

# BWI'S 2020 ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST

## Important Details for 2020:

- **Deadline for receipt of entries is December 31, 2020;** members continue to receive the first two entries for free.
- 15 Categories mean a total of \$15,000 in cash awards will be presented.
- Submissions are made by an all-electronic format where PDFs and/or URLs are uploaded by category. Files are then available, also electronically, to judges. To access the "Entry Form" go to <http://www.bwi.org/bwicontest>.
- The obscuring rule means any mention of author, publication and date or his/her image within the article, text or captions will disqualify the entry. See methods to obscure this information in the article inside.
- Winning entries and authors will be verified prior to presentation of awards. Rerun submissions from earlier years are ineligible.
- 2021 Member Dues, required for Contest participation, may be paid at time of entry via PayPal, by check, or by a publisher submitting the entry.

## Celebrating the Best Writing & Imaging



Boating Writers International's Annual Writing Contest, now in its 28th year, is open for entries. The on line entry form provides the process for uploading the entry, "doing the paperwork," and paying dues by check or PayPal or through a publisher.

Fifteen categories are offered this year -- representing \$15,000 in cash awards. Entries in all categories (except Boating Videos) are welcome from digital-only or print sources. Category definitions are detailed on page 3.

The 2020 BWI competi-

*Present for 2019 awards were (from l.), Bob Arrington, Alan Jones, KVH's Jill Connors, Bill Sisson. Michael Verdon, Zuzana Prochazka and Eric Colby. Photos: Ron Ballanti.*

tion will recognize the best marine journalists in the world and presents cash awards to first (\$500), second (\$300) and third-place (\$200) scorers. Presentation of awards will be made virtually in mid-February 2021 (date to be announced).

Each winner also receives a handsome recognition plaque noting "Excellence in creating compelling stories about the boating lifestyle through entertaining, educational and inspiring journal-

ism." Certificates of Merit are presented to those who score closely to third-place winners with work recognized by the judging panels.

We always need judges drawn from the membership to determine the winners. Please volunteer for this important and rewarding Contest function. You cannot judge a category you are entering (see additional details inside in the "Judges & Judging" section).

## Writing Contest Basics

All submissions for the current contest must be published in 2020 (deadline for entries is December 31, 2020). Each of the 15 categories will be judged by four active journalists in the first few weeks of the New Year.

BWI members may submit two entries for free (they



must be members during the year the article was published and have paid 2021 dues); additional Member entries are \$25 apiece; non-members may enter for \$50 per entry.

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## How To Enter the Contest

### Where to Find the Entry Form?

To access the digital Contest entry form, go to <http://www.bwi.org/bwicontest>.

### Reduce PDF Size

Reducing your PDF file size will make it easier and faster to upload entries and for judges to download them. File upload size is limited to 90 megabytes.

There are a number of instructional websites offering how-tos to reduce file size. Several of these are listed on the entry form.

### Sponsor Details

Sponsors pay the prize money (\$1,000) plus administrative expenses (\$325) to cover the costs of running the contest and for the personalization of award plaques. Sponsors are not involved in any way in the judging of any categories. Sponsors for 2020 can be found on page 4.

Visit the digital Entry Form (at left) to understand what is being requested: Your name and contact information, member status, article title, publication (or website) and date, etc. Gather entries for uploading as PDF files or have URL links ready to post (see related "obscuring" suggestions below).

Plan to fill in the entry form with this information at one time to simplify the process;

select a Category for each submission; use the "add another entry" button if you are entering more than one article; follow any special instructions that may appear, (e.g., those for the "Columns" category) on the entry form and in the rules.

If you wish to add another entry later, you can do so by starting at the beginning of the form and meeting the December 31 deadline.

Tell us how you will pay your 2021 dues and charges for extra entries (if any). You can do it at the same time as entering (with PayPal/credit card), advise that a check is in the mail or that your publisher is handling charges.

If it's more complicated than that, please send details to [info@bwi.org](mailto:info@bwi.org). To guarantee entry, payments should also arrive by December 31.

