

**SECTION
D
HALL
OF
FAME**

IMPBA OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

SECTION D
IMPBA HALL OF FAME

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IMPBA HALL OF FAME

I - IMPBA Hall of Fame Criteria

Through the years, several people have been honored by their peers for making a contribution to model boating. The following criteria have been established for making nominations to the Hall of Fame.

1. Significant contributions to the advancement of model boating or competition.
2. Significant contributions to **IMPBA** as an organization.
3. Significant national recognition as a competitor.
4. Significant technical contributions to model boating as a hobby sport without receiving financial gain or manufacturer status as a result.
5. Manufacturers must make significant contributions in areas other than for, or as a result of, their products to be considered.
6. National championships or records are not required for consideration.

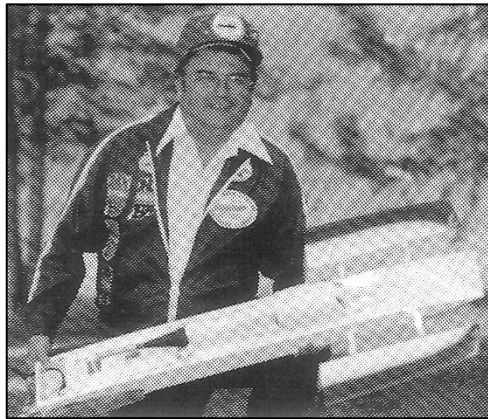
Each district can nominate 2 people each year, and any nominees will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. A limit of two (2) of these nominees may be inducted per year.

II - IMPBA Hall of Fame Recipients



Ed Kalfus

Ed Kalfus (No. 31) has the honor of being the first IMPBA member inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ed was involved in model boating when the IMPBA was formed in 1949. He held numerous records with tether boats in the 50s, at times exceeding 100 mph with boats and engines he built himself. Ed switched to R/C boats in the mid-60s. He held the F Hydro record for several years and was the first R/C boater to hit over 60 mph. This photo was taken Sept. 29, 1968 just after he had set a new record of 61.475 mph on Belle Isle in Detroit. Ed's induction into the Hall of Fame is a credit to his devotion to the sport and the IMPBA, and to his ability to be a true friend to all model boaters.



Bill LeFeber

Bill LeFeber (No. 7481) was IMPBA President for six years, and a director of IMPBA before districts were established. Bill's contributions to IMPBA are too numerous to list. He devoted a lot of his personal time to the organization and put forth a lot of effort to expand membership. Bill broke the E Hydro record on October 10, 1976. He upped a record that had not been broken in four years by 5 mph and in the process received the second 80 mph patch ever issued. An award for outstanding sportsmanship and service to the organization is now given in his honor at the Internats.



John Bridge

John Bridge (No. 1992) was best known for his accomplishments with class F twin engines geared together and driving a single shaft. Among his famous boats were Double Trouble, The Lead Sled, Outrageous, and Lager Head. John held the class F straightaway record from 1972 thru 1977 with the exception of October 1976 to June 1977. John's persistent interest and technical advances in class F twin-engine racing helped to develop a great interest in the class. John was also a proud member of the 80-mph club. John's contributions to the advancement of model boating and the IMPBA are extensive. Long before the IMPBA established districts, John served on the executive board. John served continuously as District II Director until his election as President in 1975 and 1976. His efforts in safety, insurance, rulebooks, and in organizational leadership will be valued and remembered forever.



Mike Meelbusch

Mike Meelbusch (No. 2038) set his first IMPBA record July 13, 1969 and from that date forward he was a boater to be reckoned with. Mike helped develop many of OCTURA's proto hulls prior to their kiting. He set 27 records: 12 Hydro records and 15 Mono records. Mike was the first IMPBA boater to go over 50 mph with a Mono hull. Mike was inducted into the Hall of Fame not only for his records and boat designs, but also for his willingness to help a new boater become competitive and get into the winner's circle



Gary Preusse

Gary (No. 1047) held a total of 38 records dating back to 1965. In that year he held the D Hydro straightaway, D Hydro 1/4-mile oval (twice), E Hydro 1/4-mile oval and the port-to-port record of 16 miles in one hour and thirteen minutes at 13.15 miles per hour. Additionally, he held straightaway records in B, D, J, and K Hydro and C, E, F, L, and M Mono, and in 1/3 mile oval he held B and D Hydro, and A, B, and J Mono records. He certainly is well known for all his accomplishments in the B class, which included being the first B Hydro over 50 miles per hour, and winning the overall high-point trophy at the 1974 Internats with a B Hydro. Gary was the third member of the 80-mph club. With the conception of what is now G & M Models in 1962, Gary was one of the people instrumental in getting model boating equipment available to the general public, and thus aided in the promotion of model boating. Gary will be remembered as a very active member who did a great deal to promote the scale unlimited hydro class.



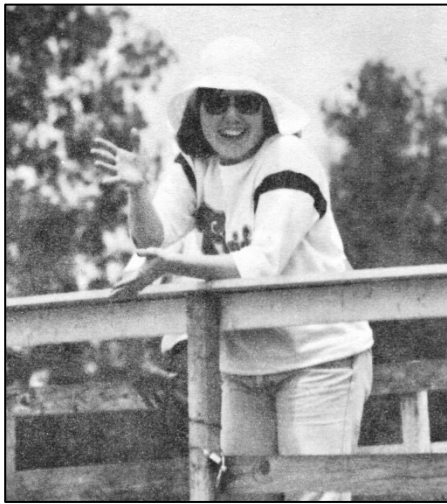
Ed Hughey – 2014.

Ed Hughey

Ed Hughey (No. 3017) is probably the most well-known boater in the world. He was the pioneer of Model R/C Boat Kits and was active in developing "fast electric" boats and hardware. Beginning in 1966, he held 26 records and two National Championships. In 1968 and 1969, Ed set four records at the Internats and at one time actually held 12 records simultaneously. Ed's accomplishments are numerous, and as long as there is R/C boating, Ed will be remembered.

