

APBA Superlight Tunnel Boat
Region 6 Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2013

Eight Superlight Tunnel Boat (SLT) racing members were present representing six racing teams including Rachael Anspach, Steve Heuinck, Mark Hodorek, Jeff Howie, Jake Jurge, Jim Yacko, Kyle Yacko and Jeff Zeller as well as race support personnel. Guest speakers included Todd McQuade (Walled Lake Thunder Race), Billy Noonan (APBA Region 6 Chairman), Jim Robb Sr. (Indiana Outboard Race Association), and Mark Wheeler (APBA President).

The meeting started with Region 6 Chairman Billy Noonan reporting on some safety issues discussed at the 2013 APBA National Meeting. These included: no open-toed shoes can be worn by anyone working on, launching, or touching the race boats at a race event, and launching or retrieving race boats at events can only be done by people who have signed the insurance waiver. Other topics discussed included launch area isolation, yellow card rules and helmet requirements.

Billy also gave the dates for upcoming Region 6 Meetings and discussed the protocol for honoring Region 6 SLT High Points Champions. The 2012 Region 6 High Point winners are John and Steve Heuinck (Experimental Class) and Jim and Kyle Yacko (Bandit Class).

Next, Todd McQuade invited SLTs to the Walled Lake Thunder Race on 6-8, 9 and discussed race details including the \$50 per team fee, the requirement to be a club member, boat display at the race site, and the race schedule. Rachael Anspach said she will coordinate communications with the judge's stand and handle wrist bands and waiver sheets at the launch area.

Todd then said that he was unsure about the race boat display at this year's Novi Boat Show on 3-14/17 due to lack of floor space. Jeff Zeller volunteered to display his boat at the Show and will coordinate with Todd if space is available. Other area boat shows were discussed and no other SLT displays are planned this season.

APBA President Mark Wheeler spoke next about SLT being similar in organization to Offshore, J, and Outboard Drag Boat Racing Categories. He requested the SLT members appoint representatives to add to the SLT Committee headed by John Sharp.

Mark Wheeler also encouraged SLT members to add language to the SLT Rules to replace kilo with ¼ mile speed record runs to be uniform with other racing categories. Record breakers do not earn points used for high-points calculations. He announced that this year's speed record runs will be in New Martinsville, WV the last weekend in September.

Mark finished by talking about SST 60 motors which will soon be manufactured again and also said that SLTs need to establish a class which promotes use of commercially-available motors which are competitive and not just allowed to run in an existing class with boats powered by custom motors presently used.

Regarding expenditures from the SLT promotional fund this past year, Mark Hodorek informed the group that \$150 had been used for expenses to display a SLT boat at the Toronto Boat Show requested by Steve Heuinck. Mark also reported that \$1900 was spent for two new Security racing suits which he requested. Mark suggested that these suits should be used by the newest APBA SLT members to offset costs to enter the sport. These were used by the Yacko SLT team this past season. Now they have purchased their own suits so the SLT suits can be used by another rookie team this upcoming season.

Mark Hodorek suggested that current SLT racers be appointed to the APBA SLT Committee eventually replacing Committee members less in touch with the sport. Steve Heuinck and Jim Yacko were nominated and unanimously approved to be added as SLT Committee members. Existing Committee members include Mark Hodorek, Bryan Lauer and Ernie Dawe. These Committee members bring rule changes and SLT fund expenditure requests to the SLT Liaison and the APBA Board for approval.

Steve Heuinck reported that he had turned the SLT website control over to APBA administration as requested. They have moved the website to apba.org/slt and removed many of the videos previously posted on the site. Mark Hodorek suggested many of those videos were worthwhile. He also noted that APBA administration has assigned a SLT logo this past year which can be used on clothing and advertisements used by APBA. Steve mentioned that he is maintaining the facebook version of the site and that the title used for SLT racing internationally is thundercat racing.

Jim Robb Sr. from the Indiana Outboard Racing Association provided dates and information on 5 upcoming races this season inviting the SLTs to each of these Modified Outboard Racing events. He talked about the Huntington, IN, Beaverton, MI, Hillsdale, MI on two weekends and Alexandria, KY race sites. Camping, launch ramps, Le Mans starts, and race points were discussed.

Rule changes suggested by APBA administration and the membership this year included rule 120.006. Steve Heuinck suggested that the minimum number of races per season a high-points champion must compete in be reduced from 8 to 5. All SLT members present agreed. Mark Hodorek suggested rule 120.003 requiring the minimum number of starting boats for a National Marathon Championship Race be reduced from 4 to 3 and all agreed. These minimum numbers were reduced to allow the reduced number of SLT racers currently to achieve championship titles traditionally awarded.

Mark Hodorek represented requests by racers Lee Hallenbeck and DJ Hunter to add additional motors and modifications to those approved for the Bandit and Outlaw Class motors. SLT members present agreed to not change the rules without adequate testing since currently there are classes available for racers using these motors to race in.

Jim Yacko requested that rule 50.115 be clarified since the size of the exiting orifice of the water pump indicator stream was an issue at a previous championship race. The group agreed to change the language to read "the tell-tale cooling pipe may be replaced with a pipe of different characteristics as long as the inside diameter of the exit orifice is the same as the manufacturer's."

Jeff Zeller reported that his Titan pneumatic assist steering system failed this past season due to damage at a previous race. The system works properly and safely if it is in good repair and used as intended. He proposed to race a SLT hull 15 feet in length which he owns. Members reviewed rule 40.001 which gives a minimum but no maximum hull length so no class restriction would apply to this hull.

The group discussed equipment availability and updates. Three additional teams now have purchased their own safety suits. Used boats, motors, and equipment are available from past racers John Cupps, Tom Wilson, Tony Xerri, and Bryan Lauer. Steve Heuinck said he can provide new Aquarius boats at a discounted rate.

Mark Hodorek discussed invites to this year's races at Detroit, MI, Trenton, MI, Celina, OH and Pittsburg, PA and not to Bay City due to lack of SLT participation last year. He passed out a list of the 22 races available to pursue this season beginning with the Dayton, OH test and tune event on 5-25, 26.

Members discussed at length which races they were interested in attending and their schedules. Mark tallied the number of teams present committing to each of the races. The events with the most interest were: Waterford, ON (3 teams committed), Walled Lake, MI (5), Tawas, MI (3), Detroit, MI (6), Trenton, MI (5), Top O' MI (5), and Hillsdale, MI (3). These events are identified as those which the SLT racing group will pursue this season.

Finally, Mark Hodorek passed out a SLT inspector's test comprised of 20 questions written by SLT Inspector Don Hagerl. He said that tests from other categories include only 10 questions and seasoned Inspector Lou Howard requested the length of the test be reduced. SLT racers present reviewed the test questions and requested questions #1,7,8,9,10,12,17,18,19 and 20 be deleted from the test. Mark mentioned that Lee Hallenbeck has passed the SLT inspector exam and has been training under Don Hager inspecting at the Top O' MI race. The meeting adjourned.