

# 2008 Inboard Racing Commission Annual Meeting Minutes

Detroit, Michigan  
January 31- February 2, 2008

## **Thursday January 31,2008**

Meeting was called to order by Dutch Squires

Recording Secretary Linda Blackwell gave roll call: All IRC members were present.

Moment of Silence: Russ Dodge read names of those who passed.

Dutch Squires gave the Chairman's Address: "The IRC should be leaders and communicate with their own locals. They should be role models in their own communities."

Mike Weber, Safety Director for APBA, was present for a short time. He brought up what is going on concerning Safety in the world and how it pertains to Inboard Racing. Helmet clearance in a capsule is very important.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### ***Committee Reports***

- **Rookie of the Year:** The East and West Coast Inboard Rookie of the year will be named at the Inboard Banquet on Friday night. (East Coast: Becky Wilson, West Coast: Brent Harnack)
- **Hall of Champions:** There were 3 people eligible for the Hall of Champions, but only two could receive the award. The third person's letter was mailed 10 days late. Dan Kanfoush and Dutch Squires were selected to be inducted into the Hall of Champions. There will be 3 positions for eligible candidates for the 2008 season.
- **Bruce Broussard Award-** There were 3 people eligible for the Bruce Broussard Award. The person chosen will be named at the Inboard Banquet. (Jackie Meyer was selected for the award.)

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- **Technology Committee, Dan Kanfoush-** This is a new committee set up by the Chairman to find ways to use technology in which to make boat racing better. In addition the Technology Committee will also over see the [www.goboatracing.net](http://www.goboatracing.net) website. Down the road the committee is looking to develop a program for scorers to upload the results of races as soon as it is available. They are also looking at ways in which to make the office as paperless as possible to keep cost down.
- **Promotion Committee, Dutch Squires-** Grant/CO-OP- This committee is trying to move the deadline up earlier this year so as to get funds distributed out to Regions that may have not received any in the past. Approximately \$12,000 was given out last year. Dutch Squires and Travis Johnston will work together on the Grant/CO-OP.
- **Rack Card/ Schedule Poster- Ann Fitzgerald-** 20,000 Rack Cards, 10,000 Schedule Posters were printed for 2008. Funding was provided through participates and IRC. Ann Fitzgerald and Dutch Squires have worked together to scale down the mailing list to ship mostly to the clubs, saving on postage. They selected pictures of East and West boats for the poster. Dutch suggested using one side for East Coast and the other side for West Coast schedule.
- **Atlantic City Boat and Sport Show, Thom Heins-** January 18-20, 2008, was held at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The show was attended by 33,000 people. Show demographics included average age of 35-44 years old with an income of \$30,000-\$50,000 a year, 73% Male and 64% of those males were married. They had a Jersey Speed Skiff, Grand National Hydro and a kiosk to work with, the booth was staffed with professionals in uniforms.
- **PRI Show, Thom Heins-** The IRC wanted only to participate in shows that are attended by the public, but the PRI Show is the largest motorsports show in the world. The Promotional Committee feels Inboard Racing should have a presence in this show even though the \$5,000 fee for a display is a steep. These folks are the manufacturers of the products we use. At this time Inboard is funding this totally, but it would be good if APBA would help with this promotion. Another possibility would be to get sponsors to help support this. All of APBA would benefit from participating in this show.
- **Race Event Seminar, Scott Blackwell-** A second annual race event seminar is set for Friday afternoon. There will be a speaker, Russ Wallach, who will speak for 30 minutes. This seminar will give ideas that have worked in the past. The seminar will then break up into five twenty minute round table sessions. Table 1- Tom Saddler on “How to sell race sponsorship”, Table 2- Ron O’Neill and Michel Poirier who put on the Valleyfield Race, Table 3- Water TV with Russ Wallach, Table 4- K & K Insurance, and Table 5- Open Forum.

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- **Officials, Jim Codling-** A new website will be set up where officials, after passing their test can go to ask questions or discuss a race online. There will be four Protest Officials for this year: Paul Grichar, Thom Heins, Billy Noonan, and David Shaw. Dutch has asked the Inboard Chief Referee , Jim Codling, to hold three conference calls during the year: One is to be before the start of the race season, a second in the middle of the racing season, and a third later in the year.
- **Official's Shirts, David Shaw-** It would be nice to see the officials have a designated shirt for Referees, Inspectors, and Chief Scorers. The shirts would help identify the officials and present a professional appearance. Dutch suggested looking at the budget before doing anything with this.
- **Race Uniform Enforcement, Bert Henderson-** Discussion of what is appropriate clothing for race teams. It was brought up to change the rule 34.1.1 from "collared shirts" to "appropriate team shirts". Dutch asked Bert to bring a written rule proposal back after lunch for action.