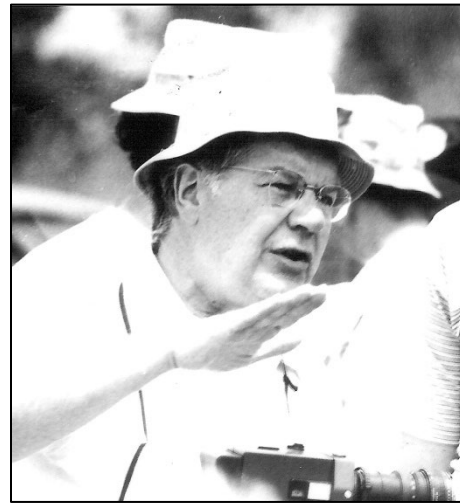


Ed passed away in 2018 at the age of 86.



Marianne Preusse

Marianne Preusse (No. 1144) had the distinction to be the first woman boater to run over 50 mph with an R/C model boat. She accomplished this on the 12th of October 1971 with her K&B .40 powered G.E.M. hydro "Misty". This was not her first boating achievement, for on August 20, 1966, she set a new Class "F" Mono World Record. Marianne Preusse was certainly among the first women to take up the challenge of racing model boats. Model boating was a big part of Marianne's life — a family activity with her husband Gary, and her children David and Debbie. All model boaters she came in contact with became a part of her boating family.



Tom Perzentka

Tom Perzentka (No. 57) was "Mr. R/C Model Boating" since the days of single channel radio and was involved in tether boating prior to that. His contributions to, and support of IMPBA, as well as his supply of hardware and kits, were a tremendous factor in the growth of our hobby. How many of you in R/C boating today remember the original White Heat Kit Boat, then the White Heat 5's, 10's, 14's, 15's and later the 4-60? How about O&R engines, and the Octura 1.8 cubic in. build-it-yourself engine, or steering struts, cast aluminum mounts, and finally a great line of Cast Beryllium props? For many years Octura was the only high-performance R/C boat and accessory supplier — he kept it going.



Mert Mischnick

Mert (No. 963) was one of the pioneers in R/C Model Boating. Seeing the need for an easy way to cool engines, he designed and manufactured the "Kool Klamp," and later sold tooling and rights to Octura. Mert was IMPBA president for 1965 and 1966, and during that time he introduced the family membership. He saw that IMPBA needed a new image away from the declining Tether boating activities to that of R/C Boating. He held a membership contest for a new logo and selected a design by Bill LeFeber for IMPBA's new image in the R/C Boating world. He also designed one of the first IMPBA official clocks. Mert was the U.S.A. representative to the World Championships held in South Africa in 1971.



Don Pinckert with Andy Macaulay II

Don Pinckert

Don Pinckert (No. 2168) is perhaps best known for his design and development of the outrigger style hydroplane. From his early designs, outriggers become a dominant hydro design in R/C racing. Not just satisfied with pioneering the outrigger design, he also designed some record-breaking mono hulls. Don served IMPBA for many years as District III Director. Fostering of model boating is one of IMPBA'S objectives and was always one of Don's objectives. He was known for taking the new young model boaters under his wing and watchful eyes and helping them become competitive, and in many cases entering their names into the record books. He always put emphasis on the importance of being a good sport when you win, and a good sport when you lose. Don is not honored for the many awards he won; he is honored for his contributions to the advancement of model boating.



John Equi

John Equi (No. 7946) is considered one of the "founding fathers" of model boating in the North Alabama area, and was indispensable in forming and organizing the Huntsville Model Boating Association, where he served as a club officer since its beginning. While an eyesight problem prohibited him from racing a model boat, he devoted much of his time and interest toward making the sport more attractive and better for those of us who do. Among his many contributions to model boating are his suggestions for maintenance and modifications of IMPBA timing equipment, and recommendations for improving clarity of technical specifications for both hulls and engines while serving as the chairman of the Technical Review Committee for over 22 years. John was also the first person to design and patent a working tuned pipe system for model outboard motors. John is honored for epitomizing both the character and personality of a true boater.



Fred McBroom

Fred McBroom (No. 3895) joined the organization in 1973, and was very active in many capacities. He was President of the Indy Model Boat Club, then became the District 4 Director, and then moved up to the job of IMPBA president in 1979, serving two terms. He remained active on the Board as a Past-President, and served as treasurer. He volunteered to take care of many business items. He made sure IMPBA was incorporated in 1974, and then obtained its non-profit status with the IRS.

His boating life was not all business. A superb craftsman, he found time to participate in many races. He helped to organize the first Indy Unlimited, and two International Regattas held in Indianapolis. Fred divided his time between Indiana and Florida, and could be found at the boat ponds of both states actively participating and trying out new boats and setups.

Fred McBroom passed away in 2005.



Marten Davis

Marten Davis joined IMPBA in 1974 (No. 4112). His racing achievements include four US-1 awards, an Excellence of Performance Award and the President's Cup. He held the B Hydro oval record for 7 years until it was retired, and the D Hydro straightaway record for 6 years. He was the winner of the Indy Unlimited in 1993 and 1994.

He was not only successful at racing; he was the owner of Precision Boat Mfg. (Crapshooter) for 6 years. During that time, he designed a unique outboard rigger, the El Diablo. He was the co-builder of the first model boat engine dynamometer, developed an Engine Analysis Program, and was co-developer of the Prop Duplicator. He was the President of the Indy Model Boat Club, and served as District Director.

The most important thing to add to these other qualities is the outstanding sportsmanship shown by Marten to his fellow boaters. Marten is honored for always being willing to help a boater with their setup or props— and for even helping his competition improve their equipment — and then happily competing with a more potent opponent.



