

APBA

MODIFIED OUTBOARD RACING COMMISSION

January 25, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mark Wheeler, at 8:30 PM. APBA President Chris Fairchild was welcomed and told those in attendance we had all survived 2020 and he was looking forward to a better 2021. He also thanked all who volunteer to make races possible.
2. Roll call was taken. In attendance were Mark Wheeler, Mike Akerstrom, Alex Jennings, Scott Miller, Justine Ivie, Howie Nichols, Gary Miller, Jasen Dirksen, Andy Hanson, Rick Miller, Fred Hauenstein, Daren Goehring, Kelly Hannon, Bob Koschka, Eric VanOver, Josh Kimble, Lisa Jennings, Mike Wienandt, Erin Proctor, and approximately 60 guests.
3. The Oath of Office was administered to all commissioners by Chairman, Mark Wheeler.
4. The Chairman explained that per APBA bylaws, if a commissioner was a 2020 member, they were entitled to vote on issues that come before the commission until the end of the Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 30th. After that they would need to be a 2021 member in order to vote on issues. He also told members that the Board had recently passed a change to the bylaws stating that members of the commission needed to be a member by early January. This change will take effect on November 1st of this year.
5. Motion by Howie Nichols, seconded by Gary Miller to approve minutes from the January 23-24, 2020 meeting, the June 22, 2020 meeting, and the November 12, 2021 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Chairman Wheeler gave an insurance update. There will be a 10% increase from last year. Coverage remains unchanged – a Friday Driver's School is still free, Friday testing is free, and a stand-alone drivers' school will cost \$619.
7. Tech Chairman, Bob Koschka, reported Gary Miller, Cliff Johnson, Daren Goehring, Mike Wienandt, and Mike Akerstrom have all agreed to serve on the Tech Committee this year. He has begun a major redo of the tech manual to eliminate the front section of rules which apply to various classes and move these rules to specific the classes where they belong. In this way, members could print out only the class they wanted and have all the rules for that class.
8. In the absence of Jerry Davids, Mark Wheeler gave an update on the Yamato Exhaust Kit Program. There are 5 kits less pipes in stock. The pipes come from Derrick Geisler and are shipped at the time of sale depending on the motor being used. The chairman reported that he will work with Jerry to have these listed on the website.
9. MORC Engines.
 - a. Fireball 125 – There is 1 complete Fireball with an OMC tower and 1 complete Fireball with a Roskowski tower in stock with Jerry Davids. Daren Goehring has 1 complete Fireball less tower on the west coast. Jerry also has 2 powerheads, 4 adaptor plates to the OMC tower. The importer has 9 complete powerheads in Washington. Cost is \$3,600 complete with tower and gear foot.
 - b. Yamatos for the 500 classes – The commission had purchased 2 motors and have sold 1. Gary Miller and others are going to fully convert the remaining engine to modified status. A second Yamato has been ordered from this year's budget. Per Mike Ward ignition parts for the 302 and 321 are no longer available. Yamato upgraded to 332 specs in 2017 and can only supply these ignition parts. The 332 flywheel is not compatible with the other models. The new ignition can not use with the old flywheel.

Tom Johnston reported that Ric Montoya has 30 complete motors. He is expecting 20 additional ones and then plans to go thru his list of people who want motors. He will not be getting any parts until the motors are sold. TJ reported that he had just received 20 pistons from Mike Ward.