### New Committees:

- **Awards Banquet, Kelly Shane-** Dutch asked Kelly Shane to pull together a committee for the Inboard Awards Banquet beginning next year. Kelly will chair the committee. The purpose of this committee: 1) get help for Kelly 2) try to break even on the banquet 3) look at cost of award rings as gold prices keep going up.
- **Inboard Equipment Inventory, Rich Evans-** The committee will maintain the inventory available to the Inboard Category, in the event that equipment is available for sale or loan.
- **J Stock, Robin Shane -** J Stock started as an initial cooperation between the Historical Society and Inboard Racing. IT was started to give kids age 9 - 14 an opportunity to try boat racing. There is a need to get kids introduced to the sport for the future of boat racing. Last year, they were racing just as exhibition only. This year they will run for points. With a grant of \$9,500.00 from the Historical Society, 5 boats were purchased. There were 10 kids participating in Hampton, VA; 3 in Celina, OH; 3 in Hillsboro, OH; 15 in Clarksville, VA. J-Class confirmed sites for the 2008 racing season- Portsmouth, VA; Elizabeth City, NC; Hampton, VA; Celina, OH; Port Deposit, MD; Hillsboro, OH; and Clarksville, VA. We have 5 hulls that can be used for consignment, but 3 motors and gear feet are needed to be purchased. Also more safety helmets and suits. There are assets of at least \$17,000. Robin Shane will ask for another grant from the Historical Society. Robin Shane purchased last year's J- Class equipment from her own funds.  
*Jim Codling made a motion to pay Robin Shane \$8,200 for the equipment purchased for the J-Class Boats. Dave Shaw seconded. - Motion Passed*

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Lunch Break was taken.

**Uniform Rule - Rewrite for Rule 34.1.1** was brought in for the vote:

- Rule 34.1.1 - His or her crew is wearing a uniform at all inboard sanctioned races. Minimum requirements for a uniform consists of a collared shirt for owner and driver with the team racing identity. All other crew/ team members must have a minimum of a t-shirt with the team racing identify. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine to the team owner.

*Motion made by Jim Codling for the vote, Seconded by David Shaw*

IRC Votes: 17- For 0-Against PASSED Effective: 2009

- **Administrative Report, Kelly Shane-** The office expenses are listed in the budget, there is also an detailed report form the Inboard Office in all the Commissioners binders.
- **Budget 2008-** Brian Small would like to purchase another F-16 Style Training Capsule. At this time there is only one F-16 type cell. Motion made by Scott Blackwell that Inboard pay for 1/3 of the cell. Scott removed his motion.
  - Bert Henderson made motion for Inboard to pay the full amount \$1,200 of the training capsule as long as Inboard retains complete ownership of the capsule.

IRC Vote: 5- For 13- Against FAILED  
The IRC would like to look at this expenditure again in 30 days.

- Rich Evans made motion to pay for the artwork needed for the Official Shirts. Ann Fitzgerald said she would pay for the artwork. Rich then pulled his motion. Bert Henderson made motion to put aside \$2,000 for funding of the Official (Referee, Inspectors, and Chief Scorers) Shirts. Scott Blackwell Seconded.

IRC Vote: 5- For 13- Against FAILED

- Russ Dodge made motion to accept IRC 2008 Budget as listed. Jim Codling seconded.

IRC Vote: 21- For 0- Against PASSED

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### 2008 Championship Bids

Events for 2008 are listed on the Rack Cards and were approved on a conference call.

- 2008 Western Divisional, Parker, AZ- For Flat Bottoms and Cracker Boxes to be held on April 12 & 13, 2008.

IRC Vote: PASSED

### 2009 & 2010 Championship Bids -

- **2009 Western Divisionals, Parkers, AZ-** For Flat Bottoms and Crackers Boxes  
*Robin Shane made motion to accept bid. Bruce Broussard seconded.*

IRC Vote: PASSED

- **2009 Inboard Summer Nationals, Hampton, VA-** Bid Proposal to host all hydroplane classes and Jersey Speed Skiffs on August 14-16, 2009.

