

Inside this issue:

BWI Election Results	2
Sciulla Recognized For Service	
Writing Awards Presented in Miami	3
More Writing Awards	4
Miami Innovations & BWI Judging Team	5
First BWI Scholarship	
Miami Raffle Sponsors	6
Calendar & Events	

Great Writer Turnout In Miami

Another successful Miami International Boat Show is in the books and I was really glad to see so many of our members attend this year's BWI Writing Contest awards presentation. Not only did we give away \$16,000 in cash for this year's winners but we also had more than \$6,000 worth of prizes to give away to those attending, which worked out to about \$120 per person ... not bad for a \$50 membership. A special thanks once again to Yamaha Outboards, Mercury Marine, Rushton Gregory, BoatUS, Costa, West Marine, RBFF, Freedom Boat Club and our very own Doug Olander for their generous donations.

I'd also like to give a big shout-out to Yamaha Watercraft who sponsored this year's meeting and paid all our expenses, which normally comes out of our pocket. Their A/V team also helped us avert a disaster. When we arrived, we discovered the sound system hadn't been set up and they volunteered to get it going. Otherwise, I would have had to shout out the winners like the Loud Family in the famous SNL skit.

Another big thank you goes



Alan Jones (l.) and Bryan Seti of Yamaha Watercraft served as primary hosts during the BWI Annual meeting at the Miami Show.

out to the 64 judges and chairpersons in our 26th annual contest who once again successfully herded the cats. This year we had 68 more entries than last year, which will help next year's bottom line. One of the perks of being a member of BWI is we get to read all the entries that won awards on our bwi.org website. Not only is it entertaining, but it's also a great way to learn what resonates with the judges.

You can see who took home the bacon which also links to the articles, photos and videos and Merit awardees by visiting www.bwi.org/best-boating-journalism-imaging-gain-annual-awards/. Pictures of the Miami presentations can be found inside on pages 2 – 3.

I was the chair of the Travel and Destinations category, which had 34 entries and was really impressed with the quality of work we judged. Although we never mention scores, I am breaking that rule by noting the winner in this category scored 98.25, the highest average score I've ever seen. If you only read one entry, check out "A Fever For South Georgia" by Thies Matzen. It's not a story about Valdosta, but the other South Georgia, just north of Antarctica, where he spent two winters and three summers in a 30-foot wooden boat.

And to help the next generation of award-winning writers, it's with great pride I announce the winner of our first BWI Scholarship for \$2,000 goes to Carly Sisson. A special thank you goes to Suzuki and Chevron for being this year's sponsors. This scholarship was spearheaded by Ron Ballanti, Robert Beringer and Dan Armitage and was helped along by Greg Proteau, Lenny Rudow and yours truly. Congratulations Carly!

You can reach me at boatscribe@comcast.net.

Alan Jones
BWI President

Election Adds New Board Member



Ron Ballanti

BWI members re-elected two Directors, welcomed a new Director and its Board elected three Officers in early 2019. Newly elected to the Board is Ron Ballanti while returning Officers are President Alan Jones, Editor for *Boating World Magazine*; 1st Vice President Charlie Levine, Editor/Publisher of FishTrack.com; and 2nd Vice President Chris Woodward, Editor of *Sport Fishing*.

Ballanti is a freelance writer and photographer and president of Strike Zone Communications, a marketing communications agency based in Chatsworth, CA specializing in the boating, marine elec-

tronics, fishing and outdoor markets for the past 15 years. He has been a regular editorial contributor to marine publications for more than 25 years, including *Boating*, *Boat/US*, *Salt Water Sportsman*, *Sport Fishing*, *Anglers Journal*, *Soundings*, *Western Outdoor News*, *Pacific Coast Sportfishing* and others. Ballanti has chaired and judged BWI Writing Contest categories and earned nine Writing Awards. He is currently serving on the BWI Scholarship Committee.

Continuing as Directors are: Immediate Past President Lenny Rudow, a freelance writer, editor and Angler in

Chief of *FishTalk* magazine; Zuzana Prochazka, a freelance writer and photographer who contributes to a number of boating titles; Jim Fullilove, currently chief editor of *Marine Electronics Journal*; Brady Kay, executive editor of *Pontoon & Deck Boat* magazine and who oversees two additional Midwestern focused boating publications; and Gary Reich, senior editor at *Soundings* and senior writer at *Anglers Journal*.