Len Skwiera

Len Skwiera (No. 3590) left his mark on the world of R/C boating not only with his accomplishments as a skilled racer but also with his contributions to the hobby and the IMPBA organization. His racing achievements include: first model boater to win the “Excellence of Performance Award” in 1972, 4 US-1 National Championship awards, and World Record Holder on the Oval. His driving skills always made him a contender to win any race he entered. Len also made major contributions to IMPBA. He was the first President of the “Indy Model Boat Club”, IMPBA District IV Director, IMPBA President, Originator of the “Indy Unlimited” racing format, and co-creator of the “Hydro Masters Championships” held annually. Len proposed the US-1 National Championship awards. He was also a contributor to the safety of the hobby by helping to institute safety nets to protect spectators and contestants.



John Finch

John Finch (No. 4142) will be remembered as a master at driving on the race course. John's racing accomplishments over the years include 3 US-1 awards and many Oval World Records in the D, E, and F Mono Classes. He is also the first model boater to earn a 70-mph patch record in 1966 with a class D boat. His Twincraft Mono hull designs have set Oval and Straightaway World Records, and won many championships and US-1 awards for himself and many others. He was a founding member of the Old Dominion Model Boat Association in 1972.

In 1991, he was president of the Richmond Area Model Boat Organization, and served IMPBA as District Director and Assistant District Director. John was also one of the key people involved in adopting the AMB Lap Counting System for use with R/C model boats. John is known to have spent countless hours at the lake trying new ideas to achieve the utmost performance from his boats and engines. Much of this information has been passed on to his fellow boaters through hundreds of articles he wrote for nationally published magazines and newsletters, and through the 3 books he has written and published which are aimed at the beginner boaters as well as the seasoned veterans of the sport.

John Finch is honored for his dedication to the hobby and for his willingness to help others.



Gene Taylor

Gene (No. 2267) joined IMPBA in 1966, and was an active member of the Memphis Model Powerboat Club.

Mr. Taylor made significant contributions to model boating including writing articles on Tuned Pipes and Hydro Sponson Designs which were published in Flying Models magazine, and his involvement with the Pulsed Infrared Electronic Timing Sets introduced in 1985. He also designed high performance rudders and hardware for monos and hydros.

Gene served as contest director for the 1971 International Regatta in Memphis, and set a precedent by utilizing two ponds for the simultaneous SAW and Oval Trophy Trials.

Gene served the national organization beginning as Assistant District 5 Director (1973 thru 1976), was elected to District 5 Director in 1978, and re-elected in 1982. He served as Records Director (1983 and 1984), and then ran for IMPBA President. He served two terms (1985 thru 1988). Gene's dynamic leadership helped create several important committees to assist the IMPBA organization. He was known for providing experience and knowledgeable guidance for newly elected board members.

Gene was a significant national competitor who attended 27 out of 28 International Regattas. He became an ambassador of R/C model powerboat racing from his entrance to the sport. Gene Taylor is honored here for his outstanding commitment, and involvement — few others have been as dedicated to the sport.



Tom Grannis

Tom Grannis (No. 3990) was one of the toughest radio control competitors that you could imagine. While at the races, many times you could not get his attention because he was concentrating so intensely. He was exactly the same in all aspects of his life. He gave 100% to any task that he undertook. As IMPBA President he was equally intense. He insisted on running IMPBA like a business, and was very successful in this effort.

As an Engineer at Navistar, he also used this philosophy and was highly respected by upper management as well as the worker on the assembly line. If you were a friend of Tom's, he would do anything for you. Tom could be gentle and Tom could be the opposite. Both came naturally for him.

Tom realized a dream in his last year of life. He became the first person to receive a US-1 award in 1/8 Scale — his favorite class. Tom will be missed in the radio control boating community.

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE –
*if you have a picture of
Jim Dunham,
please contact
the IMPBA office.*

Jim Dunham

Jim Dunham (No. 958) originally became interested in Electric R/C model boating in the early 60s, harnessing power from government surplus electric aircraft machine gun ammunition drive motors. Originally a member of The West of Chicago Mariners, the nitro got in his blood and he began gas R/C model boating.

Jim displayed leadership by working to improve the club. He served as IMPBA President from 1961-1964. Jim took some time off to devote to his family, but re-caught the bug, joined the Fox Valley R/C Boaters in 1980, and quickly made up for lost time as he attended most every local event and traveled to many out-of-town races including several Nationals. Jim served the club well through the years having held all possible offices at one time or another. His “Club Specialty” was handling registration for FV R/C Boaters races using his computer talents.

When Electric boating started to become popular again, Jim’s old electric spark reignited. He was appointed once, and voted in twice, by the membership as the IMPBA National Electric Speed Director. In this position he helped establish rules for Electric classes and race procedures.

Every summer Jim would drive many hours to attend sanctioned record trials and compete for one of those elusive records. All of the time devoted to club organizations left little time for Jim to prepare for racing, but he always had a good time.



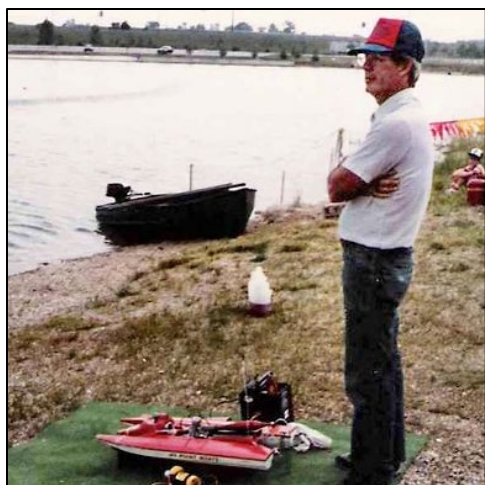
Tommy Lee

In the model boating world, the name Tommy Lee (No. 7071) is synonymous with kindness, trust, respect, and competitiveness.

Tommy is honored in the Hall of Fame for his willingness to help anyone who ever had a question, for his dedication to the hobby, and for his quest to build better, more competitive model boats. A good friend of his mentioned that Tommy had tested over 90 Tunnel hulls in the years he was racing.

Tommy is the holder of 22 US-1 championships. He held over 70 IMPBA records, has been awarded the prestigious President’s Cup, and was a continuous member of the IMPBA since the early 1970s. He was also a National and International champion in NAMBA and APBA.

