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Writers Can Win Bigly in 2018

Hi fellow boating writers! I hope y'all had a great Thanksgiving, and as we move into the rest of the holiday season there's one thing I hope is on everyone's mind: which articles you'll enter in this year's writing contest. As in past years, the awards for 2017 will be bestowed upon you and your piers (yes that was on purpose) at the 2018 Miami International Boat Show. Though the new venue has its share of challenges, last year's meeting went well at the show so we'll again be gathering on the floating dock on Thursday morning (details to come). That's where the winners will be announced.

Virtually everything that will be entered in this year's contest has already been written, but in the spirit of healthy competition, I thought it would be good to share some pointers that may help everyone give their entries as good a shot as possible. Remember:

- Double-check to make sure you've caught all the places where author and publication names appear, and obscure them. This is one of the unfortunate ways some potential award-winners get eliminated every year.

- Try to get original PDFs from your publication's art



Contest sponsor Kristen Frohnhoefer (l.) of Sea Tow International and Pete McDonald in Miami last February.

department, as opposed to scanning a printed page. While it's true that the content is the same, the visual appeal or lack thereof can't help but have some level of impact on the judges, even as they strive to ignore it.

- Check the 2016 entries (published in the January 2016 newsletter, available on our web site) to see which categories had the fewest entries last year. If you have an article you think is good but maybe not the most incredible ever, and it would fit into one of the categories that gets a low volume of entries, reconsider submitting it. Some in our wide-ranging pool of judges may think that good article is

actually great.

- You can also see last year's top three judges' picks in each category (posted at www.bwi.org/top-boating-journalism-gets-recognized/) where a click-through takes you to the articles, videos, etc.

Finally, raise your hand and volunteer to judge a category you haven't entered. Please send your offer to info@bwi.org noting which categories you could or would judge. While this won't have any effect on this year's entries, it will give you loads of insight into how the judging process works, what sorts of articles the judges tend to see, and what quality level many of the entries hit. As an added bonus, reading those winning articles will help you become a better writer, too.

Special shout-out to Supporting members: One writing category, Travel & Destinations, is, at this writing, unsponsored. It is always popular and a good way to get your name in front of our members. For details, please fire an email to Greg Proteau at gproteau@msn.com.

You can reach me at ultangler@aol.com.

Lenny Rudow
BWI President

BWI's Annual Writing Contest celebrates its Silver Anniversary this year with 17 categories offering \$17,000 in prize

awards. Entering was simplified several years ago by uploading PDF files or URL links. All of the details are included in a brochure posted at www.bwi.org/downloads/BWI-Contest-17.pdf. The electronic entry form (www.bwi.org/bwicontest) provides the process for slotting the entry and handling membership details. Entries can be made by individuals or in the name of the writer through a publisher.

BWI members get two free entries; non-members can enter at \$50 apiece (or join for \$100 and get the two free entries).

This year's categories include those recently added or updated including "Boating Videos," "Boating Photography," "Environmental Awareness & Education," and "Gear, Electronics and Product Tests." Entries in all categories are welcome from digital-only or print sources. Cate-

Boating Columns – sponsored by KVH Industries, Inc.

Boating Lifestyles – sponsored by Discover Boating

Boating Profiles – sponsored by ZF Marine

Boating Travel or Destinations – sponsorship open

Boating Adventures – sponsored by Yamaha Marine

Boat/Engine Care and Maintenance – sponsored by Pettit Paint

Boating Photography – sponsored by Freedom Boat Club

Environmental Awareness & Education – sponsored by Torqeedo Inc.

Fishing – sponsored by Suzuki Motor Corporation

Boating Issues, News and Analysis – sponsored by Mercury Marine

The Business of Boating – sponsored by Home Port Marine Marketing

Seamanship, Rescue & Safety – sponsored by Sea Tow Services International

Technical Writing – sponsored by Dometic Marine

Boat Tests & Reviews – sponsored by Volvo Penta

Gear, Electronics & Product Tests – sponsored by Xantrex/Schneider Electric

Boat Projects, Renovations & Retrofits – sponsored by Pettit Paint

Boating Videos – sponsored by Boat Owners Assn. of the U.S.