## Uploading Files, Obscuring Names, etc.

Working with PDFs (scanning from print copies or gaining them from a publication) will generally be easier to alter to meet the "obscuring name, etc." requirement since many members have software (e.g., Adobe Acrobat) to hide names, dates, etc.

URL images will likely require help from tech dudes or publication art departments since they need to be copied, altered (obscured) and assigned a new URL to

lead to the obscured entry.

If you have the original print (or web) article (or can print it out), it can be obscured the old-fashioned way (with a Sharpie), scanned, made into a PDF file and posted.

If you don't have a scanner, a nearby FedEx/Kinkos or Office Depot could do it for you and provide the file. Be aware these stores sometimes want to see the author name on the article before

altering and scanning/copying.

If you already have the PDF as it appeared in print (or online) and have Acrobat, you can alter and save the obscured file. (Go to Tools, then Comment & Markup, select "Text Box Tool," draw boxes around the info you want to obscure, then resave the document.) If you had earlier scanned a hard copy article, you could also do this if it was saved as a PDF.

## Judges Wanted, Qualifications

Each category is judged by four individuals (a chairperson and three others) drawn from the membership of BWI. It's a great way stay abreast of what's trending in the boating and writing world. Here are the key rules to serve as a Contest Judge:

- A BWI member cannot judge a particular category in which he or she has entered.
- You cannot judge an entry if you have a conflict of interest (for instance, if you played a part in editing the copy, or if the writer is a close associate).

- You can recuse yourself from judging an entry without penalizing the writer, since scores of the other three judges are averaged instead of summed.

Please volunteer. Send an email with Categories you can judge to Zuzana Prochazka at [info@bwi.org](mailto:info@bwi.org).

## Contest Categories & Definitions

**Boating Columns** will recognize excellence in communicating ideas or information about a broad range of boating topics in shorter pieces (about 1,200 – 1,500 words) that appear regularly in the same publication, under the same heading and written by the same writer; longer columns should be entered in other categories. Each entry will comprise three columns published in the same calendar year (see rules next page).

**Boating Lifestyles** will recognize excellence in communicating the aura, benefits, value and enjoyment that reflects the overall experience of recreational powerboating or sailing.

**Boating Profiles** will recognize excellence in personality-driven features about a person, couple, team or group notable for expertise, impact, uniqueness or good works in recreational powerboating, sailing or fishing.

**Boating Travel or Destinations** will recognize excellence in communicating a cruise or charter to a boating destination, or a review of a destination itself.

**Boating Adventures** will recognize excellence in writing about adventures onboard a boat (not ashore). Eligible stories include pieces about sail- or powerboat racing, long distance cruising, predicted log events or passagemaking. Fishing and land-based

boating activities are not eligible for this category.

**Environmental Awareness & Education** will recognize excellence in communicating efforts and issues that foster aquatic sustainability and conservation practices, education programs, waterway access improvement, and industry advances to reduce material or energy impacts.

**Fishing** will recognize excellence in communicating techniques, value, enjoyment and/or instruction of fishing from boats in fresh or saltwater.

**Boating Issues, News and Analysis** will recognize excellence in communicating and/or analyzing news, issues and ideas that affect the boating public. Enter this category if the focus is for consumers.

**The Business of Boating** will recognize excellence in communicating and/or analyzing news, events or trends about the boating industry. Enter this category if the "trade side" is the focus of the article.

**Seamanship, Rescue and Safety** will recognize excellence in stories that depict seamanship, rescue or safety - including actual rescue events, preventive maintenance or heroic actions.

**Boat Tests & Reviews** will recognize excellence in test reports of new boats or reviews of new or extensively rebuilt yachts.

**Gear, Electronics & Product Tests** will recognize excellence in reviews, tests and broad-themed stories of all marine products, including electronics and engines (but not full boat tests).

**Boat Projects, Renovations & Retrofits** will recognize excellence in explaining boat projects, maintenance or makeovers accomplished by professionals or Do-It-Yourselfers including repowering, electronic or navigation updating, galley or head remodels, etc. resulting in improved performance, safety or creature comforts for boat operators.