BWI Executive Director Greg Proteau serves as secretary/treasurer of the board. All Directors are profiled on the BWI website at <http://www.bwi.org/about-us/>.

Sciulla Recognized for Service Work

Michael Sciulla has stepped down from BWI Board service after a 20-plus-year run. During that time he served as the organization's president and in other committee leadership roles. Over the same time period, he served the

Marine Marketers of America in director and officer roles.

Sciulla worked to bring numerous boating notables as speakers and panel presenters to BWI membership meetings to provide news and views on the industry, environment, economic challenges, issues of importance to boat owners, and legislative efforts. Several sessions dealt with managing the changes facing journalists and marine companies as cyberspace and social media took hold and grew.

At BoatU.S., Sciulla was editor and publisher of

BoatU.S. Magazine and publisher of *DIY Boat Owner* magazine. He also spearheaded the association's government relations efforts and helped navigate through numerous crises, notably helping repeal the boat luxury tax.

More recently, Sciulla established his own consulting firm focusing on communication strategies and penned a *Soundings Trade Only* marketing column. Offers BWI's Greg Proteau, "Michael has always been a guiding force for editorial scrutiny, ideas and input for many of us boating scribes. As an organization volunteer, few have matched his energy and output, fairness and ability to help colleagues achieve shared goals."



Michael Sciulla (c.) is recognized for service to the Marine Marketers of America by President Wanda Kenton Smith (l.) and BWI by Greg Proteau. Photo: Brady Kay.

Writing Contest Award Presentations



Annual Writing Award presentations brought winners together with sponsors. Above (from l.): Dan Harding, Evinrude's Wendy Wilson, Rich Armstrong; and Lenny Rudow with Suzuki's Dean Corbisier. Below top row (from l.): Pim Van Hemmen, John Stefancik, Pete McDonald, Volvo's

Ron Huibers; and Zuzana Prochazka with Freedom Boat Club's John Giglio. Below bottom row (from l.): Cheryl Costello, Kim Koditek, BoatU.S.'s Scott Croft; and Simon Murray with Yamaha's Dale Barnes. Photos: Ron Ballanti. Contest results are posted on BWI website [here](#).



Writing Contest Awards ... *continued*



Annual Writing Award presentations, *continued*: Above from l.): Gary Reich with ZF Marine's Martin Meissner; and Jim Hendricks with Jeff Moser (accepting for Bill Pike). Below top row (from l.): Sea Tow International's Kristen Frohnhoefer with David Schmidt; Craig Ritchie,

Torquedo's Tess Smallridge and John Stefancik. Below bottom row (from l.): Norris Comer with Dometic Marine's Ned Trigg; and KVH's Jill Connors with Bill Sisson. Photos: Ron Ballanti. Contest results are posted on BWI website [here](#).



Innovations Abound in Miami

NMMA and BWI presented Innovation Awards during the Miami International Boat Show which recognize groundbreaking new consumer marine products. This year's program evaluated 66 products across 26 categories. The judges ultimately selected 18 winners and one honorable mention in 18 categories for a total of 19 honorees.

The judges' committee is comprised of eight BWI members who perform product testing throughout the year and have specific expertise in marine products and equipment. Co-Chaired by Zuzana Prochazka and Alan Wendt, additional judges in Miami were Alan Jones, Kim Koditek, Frank Lanier, Pat

Rains, Greta Schanen, and Ben Stein.

BWI Supporting members recognized in various categories were:

- Battery Powered Propulsion/Hybrids, Torqeedo's Deep Blue 100i
- Inboard Engines, Indmar Marine's 2.3L Ecoboost
- Jet Boats, Yamaha WaterCraft's 275 series featuring "Drive"
- Integrated Outboard Propulsion, Volvo Penta and 7 Marine
- Watersport Equipment, Yamaha WaterCraft's "WakeBooster" Wake Enhancer

To see the complete list of award winners and honorable mention, go to <http://www.nmma.org/press/>

article/22505. For information about the Awards, contact Rachel Harmon at rharmon@nmma.org.



BWI Miami Innovation judges (from l.): Frank Lanier, Alan Jones, Pat Rains, Zuzana Prochazka, Kim Koditek, Greta Schanen, Ben Stein and Alan Wendt.