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gory definitions are included in the contest brochure. Deadline for entries is December 31, 2017.

2017 marks the 25th year of the contest which recognizes the best marine writing in the world and presents cash awards to first- (\$500), second- (\$300) and third-place (\$200) scorers. Presentation of awards will be made at the Miami International Boat Show during BWI's Annual Meeting next February.

Elections for BWI Directors will be held in January. Two seats (that carry three-year terms) are coming open. Active and Associate members may run for Directors spots, and active and associate members will be asked to vote in the election.

Those who think they'd like to serve are encouraged to run. Duties include participation in two in-person director

meetings a year (no expenses paid), usually held in conjunction with Miami and Ft. Lauderdale boat shows, availability for as-needed conference calls, and volunteering for assignments such as Committee chairperson, new product or writing contest category chair, etc. For more information, contact Greg Proteau, info@bwi.org.

Candidates need to provide

a brief summary, by mid-December, of their experience, qualifications and ideas to help BWI grow. Summaries are reviewed by the nominating committee which consists of the President, Immediate Past President and Executive Director. These are provided to the members along with the ballot when voting commences in January.

Members Gather at FLIBS Breakfast



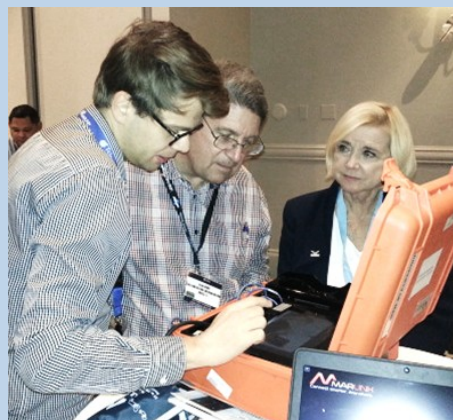
On hand for BWI's Breakfast Social hosted by ZF Marine -- Top left from I., Lenny Rudow, Matt Rissel, Kim Koditek, and ZF's Martin Meissner with the firm's Project Disruption, a contra-rotating propeller concept for conventional inboard shaftline propulsion systems. Top right, from I., Zenon Bilas, Rich Arm-

strong, Bill Sisson, Gary Reich, and Michael Sciulla. Second row left from I, ZF's Ruth Lane, Zuzana Prochazka, Alan Jones, ZF's Kirk Nelson. Second row right, from I., Liz Pasch, Shannon Aronson, ZF's Dominic Roth, and Craig Sholten.

BWI Hospitality & Mixer in Lauderdale



BWI held a new opening day hospitality at FLIBS hosted by Marlink. Mixing it up there were at left from I., Lenny Rudow, Marlink's Knut Natvig and Kim Koditek. At right, from I., Marlink's Adrian Schindler providing a demo of the firm's new telemedicine transponder for Alan Wendt and Peggy Nordeen.



Active & Associate Member News

Vance To Head Fish & Boat Groups

In mid-October Randy Vance was promoted to editor-at-large of Bonnier Corp.'s fish and marine groups (titles including *Sport Fishing*, *Marlin*, *Salt Water Sportsman* and *Boating*). He has been at Bonnier for 17 years, most recently serving in a variety of roles with *Marlin*, *Boating* and special projects. Shawn Bean, editorial director, said, "For years, Randy has contributed to every marine brand we have, from editor of the annual Boat Buyer's Guide to lead creative for our safe boating initiative with the U.S. Coast Guard. The title 'utility infielder' is the best we've managed thus far. I'm pleased to announce that we've solved this conundrum." Contact Evily Giannopoulos, evily.giannopoulos@bonniercorp.com.



