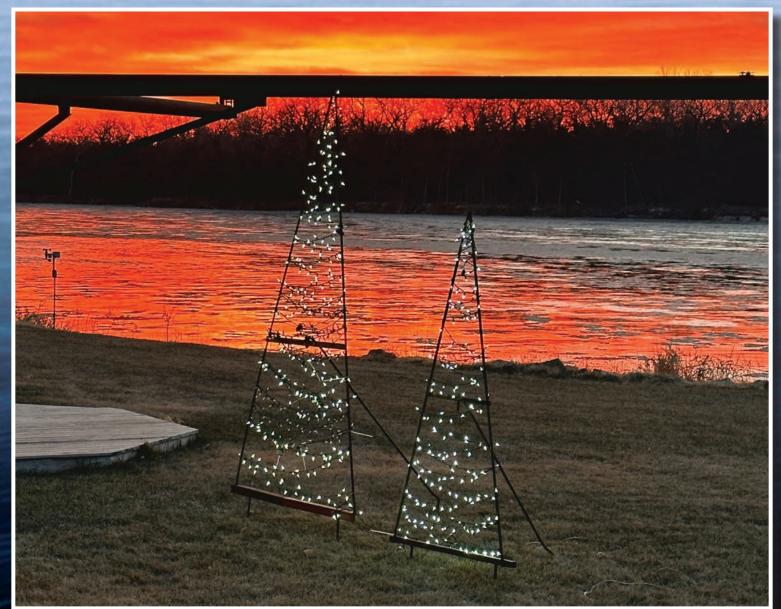
Nebraska Airboaters Association

RiverTALK

"Uniting to Preserve Our River Rights"

December 2023



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

AIRBOA

- 2024 Event Calendar
- "Looking back" to 2005 Airboat Rodeo
- 9/10/23 Directors Meeting Minutes
- Member Photos

- Presidential Address
- And MORE!



2024 NAA Membership Application

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THE TREASURER WILL MAIL YOUR CARD AFTER THE APPLICATION IS PROCESSED.

□ Annual Membership = \$50□ Lifetime Membership = \$500	☐ Is this a New Membership?☐ Is this a Renewal Membership?	Date
Date of Birth		
NameAddress		MAIL TO: Nebraska Airboaters Assn. P.O. Box 111
City		Columbus, NE 68602
	Zip Code	☐ Save the NAA postage and email my newsletter to me
Email		at the email address on left.
Phone Number		I do not need a printed issue.

Please cut out this membership form and mail it to NEBRASKA AIRBOATERS ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 111, Columbus, NE 68602

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 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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 ${\bf Publication\ Printing\ of\ Nebraska,\ Inc.}$

208 Third Street, P.O. Box 130 Waterloo, NE 68069 Phone (402) 779-4696

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ON THE COVER
Photo by Kassmeiers

NAA Director Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 10, 2023

A special meeting was called to order at 1:50 PM at the Hay Barn Bar & Grill, Beemer, NE. Roll call conducted, 14 out of 19 directors present.

Special meeting was held to officially amend the bylaws to include clarifying language for a "good standing member", specifically addressing the removal of a member from the association. Article 2, Section 5 of the bylaws reflects the change. Motion to approve was made by Marty Reznicek, second by Jim Cantor. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the special meeting was made by Marty Reznicek, second by Wade Wagner. Special meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Meeting called to order at 1:56 PM at the Hay Barn Bar & Grill, Beemer, NE. Roll call conducted, 14 out of 19 directors present.

June 4, 2023 minutes were read aloud by Jessica Fetrow. Motion to approve June minutes was made by Matt Shaw, second by Jay Kern. Approved unanimously.

Financial report was provided to those present, reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve financial made by Mark Kreikemeier, second by Todd Bailey. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Plan to dredge the pond at the Home Front this fall was discussed. The estimate for the dredging is \$5,000-\$6,000. The purpose of the Columbus Run T-Shirt sales are to help with maintenance of the Home Front property and the expense of dredging the pond will be covered using those funds.

 Motion to approve this expense was made by Marty Reznicek, second by Dustin Feyerherm. Approved unanimously.

