



## UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by *Howie Nichols, APBA President*

It is early November as I sit and write this update to you, our members. I have officially been in office for less than two weeks—and boy, is there a lot that goes on behind the scenes. I have a whole new appreciation for our past Officers and the staff at Headquarters. A heartfelt thank you must be extended to each and every one of them for everything they do.

### OFFICE UPDATE:

Executive Director Patrick Mell is no longer with APBA. We wish Patrick all the best in his future endeavors. The job description for the Director position is currently under review, and will be adjusted accordingly before the posting becomes available and we begin the search for a new Director.

The new APBA database and website are in the final stages of completion by Easy Click. We hope to have a roll-out very soon.

### INSURANCE:

The APBA insurance policy has been renewed, and remains the same as it was in 2017 with no rate increases. Thank you to everyone for helping to keep our premiums the same; it takes a team effort. Please remember—we always have room for improvement, so continue to look for ways to help us, which in turn helps you, and places us back into a better position to negotiate.

### ANNUAL MEETING / CONVENTION:

If you have not already done so, visit our website APBA.ORG, go to the Schedules/Results tab and take a look at the 2018 [meeting schedule](#) for Chicago. A lot of exciting new activities are planned for the end of the week, along with Category Awards ceremonies on Friday night, and then on Saturday the Honor Squadron inductees, Charles Strang and Don Allen award presentations, and the Hall of

Champions Banquet, where you can honor the winners from the 2017 race season. [Register now](#) to take part and be in the know early on!

## J SCHOLARSHIP WIN/WIN!

by *Jill Glossner*

Each year the J Scholarship Committee seeks ideas to fundraise enough money to support a deserving J driver(s) with a \$1,000.00 scholarship. This year, a unique homemade quilt was created from 48 boat racing T-shirts, donated from all different APBA categories across the United States. Tickets were sold at \$5.00 a chance, starting at the Stock Outboard Nationals in Grass Lake, Michigan in July, until the final drawing at Tabor City, North Carolina on October 28th. Over \$1,300.00 was raised through ticket sales.

The lucky winner, Brian Boyd, from Dayton, Ohio was at Tabor City and took the quilt home with him (see picture). In addition to the quilt, the conducting club of the Tabor City race, Carolina Virginia Racing Association (CVRA) ran a special event "Powderpuff Race," where seven men dressed as women and were auctioned off on Saturday night. On Sunday they put their life jackets on and raced in the AXR class with a LeMans start. Half of the money raised was given to the J Scholarship Fund and the other half went to the winner/bidder, Joel Kiddy!

For those eligible for the J Scholarship, get the details from the [APBA website](#) and make sure your applications are in to APBA **BEFORE DECEMBER 31st**. Mail it early to make sure it is time-stamped before 12/31!

*Jill Glossner presents the boat racing T-shirt quilt to winner Brian Boyd at Tabor City.*



# CONGRATULATIONS, FRED HAUSTEIN!

In October 2017, the UIM (Union Internationale Motonautique) Council promoted longstanding member and UIM Vice President Fred Hauenstein (USA) to UIM Senior Vice President.

Congratulations to Fred, who has served both APBA and UIM selflessly.

Read more in the [UIM press release](#).



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Attn.: Mr Fred Hauenstein, UIM Senior Vice-President  
Copy to Mr Howie Nichols, APBA President

Monaco, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017

RE: **Nomination by Council - Budva 2017**

Dear Fred,

Please receive our heartfelt congratulations for having been appointed UIM Senior Vice-President by the UIM Council in Budva on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, following the General Assembly meeting.

We sincerely express our gratitude for your much appreciated guidance for the good of the UIM and the Powerboat Sport.

Looking forward to continuing our close cooperation,  
Best wishes,

Thomas Kurth  
Secretary General

About the Union Internationale Motonautique: The UIM is the world governing body for all Powerboating activities, including Aquabus. It is fully recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is a member of the Association of the IOC Recognized International Sports Federations (ARISF) and of GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations) for whom the UIM President serves respectively as President and Vice President. The UIM has 61 affiliated National Federations. Cruising, Offshore, Pressure Hauling and Aquabus are among the main disciplines. The UIM has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to further its range of environmental initiatives, share expertise and work together for "greening" the sport.

# BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

There are new faces and new roles on the APBA Board of Directors, Council at Large and committees. Along with 2018 President Howie Nichols, APBA's new Vice President is Chris Fairchild. Rick Sandstrom of R10 is the new Region Representative, and Jeff Brewster (Stock Outboard) is the new Category Rep.

New committee leadership includes Sheryl Rucker officially chairing the Annual Meeting & Convention Committee; Chris Fairchild is in charge of the newly combined Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. Jeff Williams and Mark Wheeler now co-chair the Junior Classes Committee.

Jean Mackay-Schwartz takes over the New Class Committee and Government Affairs. Kyle Bahl now leads the Race and Rules Management committee. Don Melillo is APBA's Chief Referee. Roger Carr and Jeff Williams co-chair the Inspection Committee.

John Runne chairs the renamed Steering/Member Retention Committee.

Robin Shane now chairs both the Special Events and Thundercat committees.

Sherron Winer and Jean Mackay-Schwartz co-chair the new Promotional / Marketing Committee. They have produced a seminar and a series of articles,

"From HERE to THERE" to help clubs and series promote their races. (See example in this issue.)

Thanks to all who have served long and well, and thanks to those willing to step up to help guide APBA into the future.

Offer your ideas, questions or suggestions prior to the National Meeting. APBA committee contact info is available [HERE](#). You can also contact the APBA Board of Directors [here](#).

## RACE CALENDAR

1/26/18 Washington NC	SE
6/15-17/18 Nashville TN	OPC
6/22-24/18 Guntersville AL	INB-SO-UNL
7/13-15/18 Thompson CT	PRO-MOD-SO-J CLSES
7/15-22/18 Moses Lake WA	MOD-SO-J NATIONALS
8/25-26/17 Dayton OH	INB-MOD-SO-J CLSES
8/31-9/2/18 Evansville IN	INB
9/15-16/18 Landing NJ	INB

# CLUBS- FREE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Several categories offer free promotional materials to help clubs publicize their races.

The Stock Outboard Racing Commission distributes 300SSH cards, storefront posters, decals and category brochures to any club. Just send an email to [stockoutboard@apba.org](mailto:stockoutboard@apba.org) or contact your local Stock Outboard commissioner.

(Stock banners were all distributed and will not be replenished at this time.)

The Inboard Category makes banners and annual schedule posters available to clubs. Send an email to [inboardracing@apba.org](mailto:inboardracing@apba.org) or contact your local Inboard commissioner.

Modified Outboard brochures are available from Jeff Williams at [mjracing@windstream.net](mailto:mjracing@windstream.net).

These category resources can help grab attention for your races, and they are free!



# FROM HERE TO THERE

## The Little Club that Could

by Jean MacKay-Schwartz

East Bay Boat Club in northern California, with a dwindling membership and driver base, took to heart the message "From HERE to THERE," the series of articles outlining how to promote a race.

How does a small club with fewer than 35 members draw 500 fans to a race?

East Bay Boat Club started with an idea: "What if we held an event at a location visible from a high-traffic area?" The HERE part led to THERE—a successful event.

The Mossdale Quarry in Lathrop, California, fit the bill. The race site is visible from a major freeway. The club promoted the high-visibility site using "no cost" and "low cost" marketing and promotional tools aimed at potential spectators. Simple 3'x15" black and white banners on T-posts were visible to commuters driving into the city, and attracted most of the spectators. The cost? An initial investment of only \$70, plus \$32 annually to revise the date banner.

"No-cost" advertising also worked well—posting information to local newspapers and electronic monthly community calendars, and press releases distributed to local newspapers. The word continued to spread. Small flyers (5 1/2" x 8 1/2") were put up on community bulletin boards at brick-and-mortar businesses such as Starbucks. Larger posters were also displayed in storefronts.

By utilizing "no cost" opportunities, member clubs can reach out to a variety of audiences through social media like Facebook, and the APBA publications SPIN and PROPELLER.

The gate worked as a "Welcome Center." Spectators were greeted by a WELCOME banner, available from the Stock Outboard Category, as well as an APBA banner available from the Inboard Category. The club distributed "no cost" brochures and 300SSH cards, also available from the SORC. The Modified Category also has promotional materials available—all examples of categories using their Publicity Funds to make materials available to all APBA member clubs to assist with promotion.