IRC Vote: PASSED

- **2009 Flat Bottom Summer Nationals, Long Beach, CA-** Bid proposal to host CB, SS, PS, KRR Classes on August 8 & 9, 2009.

IRC Vote: PASSED

- **2009 Eastern Divisionals, Morgan City, LA -** *Jim Codling made a motion to pass. Jim Appley Seconded.*

IRC Vote: 4- For 17- Against FAILED

- **2009 Eastern Divisionals, Waterford, MI-** Quake on the Lake/Malibu Open to host all classes on July 17-19, 2009

IRC Vote: 12- For 1- Against 2- Abstain PASSED

- **2009 Western Divisionals & Flat Bottom Worlds, Olympia, WA-** Bid proposal for Seattle Drag & Ski Sprint Boats Association, Inc. To host Western Divisional for all Hydro classes and Worlds for all Flat Bottom Classes on July 11-12, 2009.  
*Tom Thompson made a motion to pass, Scott Blackwell seconded.*

IRC Vote: 21- For 0- Against PASSED

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- **2009 North American Championship, Wildwood, NJ-** Bid proposal for Sunset Hydrofest to host the North American Championships September 26, 2009.

IRC Vote: PASSED

**Vision Statement** -Meeting was then split into groups to work on a vision statement

<u>Region</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
3 & 4	Ann Fitzgerald
2, 6, & 7	Eli Whitney
10	Debi Squires
11 & 12	Ron Morrison
Other Regions to fill in as desired.	

**Results of Hearing of the Jersey Speed Skiffs**-The note from the Review Committee regarding the hearing was read by Dutch Squires. “Our Inboard officials Jim Codling and Jim Appley represented us this morning in a tough hearing regarding fuel. The review committee feels the officials who handled this issue did an outstanding job and handled it perfectly. The review committee went on to say that “our fuel rules are unclear and need revision” and because of that the Inboard Commission lost the appeal. We need to recognize Sam Strickland as the 2007 National Champion of the Jersey Speed Skiffs. Recognize Tom Pakradooni and Dave Greenlaw as runners up in the National High Point Championship. Inboard and all of APBA need to take care of the fuel situation. Most of the problem about the hearing this morning was the language of our Fuel Rules. When the Fuel Committee brings a new proposal on fuel, we need to ask the review committee to help with the technical wording.”

### **Friday February 1, 2008**

- **KRR Reports, Dutch Squires-** Are not an issue, but must be turned in at each race.
- **Fuel Committee, Tom Thompson-**The Fuel Rules have some gray areas in them at this time and that is a problem. Because of the situation in yesterday’s hearing the Fuel Committee needs to do more work to get the fuel rules where they need to be. Gary Rohmburg and Jeff Titus will be asked to help us get the rules set technically. Once it has been approved by the IRC, Dutch will then take the rules to the Board of Directors for their approval. Tom Thompson would like to get together with Jim Appley, Jim Codling, Jim Sechler and Hank Wendt to get their input after going through the hearing yesterday.

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- **Technical Committee, Jim Sechler-** reviewed Technical Committee rules recommendations to IRC for approval and printing in Propeller.  
*Motion made by Jim Codling, Seconded by Billy Noonan*

IRC Vote: 20- For    1- Against    PASSED

### General Proposed Rules:

- **Rule 43.4.4 - Correct Typo - Submitted by Rich Evans**  
*Motion made by : Hank Wendt, Seconded by Tom Thompson*  
  
IRC Votes: 23- For    0 - Against    PASSED    Effective: 2009
- **Rule 38.1 - Change Criteria for Bruce Broussard Award - Submitted by David Shaw**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Billy Noonan*  
  
IRC Votes: 21- For    0- Against    PASSED    Effective: 2009
- **Rule 3.1 & 3.3-Change “Non Closed Footwear” - Submitted by Eli Whitney**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Mario Maraldo*  
  
IRC Votes: 13 - For    6- Against    PASSED    Effective: 2009  
\* Passed with Modifications
- **Rule 23.6- 75% Points if less than 4 boats- Submitted by Debbie Welte**  
*Motion made by: Hank Wendt, Seconded by Jim Appley*  
  
