top-O; Paul Teike there were 86 entries.

Solar Splash; No one was present.

IOA; Gary Miller reported that they had 12 people sign up for drivers' school at Huntington, IN and 11 of them showed up. Four of them are now racing. He said that Constantine, MI was the Modified and Pro Nationals. There were just under 400 entries. Danville, IL had a sparse showing. Alexandria, KY had good weather and good participation. The IOA meeting and banquet will be November 9th.

Barry Pray said Constantine was a fantastic site.

Eli Whitney asked about the race site at Hillsdale, MI Gary said it would be up to the club to make that decision. The race lost money as it was up against a Stock race at Grass Lake, MI.

Detroit; Barry said there were no Unlimiteds at the race it was a HRL and Vintage race. They put on a good show; there was a lot of close racing.

Dayton Record Runs; Entries were down but they set 6 records.

Trenton; They may have a race.

MHRA; They had four races with a drivers' school at Constantine, MI. All of the drivers were J kids. Some of them raced that weekend.

Eli asked about Wakefield, MI and Tom Johnston said the water was good for the Nationals. The club pushed forward on the schedule. It was a good thing as the wind came up on Friday.

Eli asked about the Nationals at Springfield, OH next year. It will be held July 13-17 with the banquet on Saturday July 18th.

Eli also how the Divisionals came off this year. Tom Johnston and John explained.

Motion by Barry Pray seconded by Greg Kreitzer to adjourn at 3:10, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

MINUTES

Region 6 Inboard Meeting

10/20/2019

Meeting was called to order at 8:45 by Chairman **Barry Pray**.

A moment of silence was held for all we lost since the last Region meeting.

Barry Pray read the minutes of the Spring Meeting. Motion to accept the minutes of the Spring Meeting was made by **Greg Kreitzer**; seconded by **Tony Black**. Voted on and passed

RACE REPORTS

Rocky Fork: **Jim Sechler** said the event went off well. Boat count was up over 2018. New Issues arose but were dealt with. All financial requirements were met, and all participants received some payout. **Dave Noble** stated the local DNR is very pleased with APBA, and **Jim Sechler** agreed. Box 21 helped raise a sunken craft that had been submerged for some time. Next year's race will be July 17 & 18.

Caesar's Creek: **Kevin Kreitzer** said 56 competition and vintage boats attended. While there were a few issues, overall the event was run better than in 2019. **Kevin Kreitzer** put out a request for help with internet/social media marketing. Suggestions were provided and it was suggested that the committee co-op with the Rocky Fork committee. In 2020, the dates will be September 26 & 27

FINANCE:

Steve Spisak reported the balance in the treasury is \$5,151 with all bills paid. Awaiting a check that was returned by the bank to be replaced. At Spring Test & Tune donations were accepted to send a veteran on an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. **Steve Spisak** read a thank you letter from the Honor Flight committee.

EQUIPMENT:

Steve Spisak said all equipment was in good shape. He was able to purchase additional LED bulbs for the clock at a deep discount. The radios are getting old; batteries will soon be unavailable. New radios with a range of 5 miles can be purchased for \$25 each. **Eli Whitney** motioned to allocate \$200 to buy as many radios as possible. After discussion, the motion was changed to allocate \$400 for radios and needed accessory equipment. Seconded by **Greg Kreitzer**. Discussion followed. **Chris Ritz** pointed out that he found out that ALL individuals who transmit on a frequency SHOULD have an FCC license. Motion passed unanimously.

INBOARD/OFFICIATING/RESCUE: **Greg Kreitzer** said the main point from the meeting was that the Thundercats want to increase the overlap rule. The current rule does not eliminate many safety concerns.

Box 21: The rescue team is in need of money. The current engine has about 3,000 hours on it, and while it's running well currently a search for a new engine has to start. The River Rats club has a engine and controls that could be used. Barry Pray will discuss the matter with River Rats' personnel. As this meeting was in a temporary location, dunk tests were not held. They will resume at the Spring Meeting. **Bill McTague** issued a 'spare change' challenge to raise funds for equipment and maintenance. **Ray Dong** pledged \$500 towards a capital campaign to meet the needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Driver Advisory: Tony Black said that during 2019 he worked with a few teams.