His generosity and willingness to help others made him an icon in the model boating community. Racers and builders have been greatly influenced by his designs and accomplishments. Tommy was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004, and being a member of this elite group is very fitting for a man who has had such an impact on the hobby of model boating and on the IMPBA.



Jim Irwin

Jim (No. 459) was an active member in IMPBA after joining in 1961. He was a well-known personality in the sport, and an avid product developer for many years. His product contributions have been numerous, including some of the early versions of Quiet pipes, composite lower units, new outboard motor development, and tunnel hull development. He has often donated his ideas and products to others for testing and for raffles to support local events. He pioneered a new pond site in Muncie, Indiana, and participated in many local races and International Regattas mostly in his beloved tunnel classes.

Jim has selflessly assisted other new and experienced model boaters to obtain success and find enjoyment in this hobby. He has been a tireless promoter of model boating throughout the years. He was owner and operator of his own businesses, Irwin's Muffler and Irwin's Performance Products until he retired due to illness in 2004.

Although Jim was less active at races due to his health in later years, he still spent time working on progressive ideas for our hobby every day

Jim Irwin passed away April 19, 2014, at the age of 81.



Rod Geraghty with Cade LaFleur

Rod Geraghty

Rod Geraghty (No. 15435) started racing full-sized outboard Hydros in 1956 at the age of 14 in an A stock Hydro, and eventually made his way up to D Hydro. Even though he was racing the big boats he was always fascinated by model boats. At 16, he built his first model outboard boat. Rod continuing to race big boats and build models until he ended up in Vietnam with the Army. After the Army, Rod continued with different types of model boats until the first K&B outboard motors became available —then he got serious.

Rod won National Championships in IMPBA, NAMBA, and APBA. He built boats and motors that hold IMPBA records. Rod was one of a very small group of people that negotiated the beginning of the model division with APBA. While Rod was still living on the west coast, he was introduced to Tommy Lee. Together, with endless hours of telephone calls and testing, they developed the very successful XT120. He later played a primary role in developing the 21 sport/stock tunnel class.

Rod continued to be heavily involved with building new boats and developing new ideas, even after he was not as active in racing. Rod was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009, and will be remembered for always being available to answer questions and give advice.

Rod is the type boater that we should all hope to become, and he has been a great mentor for many younger model boaters across the US.

Rod passed away on March 8, 2022.



Bill McGraw

Bill McGraw (No. 8182) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009 to honor his many contributions to the hobby over three decades.

When he started boating in the 70s, very little information was available about the hobby, and what was available was not always correct. Bill set out to change this and was always there to freely give accurate and detailed information, and share his expertise. Bill also realized the need for quality off-the-shelf hardware. He started what was to become Speedmaster Hardware, thus allowing people to become successful model boaters without requiring them to be machinists. This was a significant contribution that did much to advance the sport of model boating and competition.

Bill served as President of the Memphis Model Power Boat Association for nine years. He was assistant District 5 Director for several years, and was instrumental in starting and helping to establish many model boating clubs. He won a large number of races, regional and national, and has held 28 IMPBA records in various classes, along with a US-1 title.

The boating community was Bill's adopted family. He had a love for both the sport of model boating and the friendship of fellow boaters.

Bill McGraw passed away in December of 2009.



Herb Stewart

Herb Stewart (No. 4463) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009 for his many contributions to the hobby of model boat racing spanning over four decades, starting out as a tether boater in the 60s. He was always willing to use his expertise to help someone with a problem or even loan something they needed, and was well known even outside the U.S. model boating world. He realized there weren't many quality off-the-shelf boats, so set out to design hulls and make them available to the general R/C boaters at a very reasonable cost – just barely covering his material expenses.

Herb joined IMPBA in 1975, and was an active member in the organization. He held positions of Chairman for Outboard, Scale, and Offshore Divisions, and was later appointed as District 3 Director. He was one of three appointed by then president Bill LeFeber to represent the USA at the World Championships held in Italy in the early 1980s. Herb competed in many IMPBA International Regattas, and held records in 15 of the Fast Electric Classes, along with 16 records which were archived when engine displacement classes were adopted. He was instrumental in promoting the Fast Electric Outboard Tunnel classes and campaigned to have them recognized as an individual class.

Herb was known as a top competitor, but it was his love of the sport and of the fellowship of model boaters that touched many in the model boating world and he will be remembered among this group of memorable boaters.

Herb Stewart passed away in 2009 at the age of 67.



John Otto

John (No. 8842) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010. He has been a dedicated IMPBA member and an accomplished racer. It is well known that if you need something done in the Florida area, John is the first to volunteer.

John has served as Assistant District 3 Director. He was a founding member and past President of the Brandon Model Boat Club. He is a mentor to anyone who races outboards and has helped many novice boaters with his technical expertise. He is generous and always available to provide advice, and even parts and supplies to anyone who shares his passion for outboards.

An avid R/C competitor for many years, John has received both the Excellence of Performance award and The President's Cup twice. He has won 7 US-1 Championships, is a two-time winner of the World OB Tunnel Championships, along with numerous regional and national event wins. His accomplishments have made him well known and sought after for assistance with outboards.

John is honored among these members because he truly enjoys and fosters the fellowship of the boating community.



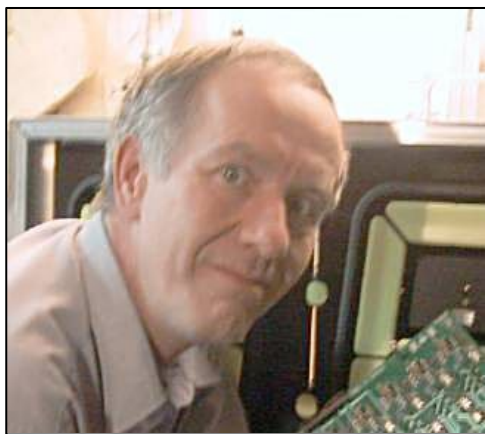
Dick Jones

Dick Jones (No. 6099) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011. He was recognized as a top competitor, and at any race you would find Dick providing assistance to other boaters most of the day. He especially enjoyed helping a beginner or novice boater. Dick made most of his own hardware and was always willing to share his technical knowledge and to provide products with a "pay me when you can" attitude. His boats were often considered the ones to beat, and his expertise and status as a competitor made him a sought-after source of advice.