Veteran's Ride (July 15th, 2023)

- The event went well overall. Roughly 58 veterans and 90 family members received a ride. Channel 7 News had a story as well as the Airboat Magazine.
- A discussion was had about having a band next year however the directors' decided against this for now.

 Discussed making some changes to the Memorial that was placed at the Home Front. A few the directors will gather some estimates to see what it will cost. Directors asked that an article in the newsletter address the origins of the Monument as many members have asked about it.

Columbus Run T-shirts/Apparel

• An apparel company in Columbus is willing to take over apparel and allow members to get on the website and have NAA apparel made to order. There is also a potential for onsite sales during events. This was tabled until a later date.

New Business:

Annual Meeting

- Gun raffle budget to remain the same at \$3,000. Gun Slingers near Columbus, NE will be the FFL used for the gun raffle. Cash raffle budget to remain the same at \$4,000. Motion to approve made by Matt Shaw, second by Rob Theissen. Approved unanimously.
- Live auction budget reduced to \$1,500. Motion to approve made by Matt Shaw, second by Marty Reznicek. Approved unanimously.
- \$750 will be donated to Nebraska Game & Parks like past years.
 Motion to approve by Jay Kern, second by Jim Cantor. Approved unanimously.
- Meal tickets will be sold and catering will be by the Ramada.
- Discussed having the 'Swiped Right' band again.
- Mailing tickets out will be at Randy Fetrow's house again but volunteers will be needed to stuff envelopes, etc.
- Directors will need to volunteer for assigned tasks at the annual meeting this year. This will be discussed further at the December meeting.

Directors discussed the Federal Law coming June 2024 that discontinues the floatation exemption for airboats by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Marty Reznicek, second by Todd Bailey. Meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.



2024 NAA Director's Application

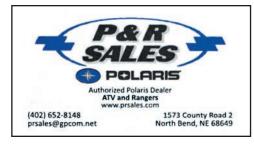
Complete the requested information - (please print)

Applicant Name:	
Applicant Address:	
Director Area:	
Applicant Email Address:	
Applicant Contact Number:	
Mail completed application to:	Nebraska Airboaters Assn P.O. Box 111 Columbus, NE 68602

Must be postmarked by January 15, 2024 to be eligible.











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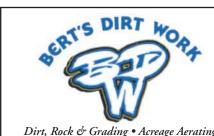




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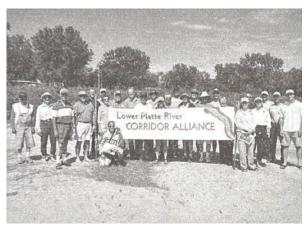
Looking Back... 2005 Airboat Rodeo

This story was taken from the Summer 2005 issue of RiverTALK. Let's take a look back...

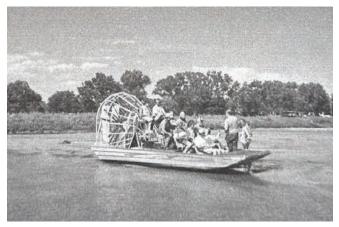
2005 NAA AIRBOAT RODEO



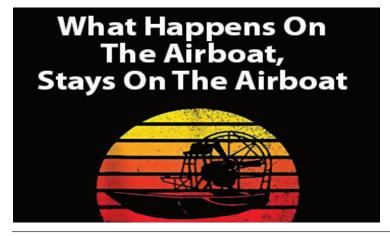
LOWER PLATTE RIVER CORRIDOR ALLIANCE TOUR



The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance toured the Platte River from Fremont to Schuyler on July 29, 2005 with stops at a sandbar near Cedar Lakes; Fiala Sand Pit (Hwy 79); a sandbar east of Schuyler; and McGinn's Lake. Shown above is part of the tour group.



The LPRCA met at the Fremont Airboat Club for a brief presentation by the Nebraska Airboat Assoc. before the tour. The group was able to view old bridge pilings east of Hwy 79 bridge and west of Hwy 15 bridge. Shown above is Tim Bryson with his boat loading up at the last stop. Other NAA members also provided boats for the tour.



