



Nebraska Airboaters Association

RiverTALK

"Uniting to Preserve Our River Rights"

June 2023



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- And MORE!
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2023 NAA Membership Application

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DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?

Each mailing, the association receives several newsletters back due to old addresses and expired forwarding orders. PLEASE let your director know or contact your NEW secretary, Jessica Fetrow, to report your new address. Her email address is jessfetrow@gmail.com. Her cell phone number is 402-276-1867.

Please save the association the expense of mailing your newsletter TWICE! If you know of someone who is NOT receiving their newsletter, please let us know that as well!



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ON THE COVER

Photo by Justin Mensik

NAA Director Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM at Nowhere Special Bar, Linwood, NE. Roll call conducted, 16 of 19 directors present.

December 11, 2022 minutes read aloud by Jessica Fetrow and discussed. Motion to approve December minutes was made by Matt Shaw. Second by Matt King. Approved unanimously.

Financial report was presented by Rhonda Thiessen, reviewed and discussed. Matt King requested a copy of financials from the February 4, 2023 Annual Meeting as he was not able to attend. Randy Fetrow will send him a copy via email.

- Financials from the Annual Meeting held on February 4, 2023 were reviewed. Randy Fetrow explained the bill from the Ramada is not reflected on the print out as he just received it a few days ago. This means the cost of the meals is not reflected on the print out for today either. Meals were \$22/plate this year. The association charges \$20/plate to members and pays the difference.
- 2024 contract is signed with the Ramada in Columbus, NE. Randy Fetrow encouraged directors to propose other locations for 2025 if anyone has suggestions.
- Directors discussed checking tickets next year during the raffle and other ways to improve the meeting.
- Matt Shaw made a motion to approve financial report. Second by Mark Ulferts. Approved unanimously.

2023 Elected Officers:

- President
 - Matt Shaw nominated Randy Fetrow. Matt Shaw made a motion to cease nominations. Second made by Matt King.
 - Randy Fetrow is the 2023 President of the NAA.
- Vice President
 - Marty Reznicek nominated Kyle Kern. Matt King made a motion to cease nominations. Second by Mark Ulferts.
 - Kyle Kern is the 2023 Vice President of the NAA.
- Treasurer
 - Rob Theissen nominated Rhonda Theissen. Mark Kreikemeier made a motion for cease nominations. Second by Jay Kern.
 - Rhonda Theissen is the 2023 Treasurer of the NAA.
- Secretary
 - Randy Kassmeier nominated Jessica Fetrow. Matt Shaw nominated Kirk Westring. Todd Bailey made a motion to cease nominations. Second by Mark Kreikemeier.
 - Vote was held amongst directors. Jessica Fetrow is 2023 Secretary of the NAA.

Old Business:

- Justin Mensik has agreed to do the newsletter. Marty Reznicek made a motion to hire Justin for the position. Second made by Dustin Feyerherm. Approved unanimously. Justin will also be made an admin on the NAA Facebook page.
 - Justin Mensik's contact information:
 - 402-720-2915
 - Justin.mensik@gmail.com
 - Randy encouraged everyone to pass on material to Justin for the newsletter.
- Update on St. Paul public access ramp. Randy Fetrow contacted Zach Horstman with Nebraska Game & Parks about the ramp. Horstman states they have previously used Rice's private property to access the river. He is onboard with the idea of a public ramp but we will have to see if he gets permission to do it.
- Update on signage at the Home Front. Marty Reznicek did get signage made for the Home Front that states the property is for member use only. The goal is to put the signage up during the Home Front clean up day.

New Business:

- Directors discussed the pond at the Home Front as it needs to be dredged. In 2019 the pond silted in and it's causing some issues with parking boats.
 - Kyle Kern has talked to one person and the bid was around \$6500 to do the work. Kyle discussed the concern that doing the work

this spring could tear up the bank and it may be better to wait until fall.. Discussed the pros and cons of waiting until the fall.

- Topic was tabled until the next meeting to allow time to get some more quotes.