Dick served as IMPBA President for one term in 2002, and also served as District 6 Director for three terms. He was a genuine leader with great ideas and an ability to get others to contribute. He was known for his professional manner and other board members looked forward to his meetings because they knew things would get accomplished with little wasted time. Many racers looked forward to games of "Simon Says," which he was well known for.

Dick won many races during his more than four decades of RC boat racing. He has 5 US-1 Championships, and was the recipient of the Bill LeFeber award in 2000. He remained an avid boater even after he retired to Florida.

Dick passed away on September 24, 2022.



Randall Thomas

Randall Thomas (No. 15366) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012. Randall has made significant contributions to the IMPBA organization and the sport of R/C boating. He was a dedicated District 1 Director for over 12 years, and also served as National Fast Electric Director. Randall finished in the top 5 many times as a US-1 competitor, and was the William E. LeFeber Award recipient at the 2003 Nitro Internats.

Randall is perhaps best known for his assistance with the IMPBA timing equipment. He has been IMPBA's "go to" man when electronics issues have arisen. With his expertise, Randall re-built and updated all of the timing consoles with many advanced technical innovations. He realized the need for a digital start clock, and designed the clock that many of our club's use.

Randall is honored among the elite Hall of Fame members for his long-standing commitment to the IMPBA organization and his enhancement of the technical aspects of R/C racing.



Ron Zaker, Jr.

Ron Zaker, Jr. (No. 10744) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013. Ron has inspired many others to join in the sport of racing R/C Hydroplanes. Ron was involved in the design and development of the JAE line of Hydroplanes in conjunction with Rod Geraghty, David Hall, and Martin Truex Jr. The design significantly changed modern R/C Hydroplanes and enabled many people to get into the sport at a reasonable cost and at a competitive level.

Ron has been involved in boating for more than 25 years with numerous racing achievements to his name. He was the first R/C boater to run oval in the "teens" with a B Hydro. He holds 7 US-1 Championships, and was the President's Cup winner at the 2011 International Regatta. Ron is a 15+ time Indy Masters Hydro Champion, and has won countless District 4 championships, along with some of the most prestigious cups in R/C racing including the Indiana Governors Cup, Minute Breakers Silver Cup and the 2013 Indy Masters John Barr Cup.

Ron served as IMPBA Hydroplane Technical Director from 2003 through 2008.

Ron is the kind of boater who is willing to mentor others and never holds back a tip or setup trick. He believes that good sportsmanship is the key to better racing and the growth of the sport. He is honored as a Hall of Fame member for his passionate dedication as a true advocate of the hobby of R/C boating and racing.



Bob Kensill

Bob Kensill (No. 9440) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013. Bob began racing full-size Tunnel boats at age 15.

Bob joined the Driftwood Model Boat Club and the IMPBA in 1983. He retired from full-size racing in 1995 and concentrated on model boating. Bob was also a member of the North East Indiana Tunnel Racers, and the Charleston Model Boaters. He served in many club officer positions.

Bob was the National Outboard Director for 18 years (until 2021). His involvement greatly increased the number of members racing outboards. Bob's engineering background enabled him to design and build hulls, modify gas and nitro engines, customize set-ups, and modify and fine tune props.

Bob won 19 National Championships, and set numerous records. Bob holds two US-1s for B-Tunnel (the first in 1997 with his own design, the "Nova"), and was awarded the "Excellence of Performance" in 2010.

Bob was known for his willingness to help other boaters increase their performance, and for mentoring novices in the sport – even helping a fellow competitor get his engine running before starting his own. For Bob, RC boat racing was never just a hobby or sport, but a true passion.

Bob Kensill passed away in 2021 at the age of 66.



David Hall

David Hall (No. 8658) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2015. David's level of passion and dedication to model boat racing made him a well-liked racer, and his humility made him the kind of role model and ambassador the IMPBA is proud to embrace.

David began model boating in the late 70s before starting the Music City Buoy Dodgers club of Nashville, Tennessee. He joined IMPBA in 1983 and has been a driving force in the resurgence of the Huntsville Model Boating Association in Huntsville, Alabama.

David began building direct-drive Nitro turnaround motors in the 80s and his design was the influence for the Nova Rossi direct drive .21 & .45 DD motors. In 2006, he began working with a dedicated group on the JAE Hydro project. Their affordable, competitive design enabled entry level modelers to get involved and greatly increased the numbers racing hydros. His Auto CAD expertise allowed PDF files of the design and subsequent releases to be offered online at no cost.

David holds many world records (*16 as of Oct. 2015*), and is also recognized as a fierce heat-racing competitor. In 2006, he increased the record for A OB Tunnel by over 10 mph. He has served as Contest Director at numerous events. David has gladly shared his knowledge and expertise with fellow boaters and competitors, and his background as an electrical engineer has made him a source for FE applications. It is a pleasure to count David among the worthy recipients of this honor.



Michael Zaborowski

Michael “GrimRacer” Zaborowski (No. 16818) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016. He has been an IMPBA member since 1995, and an innovator of model boat designs and accessories for over 20 years. Mike’s tunnel and outrigger hydroplanes have won numerous regional and national championships, and his VS1 20 Tunnel design is very popular nationwide. He has designed model boats for nitro, electric, and gasoline classes.

Mike has been a dedicated supporter of the IMPBA at the club, district, and national level. He was president of the model boat club in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He served as D4 1/8 Scale Director and wrote the original District 4 Sport 20 Hydro rules and promoted the class. Mike supported model boating by contributing articles and photos to magazines. He served as the National Outboard Director.

Mike is a Contest Director for both club and national events. His enthusiasm for model boating is definitely on display when he officiates — his race narration adds to the enjoyment of event!