IRC Votes: 0- For    21- Against    FAILED
- **New Rule- Inboard Advisory Board- Submitted by Ann Fitzgerald**  
*Motion made by: Jeff Wooton, Seconded by Jim Codling*  
  
IRC Votes: 2 - For    19- Against    FAILED
- **New Rule- Mandatory Results to Website - Submitted by Bud McKay**  
*Motion made by Jim Codling, Seconded by Billy Noonan*  
  
IRC Votes: 0- For    21- Against    FAILED

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- **New Rule- APBA Bylaws for Championships - Submitted by Ann Fitzgerald**  
*Motion made by Hank Wendt, Seconded by Jim Codling*

IRC Votes: 0- For 21- Against FAILED

- **Rule 16.7- Mandatory Video at Start- Submitted by Jeff Bernard**  
*Motion made by Russ Dodge to change the proposal and run the proposal back through on Saturday morning.*

**Rule 16.7- Rewritten Video at Start- Submitted by Jeff Bernard**  
*Motion made by Jim Codling, Seconded by David Shaw*

IRC Votes: 17 - For 4- Against PASSED Effective: 2009

- **Rule 16.9- Eliminate 3 Minute Gun Provision- Submitted by Jeff Bernard**  
*Motion made by Russ Dodge to change the last sentence and run it back through on Saturday Morning.*

**Rule 16.9- Rewritten Eliminate 3 Min. Gun Provision- Submitted by Jeff Bernard**  
*Motion made by Jim Codling, Seconded by Scott Blackwell*

IRC Votes: 21- For 0- Against PASSED Effective: 2009

- **Rule 43.6.11-Allow solid lifters in 2.5L Stock - Submitted by Willard Wilson Jr.**

IRC Technical Committee Rejected Proposal

- **Competition Jet Rules- Submitted by Ross Wallach**

Ross was advised that there were no available Inboard Class Additions. Ross said he would move the proposed class to Inboard Endurance.

- **Rule 25.4 -No conflict of Divisional & National Events-Submitted by Travis Johnston**

This will be handled through new process of obtaining bids.

- **Rule 37.2.2, 37.2.3, 37.2.4-HOC Point System- Submitted by Travis Johnston**  
*Motion made by: Russ Dodge, Seconded by David Shaw*

IRC Vote: 21 For 0- Against PASSED Effective: 2009

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- **Rule 12.1 -Post Rule Change form on Website - Submitted by Bud McKay**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Dave Shaw*  
  
IRC Votes: 21- For    0- Against    PASSED    Effective: 2009
- **Rule 12.3-Tech Committee Rule Proposals on Website- Submitted by Bud McKay**  
  
IRC Votes: No Vote Taken, Proposal was deemed out of order.
- **Rule 12.5 - Rule Proposals to be posted on Website - Submitted by Bud McKay**  
  
IRC Vote: No Vote Taken, Proposal was deemed out of order.
- **Rule 13.1 -Minimum Water Depth - Submitted by Stuart Shane**  
  
Tabled: Dutch put Hank Wendt in charge of committee to study and bring proposal to 2009 annual meeting.
- **Rule 12.4.2-Allow all APBA members to Vote -Submitted by Martha Atkins**  
  
Martha withdrew Proposal. Is addressed in another committee.
- **Rule 39.1 & 39.2-Birthday Change - Submitted by Robin Shane**  
*Motion made by Hank Wendt, Seconded by Jim Codling*  
  
IRC Votes: 0 - For    21- Against    FAILED
- **Rule 47.6 -Eliminate Big Block from GNH- Submitted by Randy Wolfe**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Travis Johnston*  
  
IRC Votes: 7- For    13- Against    FAILED
- **Rule 25.12-Correct Rule Book Region Bylaw - Submitted by Ann Fitzgerald**  
  
*New Rule- Region Redistribution Failed, This rule was eliminated, it would of only be effective if the first rule would of passed.*
- **Rule 37.2 -HOC to reflect new divisions - Submitted by Ann Fitzgerald**  
  
*New Rule- Region Redistribution Failed, This rule was eliminated, it would of only be effective if the first rule would of passed.*

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- **Rule 39.2- Cracker Box Weight- Submitted by R. Scott Schatz**  
  