2024 EVENT CALENDAR

Please note, not all these events are the NAA's, we are sponsoring and donating to a lot of other organizations events this year!

• Watch our Facebook page for more updates and details! •

DATE	EVENT		
Feb. 3rd:	2024 Annual Meeting @ Ramada Columbus, NE		
March 3rd:	2:00 pm Directors Meeting, Location TBA		
More to come!			

29th Annual Meeting Meal Information

The Nebraska Airboaters Association will hold its 29th Annual Meeting on February 3, 2024, at the Ramada Columbus Hotel and River's Edge Convention Center in Columbus, Nebraska.

Sell Those Raffle Tickets!

GUN RAFFLE & CASH RAFFLE

Raffle tickets have been mailed out to ALL MEMBERS. Everyone will receive two books. All Directors will receive four. If you want additional books, contact your local director or email **naa@airboatne.com** and they will be sent to you!

This year, we will have two raffles for our 29th Anniversary—A gun raffle and a cash raffle! For the **CASH RAFFLE**, a total of \$4,000 cash will be given away (2 @ \$1,000, 2 @ \$500, 2 @ \$250, and 5 @ \$100). For the **GUN RAFFLE** (selling at \$5 per ticket), there will be a Smith & Wesson M&P, 22LR, Ruger 6.5 Creedmore American Rifle, Mossberg O/U 12GA, Henry Goldenboy 22LR, and Diamondback AR15 .223!.

Nebraska Airboaters Association Raffle is celebrating another year of uniting together to promote good stewardship of our state's waterways. Thank you for your donation. Drawing to be held Saturday, February 3rd at the 2024 Annual Meeting. NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Pizza Reservation

The dinner price at the Ramada has gotten expensive, so pizza is on the menu!

16 inch one topping is \$22.50

supreme, beef, cheese, pepperoni, sausage

PAYMENT:

Venmo works best (put your topping choice in the comment line).

Or you can mail a check to:

Nebraska Airboaters Assn. P.O. Box 111 Columbus, NE 68602

2024 ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, February 3rd at the Ramada River's Edge Convention Center

Hope to see everyone in a few weeks at the Annual Meeting. Listed below are some things you need to know! Please don't hesitate to contact your local Director, or any of the Officers, if you have any questions.

10:00 — Directors will arrive for setup of the Meeting. (We need all the help we can get!)

11:00 — Check-in begins.
You can pay your dues if needed with cash, check, paypal or venmo.

You will be given a voting ballot for the Directors in your area.

Get a Bidder # if you wish to partake in the Live Auction or Raffles.

NAA Stickers will be available as well.

You can also fill out an information update.

If you are not a member...Sign up!
Turn in or purchase Gun Raffles, General
Raffle or Women's Raffles.

1:30 — Check-ins will close. Please be on time!

1:50 — The bar closes during the Meeting only (stock up with buckets!). It will reopen as soon as the Meeting is over.

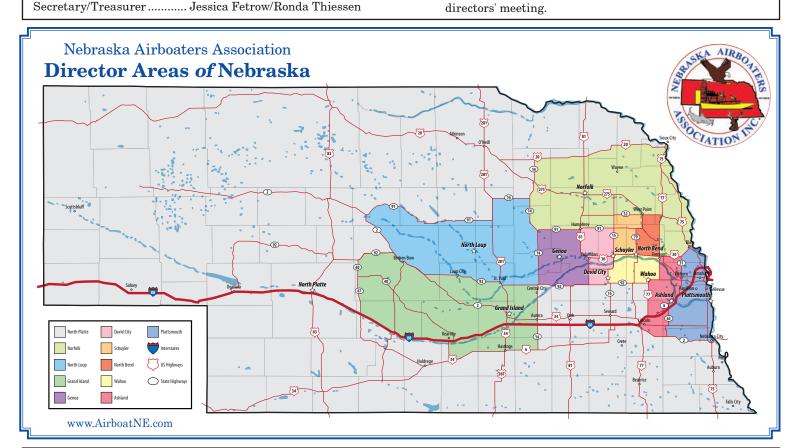
2:00 — The Meeting starts. Live auction, raffles and games will follow the meeting.