Mike is a respected racer and has competed at numerous IMPBA Internats, was a William E. LeFeber Award recipient in 2008, and is an IMPBA U.S. 1 champion. With an extensive skill set on radio systems, hull design, propellers, and set up — and an approachable personality— he is sought out to provide expert advice on many facets of model boating.

Mike’s enthusiasm and dedication to growing the sport, along with his unique ability to be an ambassador for the IMPBA, makes him a deserving Hall of Fame recipient.



Jerry Betke

Jerry Betke (No. 2120) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017. He joined IMPBA in 1967. Jerry is the first of three generations of R/C model boaters, passing his passion for R/C model boating down to his son, Mike, and grandson, Rob.

Jerry is passionate about designing and building many classes of hydroplanes, but he feels that the development of the “Betke Outrigger Hydros” with his son has been the most rewarding. The craftsmanship in his boats speaks for itself.

Jerry is always willing to share information, especially with new boaters. His workshop is always open to anyone needing assistance.

Jerry served as District 2 Director and 1/8 Scale Director. He assisted a team of people that wrote the original IMPBA Rule Book in the late 1960’s, and co-authored the IMPBA 1/8 Scale Rules. His wife, Kay Betke, was IMPBA Secretary from 1983 to 1987. During this time, the office was located in their residence, and the first computer system for IMPBA was setup. Jerry was instrumental in merging the Wolverine Model Boat Racing Assoc. and the Oakland Model Boat Club into the Oakland-Wolverine Model Boat Club (OWMBC). He served as President and held other club officer positions. In 1994, OWMBC presented him with an Honorary Lifetime Membership for his contributions to the club, model boating, and the IMPBA.

Jerry has won many trophies over the years, but he is most satisfied in knowing that the boats he has built, have enabled competitors to be top finishers at the IMPBA Internats and Hydro Masters.



Steve Ball

Steve Ball (No. 4071) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017. He has been an IMPBA member since 1973 and is the type of boater the organization is proud to count among its ranks. Steve has influenced many of today's racers.

He is known for developing the "Tanks-2-U" fuel tank line which can be found in many riggers at just about any race. Steve's main interest is inboard hydro, but he is also known for his ability to modify outrigger hydros to handle better, and run faster, in both smooth and rough water. He has shared this knowledge with many others — both novice and experienced—who have benefited from his expertise.

Steve has served on the IMPBA Board as 1/8 Scale Director and has been instrumental in the growth of the 1/8 Scale class. Many will remember watching the old round nose "Notre Dame" streaking around the buoys like it was on rails. He has served District 14 by holding offices in the Driftwood Model Boat Club of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and also finds time to assist other host clubs at races.

Steve is known as a calculating driver who has won his share of trophies including several National Champion and US-1 Awards. In 2007, he received the William E. LeFeber Award.

On top of Steve's continued presence at races over several decades, he is now venturing into the international racing scene and has competed in Europe. Steve is a true ambassador for our organization and personifies the spirit of a true R/C boating hobbyist.



David W. Preusse

David Preusse (No. 8800) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018. David began racing in Illinois at a very young age in the late 60s, and attended his first International Regatta in 1973. He held the SAW and Oval B Mono records for over four years at the age of 14, and won his first US-1 in 1977. As of this award, David has since won seven additional US-1 titles, has been a National Champion in multiple classes over the years, and is a two-time Excellence of Performance winner — in 1982 and again in 2004. In addition, he was awarded the President's Cup in 2005.

David is part of a family that has three generations dedicated to model boating and racing. He has been very active in District 4 where he served as D4 Scale Director for over 10 years, and also sponsored the D4 High Points Series for 15 years. Additionally, he assisted his wife, Cathy, during her term as D4 Director and D4 Secretary.

While David is an accomplished racer, it is his lifelong dedication and passion for model boating, and his enthusiasm for growing the sport that makes him a deserving addition to the IMPBA Hall of Fame.



Stu Barr

Stu Barr (No. 5597) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020. Stu began racing as an IMPBA member in 1977, and holds 15 US-1 titles in Hydro classes and Multi-Engine (*thru 2020*). He was the Excellence of Performance winner in 2001, 2016, and 2017. Stu set multiple world speed records, and was the first boater to break the 13-second mark for 1/4-mile Oval in 2019. It is said that if you beat Stu, you can feel that you have accomplished something in the model boating world.

Along with his record as a competitor, Stu is known for his dedication over decades to developing and fine-tuning outrigger hydro designs, and is known for his .45 D Hydro designs. Stu acquired the Crapshooter line of boats in the 90s, and his commitment to quality makes the line among the best crafted and competitive hydros available to the hobby. When other manufacturers ceased production of larger Nitro hobby engines, Stu took a risk and obtained the CMB distribution for the U.S.

Stu has been a member, and past president, of the Indy Model Boat Club. He was responsible for developing the well-known Indy Masters race in Hobart, IN into an event which attracted racers from all over the world.

The ideas that Stu engineered have been shared with many boaters to help them get the best performance out of their engines, props, and hulls. Stu's dedication to the hobby makes us proud to count him among the members of the IMPBA Hall of Fame.

Stu passed away February 6, 2025.



Mike Schindler

Mike Schindler (No. 9112) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020. He is an active member who served on the IMPBA board as Technical Chair, and then as District 14 Director for 10 years, and has been instrumental in many rule modifications.

Mike has served as contest director at races for more than 25 years, and has been CD for the IMPBA Internats six times from 2002 to 2018. When the organization had difficulty finding a host club for the 2018 Nitro Nats, Mike stepped up to form the Racer's Group with other members to host the event in Mt. Vernon, IL, and all race proceeds were donated to charity.

Mike is an accomplished builder of boats and has built countless Scale Concours winners. He willingly shares his knowledge with others. He helps to make all the racers around him better, and enjoys learning from them in return. He has won multiple National Championship trophies, including Indy Masters titles, and has been awarded the William LeFeber Award twice in 2011 and 2014. Mike is known to scratch heats just to make sure a race proceeds smoothly, or to serve in any capacity needed.