Vance

AuCoin Promoting FL Fly Fishing Expo

Bill AuCoin is working with the Florida Council of Fly Fishers International and the Plantation on Crystal River resort on the Central Gulf Coast promoting the 2018 Florida Fly Fishing Expo February 9-10. The annual event, open to the public, will utilize the grounds and meeting rooms of the on-the-water hotel for displays of the newest fly fishing gear, boats, and clothing plus fly casting and fly tying demonstrations and seminars by nationally-known experts. Activities are included for experienced anglers and those who are just getting into fly fishing as well as family members with golf, scenic river tours, and

swimming with the manatees. More info can be found at www.flyfishersinternational.org/. Contact AuCoin at wmaucoin@verizon.net.

Hughes Promoted To ASA President

The American Sportfishing Association's (ASA) board of directors is promoting Glenn Hughes, ASA's vice president for industry relations, to the role of president beginning next April. He will succeed current president and CEO Mike Nussman who recently announced his retirement after 25 years of service to the industry. Hughes was hired in November 2013 to oversee the trade show, membership and marketing and communications efforts. Prior to that Hughes was with the Saltwater Fishing Group of Bonnier Corporation. Contact Mary Jane Williamson, mjwilliamson@asafishing.org.

STOs Dean Waite To Retire End of '17

After nearly 20 years serving in various positions at Soundings Trade Only, Dean Waite announced he will retire as publisher of the publication December 31, it was reported recently in *Soundings Trade Only Today*. He was named publisher in 2011 after running the business side of operations from 2007 to 2011 as advertising director. Under his direction, the magazine began co-sponsoring trade shows to build connections in a wide variety of segments. Waite earlier

served as vice president and publisher of daily newspapers owned by the New York Times Co. and Landmark Communications in Florida and Southern California. He plans to launch a recreational marine consultancy called Waite & Associates LLC, which he says will allow him to keep his "foot in the water."

Annapolis Shows Fund Storm Relief

In an effort to support the maritime industry hardest hit by the destruction of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the Annapolis Boat Shows partnered with Pusser's Caribbean Grille and Annapolis Waterfront Hotel to host a campaign during the fall Sail



and Power Boat Shows that raised more than \$250,000 in hurricane relief. Contributions and sponsors from the BWI ranks included *SpinSheet* Publishing Company, *Chesapeake Bay Magazine* and *Cruising World Magazine*. To find out more about the nine charities who are beneficiaries of the fundraising effort visit www.annapolisboatshows.com/handsacrossthetransom/. Contact Heather Ford, HeatherFord2@gmail.com.

Supporting Member News



Volvo Adds "Dreams" To Online Videos

Volvo Penta is launching a new online film series, Boating Dreams, where people will share their experiences and emotions that inspire people to seek out the boating lifestyle. The first episode features Luca Santella, who talks about designing a new crossover yacht that intends to connect people more closely to the sea. Future segments will feature other individuals who feel a strong connection to boating and life at sea. The videos are being published online and on Volvo's social media channels. All can be accessed on www.volvopenta.com/boatngdreams and its Facebook page. Contact Christine Carlson, christine.carlson@volvo.com.

Pettit Launches New Painting Site

Pettit Paint has launched a newly redesigned website offering access to information and features that make technical information available to visitors. The new website has a clean uncluttered design, improved functionality and enhanced rich content to assist with painting projects. In addition to product infor-

mation, resources include a quantity calculator, how to videos, advice from paint experts, technical bulletins, color cards, epoxy repair chart, safety data sheets and more. Visit www.pettitpaint.com/; contact Jim Seidel, jseidel@pettitpaint.com.

KVH Offers New Hi-speed Network

KVH Industries, Inc. has announced the launch of its next-generation, advanced maritime broadband network, joined by service partner, Intelsat S.A. An overlay to its current mini-VSAT Broadband service is expected to triple, and in some cases increase by a multiple of six, the data speeds for its maritime customers. KVH's enhanced service is designed to enable significant improvements in business productivity in the commercial maritime world, and enrich the onboard experience for superyachts and recreational boats. Contact Jill Connors, jconnors@kvh.com.

