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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Boating Journalists Recognized for Best Writing & Imaging

Santa Ana, CA February 16, 2022– Boating and fishing journalists, photographers and videographers were recognized today in an annual awards program conducted virtually by and for the membership of Boating Writers International (BWI).

In BWI's 2021 Contest, presentations in 15 contest categories representing \$15,000 in cash awards were made to first (\$500), second (\$300) and third (\$200) place scorers. Cash award recipients also received a recognition plaque noting their "Excellence in creating compelling stories about boating through entertaining, educational and inspiring journalism."

This year's BWI Awards (presented now for 29 years) attracted 95 participants submitting 273 entries. In addition to cash awards, 30 Certificates of Merit were presented. All submissions to the contest were published in 2021. Each of the categories (noted below along with sponsors) was judged by four active journalists in the first few weeks of 2022.

Results:

Boating Lifestyles – sponsored by Discover Boating

1st, ["Hey There Delilah"](#) by David Blake Fischer (Good Old Boat)

2nd, ["Cult Classic"](#) by Gary Reich (Soundings)

3rd, ["Thank You for Teaching Me to Row"](#) by Andy Cross (48 Degrees North Sailing)

Judge Stacey Wigmore commented, "A delightful piece! It left me on the edge of my chair wondering, like his kid, if he'll ever find the right boat."

Merit Award:

"The Woodstock of Sailboat Racing" by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

Boating Photography – sponsored by Freedom Boat Club

1st, ["Cave Cruisers"](#) by Andy Cross (48 Degrees North Sailing)

2nd, ["Staying Clear"](#) by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

3rd, ["Pungo River Bridge"](#) by Lesley Davison (Billy Pilgrim's Progress Blog)

Judge Doug Thompson said, "This photo puts the viewer into the wondrous scene and invites the reader to learn more."

Merit Award:

"Chesapeake Dawn" by Zuzana Prochazka (BWI Directory)

Boating Issues, News and Analysis – sponsored by Mercury Marine

1st, ["The Dawn of Driverless Boats"](#) by Bill Pike (Power & Motoryacht)

2nd, ["Cybersecurity: Guarding Against Hack Attacks"](#) by Jim Fullilove (Marine Electronics Journal)

3rd, ["Time to Bust Up the Boy's Club"](#) by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

Says judge Kelly Flory, *“Interviews with multiple sources and a strong understanding of both commercial and recreational technology trends make this story expansive in scope yet cohesive and easy to read.”*

Merit Awards:

“New Kids on The Dock” by Norris Comer (Power& Motoryacht)

“Spin Cycle” by Kim Kavin (Yachting)

Environmental Awareness & Education – sponsored by Torqeedo, Inc.

1st, “American Marine Sanctuaries Welcome You” by Fiona McGlynn (BoatUS)

2nd, “Blue is the New Green” by Kim Kavin (Soundings Trade Only)

3rd, “The 2021 Red Tide Report” by Theresa Nicholson (BoatUS)

Judge Wendy Mitman Clarke said of the winner, “Not only does this story educate about a little-known topic, it inspires boaters to become more involved in helping designate sanctuaries and provides concrete, useful information in an informative, pleasurable story.”

Merit Award:

“Innovation Invasion” by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

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

1st, “Straight Up Bravery” by Kim Kavin (Soundings Trade Only)

2nd, “Deadly Calm” by D.B. Davies (Good Old Boat)

3rd, “Sailing Scared” by Melissa White (Good Old Boat)

Judge Jim Rhodes said of the winner, “It’s been a long time since an article in a boating magazine moved me to tears, but by the time I got to the end of this remarkable story, I literally wept. A good tale, skillfully and sensitively told.”

Merit Awards:

“Pacific Gale Sail” by Andy Cross (48 Degrees North Sailing)

“(Un) Welcome Party” by Bert Vermeer (Good Old Boat)

“Too Close for Comfort” by Melissa White (Good Old Boat)

Boat Tests & Reviews – sponsored by Volvo Penta

1st, “C&C Redline 41 MKI” by Andy Cross (Good Old Boat)

2nd, “Weaver 41: Cold Fire” by Lenny Rudow (FishTalk Magazine)

3rd, “The Intrepid Way” by Charlie Levine (Power & Motoryacht)

Said judge Marilyn Mower: “This is a good example of excellent expository writing. I was left with the feeling I wish I owned this boat, or at least was best friends with the owners.”

Merit Award:

“Going Modern” by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

Fishing – sponsored by Suzuki Motor Corporation

1st, “Consider the Lobsterman” by Simon Murray (Power & Motoryacht)

2nd, “Lines of Heritage” by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Soundings)

3rd, “Drawer Full of Memories” by Charlie Levine (Anglers Journal)

Says judge Craig Ritchie, “This has all of the elements that make a great story – an engaging lead, a strong core message, credible third-party perspectives, and an

approachable writing style that highlights an issue while keeping it simple to understand.”

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

1st, “Using a Hydrofoil to Improve Efficiency” by Alan Jones (Boating Magazine)

2nd, “All Electric: Pros and Cons” by Tim Murphy (Cruising World)

3rd, “Non-skid 10 Years After” by Darrell Nicholson (Practical Sailor)

Judge Kate Bush said: “This well-researched story kept the reader hooked the whole way through, making what could be a technical topic very approachable and engaging.”

