

**2014 PRO Commission Meeting Minutes
Grand Sierra Casino and Resort, Reno, Nevada
January 23 – 24, 2014**

Commissioners Present: Kristi Ellison, Rich Fuchslin, Steve Greaves, Dwight Malhiot, Jay Walls, Jay Walls Jr., Jim Nelson, Mike Thirlby, Zach Malhiot, David Weaver, Kristi Ellison (Chair)

Absent: Chris Hellsten, Dave Jones

The PRO Commission meeting was called to order by Kristi Ellison, PRO Chairman, on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 10:30am PST. A quorum was established. Kristi E thanked the Commissioners for coming and volunteering to do this job.

A moment of remembrance was held for PRO racers who have passed on this year and previous Commissioners were thanked.

Kristi E. reminded the Commissioners that they are here to represent the entire PRO Category, not just their own classes and interests. If technical rules are passed in this meeting, they will go to ballot of the membership. Safety rules passed by the Commission will be reviewed by the National Safety Committee and will become a rule 30 days after publication without a vote of the membership. Rule changes passed by the Commission and approved by the members become effective in the next racing season. If the Commission wants a rule to go into effect immediately, the APBA Board of Directors must approve the early effective date and then those rules would be published in the Propeller and effective 30 days later. The Steering Committee, made up of all category chairmen, meets to discuss actions of the Commissions are doing in attempt to keep rules as consistent as possible.

Friday evening will be the Category Awards presentation and Saturday evening is the Hall of Champions / Honor Squadron banquet. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Commissioners' contact information was updated.

Two new agenda items were added for discussion. Zach M. suggested the commission discuss K Pro with respect to the sidewinder engine and also the new modifications to the Yamato 302 engine for the OSY-400 class.

PRO Status Assets

The status and expenditures from the Pro Promotion Fund was reviewed.

As a reminder we discussed how the Pro Promotion Fund receives income. It was noted that \$10 per Pro memberships received goes to this fund. Even from a "Super" membership.

Steve G. updated the budget estimates for 2014 expenses.

The COL Green Round Hill Trophy has been updated. The trophy ran out of room for names. The name plates were modified so that a single name plate contains more names than previously. This modification maintains the look of the trophy but with added room. Old name plates are kept inside the base of the trophy.

We currently have 15 George Townsend medals remaining.

We have 2 more years of the nationals medals remaining. This could be more because of missing class representation at last year's nationals.

National high point patches may be running low. Kristi E. will check to see if we need more.

The Gilbert Peterman plaque has been engraved and has four more spots for winners. In the near future, we may need to modify the name plates similarly to the COL Green Trophy.

Discussion was had about setting a cap on the number of years an award may be presented. No action was taken.

The status of the PRO Live Streaming Kit was discussed. It was noted that the Pro LSK has never been used. A plan needs to be put together to best utilize this kit for all the clubs. (Later) The Pro LSK is currently in Reno and being used to live stream the Hall of Champions banquet. For viewers to see live streamed events they can go to the APBA site. It has the links of all the live streaming events. One can also posted events on social media.

PRO Statistics

The statistics for the 2013 PRO season were reviewed. The overall picture of the season statistics were looked at as to number of races and entries by class. Trends for each class over the last several years were reviewed. The PRO category had 84 active drivers in 2013. Statistics on entries by class were reviewed.

There was discussion about what road blocks and reservations old members had that leads them not to participate with APBA vs. other organizations. Also the possibility of getting more PRO classes on sanctions for local races. It was noted that in the last year we had a large drop in OSY-400 participation.

2013 PRO Reports

The PRO season report to the Board was reviewed.

Class activity was low to non-existent in the small runabout and Capsule hydro classes.

2013 financial support for club driving schools was reviewed. The Pro category reimburses 75% of the ambulance fees for any club which registers a minimum of 10 new drivers at an event. We spent \$363.75 in 2013 on schools. This was for only one event that submitted paperwork and qualified for reimbursement.

The PRO Divisionals and Nationals were reviewed. No North American Championships and UIM/World were raced this year.