School Boat: **Tony Black** and **Barry Pray** said that from 2015 - 2018, the School Boat had converted 20% of participants to owner/drivers. Data from 2019 was still too recent to use.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2020 Spring Region Meeting is tentatively set for 02/29 & 03/01 in Perrysburg, OH. Location will be the new Holiday Inn to open. **Eli Whitney** and **Tom Johnston** will also make contingent plans at the Quality Inn in case the new facility is not yet open. The date is contingent on when Lakeland will be scheduled.

Discussion of the online vote for Region officers was held. **Tom Johnston** is Region Chairman. Secretary is **Tracy Trolan**. Region Board of Directors are: **Eli Whitney, Kevin Kreitzer, Rich Falcinelli, Mark Wheeler, Tony Black**. Region Inboard Activity Chairman (Formerly Inboard Chairman): **Barry Pray**.

Jim Sechler and **Tony Black** were elected to the IRC by the Region inboard membership. Each will have a vote for IRC Chairman.

Barry Pray opened the floor for nominations for Director for Region 6 Inboard Racing. **Eli Whitney** nominated **Steve Spisak**; seconded by **Greg Kreitzer**. There being no other nominations, **Eli Whitney** motioned to close; seconded by **Mario Maraldo**. Passed. **Eli Whitney** motioned to elect **Steve Spisak** by acclamation; seconded by **Greg Kreitzer**. Passed. As Inboard Activity Chair, **Barry Pray** will appoint the other Director.

2020 RACE DATES:

Testing 04/25 – 04/26

Rocky Fork 07/18 – 07/29

Caesar Creek 09/26 – 09/27

CLUB NEWS:

Marine Prop Riders: Annual Banquet is 11/09/2019. There is a limit on the number of attendees, so contact **Mario Maraldo** as soon as possible if interested. **Mario** and **Cassie Briggs** are on hand with membership applications.

D M B R A: Nothing to report. As with all other clubs, volunteers are needed.

Barry Pray reminded all that Social Media is not the official source of information of Region 6 Inboard Racing. Any information that needs to be disseminated to Region members will be done so directly by him, or through APBA. Any information posted on any social media site is done only as a courtesy.

OPEN DISCUSSION: **Jim Sechler** and **Tony Black** are Region 6 IRC Commissioners. Jim is running for IRC Chairman. He was given some time to talk about his agenda if elected. **Tony Black** pledged his support.

There being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by **Rick Falcinelli** at 11:25 am; seconded by **Greg Kreitzer**.

Respectfully,

Barry Pray

Inboard Activity Chairman
Region 6

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

Modified Outboard

October 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sutherland at 9:00 am with 6 members present.

Tom read the minutes. Motion by Brian Mitchell seconded by Gary Miller to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

The election for Director was held. Gary Miller was nominated, the nominations were closed, and Gary was elected by acclamation.

MHRA; Tom Johnston said they ran three Mod classes.

IOA; Gary reported they had 12 drivers sign up for drivers' school at Huntington IN, 11 showed up and 4 have bought equipment to race.

Constantine, MI had just under 400 entries for the Modified and Pro Nationals.

Danville, IL had a poor turnout because the Stock Outboard Nationals were scheduled for the next week.

Alexandria, KY had great weather and even some old timers won.

Tom asked Gary about the Hillsdale site and Gary said the IOA meeting will be Nov. 9th and the schedule will be set up at that time.

Brian Mitchell said that the race at Springfield, OH was the Central Divisional championships. He said that for the Nationals next year, July 13-19, 2020, the course will be changed. It will be comparable to the course at Dayton, OH. The pits will be in the South East corner of the lake. Gravel will be added to the shoreline. The campsites and motor home hookups were discussed. There is a large building we are going to use for the week for registration and the banquet on Saturday. Golf carts will be available. The PA system was addressed.