Mike has traveled to the west coast three times to represent the IMPBA and compete in the NW Scale Championships. He also loves to promote the hobby and started the "On the Mic with Brad and Mike" live streams of races from all over the country which members thoroughly enjoy because of their positivity and humor.

This dedication to the hobby, and Mike's character, make him a true asset to the hobby and the R/C boating community.



Dick Tyndall

Dick Tyndall (No. 9407) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2021. He began racing with his father, James Tyndall, and joined IMPBA in 1984. Dick served two terms as the District 12 Director in the early 90s, and followed that with two terms as President (1995 – 1998). As Director, he proposed our current noise level rule, and continued to be a driving force behind its implementation throughout his Presidency and Vice-Presidency. He persevered, eventually convincing the organization to adopt the rule— one which has undoubtedly saved countless model boating ponds.

Dick served as President of the Richmond Area Model Boat Organization (RAMBO) many times, and was indispensable in working with Richmond City officials to host races at the city park. Race registration money was donated to the local adult daycare in appreciation of the cooperation.

Being a machinist, Dick began Virginia Craftsman, and became well-known for his quality hardware and turn-fins. His introduction of surface-drive hardware for mono hulls helped advance that technology. He is an accomplished Nitro engine tuner and racer, and has won many National titles, six U S-1 awards from 1992-2012, including the President's Cup in 1998.

Dick's contributions to model boating are numerous, and while he is best known for his willingness to help other boaters improve their setups and driving skills, and become better racers, it is his dedication to the IMPBA organization that has always been most obvious to those who know him best.



Norman Morton

Norman Morton (No. 17215) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2021. He joined the IMPBA in 1996 after hanging out to watch the racing at the Atlanta Model Boaters club. His first boats were a 60 and a 20 Tunnel purchased for him in New Orleans by his son.

Norman and his wife, Wendy, became very active members of the club, and he served as President from 1998 until 2013. He helped organize the highly successful Atlanta Spring Nationals, and is also credited with creating the District 13 Grand Prix Series. His goal was to grow Large Scale Gas boating in the area, and in the IMPBA while fostering a fun, family-friendly atmosphere at the club and sanctioned races.

At the time, the Gas segment was still in its infancy. Norman worked to allow larger Gas Scale boats and Tunnels to compete, and to be recognized as official classes. He served as the GP Series Director until 2021.

Norman also served as the IMPBA National LSG Director from 2001 through 2006, where he helped to organize and develop LSG class rules as well as assisting with the IMPBA Gas Nationals events.

Norman is a true competitor and has earned several National Champion trophies. It is his welcoming attitude, warm smile, willingness to mentor new members, and dedication to promoting and serving the hobby that make Norman the type of RC enthusiast the IMPBA is proud to honor.



Ernie LaFleur

Ernie LaFleur (No.12769) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2022. He joined the IMPBA and District 7 in 1989.

It has been said that Ernie should change his name to "Mr. Prepared" because of his well-known ability to produce just about anything — including backup motors— that anyone might need during a race. He is known for his habit of showing up at a race, pulling out his lawn chair, and just watching practice — as he had done so much testing that he didn't need open water time. Ernie is a strong believer in doing it right, and staying organized.

Ernie was a key factor in testing and development for Jim Schaefer's ABC Props. He also produced a conversion kit for outboard tunnels which is still currently in use.

Ernie formed a racers group to host the Internats in Jackson, TN, in 2005 and served as Contest Director, and was always willing to help fill in at other races he attended in D7 and elsewhere.

To date, Ernie holds the most US-1 titles won at a single event (2004), the most US-1s achieved overall (19 to date), was the only person awarded the Excellence of Performance trophy three years in a row. (2005, 2006, 2007). He received the William LeFeber Sportsmanship Award in 2005, and the President's Cup in 2007. Ernie has also held multiple Time Trial Records. He is known for his 7-channel B Tunnel with adjustable pipe and trim, and for his legendary "John Deere" Twin.

Ernie's knowledge of RC racing, his commitment to helping clubs, and his mentoring of individual racers so that they also succeed, are the characteristics which make him an asset to all in this hobby.



Terry Keeley

Terry Keeley (No. 5394) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2023. He joined the IMPBA in 1977, and his long history in the organization and the hobby includes serving in both national and district roles, as well as leadership roles in clubs in D1 and D2. He served as National Records Director in the 90s, rewrote the record rules, and standardized the electronic timing sensor equipment which is still in use today at record sites in the US and Canada.

Terry has been promoting and holding sanctioned Record Trial events in Flint, Michigan, since 2005, allowing many members the opportunity to attempt both SAW and Oval records. It is estimated that he has attended nearly 100 record events. In the 90s, Terry held the record for D Hydro in SAW, and broke the 90 mph barrier in that class.

He has traveled all over the US and Canada to race, and to assist at National events. Terry has attended more than 20 Internats where he has placed in the top three numerous times, and in 1989 he won US-1 for the E Hydro class.

Terry works tirelessly at the club and district level promoting the hobby and the organization, serving as Secretary and Treasurer for Northern Lights Model Boat Club since 2005. He has been the Contest Director for the very successful CAN-AM race for 13 years.

Terry is recognized for his dedication to promoting and serving the hobby, and this award acknowledges his character as a true sportsman in the hobby



Phil Thomas

Phil Thomas (No. 4876) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2023. He has enjoyed the hobby since the early 70s, and joined IMPBA in 1976. He has encouraged countless hobbyists to become a part of the RC racing community, and is always willing to offer a helping hand and advice to make a boat run and handle better.

Phil is also an accomplished racer whose designs have greatly influenced the hobby. His hulls and products are renowned throughout the county and internationally. Phil is best known for his Phil Thomas Hydro hulls, and his Sport 40 Stealth design. He has produced epoxy glass Nitro and FE hulls for Sport 20, Sport 40, 1/8 Scale, and most recently began designing and producing Gas Sport Hydro hulls. Phil's designs have contributed significantly to access to the RC boat hobby. He races to test and improve on designs, but is always willing to share set-up advice with his race competitors.

