



Nebraska Airboaters Association

RiverTALK

“Uniting to Preserve Our River Rights”

September 2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

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- And MORE!



2026 NAA Membership Application

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

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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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ON THE COVER

Photo by Dana Bright

NAA Director Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2026

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM at Nowhere Special in Linwood, NE. Roll call conducted, 18 of 24 directors present.

December 7th. 2025 minutes were read aloud by Kyle Kern. Motion to approve the December minutes was made by Justin Thiesen, seconded by Lynden Rathke. Approved unanimously.

Financial report provided to the directors, reviewed, and discussed. Motion to approve financial made by Marty Reznicek, seconded by Lynden Rathke. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

The annual meeting in West Point was discussed. The live auction set a new record but total profit was down slightly. Food cost and entertainment were both discussed as possible places to reduce cost. Relying on food trucks and possibly going back to a DJ were some of the ideas. Some members have suggested moving meeting to Fremont. Randy and Kyle checked into The Heights in Fremont. After some discussion, Shane Swahn made a motion to move annual meeting to the Heights. Second by Wade Wagner, motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

2026 Officers elected.

President: Marty Reznicek nominated Randy Fetrow, Mark Ulferts made a motion to cease nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice President: Justin Thiesen nominated Kyle Kern, Wade Wagner made a motion to cease nominations. Motion passed unanimously

Treasurer: Marty Reznicek nominated Ronda Thiessen, Jay Kern made a motion to cease nominations. Motion passed unanimously

Secretary: Randy Kassmeier nominated Jessica Fetrow, Wade Wagner made a motion to cease nominations. Motion passed unanimously.

New director welcomed: Evan Peters - Plattsmouth Area.
Departing director Dustin Feyerherm from the Norfolk Area was thanked.

Homefront cleanup is scheduled for April 25th. General cleanup, painting the container, dirt work, and building a grain bin gazebo is planned.

Randy Kassmeier talked about the scholarship committee, they would like to clarify some of the rules and requirements. Discussion lead to possibly raising the awards for the NAA scholarship. Randy Kassmeier made a motion to raise the individual awards to \$1500 each. Second by Lynden Rathke. Motion passed unanimously. Scholarship updates will be discussed at June meeting.

Kyle is willing to do the calendar again for 2027. He proposed running it exactly like the previous one. Mark Ulferts made a motion to go ahead with it, Justin Thiesen second. Motion passed unanimously.

Next directors meeting is June 7th at the Homefront 1:00 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Marty Reznicek. Second by Mark Ulferts. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

June 7, 2026

Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM at our homefront. Roll call conducted, 17 of 24 directors present.

March 1st, 2026 minutes were read aloud by Randy Fetrow. Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Marty Reznicek, second by Lynden Rathke. Approved unanimously.

Financial report provided to the directors, reviewed, and discussed. Motion to approve Financials made by Lynden Rathke, seconded by Jerry Mausbach. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Kyle Kern gave a 2027 calendar update. Photo shoot went well, all the guns are bought and pics were taken with the girls holding them. Hopefully they will be printed by October.

Shane Swahn recapped the fishing tournament. Good turnout for the inaugural year. Scholarships were discussed. Rule changes include if an applicant misses their interview time by more than 10 minutes they will be considered a no show and anyone who is not a lifetime member and receives the Barta Scholarship will have the membership dues automatically deducted from their award.

Another clarification was asked in reference to the Barta Scholarship, can a post graduate student qualify or is it only for undergrads. This was tabled until the Barta family could weigh in.

New Business:

Vets Ride. More boats are needed. Adding a boat show, asking the scholarship winners to help and several other ideas were discussed. The NAA donating some fuel to the boats was discussed but tabled. Columbus Run t-shirts. Several designs were submitted. After much discussion and a vote a design by Dillon Shaw was selected. Sponsorship will stay the same as last year, \$300 ea. 10 total. They can be ordered online with an extra 100 available at the homefront at the kickoff party.

The cost of hiring an accountant to basically replace our treasurer was priced at Cruise and Associates as an option. They came back with \$175 per month.

Between 2003 and 2005 the NAA invested \$7800 into the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition to help with lawsuits related to the piping plover habitat issues. They filed and won a lawsuit which among other things kept the rivers open for airboating. Thanks to a heads up from Mark Arps, we are back on their email list and Randy Fetrow attended their annual meeting in April. They are still active watching legislation pertaining to our rights.

Former director Richard Shank passed away. His widow Julie donated a \$220 memorial to the NAA in his name.

Kory Krause from the game and parks asked for a donation for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer Organization. The money goes to families of game wardens who have been killed in the line of duty. Matt Shaw made a motion to donate \$500, Second by Jerry Mausbach. Motion passed unanimously.