Gary asked if there would be a horse function that week. Brian said the horses were on weekends.

Brian said that at the OPC race in August there were 2 Modified classes invited.

Motion by Brian Mitchell seconded by John Finn to adjourn at 9:45 am. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

Officiating

October 19, 2019

In the absence of Chairman Rich Falcinelli the Officiating meeting was called to order by Director Greg Kreitzer at 12:25 pm with 15 members present.

The accident at Madison was discussed. Flags are not required in the turn boats for the Inboard category, but Region 6 does have them.

Vintage boats do not require radios in their boats. One-way radios were discussed. Possibly "Racecievers" that are about \$100.00 plus the transmitter.

Barry Pray asked Dave Noble about Box 21's equipment. Dave responded and said there are not enough Inboard races in Region 6 to keep the equipment up to date. Dave said they have about \$1800.00 in their kitty right now. Tony Black said that Region 4 owns their safety equipment. He suggested a 50/50 raffle at the meetings and races to help defray the cost.

Eli Whitney asked what do you consider an adequate amount of funds to start with. Dave said they need a new motor for the rescue boat. He said they are trying to work with Mercury. They would like a 200 HP motor. Chris Fairchild is trying to help. The River Rats have a motor to swap out.

The Region 6 meeting cost Box 21 about \$600.00.

Steve Spisak said their jet ski needed a new starter after the motor was rebuilt.

Dave said that a 200 HP 4 stroke motor costs about 13,000.00. Bill McTague noted that Region 6 has no funds to buy equipment. If they did, would Box 21 accept the equipment. A discussion ensued.

Mark Hodorek asked about over lap rules for other categories. They were explained.

Eli said that cut resistant foot wear is not mandatory, only recommended. Jeff Brewster said that APBA could not find any that is any good. The ones APBA are junk and can be cut with a steak knife. They cannot find a manufacturer that is willing to make them.

Motion by Rick Falcinelli seconded by Kevin Kreitzer to adjourn at 1:15 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

OPC

October 19, 2019

In the absence of all OPC officers, the OPC meeting was called to order by Tom Johnston, Region 6 Secretary at 11:05 AM with two members in attendance.

The minutes were read by Tom. The minutes were approved as read.

John Finn said that the cut resistant footwear are now recommended and not required. It is on the APBA web site.

Tom read the Region 6 election results.

With all business concluded the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

Pro Outboard

October 19, 2019

There were no Pro members present to conduct a meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

APBA Region 6 Fall Meeting

Perrysburg, OH

Stock Outboard

October 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Mitchell at 10:00 am with 8 people in attendance.

The minutes were read by Brian. Motion was made by Robert Trolian seconded by Paul Teike to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Jeff Brewster asked if we could forward the minutes to all of the members that are in attendance or to Tana at APBA.

Race Reports:

MHRA; Tom Johnston reported that they had a drivers' school at Constantine, MI with all of the drivers being in the J classes. Some of them raced that weekend. We had two races at Grass Lake, MI and one at Big Rapids. All races were poorly attended with under 100 entries at each one.

TRORA; did not have any races in Region 6.

TORC; Robert Trolian said the race was poorly attended. They are losing the Rotary Club this year and the PNC Bank representative was retiring this year. John Broge is really set to have the race.

Dayton Record Runs; Robert said that entries were down, especially from MI. There were 6 records set at Dayton. The entry fees will remain the same next year.

IOA; Gary Miller said they had 12 people sign up for the drivers' school, 11 showed up and 4 people have bought equipment and are racing. Constantine, MI hosted the Mod/Pro Nationals with just under 400 entries. They helped Ed Hearn put on the race at Dayton. Danville, IL was poorly attended as the Stock Nationals were at Wakefield the next week. Alexandria, KY had a great turnout and some old people won. The IOA meeting/banquet is Nov. 9th and they will set up the schedule for next year at that time.