Two Pro records were recorded in 2013 which included John Wienandt (175ccH 1/4mile strait away) and Ralph Hildebrand (1100ccR 1/4mile strait away).

The winners announced: Col. Green Round Hill Trophy, Jay Walls Jr.
George Townsend Medal, Ryan Thompson.
Gilbert Peterman Award, Chris Hellsten.
PRO Officials Award, Kristi Ellison.

The Hall of Champions inductees for the PRO category are Jay Walls, Jr. and Mike Thirlby.

The Commission congratulated all of the 2013 season awardees and nationals and high point champions.

APBA Business

Kristi E discussed issues from the Board of Directors including the new insurance carrier and our new lower rates. Insurance rates for races in 2014 are \$2310 for Stock, Mod and Pro category races. As in the past year, no additional charge for testing on Fridays before the event.

It was reported that Pro Racing Membership was 131 in 2012 and dropped to 75 in 2013. Notable drop in participation in regions 6 and 7.

There was an issue brought up during the board of directors meeting about the General Racing Rule 24.2 about Drag racing. Discussion was due to water conditions and a particular event (not a Pro event), oval races could not safely be run. To continue the show, organizers created a drag race course. The discussion was about if and how points should be rewarded in these situations.

For straight away events, at each scanner location, a minimum of 2 timers will be required.

Kristi E. briefed the commission about discussions of the race management comity.

US Title Series Report

Kristie E. briefed us about the Nov 2013 USTS Meeting in Chicago, IL. Commission had long discussions about how to open the doors for USTS members to race with APBA in the coming year.

Commission reflected on the number of racers that joined APBA for a reduced rate for the nationals. It was determined the number was too low to warrant a similar situation at this years nationals.

It was brought up through discussions that USTS rules no longer has the same requirements that our rules stipulate. Some participants may not be willing to change

the paint of current boats to run with APBA. In an effort to make the crossing over more appealing, number requirements should be changed.

Motion by Dwight M. (Mike T. Seconds) to modify Rule 6.4 of the Racing Rules for Stock Outboard, Modified Outboard and Professional Racing Outboard to read
“Pro Hydroplanes shall be affixed with numbers of a color that strongly contrasts with its background. Numbers must be a minimum of six (6) inches in height and one (1) inch stroke where space permits. Motion passes (9 yea, 0 nay) and will go to member vote.

Motion by Steve G. (Mike T. Second) to add the sentence, “The letter designation is optional in the Pro Category.” to Rule 6.8 of the Racing Rules for Stock Outboard, Modified Outboard and Professional Racing Outboard Motion passes (8 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain.) and will go to member vote.

Regular PRO Business

Review/ update approve 2014 PRO Committees

Chief Referee: Jim Nilson
Chief Inspector: David Augustine Sr.

PRO Motor Advisory Committee
Dwight Malhiot, Mike Thirlby, Chris Hellsten, Mike Wienandt

Safety Committee:
Rich Fuchslin, Kristi Ellison, David Jones, Bob Wartinger

Boat Advisory Committee:
Tom Cronk, Mike Krier, Gary Pugh

K PRO Hydro:
Mike Thirlby, Jim Nilson

Nationals Committee:
Kristi Ellison, David Weaver, Rich Fuchslin, Jim Nilson, Steve Greaves

C Service/ C Racing Tech Committee:
Jay Walls, Dwight Malhiot, Mike Thirlby, Carl Williams

Technical Manual:
Steve Greaves, Kristi Ellison, Zach Malhiot

UIM Committee:
Chris Hellsten, Fred Hauenstein, Billy Allen, Bob Wartinger

Awards Committee:
George Thornhill, David Weaver, Kristi Ellison

Growth Committee:

Jay Walls Jr., Dwight Malhiot, George Thornhill, Zach Malhiot, Chris Hellsten
2014 Divisional Championship request are as follows:

Eastern C Service and C Racing Hydro and Runabout + OSY 400 Divisional to the Indian Outboard Association, Huntington. Motion to accept by Jay Walls (Mike T. Second) (Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay).

