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## New President: Setting Course

I attended my first BWI breakfast in the year 2000 at the Miami International Boat Show. I can't believe it's been 20 years. That number does not really compute in my brain. However, I couldn't imagine working in another industry. Back then, our membership was larger and there were more publications dedicated to our shared passion of spending time on the water.

As the number of boating magazines dwindled, we've seen a dramatic rise in new voices coming across the bow via blogs, social media, videos, podcasts, etc. Communicating with our readers now takes place across a very far-reaching web and all of us wear a number of hats. We are not just writers, we are communicators. Many of us are as comfortable holding a camera or being in front of the lens, as we are at the keyboard.

You have to be nimble and scrappy to survive. And I feel that our organization must embrace that mantra if we want to grow. At the recent BWI board meeting, we discussed our membership numbers. While the number of supporting members (boating-related companies) has grown slightly, the number of active members continues to slip. To



**Recently elected BWI President Charlie Levine hard at work.**

change that, the board agreed we need to do a better job communicating; bring more value to members and offer additional ways to network and improve our craft.

To improve communication, we plan to send out a short survey to learn more about how the members (that's you) feel about BWI, where they see value and what areas we can improve upon. We've also discussed better utilizing social media to let the ideas flow between members (if we all agree to play nice). I miss the LinkedIn discussions that used to take place on a wide range of subjects from boating innovation to the changing landscape of journalism.

The recent breakfast and writing awards in Miami

showed a glimpse of one way we hope to bring more value to our members... by handing out swag! Our members were treated to \$4,000 in product donations that were given out as door prizes. We're very grateful to all of the companies who pitched in and donated prizes.

We also owe a special thank you to Yamaha, which sponsored the breakfast and provided wireless headphones for members attending. Thank you also to our supporting members who sponsored the BWI annual writing awards.

The final thing I wanted to mention is the idea of an annual BWI conference. That is a subject we are exploring to provide additional networking opportunities and also help members improve their craft with breakout sessions on a wide range of topics. Many writer-based organizations hold annual conferences and we'd like to give it a shot. We're in the exploratory stage right now, but if you have any ideas, please let us know.

You can reach me at [editorialoutfitters@gmail.com](mailto:editorialoutfitters@gmail.com).

**Charlie Levine**  
**BWI President**

# New Officers & Directors on Board



**BWI's Directors during the Miami Board meeting: Seated from l.: Kim Koditek and incoming Executive Director Zuzana Prochazka; Standing from l.: Ron Ballanti, Lenny Rudow. Charlie Levine, Jim Fullilove, Alan Jones, Brady Kay, Ben Stein and outgoing Executive Director Greg Proteau.**

BWI members elected one new and two returning Directors, and its Board appointed a new Director to fill a vacancy and elected three Officers in early 2020. New to the Board are Kim Koditek and Ben Stein, appointed to fill a vacancy. New Officers are President Charlie Levine, Editor/Publisher of FishTrack.com; 1st Vice President Chris Woodward, Editor of *Sport Fishing Magazine*; and 2nd Vice President Brady Kay, executive editor

of *Pontoon & Deck Boat* magazine and who oversees two additional Midwestern focused boating publications.

Koditek is Senior Content Manager for the NMMA, leading content strategy and production for DiscoverBoating.com. She earlier was Content and Digital Editor for Boats Group. Stein is editor of Panbo.com covering the marine electronics industry. He also is electronics editor for *Power & Motoryacht* and *Passagemaker* magazines

and is a regular contributor to *Soundings*.

Re-elected as a Director was Lenny Rudow, a freelance writer, editor and Angler in Chief of *FishTalk* magazine. Those continuing on the Board are Immediate Past President Alan Jones, former Editor for *Boating World Magazine*; Jim Fullilove, currently chief editor of *Marine Electronics Journal*; Ron Ballanti, a freelance writer, photographer and operator of a communications agency.

Executive Director duties for BWI are being transitioned from Greg Proteau to Zuzana Prochazka. Proteau has served BWI for 18 years and intends to continue in volunteer roles. Prochazka has been a BWI Director since 2005 and served as President in 2010 - 11. In addition to managing BWI, she will continue as a freelance writer and photographer who contributes to a number of boating titles and operator of Zescapes, which arranges bareboat flotilla vacations at exotic destinations around the world.

All Directors are profiled on the BWI website at [www.bwi.org/about-us/](http://www.bwi.org/about-us/).