Brian told Gary that there is a new driver in the Ft. Wayne area that may need some mentoring.

Top-O; Paul Teike said they had a race on Grand Lake in Presque Isle, MI and there were 77 entries. The Marathon Nationals at Indian River had a lower entry count. He thought it may have been partly because the Stock Nationals at Wakefield was a week earlier than usual and there was a weekend gap between the races. They may have a timed marathon race at Tahquamenon Falls in the Upper Peninsula.

The 2019 Central Divisionals course at Springfield, OH will be changed for the Stock Outboard/Modified Outboard Nationals. It will be similar to a Dayton course. The pits will be in the SE corner of the lake and gravel will be added to the shoreline. Registration for the Nationals will be online from Feb.1st through May1st.

The Stock Outboard awards will be at the spring meeting. Nominations for the Stock Outboard Hall of Fame and for the best Stock Outboard race must be sent to Brian by December 31.

Region 6 membership numbers were discussed.

The APBA Annual meeting will be in Seattle, WA January 22-25, 2020.

Election for Region 6 Stock Outboard director was held. Paul Teike was nominated, nominations were closed, and Paul was elected by acclamation.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Brewster seconded by Robert Trolan Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Johnston

Attending: APBA Thundercat Commissioners Adam Low (via phone), Mark Hodorek, Jim Yacko, Past Stock Outboard Commissioner and Referee Jeff Brewster, and Top O'MI club member Paul Teike

1) DOCK LINEUP- RULE CHANGE

Thundercat Rule 70.001

Mark reviewed the dock line up position rule language - that positions are determined by lottery and following heats are reverse order of finish positions of the previous heat. Mark stated that depending on which teams are present at a race, the dock starting positions have been changed in the past to move the slower classes, boats with mechanical issues, or newer drivers to the rear or front of the lineup. To allow this flexibility, the Thundercat Commissioners voted unanimously to add the language **"The starting order on the dock may be changed by a vote of the majority of the racers."** to the end of the existing rule.

2) LATE STARTERS OFF THE DOCK MERGING INTO RACE TRAFFIC - NEW Thundercat Rule 70.005

Jim felt that late Thundercat starters off the dock should not be required to wait for all traffic to pass when merging into a field of racing boats from the outside especially those experiencing mechanical issues and lagging behind. All agreed that safety is paramount in this situation. The Thundercat Commissioners voted unanimously to add rule **"70.005 Merging into traffic after a late start from the dock. After a late start off the dock, a boat can join the field of racing boats from the outside of the course once the boats running at full speed pass, yielding to all boats in the race, and considering safety first."**

3) OVERTAKING/OVERLAP - REVIEW

Thundercat Rule 80.003, APBA General Racing Rules, p 15

Mark brought up the rules concerning overtaking a boat in a turn in a race to review them. The Thundercat rule concerning overtaking a boat during a race was changed a couple years ago to clarify who has the lead and the right of way. Discussion took place as to whether the rules as written make clear the lead boat in a turn can take *any* line or course in the turn to their advantage. Jeff provided the OPC Rules on overtaking to compare. All agreed that the current Thundercat rule language gives the right of way to the lead boat in a turn to take the course or line they choose in the turn. The lead boat changes when an overtaking boat reaches 15 feet, stern to bow, in front of the current lead boat.

4) POINTS FOR TIE WHEN TIED - REVIEW

APBA General Racing Rules, p 17, point 3

Mark stated that both he and Kyle Yacko both received 400 points for the Saturday Trenton race this season and the next position received 225 points. Their positions over the 2 heats that race were tied and no time was taken to break the tie. Mark noted this situation had not occurred in Thundercat racing recently and the APBA General Racing Rules addressing this issue were followed.