By tapping into the many talents of club members, posters and programs were created at "no cost" (for design and distribution) and "low cost" (for printing.) The race program—distributed free at the gate—explained how to watch a race and offered opportunities for spectators to connect with APBA representatives about driving school opportunities.

A spectator crowd of 500 is phenomenal—especially in a region with fewer than 40 APBA members.



In this case, East Bay Boat Club's goals were realized twice—once by the participating drivers who came for end-of-year title-clinching competition, and also by the

spectators that were welcomed to watch top-notch West Coast racing.

Watch for a full writeup on the "Quake at the Quarry" in the next issue of Propeller!

From top: Welcome banner, window posters, Inboard and APBA banners, the simple banners aimed at commuters, and a range of no-cost and low-cost materials.



# SCORERS: PREPARING FOR THE 2018 RACING SEASON

by Ann Marie Shaw, Scoring Committee • [instpov@yahoo.com](mailto:instpov@yahoo.com)

We have just completed racing for 2017, and hope you all had an awesome season. As the 2018 racing season is upon us, we need to keep in mind some little problems that can create big ones. If we racers, referees, scorers, inspectors and registrars help each other, we can get the job done and go racing.

Everyone—race committee, officials, drivers and crews—must be at the race site, ready to perform their duties, on time.

Owners and drivers: Be prepared for registration. Remember to bring your physicals, club card, your capsule training certification (depending on your category requirements), and inspection card. This year some scorers complained that entry blanks were not completely filled out, especially with emergency information. It only takes a minute to look over the form. You, the racer, are the only one who can provide the correct information.

So many things to remember... Here are some TIPS:

You can fill out your entry blank before the event. This will save you time at the race site. On the APBA website, click the Resources tab to find the [entry form](#). Fill out the entry form COMPLETELY.

Scan your APBA card and club card right on the entry form, then make copies or save on your computer. At your next race, just fill in the date and location. If you scan your information, you can even e-mail your entry to the scorer. Some events ask that you send them in ahead of time, by snail mail or e-mail.

Or, ASK the scorer at check-in for a couple of entry blanks and to use the imprinter.

PLEASE, if you are required to have a physical and/or a capsule test, make sure that it is up to date. If they are not on your APBA card, please bring a copy to the race. For \$10, we will send it to APBA and they will issue you a new card with the correct information. You then will have all the information on your card. It is that EASY!

Another complaint this past season came from scorers who scored multiple categories' races. They were unable to read some of the boat numbers, especially Inboards. PLEASE follow the rules that are written for your category.

A [Minor Release](#) (available on [apba.org](http://apba.org)) must be filled out for any member under the age of 18, before the minor races or takes capsule training. (Note that there is a separate form for Florida racing.)

Plan to renew your membership early. Send it in by February 28, 2018 to get the early-renewal discount.

Be sure to fill out the membership form completely.

DON'T forget to sign the back, along with a witness.

Send to Headquarters with the correct amount of money and other information needed for your APBA card (physical and/or capsule certification). You can also do this on the APBA website ([apba.org](http://apba.org)).

You can join APBA at the race site, but it will cost more. Also, no credit cards are accepted at race sites. You may say later, "I wish I had joined earlier. I would have that extra cash for the weekend, or that extra entry fee." Please bring your old APBA membership card if you decide to join at a race site. It helps the scorer and APBA, since all the information is on that card and just needs to be updated.

Remember, owner/drivers, it is your responsibility to see that all of your crew have joined APBA and signed the Waiver and Release Form. After they have signed, they will be given a wristband. This proves that the Waiver and Release has been signed, and lets the volunteers know that you and your crew belong in the restricted area.

A reminder to scorers who work outside of their regions: keep in close contact with the Race Chairman. He/She has a wealth of information about their event, especially any special awards presented at the race. It will give you a heads-up on gathering needed information.

This year all Scorers will be required to take the 2018 test, since we take the test every two years. The category tests are usually prepared at the National Meeting. You must take the test before you can be put on the sanction for a race. This allows for online sanctions to have the most current information. Please take the test EARLY so you do not hold up the sanction for a race committee.

The National Meeting is being held January 24-27, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chicago, IL. Room rates start at \$109 per night. If you have any ideas that you would like the Scoring Committee to address, please contact or forward them to us. Better yet, meet with us in Chicago; we are always open to suggestions to better our committee. Hope to see you there!

