

From the Board: February 2023

Planning is well underway for the 2023 R/C Unlimiteds season. We saw many of you at the Roger Newton Show at the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum. For those who missed it, the number of boats on display topped all previous shows. Attendance was busy all day with good representation from the big boat teams.

We just have a few more papers to file and the 2023 race schedule will be locked down. Go ahead and use the draft schedule published on the R/C Unlimiteds website as your planning guide. Make those hotel reservations and get your boats ready for an exciting season.

The first race weekend is April 15 and 16 at Two Rivers Park in Finley. As usual, the 2022 RCU Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening before the race. We will once again be at the Clover Island Inn overlooking the Columbia River.

As you are getting things ready for the season, there are a few things we want you to be aware of:

- R/C Unlimiteds is one of the few clubs that usually runs the entire pit area as a “hot pit”. What this means is that all people in the pit area must have a NAMBA card for insurance. Having insurance is the same as H1 and many other forms of boat racing. So please make sure your pit people and family members all have their NAMBA card if they are to be in our pit area. Please do not take offence if an R/CU Club Member asks someone in your group if they have a NAMBA card and if they do not, to please step outside of the pit area. In order for R/CU and other clubs to race our boats we need affordable insurance provided by NAMBA. Please help out by getting the team members you want in the pit area NAMBA insurance.
- The Board has unanimously voted to adopt and enforce the NAMBA noise level of 95dB for the Gas Class. The Nitro Class noise level remains at 90dB. The Board will be taking noise level measurements throughout the season. The measurement will be taken using a tripod mounted dB Meter measuring a boat at full throttle from 50 feet. You will be notified of your measurement. If your boat does not meet the prescribed level, you will have four weeks to correct the issue and your boat must meet the criteria prior to returning to competition.
- The Board also adopted a rule change by a vote of 6-1. This new rule prohibits direct family members from judging a heat where their family member is a driver. Example of this are Father-Son, Husband-Wife, Brother-Brother, etc. The only exception to this would be during the finals if there are not sufficient neutral officials available. It is not that this has been a big issue within our club, but we wanted to eliminate the potential for any conflict of interest. This will require more members of the club to be referees and turn judges. When asked, please volunteer.
- Lastly, the Board has been asked by several members to review the “Hitting a Dead Boat” Rule. This is a rule that has been in place since the beginning of R/CU and has not been updated. A couple of the items under consideration. The fine for hitting a dead boat was established at \$75 and has remained the same for almost 50 years. In 2023 dollars, that original \$75 fine is now closer to \$260. In addition, the offending driver is eliminated from that class from the rest of the event. With travel costs, hotels, etc. the driver may be out \$500 or more. After lengthy discussion, the Board wants to hear from the members on this subject. Please be on the

lookout for a Survey on this rule. We want to hear your thoughts on this rule. The survey will only take a few minutes and help shape what we do with this rule.

Keep following the updates on Facebook and on our Website for more information as the season gets closer.