Merit Awards:

“Fish Logging Apps” by Ryan Gullang (FishTalk Magazine)

“Stretching the Truth” by Lenny Rudow (Fish Talk Magazine)

“Exterior Wood Finish Update” by Darrell Nicholson (Practical Sailor)

Boat Projects, Renovations & Retrofits - sponsored by Boats Group

1st, “Saving Hindu” by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

2nd, “Maine Icon” by Carly Sisson (Soundings)

3rd, “The Need for Speed” by Ronnie Simpson (Good Old Boat)

Judge Dan Harding said, “In Saving Hindu, the author uses insightful dialogue to tell not only the story of a 100-year-old schooner but the story of those working to give her story a next chapter. Riding that fine line between ambitious and crazy, this story captures the spirit that this category was intended to recognize.”

Merit Awards:

“Boat on a Budget” by Ryan Gullang (FishTalk Magazine)

“Sticking Point” by John Vigor (Good Old Boat)

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

1st, “Understanding Boating Rules” by Kim Koditek (Discover Boating)

2nd, “Sea-Doo 21 Switch Cruise” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating Magazine)

3rd, “Weaver 41” by Lenny Rudow (Fish Talk Magazine)

Judge Ed Sherman noted, “Understanding Boating Rules does a great job of both showing and explaining important rules of the road for new boaters. If you are a new boat owner or new to boating, you need to watch this video.”

Merit Awards:

“Bass Cat Driving School” by Randy Vance (Boating Magazine)

“Bennington Q27” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating Magazine)

“What to Look for in a Deck Boat” by Kevin Falvey (Boating Magazine)

Business of Boating – sponsored by BRP

1st, “The Awakening” by Herb McCormick (Cruising World)

2nd, “Turn Your Passion into a Career” by Richard Armstrong (BoatUS)

3rd, “Female Techs” by Zuzana Prochazka (Marine Electronics Journal)

Judge John Burnham said of McCormick’s article, “Well-researched, well-structured, and written in an engaging style with a distinctive voice, ‘The Awakening’ makes a business topic into a suspenseful and educational topic.”

Merit Awards:

“Benefits of Diesel Outboards” by Craig Ritchie (International Boat Industry)

“Live from Orlando: It’s ICAST 202” by Alan Jones (Soundings Trade Only)
“Middleweight Champs”, by Norris Comer (Soundings Trade Only)

Boating Columns – sponsored by KVH Industries, Inc.

1st, “Rhumb Lines” by Darrell Nicholson (Practical Sailor)

2nd, “Between Fish Columns” by Bill Sisson (Anglers Journal)

3rd, “Waterlines” by Charles Doane (SAIL Magazine)

Judge Marty LeGrand said, “Wise and philosophical, these columns are peppered with memorable phrases that surely will ring true with readers.”

Boating Travel or Destinations – sponsored by Kicker Marine Audio

1st, “A Southeast Sojourn” by Andy Cross (Good Old Boat)

2nd, “Lure of the Elizabeths” by Christopher Birch (Points East Magazine)

3rd, “Kenai Peninsula Discovered” by Andy Cross (48 Degrees North Sailing)

Said Judge Tim Murphy, “The voice of ‘A Southeast Sojourn’ is strong, appealing, and evocative. It inspires me to want to visit these places and to spend time in this narrator’s company.”

Merit Awards:

“Lunch Run to Matinicus” by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

“Hitting the Sweet Spot” by Craig Ritchie (Lakeland Boating)

Boating Profiles – sponsored by ZF Marine

1st, “On His Own Terms” by Dan Harding (Power & Motoryacht)

2nd “The Inspiration” by Chris Caswell (Passagemaker)

3rd, “Still in the Game” by Simon Murray (Power & Motoryacht)

Judge Ann Hoffner said, “Good profile stories by nature have fine sentence structure and compelling leads, and they convey a distinct sense of the person being profiled.”

Merit Awards:

“One Fly to Rule them All” by Gary Reich (Anglers Journal)

“Brace for Impact” by Simon Murray (Power and Motoryacht)

“Uncharted Territory” by Carly Sisson (Power & Motoryacht)

Boating Adventures – sponsored by Yamaha Marine Group

1st, “Into the Wild” by Andy Cross (Good Old Boat)

2nd, “Four Skiffs, 1300 Miles, No Sleep” by Charlie Levine (Anglers Journal)

3rd, “Escape to the Sea” by Arnie Hammerman (Lakeland Boating)

Judge Richard Armstrong commented, “The skipper/author enlists us as crew on this cold, sloppy and, yes, exhilarating adventure of racing against nature and one’s own physical limitations.”

Merit Awards:

“Captain Spontaneous” by D.B. Davies (Good Old Boat)

“Voyage of Ice and Sun” by Bill Pike (Power & Motoryacht)

About BWI

BWI is a non-profit professional organization consisting of writers, editors, broadcasters, publishers, photographers, public relations specialists and others in the communications

profession associated with the boating industry. Members include active marine journalists across the U.S., Canada and around the world. For more information, visit www.bwi.org.