As soon as the Meeting is over... Let the fun begin! Live Auction! Raffle Winners! Gun Raffle Winners!

7:00 — Music to get us going! Bring your dancing shoes and have fun!



	2023 Of	ficers & I	Directors Attenda	nce			
DIRECTOR	AREA	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL	MAR MTG	JUNE MTG	SEPT MTG	DEC MTG
Rob Thiessen	Ashland	402-672-7249	drrtbert@yahoolcom	Р	Α	Р	Р
Todd Bailey	David City	402-615-0552	toddmbailey2003@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Α
Randy Kassmeier	David City	402-615-0103	randykass81@hotmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Randy Fetrow	Genoa	402-276-0437	randyfetrow@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Kirk Westring	Genoa	402-910-4424	k.westring@gmail.com	Α	Р	Α	Р
Matt King	Grand Island	308-940-0939	mkingfarms@yahoo.com	Р	Α	Α	Р
Dustin Feyerherm	Norfolk	402-380-9212	dfeyerherm@yahoo.com	Р	Α	Р	Р
Wade Wagner	Norfolk	402-380-3690	wagner29ta@hotmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Mark Ulferts	North Loup	308-550-0271	markulferts0@gmail.com	Р	Α	Α	Р
Justin Melia	North Loup	308-730-1926	justinmelia@yahoo.com	Α	Α	Α	Р
Jessica Fetrow	North Platte	402-276-1867	jessfetrow@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Jim Kantor	Plattsmouth	402-660-9068	james.kantor1960@yahoo.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Mark Kreikemeier	Schuyler	402-380-1133	mark@danko.net	Р	Α	Р	Р
Marty Reznicek	Schuyler	402-720-3916	mc.rez@hotmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Justin Thiesen	Schuyler	402-909-2004	justinthiesen@hotmail.com	А	Р	Α	Р
Jay Kern	Wahoo	402-510-2600	kernriver2010@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Kyle Kern	Wahoo	402-699-4489	riverlifetours@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Lynden Rathke	Wahoo	402-317-9518	lyndenrathke@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
Matt Shaw	Wahoo	402-720-0007	shawman63@hotmail.com	Р	Р	Р	Р
President							



WINTER AIRBOATING!

Patti and Lynden Rathke of Morse Bluff traveled west to Yellowstone this past summer where they discovered this unique airboat at the ski museum. The airboat was

homemade with a prop and skis. Although it could be used year round, the sign claimed that it did not work very well.





The **Presidential** Address

I can't believe another summer has come and gone! Time to move on to the annual meeting

This year not much is changing. We are sticking with a live band, it seemed like everyone enjoyed it last year. The food option is a little different. The dinner price at the Ramada has gotten way out of hand (over \$30.00 a plate!). So pizza is on the menu, 16 inch one topping is \$22.50. They ask that we keep it simple, supreme, beef, cheese, pepperoni, sausage. We will handle it the same way as last year, Venmo works best (put your topping choice in the comment line). Or you can mail a check to me at the NAA PO box. Any live auction ideas or donations are very much appreciated, and please return any unsold raffle tickets.

Another reminder, if you would like to become a director, now is the time to fill out an application. Several areas had openings this year. If you have questions about it, ask! The people in this organization are the best. I've been a director for fifteen years, Vice President for three years, Treasurer for a year, and nowPresident for two, and I have enjoyed every bit of it, learned so much, met some of my best friends, and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything!

Next year is our 30th Anniversary and the Directors are already coming up with some ideas. I think we are really going to change things up!

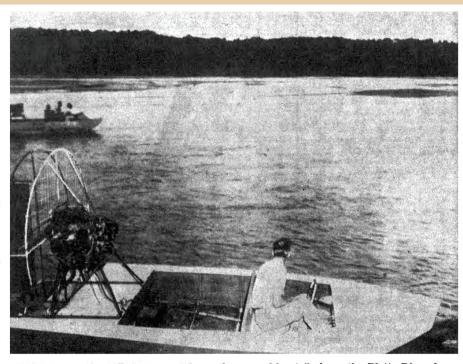
As always if you have any questions or suggestions (or want to order a pizza) call or text me.