Have a GREAT HOLIDAY and a SAFE 2018 RACING SEASON. SEE YOU AT THE RACES.



# REGION 6

by Don "Eli" Whitney

**Update on Dave Noble** (Box 21 Rescue, APBA Safety Committee member, Region 6 Inboard Alt. Director): Dave was seriously injured in late October while helping extract a passenger from a car wreck. A second vehicle struck the wreck, injuring Dave. Although Dave did lose a leg as a result, subsequent operations were successful and a prosthesis will be fitted (Dave has requested a "wet" one). Dave has been at Dayton's Miami Valley Hospital, but should be home as you read this; we look for him in Chicago and at the Region 6 Spring Meeting February 10-11!

**Happier note:** Dunk test candidate Box 21's own **Mickey Retman** suffered a stroke last year, and has made a tremendous comeback! Oh, he passed. First time. Usually, he's the instructor; got a different view this time!

*That's Mickey in the orange helmet!*



## Quick results from APBA Region 6 2017 Fall Meeting

### October 21-22, 2017 elections

**Region officers-** Region 6 Chairman Eli Whitney; PRO: Chair Mike Thirlby, Director Mark Wheeler; OPC: Chair Barry Wolf, Director Dale Meier; Stock Outboard: Chair Brian Mitchell, Director Tom Johnston; MOD: Chair Tom Sutherland, Director Jeff Williams; Inboard: Chair Barry Pray, Director Steve Spisak; Officiating Committee: Chair Rich Falcinelli, Director Rich Evans; Club Committee: Chair Kevin Kreitzer, Director Mary Williams.

**Region 6 Racing Commission Reps-** PRO: Mike Thirlby, Austin Vanover; OPC: Dan Bunting; Stock: Tom Johnston, Terry Kerr, Brian Mitchell; MOD: Jeff Williams, Eric Vanover, Tom Sutherland; Inboard: Don Melillo. These are the guys to talk to about your racing category and your ideas!

**Please note and plan:** The 2018 Region 6 Spring Meeting will take place February 10-11, 2018, featuring facet and committee meetings, BOX 21 dunk tests, and the

annual Region 6 Awards Reception and Ceremonies. More info in January! The facet and committee meetings cover new stuff from the APBA Annual Meeting plus racing schedules and plans – be there!

**Clubs-** Marine Prop Riders: November 11 was a full day of activities. First, track racing at Kart 2 Kart, a warmup to the annual Awards Banquet that evening. Thanks to Rich F. for organizing. Everybody won! Ref had to be blind—no penalties nor black flags. That evening, at Clinton Twp's ConCorde Inn, 75 banquetees broke bread together; and later, after honoring and recognizing our veterans, class championships and perpetual awards were doled out. Jim Sechler was named Marine Prop Rider of the Year. The December 6th club meeting will be held at the Weber/Ritz Motorsports complex near Utica, Mi, with a holiday potluck dinner, videos, photos, bench racing (lies), and an ugly sweater contest, along with a modicum of club business. All are invited. 2018 club memberships are available. Need directions? Check the [website](#) and call!

**MHRA:** looks like the MHRA will be combining their awards banquet and ceremony with the Region 6 Awards Reception mentioned above. The more the merrier in Perrysburg! And 2018 looks to have plenty of racing, so sign on for the ride!

**Editor's note:** *We were saddened to hear of the passing of longtime PRO racing stalwart "Big Ed" Thirlby on Nov. 19, 2017; Merry Miller, wife of the late Fred Miller, on Nov. 23rd; and outboard guru Shanon Bowman shortly thereafter. Look for remembrances in the next PROPELLER. Race in Peace, friends.*

## COMING UP

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY PROPELLER AND 2017 YEARBOOK

Heads up: If you have material for the January/February PROPELLER and/or Yearbook, please send it in to [editor@apba.org](mailto:editor@apba.org) ASAP. Did you catch a great photo of racing, the pits, people? There are many volunteer heroes behind the scenes in APBA; send a note and a photo about them and their contributions.

Also, the January/February issue will mail WITH the Yearbook in an envelope so as to arrive safely. They will hit mailboxes around the end of January.

*the* **SPIN**   
APBA MEMBERS, SEND YOUR NEWS TO [EDITOR@APBA.ORG](mailto:EDITOR@APBA.ORG)

**APBA**  
AMERICAN POWER BOAT ASSOCIATION