## 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 and Alan Jones. Those supplying the SWAG included:

**Sea Tow** – 1 year tow membership \$180 **Costa** – Hat / sunglasses \$225

**Seakeeper** – Yeti mug, tech shirt, hat \$100

**Kicker Marine Audio** – 3 sets Bluetooth wireless headphones \$100

**BoatUS** – 1-year tow membership \$135 **Pelagic** – Hat & Shirt \$100

**Mercury Marine** – First Mate system \$600 (for a single-engine boat)

**ACR OLAS** – Wireless Kill Switch \$250 **FLIR** – Ocean Scout Thermal Imager \$600

**Rushton Gregory** – Fusion Stereo (2 units) \$440 **Formula Boats** – \$100 gift Card

**Yamaha Marine** – Gift Bag including a wireless dual-phone charger \$35 each

# Writing Awards & Meeting Photos



Annual Writing Award presentations brought winners together with sponsors. Above (from l.): In the Business of Boating category sponsored by Evinrude, winners were Michael Verdon, Zuzana Prochazka and Eric Colby; Sea Tow's Kristen Frohnhoefer with Jeanne Craig; Bryan Seti updated meeting attendees about Yamaha Marine's environmental protection efforts.

Below (from l.): Freedom Boat Club's Nick Gosselin, Alan Jones and Dori Arrington; Simon Murray, Jones and BoatUS's Scott Croft; Jones and Lenny Ruudow. Bottom row (from l.): Bill Sisson, Jones, Suzuki's Dean Corbisier and Chris Woodward; ZF Marine's Martin Meissner, Jones and Bill Pike. Photos by Ron Ballanti. All Contest results are posted on the BWI website [here](#).



## Awards & Meeting Pix ... *continued*



**Annual Writing Award presentations, *continued*:** Above (from l.): Ryan McVinney of Boats Group with Alan Jones and Jeanne Craig; Jeremy Bale of Kicker Marine Audio, Jones and Rich Armstrong; Martin Bjuve of Volvo Penta, Jones and Simon Murray.

Below (from l.): Jeff Moser, Jones, and Torqueedo's Tess Smallridge; Discover Boating's Kim Koditek, Jones and Simon Murray; Bob Arrington, Jones, KVH's Jill Connors and Bill Sisson. All results of the latest Writing Contest are posted on the BWI website [here](#).



Below: In Miami, BWI Past Presidents recognized Greg Proteau (second from r.) for his 18 years serving as Executive Director. On hand were (from l.) Lenny Rudow, Jeanne Craig, Alan Wendt, Zuzana Prochazka,

Dean Travis Clarke, Michael Sciulla and Alan Jones. Clarke is holding an orange oar blade, signed by the Presidents, which he later presented to Proteau to help him paddle quietly into the future.



# Innovations Abound in Miami

NMMA and BWI recognized groundbreaking new consumer marine products at an awards breakfast during MIBS. This year's program evaluated 71 products across 21 categories with judges selecting 18 recipients. The Innovation Awards judges' committee was comprised of seven BWI members who perform product testing throughout the year and have specific expertise in marine products and equipment. Co-Chaired by Zuzana Prochazka and Ben Stein, other judges were Kaylie Jasinski, Alan Jones, Lenny Rudow, Ed Sherman, and Alan Wendt.

The 2020 MIBS Innovation Award winners with judges' comments and links to products are:

- Boat Care – [Finsulate](#) anti-fouling wrap: "An innovative solution to an age old problem," said Jones.
- Cabin Cruisers – [Cutwater Boats C-32 CB](#): "A lot of engineering went into making a trailerable 32-foot retractable flybridge boat with all of the features included," said Jasinski.
- Center Console Fishing Boats – [Solace Boats 345](#) Luxury Center Console: "The judges unanimously agreed we'd never seen this much innovation in a center console," said Rudow.
- Consumer Electronics – [Maretron N2KView Anchoring](#): "This brings precision and certainty to the frequently imprecise and stressful task of anchoring," said Stein.
- Consumer Safety Equipment – [ACR ResQLink View](#)

Personal Locator Beacon: "Knowing that your distress signal has been sent and the PLB is working correctly can make all the difference," said Stein.