Randy Fetrow



Looking Back...

Let's take a long look back to a Fremont newspaper article from an unknown date a long time ago!



AIR BOATS-Karo Bowman watches other speed boat flash up the Platte River from dock Air Boat Club built. (Guide and Tribune Photo)

Air Boats Slice Through Platte River Water, Bars Once Thought Unnavigable

Pioneers who complained about of the charter members are rit- any man-made obstacles. being unable to navigate the Plat- ten in concrete on the dock which te River's shallow waters apparently never heard of air boats.

A group of Fremont men have conquered the famous "flat rivby borrowing a vehicle used mostly in the Florida swamps.

It's called, quite appropriately, an air boat. Designed specifically to maneuver in shallow water and sometimes no water at all — the boats are propelled by air. Airplane engines, varying from 65 to 125 h.p., furnish the power.

"It's the coming thing," members of the Air Boat Club agree. The idea started when Donald Freeman and his brother, Robert C., read a magazine containing an article on ar boats. They decided to build one and other boating enthusiasts caught the air

Freemans are temporarily boatless since the one they had burned up earlier this summer. But the air boat fleet is increasing despite such unfortunate mishaps.

Officially, the club started operating June 14 with a charter charter membership of 18. Names eastward course is unmarred by thar river,

the Air Boat Club built.

Schwinck, R. C. Freeman, Norbert Reznicek, Robert Templin, Richard Baker, Henry Lyddon, V. shallow water but maneuver equal-R. (Doc) Mayer, Donald Freeman, Karo Bowman, John Cruse, William Eidam, George Arps, George Kolb, Jack Gfford, Charles Reis, Leo Wheelock, Dennis Valch and James Shores.

The miniature shipyard is really in the Mayer's back yard on Big from shore if they have telephone Island. Their Lawn has become the gathering place for Air Boat Club members and their families. When the men aren't fishing or

boating, they can pitch horseshoes or play badminton. But more than likely, if it's a weekend, they will be fishing.

They rise early in the morning and seek out the deep holes in the Platte River where catfish thrive. Seldom, Mayer said,

they fail to catch their limit. Travel on the Platte River unlimited - well, almost unlimited. Westward sailing is interrupted by the Columbus dam but the

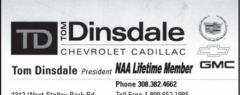
The boats travel at speeds up to 50 miles an hour and slip over Charter members were Wallace water-level sandbars without a

Mrs. Mayer, who hasn't yet got her sea legs, is a one-woman traffic signal and lighthouse. She tells visitors which direction the men have gone and signals a red handkerchief them with calls.

She estimates tha about 70 to 80 people are on hand each Sunday for fishing and boat riding. Sun-day afternoon is designated "family time" when the kids are gven special considerations.

Cost of building an air boat varies from about \$700 to \$1,500 depending upon the accessories. A semi-round or flat bottom boat works best, the boatmen contend.

While the Air Boat Club is in-creasing its membership traffic on the Platte River is far from congested. It's still safe to say that thar's lots of water in that



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Advertising in Nebraska the Airboaters Association's RiverTalk newsletter is free of charge to members of the Nebraska Airboaters Association who are in good standing (i.e. dues are

paid). Please ensure your membership is up to date before submitting your advertisement.

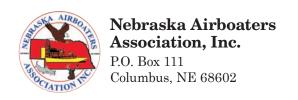
A paid-up member will be allowed one standard size 2" ad at no charge per newsletter. If the member wants a larger ad or a second ad, the rate is \$8.00 per column inch. If a non-member wants to advertise, it is a charge of \$25.00 per 2" advertisement.

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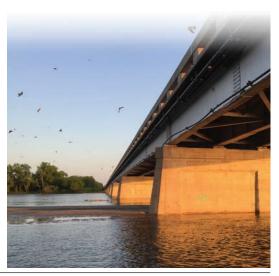
AIRBOATER'S CODE of ETHICS

- 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!*



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