



Nebraska Airboaters Association

RiverTALK

“Uniting to Preserve Our River Rights”

June 2025



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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- Vets Ride Information
- Summer Photos
- Pallid Sturgeon Project
- Directors Meeting Minutes
- *And MORE!*



2025 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 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 James Norwood

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NAA Director Meeting Minutes

March 2nd, 2025

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. at Nowhere Special in Linwood, NE. Roll call conducted, 22 of 24 directors present.

December 8th, 2024 minutes were read aloud by Kyle Kern. Motion to approve the December minutes was made by Matt Shaw, seconded by Jay Gould. Approved unanimously.

Financial report provided to the directors, reviewed, and discussed. Motion to approve financial made by Jay Kern, seconded by Todd Bailey. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

The calendar project was discussed. Total profit was \$11,210.26. Kyle requested to be reimbursed \$80.94 for the floor display.

The knives and Jay's table were a big hit at the annual meeting. It was our largest live auction ever and second in total revenue. The Nielsen Center did a great job for us as well as the West Point Fire Department serving the beer!

Matt Shaw made a motion to go back to West Point for our February 7th annual meeting in 2026. Jay Kern seconded it; motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

2025 Officers elected.

President: Marty Reznicek nominated Randy Fetrow, Matt Shaw made a motion to cease nominations, Todd Bailey second. Randy Fetrow is President.

Vice President: Matt Shaw nominated Kyle Kern, Jerry Mausbach made a motion to cease nominations, Ronda Thiessen second. Kyle Kern is Vice President.

Treasurer: Randy Kassmeier nominated Ronda Thiessen, Jay Kern made a motion to cease nominations, Jay Gould second. Ronda Thiessen is Treasurer.

Secretary: Jerry Mausbach nominated Jessica Fetrow, Wade Wagner made a motion to cease nominations, Todd Bailey second. Jessica Fetrow is Secretary.

New directors were welcomed: Shane Swahn, Drew Huxoll, Jerry Mausbach, Shannon Holter, Jay Vogltance, Sam Inserra, Jake Sells.

Departing directors were thanked: Rob Thiessen, Kirk Westring, Matt King. Also Jim Kantor who passed away in 2024.

Homefront cleanup is scheduled for April 26th. General cleanup and installing the container to house the lawnmower that Jerry Mausbach is letting us use.

Homefront:

If any member has an unpleasant interaction with a local gentleman at the NAA Homefront, please contact your director.

Scholarship Winners:

Klare Peters, Rysdon Tomlinson, Jay Anthony, Brynne McDermott, Finn Mutchie, Madison French, Logan Rolf and Israeia Kreikemeier.

A discount for members over 65 was discussed, tabled for more discussion.

Ideas to involve more young people were discussed. The scholarship committee had some ideas, such as more social media.

More signage was proposed by Jerry Mausbach. Tabled for more discussion.

Next directors meeting is June 1st at the Homefront 1:00 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Marty Reznicek. Second by Justin Thiesen. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



2025 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
July 4th:	Fourth Run (Columbus to Clarks) 2:00 pm @ Hwy 81 Bridge Contact Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437
July 19th:	Veterans Rides @ Homefront Setup 9:00 am, rides start @ 12:00 pm Contact Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437
July 25th:	Weekend Kickoff Party @ Homefront
July 26th:	Columbus Run Ramada Hotel 402-564-1492 Contact Randy Fetrow 402-276-0437
July 27th	Clarks Run
August 2nd	Airboaters for Autism Awareness Run Contact Justin Melia 308-730-1926
August 9th	Poker Run @ Fremont Hwy 77 Bridge Sign up 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Contact Randy Kassmeier 402-615-0103
August 9th	Vets Run @ Fullerton Contact Mark Ulferts 308-550-0271
August 16th	Fishing Tournament @ Fullerton Contact Mark Ulferts 308-550-0271
August 16th	Lower Platte Airboat Races
August 30-31	Platteview Productions Airboat Rally
Sept. 7th	2:00 pm, Directors Meeting @ Beemer
Dec. 7th:	2:00 pm, Directors Meeting @ Ashland
Feb. 7th:	2026 Annual Meeting @ Nielsen Center, West Point, NE