- Larry with Lower Platte Weed Management contacted Randy Fetrow. He is asking if there is any interest in helping with spraying noxious weed via drones. Randy has Larry's contact information if anyone is interested.
- Permission given to start shopping for raffle items for next years Annual Meeting. They were able to spend under the \$2,000 allotted for the raffle this year and believe they could spend even less if they can start now and watch for sales. Matt King made a motion to approve. Second made by Mark Ulferts. Approved unanimously.
- Methods to submit scholarship applications were discussed. It was suggested to the scholarship committee that they accept applications via email as well as by mail.
- Matt Shaw suggested that more information be added to the website regarding benefits of being an NAA member, information about the Home Front, etc. Randy Fetrow will talk with the web designer and work on this.
- Directors discussed using a different FFL to get guns for the raffle next year to make it easier for winner to claim the guns. Randy Fetrow suggested Gunslingers south of Columbus and Todd Bailey suggested Tweets in Columbus. Decision was tabled for a later date.
- It was suggested that annual membership applications are mailed with raffle tickets next year. Tabled until a later date.
- Directors were given a printed copy of by-laws at today's meeting. Directors would like more clarifications as to what a "good standing member" is as well as how the NAA would be able to remove a member should the association see fit. We will need to consult with our attorney about this. It was also suggested that a revision date be posted on the by-laws. Randy Fetrow and Kyle Kern are going to work on this.
- It was suggested that we have our insurance representative come to a meeting to discuss what is covered with the Home Front property.
- Veteran's Ride (July 15th) Marty Reznicek has talked with Pillen and they will donate pork. Additional food not to exceed \$500. Rob Theissen made a motion to approve. Second by Marty Reznicek. Approved unanimously.

Welcome of New Directors


- Matt King; Grand Island Area
- Lynden Rathke; Wahoo Area
- Justin Melia; North Loup Area

Schedule for 2023

- April 29; 10:00 AM Homefront Cleanup - Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437, Matt Shaw 402-720-0007
- June 4; 1:00 PM Directors Meeting; Homefront
- June 17; Poker Run; Fremont 77 Bridge Sign up 11:00-1:00; Randy Kassmeier 402-615-0103
- July 3; Platte Run (Columbus to Clarks) 12:00; Hwy 81 bridge; Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437
- July 15; Veterans Rides; Homefront; Setup 9:00, Rides start at 12:00; Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437
- July 28; Weekend Kickoff Party; Homefront
- July 29; Columbus Run
- July 30; Clarks Run
- August 12; Vets Run; Fullerton; Mark Ulferts 308-550-0271
- August 19; Fishing Tournament; Fullerton; Mark Ulferts 308-550-0271
- September 10; 2:00 PM Directors Meeting; Hay Barn Bar & Grill Beemer, NE
- December 10; 2:00 PM Directors Meeting; Beer 30 in Chapman, NE
- February 3, 2024; Annual Meeting; Ramada Columbus, NE

A motion to adjourn was made by Marty Reznicek. Second by Kyle Kern. Meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

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Looking Back ... 2012 DROUGHT

This story was taken from the Fall 2012 issue of RiverTALK. Hopefully this summer will not be this dry! Let's take a look back...

HIGHWAY 64 BRIDGE CLEAN UP

While some of us were enjoying ourselves at Thunder on the Loup, a few set out on a mission. In the Platte River just west of Valley, NE at the Highway 64 bridge, the Platte River hid some very bad obstacles. Due to the very low water this year these obstacles were exposed for what they are. These were the leftover results of building a new bridge and removing the old one but this left some very dangerous obstacles.

The ambitious few set out to make things safer for everyone. This included the canoes, kayakers, floaters, waders and even the airboaters. These huge I-beams could hurt anyone that hit or bumped into them causing injury to both boats and bodies.

This year alone there had been several airboats damaged by the I-beams. I have been through the area many times not aware of what dangers hid just below the surface. Lots of sand on the Columbus Run this year!

The team consisted of NAA (Nebraska Airboat Association) members and friends. The crew consisted of Evertt Cole, Chris Betkie, Banks & val Embrey, Wayne Linder, Greg & Pam Ashmore, Steve Novak, Shane Williams, Scott & Lori Doty and TJ Malfait.

Being great at coming up with solutions they devised their plan and removed the I-beams below the sand in the river so it will take a lot to ever have them exposed again. There are still some hazards in the area but they got most of the largest and worse ones. If you run through this area I would suggest that you check it out while the water is low so you know what still is waiting for you.

It is with great appreciation that I would like to thank all of this team for giving up their time and effort to make things safer for everyone. It is through the effort of people like these that we can all enjoy the river much safer than it was before this group sprang into action to make a difference.