**Boating Videos** will recognize entertaining and informative work showcasing the entrant's journalistic ability, creativity and knowledge of the subject of the video. Entries may include videos such as "YouTube" and similar postings and those on social media sites. The "obscuring" rule is not applicable in the "Boating Video" category.



**Boating Photography** will recognize excellence in still photography that enhances the written word, captures the beauty of recreational boating, or portrays the exhilaration and challenges that make boating such a unique recreational lifestyle. Photographs must be part of a published article (either print or online), a cover or photo spread. Each image counts as one entry.

### BWI Contact Information

[info@bwi.org](mailto:info@bwi.org)

[www.bwi.org](http://www.bwi.org)

Santa Ana, CA  
USA



# BWI'S 2020 ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST RULES

## 2020 Contest Sponsors

**Boating Columns** – sponsored by KVH Industries, Inc.

**Boating Lifestyles** – sponsored by Discover Boating

**Boating Profiles** – sponsored by ZF Marine

**Boating Travel or Destinations** – sponsored by Kicker Marine Audio

**Boating Adventures** – sponsored by Yamaha Marine Group

**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 BRP Marine

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

**Boat Tests & Reviews** – sponsored by Volvo Penta

**Gear, Electronics & Product Tests** – sponsored by Xantrex by Mission Critical Electronics

**Boat Projects, Renovations & Retrofits** – sponsored by Boats Group

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

### AWARDS:

Each category of the contest will name three winners. All winners will receive a presentation plaque and cash prize. First place will receive \$500. Second place will receive \$300. Third place will receive \$200. Certificates of Merit are made to writers who are judged to score closely to third-place winners. The judges' decisions are final.

### ENTRIES:

•All entries must be published with datelines in calendar year 2020. Re-dated, republished and/or retitled entries are ineligible.

•Members may submit up to two entries for free (a benefit of BWI membership) with **a maximum of two entries in any category**. Both entries are eligible for prizes. Members who wish to submit more entries must send \$25 for each above two. Non-members may submit entries at \$50 apiece (note that BWI Active membership dues are \$50 per year).

•Entries are submitted through an "Entry Form" page at <http://www.bwi.org/bwicontest>.

•In the "Boating Columns" category, three columns must be submitted and will be counted as one entry.

•Byline, author, author

image, name of publication, and date must be obscured from entries, including any mention made within the article text or captions. Failure to obscure this information completely will disqualify the entry. This requirement is not applicable in the "Boating Videos" category.

•Entries in all categories are welcome from digital-only or print sources (except Boating Videos).

•A minimum of 10 entries in an individual category must be received by the deadline date for a category to be considered valid. If fewer than 10 entries are received, the category will not be judged.

•If judges determine the entry does not fit the category, the entry will be disqualified.

•Entries **must be received** by December 31, 2020.

### REQUIREMENTS:

•Entries must be submitted by individual members, or in the name of the member, not in the name of a publication.

•BWI dues for 2021 can be paid prior to entry, at the time of entry (via PayPal) or with notice that payment will be by check by member or publication. New entrants who wish to enter the contest as mem-

bers must also pay 2020 membership dues.

•**Only two stories may be submitted per category** (in the "Boating Columns" category, three columns are counted as one entry. Two "Columns" entries, or six total columns presented as two sets of three, are permitted).

•A story may only be entered once in the contest, so select the one category that best fits it. If a story appears in more than one category, one will be disqualified.

•In the event of co-authorship, both entrants must be fully paid members of BWI. Prize money will not be duplicated, but split. Please enter co-author name(s) if needed in the "Description" box on the entry form.

### GUIDELINES:

•BWI is not responsible for entries that are late, lost or unreceivable through problems with electronic delivery methods.

•Public relations, marketing and promotional materials are ineligible. Any story written about a product or service in which the author has a personal, professional or financial stake will be disqualified.

•Award plaques and checks will be made out to individual members, not publications.