

Brevard County Airboat Association

POST OFFICE BOX 192

MELBOURNE, FL. 32902

www.brevardairboatclub.com



NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER

As of the end of the September meeting the club had 149 members including 12 family memberships. As of the end of October the club had \$6,446.58 in its bank account.

President's Message- Wow, what a heated debate last meeting! I have to say it's been a long time since that has happened. As the president of this club I can assure you that we value all of the memberships' input and we appreciate all the involvement members are showing, but I'm starting to realize with growth comes controversy. The issues that were raised are valid, and have nothing to do with Bozeman's cabin. It has to do with our bylaws and how they are defined. The members who debated this, obviously, are very passionate about this issue. At the board meeting we discussed the issue again. I know each of the board members is disappointed in how this was presented and we are going to try harder in the future.

With all that being said, I hope you can join us for our Dec meeting. We had a successful race at the fair, we have the light parade (Christmas Parade) coming up, and a cabin that is going to need some repairs. I hope everyone can make it, especially the folks who use Bozeman's Camp.

Walt Lorraine

Let's start this newsletter off with a "Are we havin' fun yet? Most of the members knew that there was tension in the air from rumors flyin' about the circumstances surrounding **Ed Bozeman's Cabin** (a.k.a. **Potsy Gorden's Camp**). Turn's out **Corey Nail** and friends knew just how to diffuse the situation, (at least temporarily) and yup, you got it, by stuffin' our pie holes with honey soaked spiral hams from Corey, green beans, corn, macaroni & cheese from **Tina Nail** and **Roy Reynolds** presented his coleslaw freshly prepared from that fertile sand out Holopaw way. Nothin' stops the

yip-yappin' & flip-flappin' like a good lip-smackin' dinner.

Walt Lorraine sternly called the meeting to order @ 7:30PM sharp.

Feel free to stand when reading this next paragraph. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance, with Veterans Day just around the corner and in thankfulness for those who have valiantly served in the armed forces securing the freedom to have our airboat club and the right to quibble about overblown issues, we pledged:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all".

Just stands out don't it?

Walt asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes, a motion was made to accept the Meeting Minutes for the October meeting, seconded and accepted.

Pres. Report- **Walt Lorraine** said he's got a lot to cover so let's get on with it.

Treasurer's Report- **Jim Rosasco** read his synopsis of the last month's debits and credits and wherewithal's and came up with the understanding that besides the building fund allocations, this is the first time in his recollection that our funds for general use have dipped into the red zone, meaning a negative position! (To put it scientifically; on your standard money gauge, where one represents one dollar and ten represents ten dollars we came out below zero). We have now learned how Obamanomics works, we spent more than we made. The questions are: **A:** "Do we borrow from China? **B:** Print more money? **C:** Fire Jim because we didn't like the negative report? Or **D:** Do we pick ourselves up by the bootstraps and start generating some positive income? A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, seconded and accepted.

Joe Harrison mentioned that according to the club's by-laws; A PRORATION OR REDUCTION OF DUES FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP WILL BEGIN IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER WITH THE AMOUNT BEING REDUCED BY TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) PER MONTH THROUGH THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. HOWEVER, THIS PROVISION WILL NOT PRECLUDE NOR PREVENT ANY PROPOSED NEW MEMBER FROM PAYING THE FULL DUES AMOUNT FOR THE COMING YEAR BEGINNING WITH THE JANUARY REGULAR MEETING.

Board of Directors Meeting- **Joe Harrison** said all board members were present. There was a lot of talk about our affiliation with the **Florida Airboat Association (FAA)**. There were some unresolved issues pertaining to different viewpoints of some matters our organization shares an interest in.

There was discussion on the master files of club documents that are kept by the Secretary and these are kept on a CD. The airboat races were discussed and the fact that our light system was upgraded to get better performance and information from the system. It was agreed that we should rent them out to interested parties but the system would have to be rented out with a knowledgeable person to operate them. The trimming of the willows permit was again discussed and tabled. There was a question of whether our club logo was displayed on the **Southern Airboat** trailer and it was found that it is being displayed. The Airboat Friendly Resolution was discussed. Walt brought up a motion to "borrow" \$350.00 from the building reserve fund to supplement money donated by members for the **Christmas Parade** and stated that these monies were to be repaid from profits from the Airboat Races, this was seconded and voted for unanimously. The issue concerning maintaining of **Bozeman's Cabin** was discussed; there were still concerns by the board on the wording of the contract from **SJRWMD**.