Photos by Pam Ashmore



2023-24 EVENT CALENDAR

DATE		EVENT	DATE		EVENT
June 17th:		Poker Run at Fremont Hwy 77 Bridge. Sign up 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Contact Randy Kassmeier 402-615-0103	July 30th:		Clarks Run
July 3rd:		Platte Run (Columbus to Clarks) 12:00 pm @ Hwy 81 Bridge. Contact Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437	August 12th:		Vets Run @ Fullerton/ Contact Mark Ulferts 308-550-0271
July 15th:		Veterans Rides @ Homefront. Setup 9:00 am, rides start @ 12:00 wpm. Contact Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437	August 19th:		Fishing Tournament @ Fullerton. Contact Mark Ulferts 308-550-0271
July 28th:		Weekend Kickoff Party @ Homefront	Sept. 10th:		2:00 pm, Directors Meeting @ Hay Barn Bar & Grill in Beemer, NE
July 29th:		Columbus Run	Dec. 10th:		2:00 pm, Directors Meeting @ Beer 30 in Chapman, NE
			Feb. 3rd:		2024 Annual Meeting @ Ramada Columbus, NE

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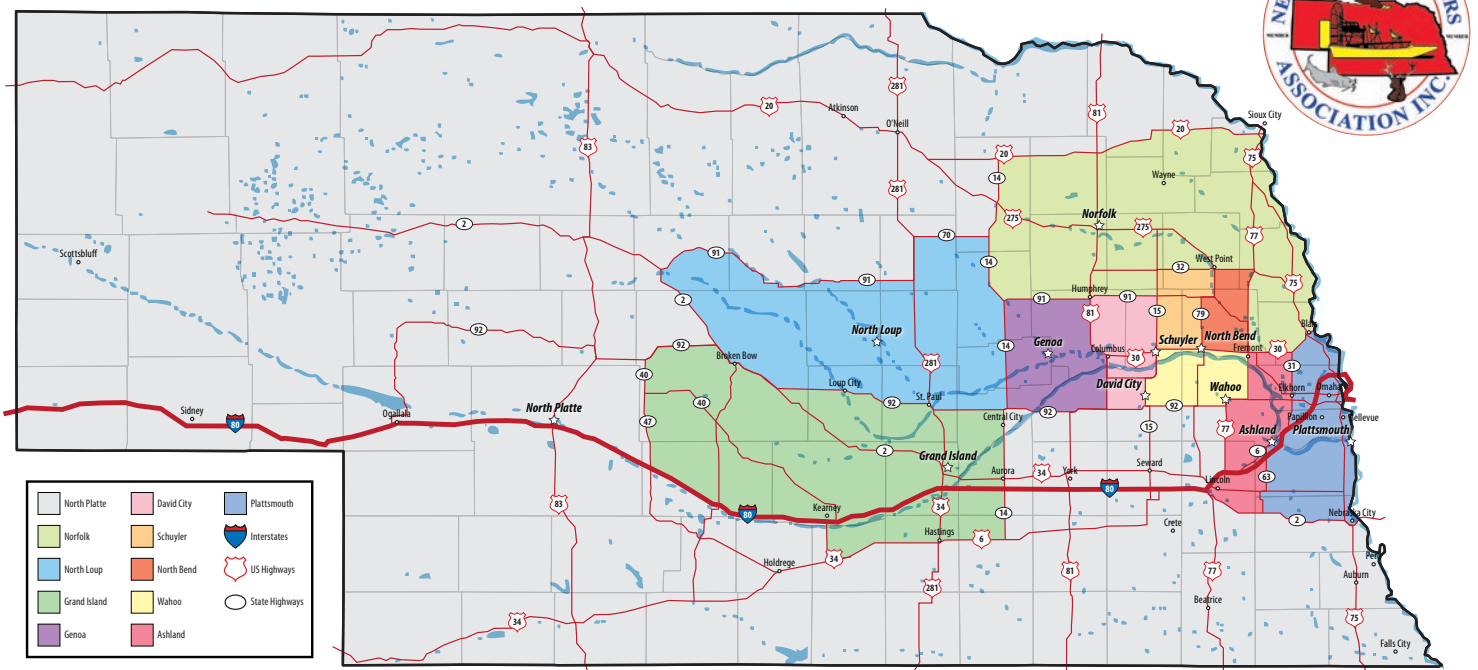


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2023 Officers & Directors Attendance