First BWI Scholarship Presented

A key highlight of the Annual BWI Breakfast meeting at the Miami Boat Show

was the presentation of BWI's Inaugural Scholarship award. A check for \$2,000 was awarded to Carly Sisson, currently studying at the University of Vermont. Accepting her award was Daniel Harding,

Editor-in-Chief of *Power & Motoryacht* Magazine and *Outboard* Magazine. Even though she is still in college, Sisson has already had several feature articles published in the pages of these titles, proving

both her journalistic talent and her passion for boating.

Perhaps neither of these qualities should come as a surprise, given that her father is Bill Sisson, Editor-in-Chief of *Anglers Journal* Magazine and a longtime member of the boating press corps.

Getting to this point for BWI took a lot of hard work, the bulk of which was done by member Robert Beringer. As a result, the BWI Scholarship Fund is ready to continue and grow in the future – and work is already underway to make it even bigger and better next year.

This year's award was made possible through the generosity and support of

two BWI Supporting Member companies. Suzuki Marine, who has been a sponsor the BWI Writing Awards every year since the beginning, and relatively new BWI Supporting Member Chevron Lubricants, each contributed \$1,000 to the scholarship fund. Additional details about the Scholarship effort can be found at www.bwi.org/scholarship-fund/.

Scholarship Fund President Robert Beringer (from l.) hands check to Dan Harding of Power & Motoryacht, accepting for Carly Sisson, as key sponsors Joe DeFina of Chevron and Dean Corbisier of Suzuki look on.



Carly Sisson



Calendar & Events

BWI OFFICERS

President

Alan Jones ('19)

boatscribe@comcast.net

1st Vice President

Charlie Levine ('21)

clevine@fishtrack.com

2nd Vice President

Chris Woodward ('21)

chris.woodward@bonniercorp.com

BWI DIRECTORS

Ron Ballanti ('21)

ron@strike-zone.net

Gary Reich ('20)

garyreich@gmail.com

Zuzana Prochazka ('19)

totemgroup@msn.com

Jim Fulliove ('20)

jim@mejbiz.com

Brady Kay ('19)

blk@harrispublishing.com

BWI Past President

Lenny Rudow

ultangler@gmail.com

Executive Director

Greg Proteau

info@bwi.org



Ladies Fish In March

Ladies, Let's Go Fishing Gulf Coast Saltwater Fishing University is set for March 23-24 at Bass Pro Shops, Fort Myers. Women, men and teens can learn and practice fishing at several hands-on skill stations then have an option to fish inshore from charter boats. Details, www.ladiesletsgofishing.com.

Boat & Cycle Tour Returns for Year 5

Boaterz n Bikerz Hull of a Tour 5 returns May 5 - 11 with "The Dragon's Roar," a five-day excursion in the Great Smoky Mountains. The group will headquarter at the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge & Resort in Robbinsville, NC and conduct day rides throughout the tri-state region. Contact Wanda Kenton Smith, wanda@kentonsmithmarketing.com; visit www.kentonsmithmarketing.com/hull-of-a-tour.html.

Tourney To Aid Fallen Navy SEALs

The Naked Warrior Project hosts its first annual Fishing Tournament March 9 in Pompano, FL. All proceeds will support fallen and injured

Navy SEALs in their recovery and provide support to their families. Registration and other information at www.NakedWarriorProject.org.

Palm Beach Show

The 34th annual Palm Beach International Boat Show runs March 28 - 31 in West Palm Beach, FL. Boats range from

8-foot inflatables to super yachts nearly 300 feet in length and the show offers educational activities, including free youth fishing clinics by Hook The Future and IGFA School of Sportfishing seminars. For more information including parking and transportation maps, visit www.PBboatshow.com.

Thank You Miami Raffle Donators



A high percentage of BWI Annual Meeting attendees walked out of the event with valuable prizes raffled off by Charlie Levine (l.) and Alan Jones.

Those supplying the SWAG included:

- BoatUS
- Costa Sunglasses
- Freedom Boat Club
- Mercury Marine
- Chevron Lubricants
- Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation
- Rushton Gregory Communications
- Seakeeper
- Sport Fishing Magazine Editor Doug Olander
- Yamaha Outboards

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 marine organizations.