Announcements & Entertainment- **Corey Nail** said he ain't gonna be here next month and of course we all got into a little panic worryin' as to who's gonna pull off a meal like he can but he assured us that **John Kisner** was stepping up to the plate and was volunteerin' to cook next month. Anyone interested in chippin' in food or labor oughta get with John.

Walt Lorraine said him; **Dennis Myers, Roy Reynolds** and **Scott Smith** went to the **FAA Meeting** down in Fellsmere at the **Marsh Landing Restaurant**. He showed them the framed resolution passed by the **Brevard County Commissioners**. Walt brought up his thoughts about the FAA sticking to airboat topics and not getting involved in gator hunting issues, as gator hunting didn't seem to be solely the domain of airboaters. There are all kinds of boats used to hunt gators and he thought the efforts of the FAA could be better used elsewhere. Well, he got told because it says in the beginning of the FAA by-laws that they are concerned with everything relating to the outdoors, sporting, hunting, boating, waterways, conservation, access to public lands, etc. so it seems they want a say in gator hunting and that's the way it is. Walt says it was a good, lengthy meeting. He mentioned that because they cover so many issues that their resources are spread very thin. Walt says he wished they had simpler methods. **Roy Reynolds** says our club really needs another delegate. Walt agreed. He said they talked about **Curry Island** and said the state is leasing it to a private organization who is attempting to bring it back to its natural state, but in the process they are excluding airboat usage. Walt added that he spoke to someone who said there isn't a problem with access to the island otherwise. The **FAA** lost a battle in **Alachua County** where the voters voted against airboat riding from 7pm to 7am. This vote lost by 5,000 votes and cost the FAA about \$35-\$40,000.00. The problem right now is in-house fighting, if we don't all come together on some of these issues we're gonna be in big trouble. Roy said this ain't our river it's the **SJRWMD's** river. Roy also said he feels the **FAA** is spending their money wrongly on attorney's fees and the lobbyist. Roy's opinion is that we remain a member of the **FAA** but to monitor our involvement. **Joe Harrison** said the **FAA** is a political group and that we ain't so much into politics at this point. Walt also believes we should remain a member and said that the **FAA** is good for statewide issues.

Dave Mannes reported that he got a proclamation from **Jim Rosasco** who had gotten it from the **FAA** and doctored it up to reflect our club and county. Dave and Walt took it before the **Brevard County Commissioners** and they have now declared

Brevard County an **Airboat Friendly County**. Now Walt says it's time to pass similar resolutions in Palm Bay, West Melbourne, Melbourne, etc. Walt thanked Jim and Dave for their efforts.

Joe Harrison said there has apparently been some reports of persons unknown stealing some of our club stickers off boats.

Someone mentioned that a man from the Orlando area caught the new state record alligator measuring a whopping 14 foot 3 ½ inches out of Lake Washington. There's pictures and video on news13's website for those interested.

There was another airboat stolen, this time off Lake Washington Rd. It was **Ronnie McClennan's** boat. **JD** reimbursed the cost of the boat. Most of the parts have been recovered. The cops are looking for the thieves.

Dave Hartz said he was pulled over trailering a boat that had no VIN's on it and he said he was impressed that the cops did a thorough job investigating whether or not it was a stolen airboat. He was also very happy that **Wade Hamant** showed up to vouch for him that it was indeed a legal boat.

Walt said that the concrete pad has now been installed for the placement of the coke machine that will commence immediately after the meeting.

Dennis Myers said that there was gonna be a question and answer session conducted by the **Indian River Airboat Club (IRAC)** involving the **Indian River County Sheriff, FWC** and **Doug Voltolina** from **SJRWMD** at the **Marsh Landing Restaurant** on October 12th at 6:30pm.

Doug Jones mentioned the **IRAC** defeated another motion by members to allow alcoholic beverages to be purchased during the meeting. So ya still gotta stock up before the meeting.

The consensus is that it's ok to trim trails out in the swamp, especially willows and especially if it promotes safety.

Building Update- **Tina Crowl** mentioned that the urinal handle in the men's restroom was sticking and running water every time after she used it, now that brings a few funny images to mind ☺. **Matt Bouck** volunteered to fix it. She also mentioned that she thinks the fluorescent light bulbs appear to be getting old and that they may need to be replaced. Corey said he got in the fixtures, did a little twistin'

an' turning and got 'em working for the most part and it oughta hold us over for a bit.