IRC Votes: 7- For    13- Against    FAILED
  
- **Rule 41.2.2-Multiple Expansion Chambers in 1LM - Submitted by Joe Sovie**  
  
Sent To Technical Committee:        FAILED
  
- **Rule 48- Grand Prix Class- Submitted by Robin Shane**  
  
IRC Vote: 21- For    0- Against    PASSED        Effective: 2008
  
- **Rule 12.2-Owners only may Propose Rules - Submitted by Paul Grichar**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Russ Dodge*  
  
IRC Votes:16- For    5- Against    1- Abstain    PASSED        Effective: 2009
  
- **Rule 21.1- Yellow Card to Owners- Submitted by Stuart Shane**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Billy Noonan*  
  
IRC Vote: 6- For    11- Against    FAILED
  
- **Rule 50.6.9-Cracker Box Bottom Flatness - Submitted by R. Scott Schatz**  
*Motion made by: Jim Codling, Seconded by Tom Thompson*  
  
IRC Vote: 21- For    0- Against    PASSED        Effective: 2009
  
- **Rule 50.3- Cracker Box Aftermarket Blocks- Submitted by R. Scott Schatz**  
  
Rule 50.3 - has passed the Tech Committee and is in a 14 day waiting period
  
- **Rule 50.1.1-Cracker Box/Inboard General Rules - Submitted by Dwight A Moody**  
*Motion made by Jim Codling, Seconded by Tom Thompson*  
  
IRC Votes:7- For    13- Against    FAILED
  
- **Rule 5.6 -Add Sentence “The boat(s) causing the stoppage of a heat shall not receive points for that heat, not will it be allowed to run in a restart should one take place. Participation points will stay.” Submitted by R. Scott Schatz**  
*Motion made by: Tom Thompson, Seconded by Travis Johnston*  
  
IRC Votes: 21- For    0- Against    PASSED        Effective: 2009

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- **Rule 13.5 -Change Third Sentence to read “If the driver receives two or more penalties in the Heat, he/she may be disqualified.”- Submitted by R. Scott Schatz**  
*Motion made by Scott Blackwell, Seconded by Bruce Broussard*

IRC Vote: 2- For      19- Against      FAILED

Session was dismissed to attend the Race Event Seminar

### Saturday February 2, 2008

Presentation was given by the Director of Safe Harbor Boys Home, Jacksonville, FL. They are building J-Class boats and will then be able to race the boats during the year. They are learning vocational and technical skills while taking part in this program.

Hank Wendt gave a brief summary of safety issues that had been discussed.

1. If a second concussion is suffered to anyone under the age of 17, fifty percent of those end in death.
2. Helmets should fit snug on the head to be the most efficient.
3. Seat recline position is important. A 90° position is ideal.
4. There need to be at least a 2" head clearance in capsules of the new boats being built.

**Race Management-** Would like to know if we want 24" flags or the more easier seen 34". Black flags are the hardest to be seen. The IRC is still interested in a “button” in which the referee pushes and a red light would come on to notify drivers a flag has been raised to stop the race, etc.

**Race Directors-** What is their job description? Yellow Cards are being used only on the water. Some have considered using them out of the water.

**Capsule Test-** Work on doing things on more common grounds. There is discussion about the expire date being two full years by taking the capsule test early in the year.

**Yellow Card Rule-** Need to track use of the yellow card. Present yellow card rules need to be looked at and decide if they need to be changed.

- **Rule 35.1.2- Equipment Owners fee for General Fund-** Change fee charged to all equipment owners , which goes to the general fund from a limit of \$35.00 to \$50.00.  
*Motion made by Bruce Broussard, Seconded by Jim Codling*

IRC Vote: 0- For      21- Against      FAILED

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- Grand Prix Records- Motion made to archive the Records in the Grand Prix Class.  
*Motion made by: Bert Henderson, Seconded by Russ Dodge*

IRC Vote: 21- For    0- Against    PASSED    Effective: 2008

National Mod and Grand Prix will be looked at to see what can be done to help.

### **General Discussions**

Mark Weber is interested in working with Scott Blackwell on Race Seminars. APBA should take over financing for Race Seminars. Developing a driving school is something that should be looked into.

After receiving their findings from the Fuel Committee, Dutch will schedule a Conference Call to discuss the findings.

Dutch thanked everyone for coming and the work they did. Dave Shaw wanted to thank Kelly Shane and the two Master of Ceremonies for putting a good banquet together. Paul Grichar wanted to thank Hydroplanequebec for doing such a good job with the videos shown.

Motion made by Jim Codling to Adjourn, Seconded by Scott Blackwell.