BoatUS Reports On Hurricane Stats

BoatUS estimated that more than 63,000 recreational boats were damaged or destroyed as a result of both

Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, with a combined dollar damage estimate of \$655 million (boats only). These numbers are strikingly close to 2012's Hurricane Sandy, which remains the single-largest industry loss with more than 65,000 boats damaged and more than \$650 million in estimated losses. "These two storms were as different as night and day," said Marine Insurance Program vice president of claims Rick Wilson. "The boats that were hit the hardest by Harvey were located on a relatively small slice of Texas coast, while we saw damage to recreational vessels from Irma in every corner of Florida." To view damage go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IIL-hCobEs>.

Coast Guard Adding Furuno Speed Logs

The U.S. Coast Guard has contracted with Furuno USA to supply all of the Doppler Speed Logs for their five-year refreshment project. It calls for DS60 Doppler Speed Logs to be installed on over 200 vessels, ranging from 87-foot Marine Protector-class patrol boats to 418-foot National Security Cutters, the Guard's largest class of vessel. The DS60's display offers three display modes: 3-axis speed, berthing, and a detailed navigation data display, capable of showing information in both graphic and alphanumeric formats; and measurement capability at dead slow speed for precise docking. Contact Jeff Kauzlaric, JeffK@Furuno.com.



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Alan@WendtPro.com

Executive Director**Greg Proteau**

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Calendar & Events

NMEA Schedules Installer Training

National Marine Electronics Association has scheduled upcoming Installer Training events beginning in December. Offered are four day long training courses tailored to marine electronics installers and others in the marine industry who may install marine electronics. Basic and advanced courses are offered and those for NMEA 2000 installations. Some are combined with ABYC training events. The schedule is posted at http://www.nmea.org/content/Traincert/train_schedule.asp.

St. Petersburg 40th Power & Sail Show

The 40th annual St. Petersburg Power and Sailboat Show takes place November 30 to December 3 along the downtown waterfront at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts - Mahaffey Theater Yacht Basin and Albert Whitted Park. It will feature nearly 400 power and sailboats on display in water and on land in addition to a 40,000-square-foot exhibit tent housing all types of marine gear. Special events include sailing clinics by Sail

America, IGFA School of Sport-fishing seminars, and youth fishing clinics presented by non-profit Hook the Future. Contact Daniel Grant, dgrant@piersongrant.com or Marielle Sologuren, mso-loguren@piersongrant.com.



Photo: Forest Johnson.



Active Members

Dennison Berwick, Writer/ Author, Toronto, Canada

Terry Kotus, Writer/ Author, Green Cove Springs, FL

Craig Moodie, Freelance Writer, Franklin, MA

Alan Wilson, Writer/ Photographer, Miami Lakes, FL

Supporting Member

Good Old Boat Magazine, Michael Robertson, Editor, Jamestown, ND

Ladies' Sail Confab

The Sailing Convention for Women will be held on February 3, 2018, at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Corona del Mar, CA. The day-long ladies-only series of shore- and boat-based workshops offer beginners and experts alike a welcoming environment to learn more about all topics sailing. The convention gives women an opportunity to meet other women sailors, discuss options for more racing, cruising and daysailing, and find out about existing sailing organizations and instructional programs. Prepaid registration is required as space is limited; reserve at www.sailing-conventionforwomen.com. Contact Gail Hine, gail@sailing-conventionforwomen.com.

The **BWI Journal** is produced by and for members of Boating Writers International, 108 Ninth Street, Wilmette, IL 60091. (847) 736-4142. www.bwi.org.

Send items to be considered for publication to Greg Proteau, info@bwi.org. All information contained herein is meant for the use of members, is in their best interest, and appears in as true and accurate a form as possible.

Membership in BWI is open to anyone involved in the recreational boating industry. Active members are generally writers, editors, photographers and broadcasters. Associate members are generally P.R. or communications firms. Supporting members are usually manufacturers or ad agencies.