Merchandise Update- **Jim Kuhman** wasn't here. We ain't got squat left.

Old Business- The **Christmas Parade** application needs to be submitted by Nov. 15th. The people in charge of the parade asked us to lead the parade this year. It's actually quite an honor and has been bestowed upon us because of our long time involvement and the quality of the floats we enter each year, not to mention the volume of toys we donate to the needy children. All the toys we donate are going to be on the lead airboat float this year. The "outhouse/moonshine" float idea has been postponed until next year's parade. That didn't seem to be politically correct for the lead float, so we're goin' with the flow this year. A swamp theme was adopted in its place. Other boats are welcome to participate but our main focus will be the lead float.

Doug Hawley wanted to know where our **BCAA Club Banner** went to. He's been looking for it high & low and can't find it. He said he's looked everywhere. Corey found it on a shelf between high and low anywhere.

Now for the Good, the Bad and the Ugly, this is where the meeting went south in a hurry.

Jim Rosasco wanted to address the old business issue concerning maintaining **Bozeman's Cabin** stating that the **B.O.D.** has been dragging their feet on the issue for a couple of months now and it was time to decide how the club felt about maintaining this cabin.

Jim made a motion to the club members asking if they agree with the concept of maintaining **Bozeman's Cabin**. **Roy Reynolds** and **Doug Jones** simultaneously seconded the motion. He added that the initial cost to the club would be \$107.50 per year for an insurance rider that would cover club members' activities at the cabin and \$107.50 to name the **SJRWMD** as an additional named insured. **Walt Lorraine** asked for discussion before a vote. **Joe Harrison** stood up and said that this motion was out of order and totally not necessary. (I thought he was gonna poop out a cow he was so mad.) He said the issue can't be resolved at this point in time because the board hasn't been advised as to what the **SJRWMD** is going to come back with concerning the agreement. Joe said he

had this discussion with Jim previously and figured he settled this issue. Jim said that he initially received an agreement from the **SJRWMD** that the B.O.D. had concerns about and that he rewrote the agreement eliminating those concerns and submitted it for review to the **SJRWMD**. His understanding was the **SJRWMD** would welcome our involvement in taking care of the cabin. Jim further mentioned that **Ed Bozeman** who was present at last month's B.O.D. meeting was upset that we were haggling over taking the responsibility to maintain it. **Roy Reynolds** says it should be considered a historical structure because it's been there for over forty years and was in favor of us maintaining it because we aren't responsible for liability to a big extent. Jim said all that the paperwork is saying is that we would be the custodians of this historical treasure, we wouldn't be the owners of it and in no way would we be liable for actions of others at the cabin. Jim felt that the board is taking too long to make a "no brainer" decision. **Walt Lorraine** defended the B.O.D. and said that he thought we would be responsible for liabilities and that the way the agreement was originally worded was passing on a liability to the club. Walt further stated that he would resign before he would sign those papers. **Joe Harrison** argued that according to the by-laws, he cited Article VI, Section 2; THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE VESTED IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ADDITION TO THE CURRENT PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND SARGENT OF ARMS. And in addition he cited Article VIII, Section 5; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL HAVE THE OVER-ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNING AND OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION. Joe stated that this gives the B.O.D. the overall and final say in the matter. He asked if the membership was able to undermine or out-vote the B.O.D. what was the sense of having a B.O.D. He went on to say that the B.O.D. had a vote on the issue at their last meeting and Doug Hawley wasn't present but the other 4 members were and the vote was 2-2, a split vote. Joe says the general membership shouldn't vote over the B.O.D. recommendation. Joe said "The documentation from the **SJRWMD** hasn't been approved yet the way Jim submitted it so it