5) POINTS FOR DNF- REVIEW

APBA General Racing Rules, p 14

Jim pointed out that Thundercat racing boats not completing a race or not crossing the finish line under power are scored as DNF and don't receive points for that heat under General Racing Rules. Mark thought that DNF should get points to separate them from DNS boats at least for marathon races. Jeff pointed out the problems with determining which DNF boats should get what points when multiple boats do not finish a marathon race and are not in sight of the judges stand. Discussion continued regarding awarding points to Adam at the Monday Portsmouth race for what was thought to be a DNF. No consensus among the 3 Thundercat Commissioners could be made regarding this discussion after these minutes were reviewed.

6) THUNDERCAT REP AT SCORING STATION, CORRECTING SCORING BEFORE LEAVING SITE

Mark said that in a discussion with Cindy at APBA headquarters, she suggested to have a Thundercat representative at the Judge's stand during Thundercat races to prevent scoring errors as in the previous item discussed. Mark also pointed out that to avoid scoring mistakes at a race, scores should be reviewed before leaving the site and the scoring paperwork is submitted to APBA. Unfortunately, scorers are busy tallying at the end of the day when the review should occur. Jeff and Jim clarified that there is a 1 hour deadline after a race to contest a competitor's equipment but that does not apply to contesting scoring mistakes. After discussion, all agreed that Thundercats *should* request to provide a scoring representative or be provided race scores at the end of the event as a term of the event invite.

7) DOROTHY CUP UPDATE AND DELIVERY

Adam had asked about the Dorothy Cup award for this year's Trenton race. Mark provided some background on the Dorothy Cup and that is not an APBA award, it comes from private sponsorship from Lockeman's Hardware and Boats in Detroit. Mark said he would follow up in getting the award engraving updated and the Dorothy Cup to Adam and Jake, this year's winners.

8) TOHATSU 50 TLDI BANDIT ENGINE - RULE UPDATE

Thundercat Rule 30.007

Mark brought up that the Tohatsu 50 TLDI Bandit Class engine provisional status has expired in the current Thundercat rules. It is available and advertised in the APBA Propeller magazine with a 1:1 gear case substitution. Jeff stated that this motor in stock configuration with the gear case substitution is competitive in D Stock Outboard racing but performance is enhanced when it rebuilt or the tuner altered; refer to the Stock Outboard Technical Manual. Jim made a motion and all agreed to update Thundercat rule 30.007 to make **Tohatsu 50 TLDI in stock condition provisional motor for 2020.**

9) THUNDERCAT GROUP BOAT, DRIVER CREDIT FOR THUNDERCAT MEMBERSHIP

Adam suggested that a Thundercat Outlaw boat he owns be purchased with Thundercat funds and be used as a Driving School and loaner boat to increase boat count as has been done at the last 2 races. The logistics on the maintenance, storage, and transportation to races of the boat was discussed with Jim offering to maintain it and Mark offering outside storage. All agreed that considering the cost and logistics, it would not be cost effective to purchase the boat.

Mark mentioned that Cindy from APBA headquarters told him that some drivers in this boat were not Thundercat members as crossover fees were not paid and Thundercats are not getting membership credit for these drivers. Adam said that an agreement was made that the organizers of the event the boat was raced in would pay the fees.

10) NEW THUNDERCAT TEAMS

Jim said that Rob Hallenbeck has purchased a Thundercat boat from his brother Lee and plans to race. Mark asked about a boat for the owner of Howe Marine, a sponsor of this year's Top O'MI race, who expressed interest. Adam offered to sell his Outlaw boat to them. Mark said he would follow up on contacting them.

11) POTENTIAL THUNDERCAT RACES AND NEW SITES

Paul said the Top O'MI Outboard Race Club has a meeting this week to discuss inviting Thundercats to their races next season. Issues from this year's races were discussed and a request was made for Paul to put in a good word for Thundercats. Jim mentioned a potential race on Champion Lake, Ohio on the same weekend as the Top O' race. Jim reported the fate of the Trenton Race is unsure. Mark mentioned an unofficial invite to and potential race at the Bay City (6/20-21/2020) and Detroit (8/22-23/20) respectively but increasing Thundercat boat count is crucial.