



STOCK OUTBOARD CHAIRPERSON CANDIDATE - 2024

A Category Chairman shall be elected by the category members for a term of two (2) years.

CHRIS HAGERL ***Cheboygan, MI***

Chris began racing in 1994, in what is now the J category. He always knew he was going to be a racer, mainly because his father and brother both raced. In his first nationals, he was taught the art of politics, right off the bat. Boat dimensions and “billy holes” just happened to disqualify many of his competitors and he learned firsthand how a commission and race committee made decisions.



As his career continued so did his involvement in politics and learning. Growing up he watched people like Ed Hearn, Bob Trolan, Don Allen, Mark Wheeler, and his father Don Hagerl work with others to improve and advance boat racing. He was in the restaurant, where over lunch the AX classes were created. Chris' father was a Stock Outboard commissioner for many years and was one of the members who approved and encouraged the Sidewinder project.

The number one takeaway he learned was that if it helps the sport but may affect our team negatively it was still important to support it.

He has served APBA in many ways including updating the Stock Outboard Tech Manual, serving as inspector, referee, race director, ambassador, OPC commissioner, and now hopefully as the next Stock Outboard Chairperson.



STOCK OUTBOARD 2024 CATEGORY VISION BY: CHRIS HAGERL

Throughout my own racing career, there have been two continuous issues facing Stock Outboard Racing. The first being equipment, its availability and viability. The second being membership and growth. My vision for Stock Outboard Racing is to develop plans that would help stabilize both of these issues while encouraging growth.

Most of the current equipment is no longer in production leaving us at a crossroad in our category. My vision includes looking into the actual availability of equipment in each class and planning accordingly. For example: are parts being reproduced, how many parts are there, are these parts available to everyone? Next, I would encourage the growth of the 4-Stroke classes. The steps of the previous commission allowed for new production equipment to be available to racers. The Stock Category should be fostering these efforts and helping build towards the future. With new motors, there is potential for class restructuring but not at the loss of membership.

Stock Outboard membership has been in decline for some time. Be it cost, equipment, or personal reasons, we need to find out why they are leaving and help retain membership while we grow. Driving schools already exist but I believe a lot of these driving school participants find it difficult to get equipment. Which leads back to my first point on equipment availability and viability.

With these issues being the main driving force of my vision for Stock Outboard Chairman, I hope you will give me your vote. Please feel free to contact me or reach out with any questions or concerns.

- Chris Hagerl