would be asinine to vote now." Joe says "The Board of Directors governs this club. This vote shouldn't supersede the Board and the Board is in charge." Jim retorted with "B.S. Joe", he said "I'm not asking for a "turf war" about who is in charge of whom here, all's I'm asking for is a straw vote to determine if the club is interested in the concept of maintaining **Bozeman's Cabin**? Who said anything about signing papers? I'm not asking anyone to sign anything." **Ann Horschel** asked if we would be setting some kind of precedent by voting to maintain this cabin. **Roy Reynolds** said that the club consists of all of the members, not just the B.O.D. and it's more than fair to ask the membership if they want to maintain the cabin. **Kristy Demond** said she feels that those cabins down there are very important, not just historically but on more than a few rides in the area she and Roy had to stop and rest there or wait out a storm. **Joe Harrison** said "You don't need a Board of Directors if you vote on this issue tonight and the membership doesn't have enough information to make that kind of decision. **Corey Nail** says "Let's get on with it". **Sandee Stafford** says she's for the cabin. **Dennis Myers** spoke up and said he appreciates the history of the cabin and thinks it would be a good idea. He also said he is curious about what the **SJRWMD**'s lawyers will come back with concerning the agreement. Walt started getting mad and said it's all about the responsibility. **Doug Hawley** said let's take the vote. **Scott Smith** said that he thought this cabin was of historical importance. Almost all of the other cabins have either been torn down or burned down. An opportunity to help maintain the cabin is something we should gladly do and he thinks the members of the club should be asked if they want to do it. Our club does far too little for conservation in our area and this gives us a perfect opportunity to help conserve one of the few resources of its kind left on the St. John's. It should really be our duty to maintain it. **Ann Horschel** says the members have already talked about this, so why the vote? Scott said it hasn't ever been properly voted on by the membership. **Jack Horschel** said yes we have too talked about it. **Joe Harrison** said the B.O.D. is figuring it out. **Dave Hartz** says that he sees how both sides of this issue is passionate in their beliefs and he sees this as what the club is here for. He

said he's for maintaining the cabin because he feels it's part of the heritage in the area and he enjoys taking his children there and hope to continue to do so in the future, that maybe we can help preserve it so maybe his grandchildren or even great grandchildren might enjoy a visit there. He said he sincerely hopes the club can figure this out quickly.

Walt Lorraine said that's enough discussion, a motion was before the floor for a vote by the membership to wit: Does this membership in concept want to take over the maintenance of Bozeman's Cabin? By show of hands:

28 for the motion

2 against

Guess that means the membership would like to maintain **Bozeman's Cabin**.

Brandy Hall Search- **Tina Crowl** said that a retired police officer, **Sid Ladow** has been actively working her case. Word is that her husband **Jeff Hall** has been cooperative. Other persons "of interest" are being interviewed.

Boat Ramp - That guy with the idea about the ramp ain't done nothin' yet, so I guess it's on hold.

New Business- Walt mentioned that there was going to be an Airboat Race Committee Meeting at the end of this meeting. The race times have been set at 6pm to 8pm and time trials from 1pm to 5pm.

Tina Nail mentioned that the **Oak Head** is looking like a frikkin' dumpster. She said she can't understand how people just can't pick up after themselves. (She didn't say it that nice neither). She said a work party needed to be put together to clean up that mess out there. Anyone interested please get with Tina, don't make her do it by herself ya'll, she's with child and don't need to work that hard. As a matter of fact she's upset about that trash out there and the doctor said she ain't supposed to get upset neither. Ya'll know who hangs out up there, give 'em hell and get that place cleaned up. Everyone knows ya don't sh*t where ya eat.

Safety Tip- If you anchor your boat against a wall taller than your gunwales and gotta jump from your back seat off the airboat onto the wall make sure your feet don't get caught up in any ropes attached to your gator harpoons or you're liable to take a dip in the drink. It's also a good idea to have an extra set of clothes, phone and seeing glasses.

Tina did her round of Happy/Sad collections and probably did ok tonight seein' as most everyone was sad about the bickering that went on tonight. I believe she has \$285.00 collected right now to go towards the kid's toys for **Christmas**.

Two new applications for membership, **Dave Winnett** and **Brian Yost** were approved by the B.O.D. and came before the membership vote and were both voted in unanimously. Honestly guys, every meeting don't go like this, it was a tough night.

50/50 Drawing- **Corey Nail** said he's changed the rule of ticket sales on the 50/50 ticket purchase. It used to be a buck a ticket or 6 tickets for 5 bucks but seeing as he only has five fingers on one hand and can't use his other hand for counting 'cause it's holding the tickets the new rule is it's a buck a ticket, period. **Margaret Musgrove** won the 50/50 and donated the \$20.00 back to the club. Thanks Margaret.

The Book- **John Vetzels** name was called and he wasn't here so the book rolls over and starts at \$211.00 next month.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55pm.

Dang ya'll, that was a heap a writin' this month, you're killin' me.

We've started distributing the newsletter via email and this has saved us over \$50.00 per month. If you have an email address but have not been getting a copy of the newsletter electronically please send Jim Rosasco (jrosasco@msn.com) your email address so you can be added to the distribution. There is also several email notices of interest to club members sent during the month which you are missing if you are not on the distribution list.

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