

FROM: Boating Writers International
www.bwi.org

CONTACT: Zuzana Prochazka, Executive Director
(info@bwi.org)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boating Journalists Recognized for Best Writing & Imaging

Miami, FL February 15, 2023 – Boating and fishing journalists, photographers and videographers were recognized today during the annual breakfast meeting of Boating Writers International (BWI). This event kicked off the 2023 Discover Boating Miami International Boat Show, which began today and runs through February 19.

In BWI's 2022 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 content about boating through entertaining, educational and inspiring journalism."

This year's BWI Awards (presented now for 30 years) attracted 79 participants submitting 267 entries. In addition to cash awards, 22 Certificates of Merit were presented. All submissions to the contest were published in 2022. Each of the categories (noted below along with sponsors) was judged by four active journalists in the first few weeks of 2023.

Results:

Boating Lifestyles – sponsored by Discover Boating

1st "Big Mama the Cruising Spider" by Ann Hoffner (Ocean Navigator)

2nd "The Noob Cruise" by David Blake Fischer (Good Old Boat)

3rd "Hit the Road Jack" by Edward Zacko (Good Old Boat)

Judge Kevin Falvey said, "Big Mama the Cruising Spider is a great boating story that transcends boating. And isn't that the best of us?"

Merit Awards:

"Small Boat, Big Love" by Nica Waters (Good Old Boat)

"Confessions of a Boat Rat" by Craig Moodie (Good Old Boat)

Boating Photography – sponsored by ePropulsion

1st "Cut and Run" by Tor Johnson (Cruising World)

2nd "America 2.0" by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

3rd "Marlow 100" by Tom Serio (Southern Boating)

Judge Jeff Hemmel observed, "Cut and Run truly puts a visual on the idea of a shakedown cruise across the Atlantic. The lighting, the captain's gaze and tenacious grip on the winch handle, the windswept froth to the rough seas...it all works to perfection. I can literally taste the salt spray!"

Merit Award:

“Here Comes the Sun” by Tor Johnson (Cruising World)

Boating Issues, News and Analysis – sponsored by Mercury Marine

1st “High Seas” by Norris Comer (Power & Motoryacht)

2nd “How Often are Your Electronic Charts Updated?” by Tim Murphy (BoatUS)

3rd “From Barges to Pleasure Boats” by Rich Armstrong (BoatUS)

Chair Jim Fullilove said, “The author does an admirable job researching information about onboard cannabis possession from knowledgeable sources and users, and presenting it in a credible and often entertaining narrative, right from the compelling lede.”

Merit Awards:

“How Much Does that Oligarch’s Yacht Actually Cost” by Kevin Koenig (The New York Times)

“Setting a Course for Somewhere” by Kim Kavin (Yachting)

Environmental Awareness & Education – sponsored by Torqeedo

1st “Saving Island Birds” by Marty LeGrand (Chesapeake Bay Magazine)

2nd “A Cover Story” by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Chesapeake Quarterly)

3rd “Can we Rise with the Tide?” by Fiona McGlynn (BoatUS)

Judge Marilyn DeMartini said, “Intriguing read! Educational, immersing and persuasive — I loved it!”

Merit Award:

“A Greener Future for the Deep Blue” by Lydia Mullan (SAIL Magazine)

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

1st “7 Ways to Murder a Diesel Engine” by Frank Lanier (BoatUS)

2nd “When the Tail Wags the Dog” by Dan Armitage (BoatUS)

3rd “Telemedicine” by Chris Caswell (Passagemaker)

Judge Jim Rhodes said, “This subject could have been just another boring technical piece on diesel maintenance, but the author cleverly introduces famous fictional detectives to pose the question: who killed this diesel, and how did the murderer do it.”

Merit Awards:

“Reefing off the Wind” by John Kretschmer (Cruising World)

“Down and Out on Island Time” by Tim Murphy (Cruising World)

Boat Tests & Reviews – sponsored by Volvo Penta

1st “The Watershed” by Kevin Koenig (Boat International)

2nd “High & Dry” by Charlie Levine (Power & Motoryacht)

3rd “Sea Ray SLX 260 Outboard” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating Magazine)

Judge Rich Armstrong noted, “Attention to detail and easy flowing prose make for a grand tour of the Rybovich 94, and an insider’s peek of how the luxury yacht came to be.

Merit Awards:

“A Giant Awakens” by Norris Comer (Passagemaker)

“Thunderstruck” by Kevin Koenig (Boat International)

Fishing – sponsored by Suzuki Marine USA

1st “One for the Books” by Bill Sisson (Anglers Journal)

2nd “Shark Stoppers” by Jim Hendricks (Boating Magazine)

3rd “Red All Over” by Charlie Levine (Anglers Journal)

Judge Greg Proteau commented, “This piece is masterfully crafted – a complete fish tale offering adventure, humor, history, environmental concern, and the all-important how-to techniques of landing epic fish.”

