

December 2007

Fellow Inboarders –

As I begin my term as your Inboard Chairman, I believe we need to review the state of our sport, and to set up a plan to lead Inboard Racing where we want it to be over the next few years.

Several years back (2005) we surveyed Inboard Racing on that topic. A summary of that survey is attached. You will note that some things have changed, and you will undoubtedly feel, as I do, that some things that have not changed need to. I believe that this subject is important enough to our future that we will devote IRC National Meeting time in order to have group discussion, brain storming, and develop a preliminary 5 to 7 year vision statement describing Inboard Racing in the near future. With our vision guiding our decisions we can begin planning and budgeting accordingly.

I also realize that it is not possible for all of you to attend the Detroit meeting. In order to include your input, I am encouraging you to:

- Consider carefully the state of the sport,
- Consider the direction you believe that we should take, and
- Call or e-mail your IRC representative with your thoughts; contact another IRC representative or myself, if you would be more comfortable. The key thing to remember is that we are soliciting your input to use as a basis for making change and moving forward. Please identify yourself – we may put you to work!

Over the next several years we must see change in our sport. Whether that change is good or bad will depend in a large part on whether or not we can achieve a common shared vision, and whether or not we can work together to effect those changes.

Dutch

Inboard Survey Major Conclusions 2005

1. The survey clearly indicates the majority of our members believe we are sportsman racers at the present time.
2. Our members believe we should race with a professional attitude.
3. Our members would like to see improvements in many areas of inboard racing, but they are not willing to increase racer expenses to pay for these improvements. Priority areas of improvement are race management and marketing/promotion.
4. Our members want financial accountability.
5. Our members want to be involved and have good communication.
6. Region 10 has strong feelings about trying to resolve the APBA/ULHRA conflict.
7. Our members feel our present inboard chairman is doing a great job and encourage her to continue with the positive leadership and willingness to make hard decisions.

Suggested IRC Goals 2005

1. Develop inboard racing vision/slogan.
2. Develop committees to address areas of improvement.
3. Report financial accountability to membership via web site.
4. Continue present efforts to resolving APBA/ULHRA conflict.
5. Restructure 2006 IRC Meeting to assure planning and development decisions are addressed prior to rule changes.

Proposed Committees

Each Committee evaluates needs and develops an *action plan* to address one or two high priority issues during the 2005 race year. Committee chairman **reports** progress and **recommends** needed changes to the IRC and the Inboard Chairman, via conference calls and at the 2006 national meeting.

- **Technical Committee**

- **Safety Committee**

Reviews, studies, and recommends safety rules and policies. .

1. Pre-season inspection.
2. Head restraint effectiveness study.
3. Standardized boat emergency equipment rescue form.

- **Competition Committee**

Develop plans to enhance competition in inboard racing.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Competitive | 8. Eliminate classes |
| 2. Racer participation | 9. Propeller spec. |
| 3. Boats on plane | 10. East vs. West competition |
| 4. Box rule | 11. Name classes by engine size. |
| 5. Move Nationals around country | 12. Validate Region 12 series |
| 6. Minimize rule changes | 13. One Class One Engine |
| 7. 2 heats per day for all boats | 14. Heat by qual. Sp. Not class. |

- **Race Site Development Committee**

Explore new sites, enhance relationship with present sites and explores redevelopment of lost sites.

1. Race site development (new and old).

2. Hydros in California

- **Race Management Committee**

Works toward the improvement of race day management functions and policies.

1. More racing less down time.
2. Consistent impartial officiating.
3. Start earlier.
4. Train race comities
5. Follow the rule book
6. Fan friendly
7. Improve race management
8. Back to grass roots
9. Professional race director
10. Family oriented
11. Serve customer (the boat racer)
12. Unsportsmanlike like behavior
13. Fan ride in a boat
14. Make it fun they will come
15. eliminate 3 day races
16. Compensate officials
17. Race management check list

- **Marketing/Promotion Committee**

Explores best practices in marketing and promoting inboard racing nationally and locally.

1. Travel incentives
2. Marketing and promotion
3. Promote events
4. NASCAR we are not
5. Series sponsor
6. More tow/prize money
7. Affordable
8. Money
9. Look at ULHRA
10. Focus on growth
11. Work within our limitations
12. Series events sell sponsors
13. News releases
14. Demographics
15. Promote racing west of Rockies
16. Promotion video
17. Race promotion check list

- **Communications/Technology Committee**

Improve membership communication and implementation of current technology to enhance the speed and accuracy of information.

1. Web site
2. Improve communications
3. Technology for timing, scoring, etc.
4. Seminars, discussions, speakers at national meeting

- **Membership Committee**

New membership development enhances value to and relationship with present members, explore renewed relationship with past members.

1. Involve and attract young people
2. Get members involved
3. Aid new comers (mentor program)
4. Fan education

Vision/slogan we Might Consider for 2005

Fun Racing With a Professional Attitude

As the committees make their action plans they would be sure the end result aligns with the 2005 inboard vision/slogan.