10. The Modified Budget for 2021 was reviewed. \$1,000 was added on the income side as promotion income. A brief discussion was held on the tools to be purchased for inspection. Howie Nichols suggested going in with the Stock category on templates for gear cases. Motion by Howie Nichols to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Mike Akerstrom. Motion passed unanimously.
11. A review of the actions taken during 2020 was provided by the chairman.
 - a. All special boat numbers such as 1-US, 2-US, section winners, etc. will carry over from 2020 to 2021.
 - b. National champions from 2019 are pre-qualified for the 2021 nationals.
12. 2021 Championships
 - a. Bill Pavlick gave an update on the 2021 combined Mod-Stock-J nationals scheduled for Springfield, OH July 12-18. He stated that emails had gone out to alert everyone on hotels with racer rates. Information on RV camping, golf carts, pit spots, and racing will be available soon with registrations accepted starting February 6th. The plan is to meet all requirements as far as COVID-19 goes. Members of the Race Committee at this time are Bill Pavlick Rave Director, Joh Runne Referee, Jill Glossner Scorer, and Kurt Romberg Inspector. They are considering all some special event classes and the 20H motor class would be among them.
 - b. The Eastern Championships will be hosted by Peace River Outboard in Jesup, GA April 8-11. The Western Championships will be hosted by Seattle Outboard Association at Castle Rock, WA May 1 and 2. These championships could be moved if necessary due to the pandemic.
 - c. Divisionals are scheduled for:
 - i. Central – Indiana Outboard Association, Constantine, MI, June 26 and 27
 - ii. Northeast – Three Rivers Outboard Racing Association, Franklin, PA, September 25 and 26
 - iii. Southeast – Caroline/Virginia Racing Association, Wilson, NC October 2 and 3
 - iv. West – Seattle outboard Association, Eatonville, WA, August 14 and 15
 - d. North American Championships were previously awarded to
200ccMR – Seattle Outboard Association, Angle Lake, WA, September 11 and 12
350ccMR – Three Rivers Outboard Racing Association, Kittanning, PA, August 21 and 22
500ccMR – Indiana Outboard Association, Constantine, MI, June 26 and 27
850ccMR – Indiana Outboard Association, Alexandria, KY, September 25 and 26
125ccMH – Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association, Constantine, MI, June 19 and 20
200ccMH – Indiana Outboard Association, Alexandria, KY, September 25 and 26
350ccMH - Three Rivers Outboard Racing Association, Kittanning, PA, August 21 and 22
400ccMH - Indiana Outboard Association, Alexandria, KY, September 25 and 26
500ccMH - Three Rivers Outboard Racing Association, Kittanning, PA, August 21 and 22
750ccMH – Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association, Constantine, MI, June 19 and 20
850ccMH - Seattle Outboard Association, Angle Lake, WA, September 11 and 12

Mike Akerstrom presented a request on behalf of Connecticut Outboard Association for the 750ccMR NAC to be held at Thompson, CT on June 12. Motion by Howie Nichols, seconded by Justin Ivie to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

John Wlodarski presented a request to hold the 250ccMR NAC at Lock Haven, PA over Labor Day weekend. Motion by Mike Akerstrom, seconded by Howie Nichols to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Chairman Wheeler reported that Marine Racing Club has retracted its bid for the 2022 nationals. He announced that any club wishing to bid for the 2022 nationals should submit their bid prior to April 1, 2021.

14. Rule Change Proposals

Proposal 1: Unless there is a need to address a parts shortage, the modified outboard category will not make technical rule changes during the 2021 racing season.

Rationale: Most modified outboard classes did not race in 2020 season. Hence, the number of members who can vote on technical rule changes in given class is small. In the case of many classes, no one is eligible to vote under our current rules.

Rationale: Most technical rule changes come out of incidents from the previous racing season. Many of these incidents take place in inspection. We did not have these incidents in 2020. Motion by Howie Nichols, seconded by Gary Miller to approve the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

Passage of the proposal removed any consideration of other proposals.

15. Other Matters

- a. Bob Wartinger explained that APBA had 17 events last year and he had reviewed 20 COVID-19 plans. He had come up with a list of 7 items to be addressed in these plans. He suggested that this COVID-19 list be put on the website to help clubs and that clubs identify a COVID-19 person to handle COVID-19 requirements at the race site and separate this from the Risk Manager's duties.
- b. After a request, Bob Wartinger agreed to speak to Ric Montoya to see if he could ship out motors soon to people who want them.
- c. After a request, Kurt Romberg went over the turn fin rule.

16. Chairman Wheeler announced that there would not be a second Modified meeting on Wednesday, January 27. He said he would be on the call at the 8:30 PM start time in case anyone wanted to discuss Modified boat racing.

17. There being no further business, Howie Nichols made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Hansen. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Williams
Modified Secretary

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