Phil has received many National awards, and has numerous podium appearances in IMPBA districts, as well as his name on the 1/8 Scale Silver Cup in D4 multiple times. Phil leaves most races with an award in hand, and won US-1 in 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2012. He received the President's Cup in 2008 and 2012.

Phil was a member, and secretary, of the Quad City Roostertails for many years, and assisted with the 2000 Internats hosted in Milan, IL. He has helped draft several national rule changes over the years.

Phil is a humble man, and a person of good character. He is a true ambassador for the hobby, and the type of member you want a new boater to meet.



Don Ferrette

Don Ferrette (No. 17064) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2024. He joined IMPBA in 1996, and has served on the Board of Directors in various capacities over the past 18 years. Don was District 12 Director, National LSG Director, National Nitro Director, and is currently the Tech Review – Hydro Division. Don has authored many rules for Nitro and Gas classes as well as BOD procedural rules.

Don is an enthusiastic competitor, who enjoys helping other racers improve their skills. He is a six-time National Champion, and 22-time District Champion. Don received the William LeFeber Sportsman Award at the 2012 Internats in Charleston, SC.

In addition, Don enjoys Record Trial competition, setting 25 IMPBA speed records in Nitro and FE. He was the first to officially run over 100 MPH in FE Scale Unlimited – a record he has held since 2012. He also holds five other unbroken FE records in Sport Hydro and Scale (as of 2024).

Don is a master craftsman in building boats – especially his beautiful Scale boats – and is known for his saying, "Thou shall not run ugly boats!". He developed a compact remote fuel needle base which is still popular with Nitro racers worldwide.

Don is a member of RAMBO club in Virginia. He has been an asset and advisor to IMPBA for many years, and we wish to recognize his dedication to promoting the hobby and serving the organization.



Chris Rupley

Chris Rupley (No. 19471) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2024. He joined a local club and the IMPBA in 2004, and served in positions at the local, district, and national level, including two terms as IMPBA President (2013 through 2018).

Chris was District 2 Gas Director in 2006 and ran a Gas points series for many years. He then became District 2 Director in 2008, and also served as National Gas Director (2009-2016). His focus became growing the Gas side of the hobby, and promoting the Shootout Format for Gas Nationals starting in 2010.

Chris served as CD at many events (Gas, Nitro and FE), and although a serious competitor, he often scratched his own entries to assist with events. He began competing at National events in 2007, placing in the top 3 regularly. Chris holds 6 National Championships (*as of 2024*), and won a US-1 for LSG 27 Sport Hydro in 2010. He was the Johnny Ber Sportsman Award recipient in 2017. He holds an archived record for 1/3 Mile Oval for LS27 Sport Hydro class set in 2007.

Chris worked with a group to encourage the use of the optional 5-buoy turns for safety and reduced collisions. He and a group of racers introduced the rule to define Gas classifications by displacement, which allowed changes of parts and greatly expanded manufacturing options, and allowed “the tinkerers to tinker”.

Chris continues to be an active Past President, always willing to be a sounding board and assist where needed. While he enjoys winning a race, nothing makes him happier than to see the excitement of a competitor take his first win. We honor his dedication to the IMPBA organization and the hobby.



Mike Betke

Mike Betke (No. 8800) was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2025. He joined the IMPBA in 1974, at age 8, as a Junior member, and has competitively raced Nitro powered R/C Hydroplanes at IMPBA events for more than 40 years.

Mike is well recognized as a worthy competitor, and as of 2025, he holds National Champion titles in A Hydro, B Hydro, and 1/8 Scale. He holds four (4) of the coveted Indy Masters Green Jackets, along with other Hydro Masters trophies and special awards. He has been the District 2 Sport 40 and 1/8th Scale High Points Champion.

Mike has set many records in the Sport 20 and Sport 40 classes with his scratch-built designs, and has repeatedly set the Sport 40 1/3-mile oval course record since 2000.

Mike has served the organization at both the national and local level to promote Nitro and Gas racing. He has served as Contest Director for both local and national events, and currently serves as the National Nitro Director (since 2016).

At the local level, Mike has served terms as President & Vice-President of the Oakland-Wolverine Model Boat Club.

Mike’s father, and his son, Rob, are also involved in the hobby. Mike and his father, Jerry, designed and developed custom competition Betke Outrigger Hydros for 12, 21, 40, 60 & 80 classes. Each class incorporated unique design characteristic modifications needed for size. He has also designed and built turn fins and hardware that have helped resolve many issues with many hydros.

Mike is always willing to help others in setting up or tuning their boats. He especially enjoys helping new boaters. IMPBA is pleased to list him among the best of the best.



Kevin Sheren

Kevin Sheren (No. 7296) was inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2025. He joined the IMPBA in 1980 as a member of the former Lansing Model Boat Club, and later joined the Saginaw Bay Model Boat Club, making him a nearly 50-year IMPBA member.

Kevin served as National Gas Director in 2006-2008, while simultaneously serving as District 2 Director in 2007-2008. He was an active board member who made many positive rule updates. He was heavily involved in getting the very popular Classic Thunderboat class added, was responsible for updating the Super Sport engine rules, and also petitioned the IMPBA Board to create a Gas Nationals Sportsman Award in honor of Johnny Ber. Kevin is proud to have won the first National title in the Super Sport Mono class.

Kevin was elected as IMPBA President, and served two terms (2009 - 2010) (2011 – 2012) during which he introduced an updated IMPBA website which including a forum for each district, and the first online membership sign-up process. He was instrumental in the cleanup of the rulebook, and in getting an updated version on the website. He instituted the lifetime member cards we still use today.

Kevin has always worked to get new people into the hobby-- he has built boats just to give away to new guys thinking about joining the model boating world -- and has more than once given away a new hull to a father and son that were just spectators at a race.

Kevin enjoys competing, has attended many National events, and rarely misses District races. He has served as Contest Director for several Gas Nationals where he especially enjoyed meeting members from all over the Nation.

Kevin's dedication to the hobby and to the organization makes this a well-deserved honor.