### Nebraska Airboaters Association

# RiverTALK

"Uniting to Preserve Our River Rights"

September 2025



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

AIRBOAR

- Event Calendar
- Directors Meeting Minutes
- Summer Photos
- And MORE!



# 2025 NAA Membership Application

(A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY TO PRESERVE YOUR BOATING RIGHTS.)

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

<ul><li>□ Annual Membership = \$50</li><li>□ Lifetime Membership = \$500</li></ul>	<ul><li>☐ Is this a New Membership?</li><li>☐ Is this a Renewal Membership?</li></ul>	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 Kim Merrill

### **NAA Director Meeting Minutes**

### June 1, 2025

Meeting called to order at 1:16 PM at the Homefront, North Bend, NE. Roll call conducted, 15 out of 24 directors present.

March 2025 meeting minutes were read aloud by Jessica Fetrow. Motion to approve March minutes was made by Matt Shaw. Second by Kyle Kern. Approved unanimously.

Financial report provided to directors, reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve financial report made by Kyle Kern. Second by Randy Kassmeier. Approved unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

Directors discussed signage at the Homefront including signage about not being liable for accidents, etc. Tabled this for now, more discussion to come.

The Homefront clean up went well and the shipping container to be used for storage at the Homefront has been placed on the property. The Lake's HOA would like us to paint the container all one color. Directors discussed moving the bin shelter over the dike, to the river side.

#### **New Business:**

Vet's Ride July 19th

 Tim Noonan is planning to donate hamburger. Wade Wagner also let the directors know that he still has steak sandwich meat the NAA could use as well. Directors decided to serve the hamburgers for the Vets Ride. Steak sandwich meat will be used for poker run.

### Columbus Run July 26th

- Kick off part will be held Friday night at the Homefront, same as past years.
- Columbus Run T-shirts—may skip a year unless someone would like to pick this up and help organize. Jay Gould may have a lead and will let directors know.
- Columbus Hwy 81 Bridge—They have started to tear down the

old bridge. Randy is being told this should not impact airboat traffic until after the Columbus Run. This will be an ongoing project for the next three years. Randy is being told they are supposed to be leaving an opening, but this is not a guarantee.

 Security for boats will be available at the Columbus bridge for those staying in Columbus. The same individuals as last year will be providing security.

### NAA Trailer

 Randy brought up that the enclosed trailer the NAA has is worn and may need to be replaced at some point. The directors discussed this and talked about using the shipping container to store some of the items that have previously been stored in the trailer; more to come.

### **Annual Meeting 2026**

The directors discussed catering options for the annual meeting.
 This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Matt Shaw. Second by Jay Kern. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.



### 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
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

# **Important Advertising Update!**

At the September 2025 NAA Directors Meeting, the directors voted to begin charging \$75 per ad in the NAA Newsletter, River Talk, and to only have 3 newsletters per year. This is due to the cost of production of the newsletter. This change will go into effect in 2026.

Your ad will be in all 3 newsletters in 2026 for one total cost of \$75. Those wishing to keep their business card ad in the NAA Newsletter needs to contact Justin Mensik at justin.mensik@gmail.com with their business card logo and payment sent to the NAA PO Box or the NAA Venmo.

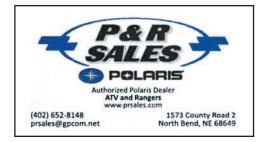
Please contact Justin Mensik with any questions. Thanks!

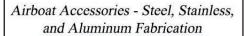
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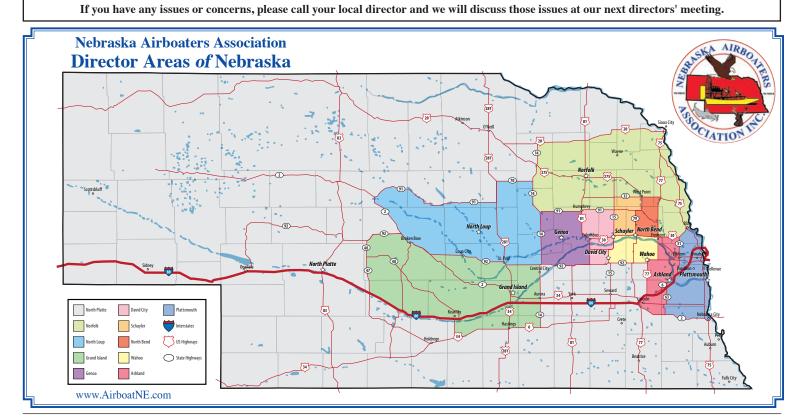
Please call 1-877-844-2772 402-964-2172 402-720-0819