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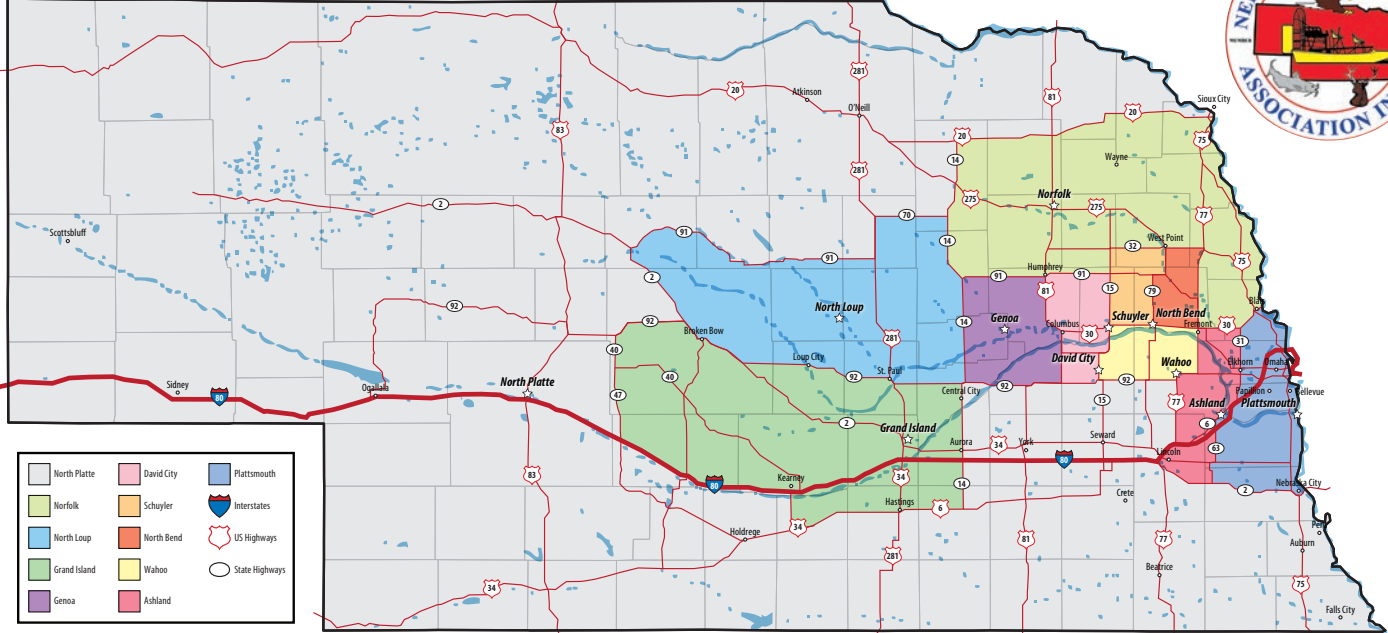
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2025 Officers & Directors Attendance							
DIRECTOR	AREA	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL	MAR MTG	JUNE MTG	SEPT MTG	DEC MTG
Shane Swahn	Ashland	402-960-4693	shaneswahn@yahoo.com	P	P		
Jay Gould, Jr.	Ashland	402-690-2890	jayg4845@yahoo.com	P	P		
Drew Huxoll	Ashland	402-429-4385	drewhuxoll@gmail.com	P	A		
Rhonda Thiessen	Ashland	402-658-8665	ronda.ripa@gmail.com	P	A		
Todd Bailey	David City	402-615-0552	toddmbailey2003@gmail.com	P	A		
Shannon Holter	David City	402-276-1747	shannonholter2@gmail.com	P	P		
Randy Kassmeier	David City	402-615-0103	randykass81@hotmail.com	P	P		
Jerry Mausbach	David City	402-910-0134		P	P		
Randy Fetrow	Genoa	402-276-0437	randyfetrow@gmail.com	P	P		
Dustin Feyerherm	Norfolk	402-380-9212	dfeyerherm@yahoo.com	P	A		
Wade Wagner	Norfolk	402-380-3690	wagner29ta@hotmail.com	P	P		
Jay Vogltance	North Bend	402-380-2498	bvogita@gmail.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	P		
Jessica Fetrow	North Platte	402-276-1867	jessfetrow@gmail.com	A	P		
Sam Inserra	Plattsmouth	402-658-1781	dcitrucking@aol.com	P	A		
Jake Sells	Plattsmouth	402-880-0064	jjs2172@yahoo.com	P	P		
Mark Kreikemeier	Schuyler	402-380-1133	mark@danco.net	P	A		
Marty Reznicek	Schuyler	402-720-3916	mc.rez@hotmail.com	P	A		
Justin Thiesen	Schuyler	402-909-2004	justinthiesen@hotmail.com	P	A		
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	shawman1963@gmail.com	P	P		
President Randy Fetrow				Secretary Jessica Fetrow			
Vice President..... Kyle Kern				Treasurer Ronda Thiessen			
If you have any issues or concerns, please call your local director and we will discuss those issues at our next directors' meeting.							