West Coast Pro Western Divisional: Astoria, OR 21-22 June, except 500ccR-1100ccR at Kitsap Lake May 17-18. Motion to accept by Dwight M. (David W. Second) (Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay)

2014 National Championship request. Kingston TN. July 1-4th. Motion to accept by Steve G. (Mike T Second) (Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay). Discussion was had to encourage the town to allow racing to start on the Friday and run through the weekend instead of mid-week. This may not be possible due to State permitting issues. Currently testing would be July 1 and 2, racing July 3 and 4.

Further discussion was had about adding other classes to the program to increase the boat count and provide an even better show for the spectators. Categories that were brought up included classes from the Mod and J category.

The Mod Commission has asked to join us for a combined Nationals in 2017. A discussion was had but no action taken.

2014 UIM/World Championships. If required, the Pro category could put together a race committee to assist Race for the Kids. Further investigation will be required to determine the need.

The Commission reviewed and update of the PRO Approved Officials List. Addition to the list included Jack Campbell Jr. as an Eastern Divisional Inspector. Motion to accept by Dwight M. (David W. second) (Motion Passed 9 yea, 0 nay)

Speaker Bob Wortanger talked about reason why he thinks we have seen significant decrease in OSY-400 participation. He suggests the addition of weights to follow the UIM model will help. Discussion was had including the conversion, UIM weight is 180KL which is = 396.83lbs.

Motion by Steve G. (Jim N. Second) to put to a vote for the drivers of OSY-400 to add a weight limit of 397lbs (boat, motor, driver), affective this coming year. (Motion Passed 9 yea, 0 nay)

Rick Montoya spoke about the Yamato OSY-400 engine 300 series advances. A 315 gram min puller plate has changed to accept a new solenoid. We will need to update the pro tech manual to reflect the changes.

A new 321 Model Yamato engine will be seen in the future that has a different tower housing and an insulated carburetor cover. The updated engine is said to have a performance gain in RPM but has lost overall and mid-range torque. We will not see this new model this summer. No action is necessary.

The Yamato 4 stroke is still in the prototype stages.

New Business

PRO General / Racing Rule Proposals:

AORA proposed technical rules for C Service and C Racing Outboard racing classes be held in the Antique Outboard Racing Association Rule Book. Jay Walls presented the proposal and discussion was had. The concern from the proposing group is that a number of rules have changed since the start of the present day class. It was discussed further and the commission agreed the rules for a APBA Pro class must be within the Pro Tech Manual. With that stated, specific rule changes are possible when submitted to the commission and provided for class participants vote of approval.

Optional Letter for PRO numbers for drivers who participate in UIM races. See above.

OSY-400 model 321. See above

J Committee ruled on the specifications for hydro pickle forks. They will follow the Pro/UIM rules. We do not have to change anything.

It was noted that in the future we may have to discuss the addition of the sidewinder engine as it is becoming the engine of choice in the Stock category A class. No action taken.

Promotion/ Growth

Wounded Warrior Project update presented by George Thronhill. We had 9 participants from the wounded warrior group participate in SOA's new folks in boats. USO helped sponsor that event. George planned to take a group of wounded warriors thru the Hydroplane Race Museum. Discussion on how we can do more.

Continued discussions about Driving schools and how to get Pro classes running with other outboard categories to help promote PRO racing.

Financial

- Approve current PRO Promotional Fund expenditures to date
 - Review / Approve 2014 Pro Promotional Fund Budget
- Dwight M. (Mike T. second) Motion to approve the Promotional Fund Budget

Motion by Dwight M. (Jim N. second) to split shipping cost with clubs for the live streaming equipment. (Motion Passed 9 yea, 0 nay)

Motion by Dwight M. (Jay W. second) to continue the driving schools for another year with the \$3,000 cap (Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay)

Motion by David W. (Jim N. second), to continue the scholarship fund for another year.
(Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay)

Motion by David W. (second Rich F) to Re-name the annual scholarship to “Howard Anderson Jr. Memorial Pro Scholarship” (Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay)

Closing

Motion to adjourn Steve G. (Jay W. second) (Motion Passed 9 yea 0 nay)

Next Meeting in early July at PRO Nationals Kingston TN.