Be sure to mention this ad and that you are an NAA MEMBER





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	Р	Р	Α				
Jay Gould, Jr.	Ashland	402-690-2890	jayg4845@yahoo.com	Р	Р	Α				
Drew Huxoll	Ashland	402-429-4385	drewhuxoll@gmail.com	Р	Α	Р				
Rhonda Thiessen	Ashland	402-658-8665	ronda.ripa@gmail.com	Р	Α	Р				
Todd Bailey	David City	402-615-0552	toddmbailey2003@gmail.com	Р	Α	Р				
Shannon Holter	David City	402-276-1747	shannonholter2@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Randy Kassmeier	David City	402-615-0103	randykass81@hotmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Jerry Mausbach	David City	402-910-0134		Р	Р	Р				
Randy Fetrow	Genoa	402-276-0437	randyfetrow@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Dustin Feyerherm	Norfolk	402-380-9212	dfeyerherm@yahoo.com	Р	Α	Р				
Wade Wagner	Norfolk	402-380-3690	wagner29ta@hotmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Jay Vogltance	North Bend	402-380-2498	bvogita@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Mark Ulferts	North Loup	308-550-0271	markulferts0@gmail.com	Р	Α	Α				
Justin Melia	North Loup	308-730-1926	justinmelia@yahoo.com	Α	Р	Α				
Jessica Fetrow	North Platte	402-276-1867	jessfetrow@gmail.com	Α	Р	Р				
Sam Inserra	Plattsmouth	402-658-1781	dcitrucking@aol.com	Р	Α	Р				
Jake Sells	Plattsmouth	402-880-0064	jjs2172@yahoo.com	Р	Р	Р				
Mark Kreikemeier	Schuyler	402-380-1133	mark@danco.net	Р	Α	Α				
Marty Reznicek	Schuyler	402-720-3916	mc.rez@hotmail.com	Р	Α	Α				
Justin Thiesen	Schuyler	402-909-2004	justinthiesen@hotmail.com	Р	Α	Α				
Jay Kern	Wahoo	402-510-2600	kernriver2010@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Kyle Kern	Wahoo	402-699-4489	riverlifetours@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Lynden Rathke	Wahoo	402-317-9518	lyndenrathke@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
Matt Shaw	Wahoo	402-720-0007	shawman1963@gmail.com	Р	Р	Р				
President			Jessica Fetrow							



Treasurer ......Ronda Thiessen

Vice President.....Kyle Kern

# **VETS RIDE**JULY 19, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

July 19th marked the fourth annual Vets Ride presented by the Nebraska Airboaters Association. This event grows every year and the NAA Homefront has proved to be the perfect location for the festivities! This year we welcomed 55 veterans and active personnel who brought along their families equaling 175 total riders. This event is a ton of work but I think the volunteers would agree that the

smiles and massive amount of gratitude from our guests makes it

boat pilots, they ran their butts off this year! Also, special thanks to Cargill Meat Solutions for the meat, S2 for the trash cans and port-a-potties, River Life Airboat Tours for supplying some of the boats, and the North Bend FFA for use of picnic table trailers! See everyone next year!

Photos by Justin Mensik





Mike Frey, Army (left photo) and Chris Weaver, USAF (right photo) won the handmade walking sticks donated by Gail Chapin.



MB 020UUC



# COLUMBUS RUN



## **JULY 26, 2025**

We had 193 boats come to the Columbus Run! Great people. Thank you to the out-of-state folks who travel here every year.

















# AUTISTIC SINGLESS

A fun time up on the Loup River around St. Paul. Activities included a duck race, giveaways, and a 50/50 split draw. Thanks everyone for a great event!

Photos by Alvin Kowalski III







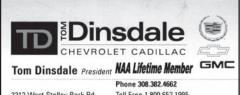
By: Randy Kassmeier

The 2025 Poker Run is in the books, another good turnout! Due to the early rain we were down some boats but still had a count of 77 at one point.

Winners: 1st - Steph Blackman; 2nd - Tad Melia; 3rd - Ellen Faitys; 4th - Kevin Rathke; 5th - Jarod Buckley. Congratulations to all of you!

Tad Melia donated \$970 to the Autism Kids and Dreams Foundation and Terry Bead donated \$100 to the NAA. From the proceeds \$300 was donated to the NAA. A special thanks to all that make this event run so smooth, Todd and Shari Bailey, Trent and Shana Crumley, Dave and Kim Merrill, Marty and Char Reznicek, Justin and Tad Melia, Virg Crumley, Roger Reed, Jordan and Nicki Thiesen, my son Bubba and my wife Jolene. A special thank you to Kim Merrill for all of the wonderful pictures.





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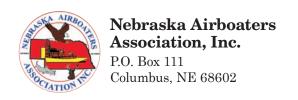
Advertising in the Nebraska Airboaters Association's RiverTalk newsletter is free of charge to members of the Nebraska Airboaters Association who are in good standing (i.e. dues are paid). Please ensure your

membership is up to date before submitting your advertisement.

A paid-up member will be allowed one standard size 2" tall x 2.5" wide 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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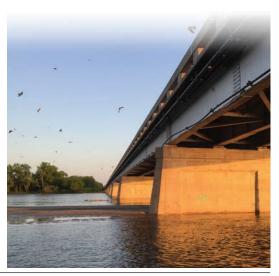
### **AIRBOATER'S CODE of ETHICS**

- 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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