Next directors meeting is September 27th at the Roadhouse Lounge, West Point at 2:00 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Wade Wagner. Second by Jake Sells. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.



www.AirboatNE.com

2026 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. 5th-6th	Platteview Productions Airboat Rally
Sept. 27th	2:00 pm, Directors Meeting @ Roadhouse Lounge, West Point
Dec. 6th:	2:00 pm, Directors Meeting @ BW's Pub & Grill Louisville
Feb. 6th	2027 Annual Meeting @ The Heights, Fremont



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2026 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	P	
Jay Gould, Jr.	Ashland	402-690-2890	jayg4845@yahoo.com	A	P	P	
Drew Huxoll	Ashland	402-429-4385	drewhuxoll@gmail.com	A	A	P	
Rhonda Thiessen	Ashland	402-658-8665	ronda.ripa@gmail.com	P	P	A	
Todd Bailey	David City	402-615-0552	toddmbailey2003@gmail.com	A	P	P	
Shannon Holter	David City	402-276-1747	shannonholter2@gmail.com	P	P	P	
Randy Kassmeier	David City	402-615-0103	randykass81@hotmail.com	P	P	A	
Jerry Mausbach	David City	402-910-0134		A	P	A	
Randy Fetrow	Genoa	402-276-0437	randyfetrow@gmail.com	P	P	P	
Wade Wagner	Norfolk	402-380-3690	wagner29ta@hotmail.com	P	P	P	
Jay Vogltance	Norfolk	402-380-2498	bvogita@gmail.com	P	A	P	
Mark Ulferts	North Loup	308-550-0271	markulferts0@gmail.com	P	A	A	
Justin Melia	North Loup	308-730-1926	justinmelia@yahoo.com	P	A	A	
Jessica Fetrow	North Platte	402-276-1867	jessfetrow@gmail.com	A	A	P	
Sam Inerra	Plattsmouth	402-658-1781	dcitrucking@aol.com	P	A	A	
Jake Sells	Plattsmouth	402-880-0064	jjs2172@yahoo.com	P	P	A	
Evan Peters	Plattsmouth	402-677-5626	triplefireworks@yahoo.com	P	P	A	
Mark Kreikemeier	Schuyler	402-380-1133	mark@danco.net	P	A	A	
Marty Reznicek	Schuyler	402-720-3916	mc.rez@hotmail.com	P	P	P	
Justin Thiesen	Schuyler	402-909-2004	justinthiesen@hotmail.com	P	P	A	
Jay Kern	Wahoo	402-510-2600	kernriver2010@gmail.com	P	P	P	
Kyle Kern	Wahoo	402-699-4489	riverlifetours@gmail.com	P	P	P	
Lynden Rathke	Wahoo	402-317-9518	lyndenrathke@gmail.com	P	P	P	
Matt Shaw	Wahoo	402-720-0007	shawman1963@gmail.com	A	P	P	