Nebraska Airboaters Association
Director Areas of Nebraska





www.AirboatNE.com

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN'S PLATTE RIVER PALLID STURGEON PROJECT



Jenna Ruoss, doctoral candidate on the project, with a tagged Pallid Sturgeon.

By: Jenna Ruoss

Pallid Sturgeon is a long-lived native fish that can live over 50 years and has been around since the time of the dinosaurs over 70 million years ago. Historically, Pallid Sturgeon could be found throughout the lower Mississippi and Missouri rivers as well as their major tributaries. Pallid Sturgeon can migrate upstream over 100 miles and typically spawn near the most upstream point of their migration before moving back downstream for the winter. They were listed as a federally endangered species in 1990. Population declines were associated with loss of river connectivity, alteration of habitat, and overharvesting. Ongoing conservation efforts for Pallid Sturgeon mainly take place on the Missouri River, however, the Platte River is also thought to have potential to help Pallid Sturgeon complete their life cycle.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln started a study in January 2022 monitoring Pallid Sturgeon in the

Platte River ranging from Columbus to Plattsmouth. We tagged Pallid Sturgeon with acoustic transmitters. Each transmitter has a unique identification number and sends a signal which can be detected by listening stations throughout the river marked by big, red buoys. The listening stations record the date, time, and transmitter ID, so we know which Pallid Sturgeon passed that station and when. In addition, once a month we drift down the river looking for Pallid Sturgeon in real-time to understand finer habitat use and movement. So far, we have detected over 100 Pallid Sturgeon throughout our study area and Pallid Sturgeon frequently move between the Platte and Missouri River. Pallid Sturgeon have been detected as far upstream as Columbus in the Platte River and Arlington in the Elkhorn River. Funding for this research is provided by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

The NAA has allowed UNL to use our ramp at the homefront to study sturgeon.



Downloading data from a listening station.



Juvenile Pallid Sturgeon.



Chris Pullano, previous Master's student on the project, with a Pallid Sturgeon.

MEET THE PALLID STURGEON

The pallid sturgeon is one of the rarest fishes in North America and was federally listed as endangered in 1990.

Pallid sturgeon can weigh up to 80 lbs and grow to be 6 feet long.

Juveniles eat invertebrates, while adults are piscivorous, eating mainly fish.

Males mature sexually at around 10 to 15 years old.

Today's wild pallid sturgeon were most likely born before Garrison Dam was built on the Missouri River in 1956.

After hatching, sturgeon larvae drift downstream for up to 14 days before settling in slower moving waterways.

Of the 19,000 pallid sturgeon living in the Missouri & Yellowstone system, fewer than 200 were naturally produced.

Few pallid sturgeon larvae survive long enough to reproduce, which is 15 to 20 years for females. Once mature, females might only spawn every 2-3 years.



Photo by Bob Porter



Photo by Brian Henn



Photo by Taylor Stang

SUMMER PHOTOS

The month of May saw some cool and wet weather in Eastern Nebraska, but that did not stop our members from getting out on the area rivers!



Photo by Mike Stang



Photo by Matt Hasek



Photo by Shelly Noonan



Photos by Josh and Jess Andersen



Photo by Kyle Kern



Photo by James Norwood



Photo by Cole Thomas

Photo by Laine Smith

2025 Columbus Run T-Shirts!

Shirts (and more!) are being sold online and are available in many colors and sizes. Buy yours today! Orders must be in by July 7. You can choose to pick them up Friday, July 25 at the Homefront Kickoff Party, or shipped to your house for a small fee. A big thanks to the sponsors who have their logos on the back! Clothes can be ordered at the link on our Facebook page or at this link:

<http://Nebraskaairboatersassociation2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/>



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July 19th, 2025

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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.
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