DIRECTOR	AREA	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL	MAR MTG	JUNE MTG
Rob Thiessen	Ashland	402-672-7249	drrtbert@yahoo.com	P	A
Todd Bailey	David City	402-615-0552	toddmbailey2003@gmail.com	P	P
Randy Kassmeier	David City	402-615-0103	randykass81@hotmail.com	P	P
Randy Fetrow	Genoa	402-276-0437	randyfetrow@gmail.com	P	P
Kirk Westring	Genoa	402-910-4424	k.westring@gmail.com	A	P
Matt King	Grand Island	308-940-0939	mkingfarms@yahoo.com	P	A
Dustin Feyerherm	Norfolk	402-280-9212	dfeyerherm@yahoo.com	P	A
Wade Wagner	Norfolk	402-380-3690	wagner29ta@hotmail.com	P	P
Mark Ulferts	North Loup	308-550-0271	markulferts0@gmail.com	P	A
Justin Melia	North Loup	308-730-1926	justinmelia@yahoo.com	A	A
Jessica Fetrow	North Platte	402-276-1867	jessfetrow@gmail.com	P	P
Jim Kantor	Plattsmouth	402-253-8283	james.kantor1960@yahoo.com	P	P
Mark Kreikemeier	Schuyler	402-380-1133	mark@danko.net	P	A
Marty Reznicek	Schuyler	402-720-3916	mc.rez@hotmail.com	P	P
Justin Thiesen	Schuyler	402-909-2004	justinthiesen@hotmail.com	A	P
Jay Kern	Wahoo	402-510-2600	kernriver2010@gmail.com	P	P
Kyle Kern	Wahoo	402-699-4489	riverlifetours@gmail.com	P	P
Lynden Rathke	Wahoo	402-317-9518	lyndenrathke@gmail.com	P	P
Matt Shaw	Wahoo	402-720-0007	shawman63@hotmail.com	P	P
President Randy Fetrow			If you have any issues or concerns, please call your local director and we will discuss those issues at our next directors' meeting.		
Vice President Kyle Kern					
Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Fetrow/Ronda Thiessen					

Nebraska Airboaters Association Director Areas of Nebraska



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Mike Pokorny Obituary

Michael John Pokorny passed away on September 6, 2022. Mike Pokorny grew up in Schuyler, Nebraska dreaming of the day that he could own land on the Platte River and buy his own airboat. He realized that dream in the late 1990's to early 2000's. He started out with a smaller airboat and later bought the airboat that he had until his death. Mike loved to entertain family and friends but enjoyed the land and boat, especially when his 5 grandchildren came to the river. Mike spent his last weekend on earth doing what he loved most, spending time with family and giving rides on his airboat. He took a lot of pride in his airboat which had rudders that had Harry Caray logos. Mike was known for a lot of things but took most pride in his five grandchildren (Carson, Ashton, Kyle, Ryland, and Beckett) activities and loved them so much and the feeling was reciprocated. He will be missed on the river, but never forgotten!



Memorial Day 2023





Photos by Kim Merrill



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AIRBOATER'S CODE *of* ETHICS

1. I will respect the rights of all users of the recreational waterways of the state, on public waters and on adjacent private property.
2. I will be considerate and courteous at public vessel launch ramps and docks. In an effort to not delay others, I will launch and retrieve my vessel promptly.
3. I will always operate at a safe speed in posted "No Wake" zones.
4. When approaching the shoreline, I will be especially aware of swimmers and other water vessels near the shoreline.
5. I realize that my vessel's equipment, ability, weather conditions, and especially other vessel traffic should determine my vessel speed.
6. In case of an emergency, I will volunteer assistance.
7. I am aware that my vessel creates air propeller wash and will use idle speed near the shoreline and in close proximity to boat launch ramps.
8. I will ensure that all passengers in my vessel are equipped with safety equipment, including life vests, ear protection, eye protection, and required safety equipment.
9. I will avoid unnecessary disturbance of wildlife and will not enter posted "No Trespass" areas.
10. I will pay close attention to the engine sound levels that my vessel may create and be aware of how others on vessels and on the shoreline will react to it.
11. I will not litter and will bring back all trash.
I will be careful in handling my fuel.
12. I will not interfere with or harass others.
I realize that people will judge all airboaters by my individual actions.

Have a Story or Photo You'd Like to Share?

If you like receiving the *RiverTalk*, we need **YOUR** help in getting the news to our members. If you have photos or a story that you would like to share with our members, please email to Justin Mensik. He is the new manager of our newsletter. His email is: justin.mensik@gmail.com ***Please put NAA Story/Photo in the subject line so it gets our attention!***