President Randy Fetrow

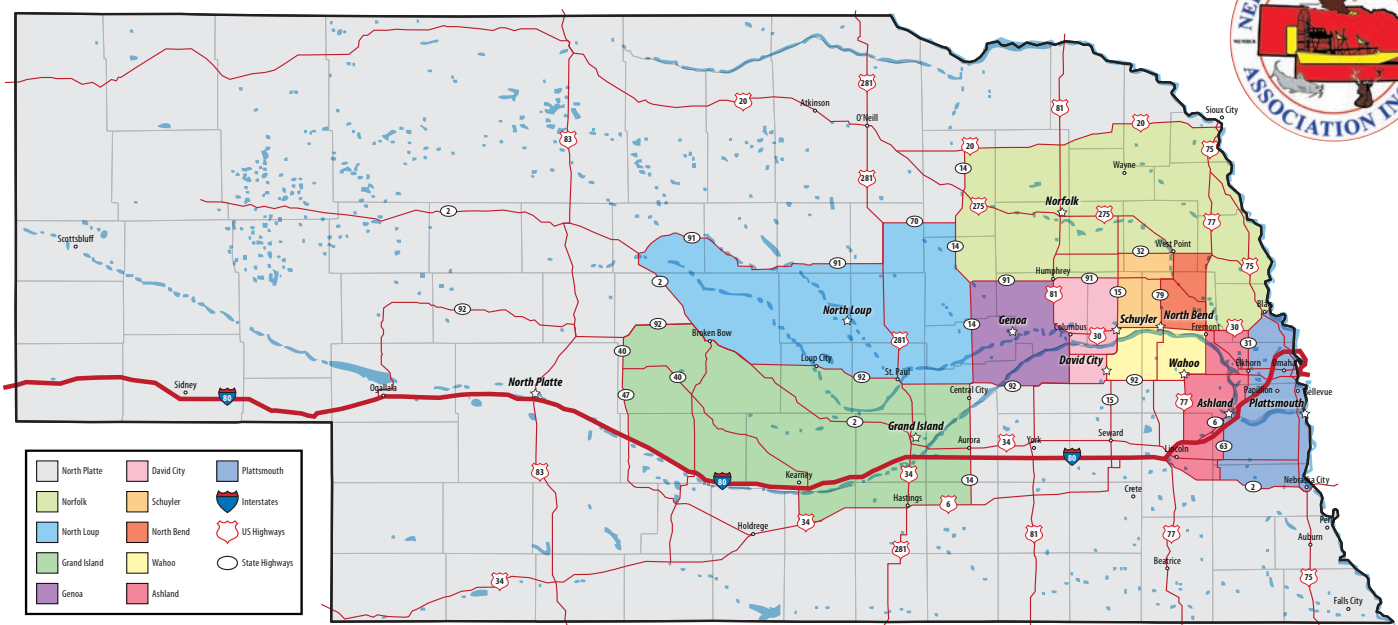
Secretary Jessica Fetrow

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

*By Randy Kassmeier, Event Organizer
Photos by Jill Marie Olson*

I would like to take the time to thank everyone who attended and participated in the poker run. Even with all the ups and downs dealing with the weather, we still had a fantastic turnout. We ended up dealing out 427 hands through it all!

WINNERS:

1st - Brad Greenough

2nd - Barry Caughlin

3rd - Brian Mills

4th - Kelly Kaspar

5th - David Linley

We donated \$200 to the NAA

I would like to give a special shout out to all that helped make this event happen: Todd and Shari, Kayla and Levi, Nicki and Jordan, my wife Jolene, Bubba & Craig. Also shout out to Jill Marie Olson for taking all the pictures! Thanks again and hope to see you all again next year!

Nebraska POKER RUN



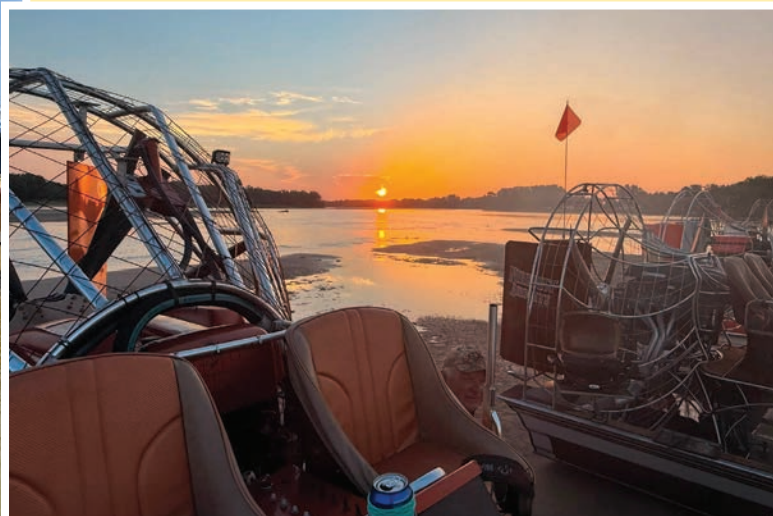
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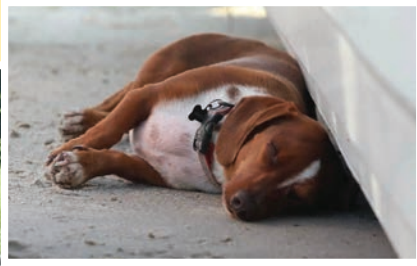
COLUMBUS



S RUN



Photos by Dana Bright



Airboaters for Autism Awareness on the Loup

Airboaters for Autism Awareness was an event put on by Justin Melia and Chuckie Rae.

The event kicked off on Friday, July 31, 2026. Kids and their families came out and enjoyed the evening along the river at St. Paul with grilled food, airboat rides and playing with a foam cannon.

The run was on Saturday and went from the forks east of St. Paul to the Fullerton Bridge. Activities included airboating, raffles and duck races! All funds go to Shine Camp (Kids & Dreams Foundation). Thanks everyone for your support!



Alvin Kowalski drives his airboat in the Loup River outside St. Paul during the Airboaters for Autism event.

Photo by Josh Salmon, Central Nebraska Today

Summertime Summertime Summertime

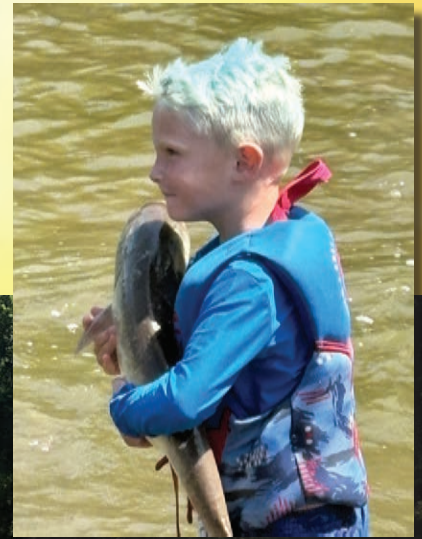


Photo by Jay Vogitance

Justin Thiesen's new airboat soaks up the sunset on the Platte River, August 14, 2026.

Kaleb Yosten, son of Danny and Kerri Yosten, holds up a fish from the Elkhorn River south of West Point, July 5, 2026.



Jackie Rippey captured this scene at the Schuyler Bridge, July 27, 2026.



**Nebraska Airboaters
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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.

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