

MINUTES

American Power Boat Association - Vintage & Historic Committee Board of Directors Zoom Meeting

June 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 PM by V&H Chairman Jeff Buckley. Board members in attendance were Jim Olson, Vice-Chairman; Dick Delsener, East Coast Representative; Shaun Kelson, West Coast Representative; Steve Compton, Inboard Representative; Rich Luhrs, Outboard Representative; Dan Joseph, Regions Representative; Jack Meyer, Officiating Representative; John Woodward, Communications/Marketing; Matt Yarno, APBA Board Liaison; Special Projects Representatives Rich Evans and Jim Berry.

The minutes from the May 12 meeting were approved unanimously on motion of Steve Compton, seconded by Jim Olson.

Chairman Buckley opened the meeting with the sad news of the passing of Bob Patterson, boat builder from the West Coast, and the passing of past APBA President Mark Wheeler.

Chairman Buckley asked Rich Luhrs to discuss recent happenings on the topic of reinforced canopies. Rich described that he has been working on reinforced canopy rules in the offshore division. It has become evident that the accident that resulted in a fatality at the Springfield, OH event last year was due to a reinforced cockpit that failed due to age. He remarked that it is impossible at this point in time to determine with any certainty whether an older canopy is safe without stress testing. He recommended that the issue of reinforced cockpits be tabled in V&H until this issue is sorted out. He also recommended that members of the V&H committee meet with Bob Wartinger in the next few months to try to determine how to implement the greatest safety and security with reinforced cockpits, and in how to train inspectors and referees. The committee was in agreement.

Jack Meyer remarked that he needs guidance for allowing reinforced cockpit boats at events, as he knows of at least two boats that are planning to attend the New Martinsville event in a month. Extensive discussion on allowing these boats to run in V&H followed. Without regulations in place for reinforced cockpits in the V&H bylaws, these boats will be allowed to run under the "special event" designation, on an invitational basis, and in heats by themselves with no non-capsule vintage boats.

Chairman Buckley discussed the so-called 25 year rule for admission of boats into V&H. Discussion followed on admission of boats that may view V&H as a test session for boats that ultimately want to participate in active racing.

Under new business, Chairman Buckley announced that the FVRC is willing to lend their radios to any event wanting to try them. They will be brought to New Martinsville and Wheeling. An evaluation form will be required of any driver who tries out the radios in heats.

Chairman Buckley related that discussions on marketing and development have been taking place. Rich Luhrs remarked that growth and expansion of marketing is very important to both APBA and V&H. Continually marketing V&H within APBA to retiring racers is important. Encouraging events to display banners or advertising, etc., to bring new people into V&H by allowing them to drive a boat at an event. Potential venues for new race sites should be explored. Chairman Buckley remarked that each member of this committee is an ambassador for V&H and encouraged bringing ideas to the table.

Jim Olson announced shirts would be ordered for any committee member who wants them. They will be red in color and the cost will be approximately \$34. He will need name, address, phone number, size, short or long sleeve, and the title of the committee member. Similar shirts in blue will be available for region reps. Fifty percent of the cost of the first shirt ordered will be covered by V&H; cost of additional shirts will be the responsibility of the buyer. Mr. Olson would like to have everyone's order information by next week.

Dick Delsener remarked that Rocky Fork is asking for boats to participate in their event.

Shaun Kelson described that they are preparing for events in Richland, WA and Black Lake, WA. Both events have 10-11 boats committed.

Steve Compton reported that he has had conversations with some of the flatbottom owners to encourage participation in V&H. He has also been promoting participation in V&H at the hydroplane museum in Seattle.

Rich Luhrs reported that the outboard division has been pretty quiet. Good outboard participation is expected at both upcoming West Virginia events.

Dan Joseph reported that a Region Rep for Region 9 has been determined and a region reps meeting will be held soon. He has also had discussions with Bob Wartinger on basilar skull fractures in boat racing, often the cause of fatalities. He continues to do research in this area and suggested that committee members read the Southern California Speedboat Club rules for more information (www.scsracing.com).

Jack Meyer has had many discussions on the reinforced cockpit issues with drivers.

John Woodward reported that there will be 3 V&H articles in the next Propeller, including a new feature called Vintage Corner that will be ongoing in each issue. He is currently working on producing stories on interesting people in V&H. A potential new event at Dexter Reservoir is being examined for 2022 or 2023.

Debbie Joseph reported that plans for the Wheeling event are moving forward.

Matt Yarno reported that the APBA has not met recently. Nominations for the APBA Board and Council at Large will be open soon. The APBA building has been sold and operations will be moved to a rented location in the next several months. A permanent location is being evaluated.

Jim Berry described that discussion about a new outboard driving school has not moved forward. Two events are upcoming in the Maryland area.

Chairman Buckley reported that a 1-2 day drivers school is being planned in conjunction with the Florida event next spring.

Rich Evans continues his work on the reinforced cockpit rules and regulation.

Chairman Buckley remarked that this committee will take its time to make the correct decisions on the reinforced cockpit issue and any other that comes before it. This committee will continue to make these decisions with the utmost deliberation and desire to get final decisions right.

The next meeting will be held on July 14, 2021.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:40 PM on motion of Rich Luhrs, seconded by Steve Compton.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Joseph
Secretary
Vintage & Historic Committee