- Cuddy Cabins & Bowriders – Sea Ray [SLX-R 400e Outboard](#): "An example of integrating a series of innovations, including their Fathom E-Power generator-free boat electric system," said Wendt.
- Deck Equipment – Chaparral Boats [Infinity Power Step](#): "It's an easy way to enjoy relaxing in the water and will be the hottest thing at the sand bar this year," said Jones.
- Docking & Fendering – [Golden Dock Stabilizer](#): "A wonderful solution to the age old problem of a wobbly dock," said Sherman.
- Electric Propulsion – Correct Craft [Ingenity Electric Drive System](#): "They are bringing a high level of electric propulsion to the tow boat market," said Sherman.
- Fishing Equipment – GemLux [Coastal Base](#): "Great multi-tasking base that allows recreational boaters to install outriggers, rods and sun-shades," said Jones.
- Inboard Engines – Pleasurecraft Marine [PCM Z Series](#): "With ability to run on 89 octane, PCM's Z series engines are environmentally friendly and provide a wide range of power options," said Wendt.
- Tow Boats – Nautique Boats [G23 Paragon](#): "With a host of innovative features and the ability to literally dial in your ideal surf wake, this boat has it all," said Wendt.

- Mechanical & Electrical Systems – [Seakeeper I](#): "This brings the magic of



Seakeeper I

Seakeeper and a stable boat all the way down to a 23-foot boat," said Stein.

- Outboard Engines – Mercury Marine [Racing 450R](#): "The first of a new generation of super-charged V8s with mind blowing potential," said Jones.
- Personal Gear/Soft Goods – Stay Put Systems [Magnetic Coasters](#): "There's no more crying over spilled chardonnay!" said Prochazka.
- Personal Watercraft (PWCs) – Hobie Cat [Mirage Drive 360](#): "The best in a peddle style kayak designed for fishing," said Rudow.
- Propulsion Equipment & Parts – Sharrow Engineering [Sharrow MXI](#): "A breakthrough prop design that promises lower vibration and increased efficiency," said Sherman.
- Watersport Equipment – International Leisure [Pup Plank](#): "This is a deep, easy entrance for your dog, and it stores and folds easily – a great way to get your dog on board," said Jasinski.

For questions about the Innovation Awards, contact Melissa Talyor, [mtaylor@nmma.org](mailto:mtaylor@nmma.org).



Mercury 450R



Stay Put Coasters

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## 2nd BWI Scholarship Presented

When he was 14, Cavan Lyons and his family sailed down the West Coast to Mexico aboard Dawn Treader, an Islander Freeport 41, where they spent the summer seeing incredible sights and meeting wonderful people along the way. His parents' goal was to escape the hectic life of the mainland and show their kids what it was like to live aboard. "We realized that there really is so much out there in the world and that we would never want to sit still in our lives again," reflected Cavan.

After rounding Cabo San Lucas and entering the Sea of Cortez, Cavan documented their travels with short videos, then longer ones as his skills improved. As luck would have it they crossed wakes with BWI member Michael Robertson, editor of Good Old Boat Magazine, who gave the aspiring filmmaker some advice and, later, an assignment to create a video of sailor Jeanne Socrates as she prepared for a solo, non-stop circumnavigation. "The video Cavan delivered blew me away," said Robertson. "His 12-minute documentary has been viewed almost 7,500 times." (see it at YouTube.com, "Jeanne Socrates").



What started as a hobby has become a passion and is now Cavan's academic major

at Western Washington University where he is pursuing a BA degree. In a letter recommending Cavan for the \$2,000 scholarship, Assistant Professor Breyan Haizlip stated that, "(Cavan) used his filmmaking and cinematic talent to create a short film project that deconstructed social norms surrounding men, vulnerability and the freedom that comes from letting go of shame. His visual esthetic is captivating, honest, intuitive, and impressive."

Thanks to all who donated to this excellent cause, especially the Chevron Products Co. Contact Robert Beringer, [robertberinger@yahoo.com](mailto:robertberinger@yahoo.com).

**Active Members**

Kris Dickson, Freelance Writer, Chicago, IL  
 Lisa Mighetto, Freelance Writer, Seattle, WA  
 Barry Park, Freelance Writer, Victoria, Australia  
 Blake Stranz, Freelance Writer, Redondo Beach, CA

**Supporter**

Harbor Crest Wealth Advisors, Michael Hennessy,  
 Founder & CEO, Fort Lauderdale, FL

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Send items to be considered for publication to Zuzana Prochazka, [info@bwi.org](mailto: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.