Merit Award:

“Remembering Aaron Martens” by Joe Sills (Bassmaster Magazine)

“Rainforest Roosters” by Charlie Levine (Anglers Journal)

“Jurassic Trout” by Ron Ballanti (Anglers Journal)

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

1st “Thermal Thunderdome” by Lenny Rudow (FishTalk Magazine)

2nd “Electrified Towing” by Jim Hendricks (Boating Magazine)

3rd “Propeller Precision” by Gary Reich (Soundings Trade Only)

Judge Steve Wayne said, “The writer takes us on a clever journey evaluating popular cooler models within the boating community. The informative writing style is presented in way to educate readers while providing information in an entertaining and engaging way. I loved it!”

Merit Award:

“Nothing but Net” by Eric Colby (Soundings Trade Only)

Boat Projects, Renovations & Retrofits - sponsored by Boats Group

1st “Evolving into E-Power” by Adam Cove (Good Old Boat Magazine)

2nd “Memory Machine” by Chris Dixon (Power & Motoryacht)

3rd “Lovely on the Lake” by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Soundings)

Judge Mike Smith noted, “This was a very good piece with a lot of technical information and details for a reader to be able to do this project themselves.”

Merit Awards:

“Resurrection” by Charlie Levine (Power & Motoryacht)

“Amped Up” by Nigel Calder (Professional Boatbuilder)

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

1st “2023 Sea-Doo Explorer Pro 170” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating Magazine)

2nd “Life Jacket Challenge” by Randy Vance (Boating Magazine)

3rd “Super Cooler Comparison” by Lenny Rudow (FishTalk Magazine)

Judging chair Kim Koditek noted, “This video is extremely detailed, getting into every inch of this PWC. I also enjoyed the humorous intro that gets you hooked.”

Merit Award:

“2023 Regal LS 9 Surf” by Jeff Hemmel (Boating Magazine)

The Business of Boating – sponsored by BRP

1st “Health Matters” by Gary Reich (Soundings Trade Only)

2nd “Lightning Protection Gizmo” by Peter Swanson (Loose Cannon)

3rd "The Yard with Heart" by Wendy Mitman Clarke (Soundings)

Judge Virginia Harper said, "The author brought a well-researched, insightful review and a thought-provoking narrative, using interviews and examples of how to reward loyalty and work ethic."

Merit Awards:

"Building a More Inclusive Boat" by Kim Kavin (Soundings Trade Only)

Boating Columns – sponsored by KVH Industries

1st "Between Fish" by Bill Sisson (Anglers Journal)

2nd "Off Watch" by Herb McCormick (Cruising World)

3rd "Notes from the Cockpit" by Lenny Rudow (FishTalk Magazine)

Tim Murphy said, "Lyrical and lovely. Solid place-setting in these essays where that matters. Leads start with a broad or big idea, then pull the focus onto a particular expression of that idea or to a particular relationship. The writer is in control of the pacing and uses superior language."

Boating Travel or Destinations – sponsored by Suntex Marinas

1st "Cruising Gambia: A Lesson in Sharing" by Kia Koropp (Cruising World)

2nd "The St. Joe and Me" by David Kilmer (Coeur d' Alene Magazine)

3rd "Cruising Cartagena: A Worthy Destination" by Kia Koropp (Marina Life)

Chair Alan Jones commented, "Cruising Gambia is an engaging tale of the challenges and rewards of sailing far off the beaten path."

Merit Award:

"Frontier of Firsts" by Norris Comer (Power & Motoryacht)

Boating Profiles – sponsored by ZF Marine

1st "A Family Matter" by Herb McCormick (Cruising World)

2nd "The Nicholson Sisters of English Harbour" by David Lyman (Caribbean Compass)

3rd "Fishing History in the Making" by Cameron Rhodes (Marlin Magazine)

Chair Ron Ballanti noted, "By the time you reach the end, you understand what motivated this novice sailor to undertake a solo Atlantic Crossing, while sharing in the fears and challenges encountered along the way. A solid read."

Merit Awards:

"A Charmed Boating Life" by Pim Van Hemmen (Soundings)

"The Men Behind the Build" by Cameron Rhodes (Marlin Magazine)

Boating Adventures – sponsored by Yamaha Marine Group

1st "A Voyage of his Own" by Charles Doane (SAIL Magazine)

2nd "Creed of the North" by Norris Comer (Multihull Power & Sail)

3rd "That's Not Going to Happen" by Tor Johnson (Cruising World)

Judge Tristan Rutherford said, "Utterly enticing and a breeze to read thanks to deft writing and letting the tale flow."

Merit Award:

"Cruising from Bellingham to the Bahamas" by David Kilmer (Cruising World)

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.