

Meeting: Marine Racing Club
Date: February 23, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Residence of Jim Fairchild (Batavia, IL)
Attendees: Edgar Rose, Jim Sobol, Gene Schertz, Bill Pavlick III, Tad Olson, John Korbus, Mike Pavlick, Paul Nielander, Jim Fairchild, Brian Palmquist, Dakotah Fairchild, and Michael Mackey
Secretary: Michael Mackey

Meeting was called to order at 7:26 p.m. by Commodore "Chicago" Paul Nielander. January 14, 2010 meeting minutes were read. Motion made to accept minutes as read; seconded by Edgar Rose. Motion approved.

No old business issues to discuss. Mark Weber informed Commodore that the body of water at Rochelle is too small for inboard and tunnel boats, so it is not a viable option for an APBA Driver's School. However, it may still be an option to run a kneel-down MRC Driver's School. Edgar Rose will discuss the elements of a successful Driver's School later in the meeting.

Discussion turned to budget issues. We will pay for:

- Tow money
- Announcer (BSOA will not split this cost with us)
- \$100 for a photographer in 2009, and will pursue this again in 2010
- Race program with BSOA (\$500 per club for 1,000 printed programs) for which we can charge or request donations (better success accepting donations)
- Purchase of a second video camera

Floor was yielded to Edgar Rose for discussion about Driver's School.

Mr. Rose says there are two types of Driver's Schools: 1) The APBA-style of school which develops a driver's capabilities of large, very fast boats; and 2) A Club-style Driver's School devoted to kneel-down racing only.

As a sidebar, Mr. Rose noted that we have very few new members coming in, and as an organization, we are shrinking. Region 10 and Region 6 are experiencing the same problems as Region 7 as far as recruiting and retention. He encouraged all members to go to the www.apba-racing.com Web site, click the Resources link, and view the Driver's School Power Point presentation.

Mr. Rose went on to say there are three crucial elements that need to be followed in order to grow the sport: 1) We must get prospects who know nothing about APBA involved; 2) Run an actual Driver's School that teaches safe driving, the intricacies of the race course, and to have the individuals actually enjoy their experience; and 3) Implement a successful follow-up program with the Driver's School attendees.

The third element is critical, and one that APBA is guilty of not doing well. We need to have personal contact with the individuals to foster a feeling of involvement, friendship, and belonging to a boat club. We need to get the prospective racers to meetings, and fuel their enthusiasm for racing. If we cannot follow through on the third step, all efforts are wasted. Mr. Rose has two presenters who have done a good job with the Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association – Dean Sutherland and Mark Miskerik. Dean's phone number is 734-546-2656, and Mark's phone number is 248-470-5812.

Talk came back around to the Promotion Booth and plans for 2010. We need a centralized location for the lead cards generated. Kevin Schertz has requested \$100 per race weekend to bring the promotional trailer and materials. On the trailer will be a new Hemp-built JH and the new Mercury J engine to be set up and displayed at all races. Kevin is looking for a shell J gear case, and would like to negotiate with the Great Lakes Boat Club to get a new J gear case on a consignment deal (e.g., when the engine sells, GLBC would get their money back).

Bill Pavlick III sought closure on the issue of Rochelle, IL. The Rochelle race is back on and scheduled for July 24-25 with a Driver's School. We will shoot for a poster advertising the school which Jim Sobol has volunteered to hang in various marinas and boat showrooms throughout the region. Mr. Sobol has also volunteered (possibly) to referee at races.

Testing without an ambulance was the next topic. Commodore would like to institute an absolute "No Testing Without Ambulance Present" policy, and proposed a \$10 "tax" per driver for the Rochelle weekend to cover the Ambulance time (which is approximately \$100 per hour).

Kevin's request for \$100 per race weekend was approved, and BSOA will split the cost with MRC. Mike Pavlick voiced an opinion to have a Yamato rig also set up with the JH rig. For the time being, we are going to go with the JH rig, let Kevin run the program his way, and reevaluate the situation next year.

Talk turned to DePue. It was agreed that DePue will be the site for the Mod North America Championships in Formula A Runabout and DMH. Commodore Nielander will put in that bid. We also agreed to run three-heat races for JH and AXR, and that we will also proceed with running a short course-within-a-course.

8:49 p.m. Motion made and passed to adjourn meeting.

Next meeting: March 16, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Jim Fairchild's residence
1023 S. Batavia Avenue
Batavia, IL 60510