

TOWA

The Official Publication of the **Texas Outdoor Writers Association**

TOWA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TOWA Bylaws to be Updated, Revamped

David Sikes, TOWA President

This has been a trying month. The Board of Directors is attempting to better define the executive director duties while improving the checks and balances needed to boost credibility in the organization.

To do this we must alter the bylaws. And to alter the bylaws we must have the approval from voting members of TOWA.

To do that we have decided to conduct a vote. In compliance with the bylaws this vote must occur at a general membership meeting. Because the full membership of the association meets once a year in February, the board of directors decided to schedule a summer meeting to expedite the process.

This posting of proposed changes to the bylaws represents the 30-day notice required in the bylaws. This meeting will be scheduled at a location yet to be determined. But realistically we do not expect attendance to be high but members may vote by proxy. The language you read in this proposal of changes to the bylaws will appear on a ballot, which will be sent to each TOWA member soon, either by email, U.S. Postal Service or by other electronic means. Upon receiving your ballot, please read carefully these proposed changes and submit your vote.

Also included in this referendum are two new membership categories suggested by TOWA members. This also requires a general membership vote.

I know this is a lot to absorb. It's certainly been a lot for the board to consider. But we feel these changes are necessary for TOWA to advance and excel. Hopefully you agree.



Galveston, Oh Galveston!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEB. 14 -16 and plan to join in the fun at Galveston for the 2013 TOWA Annual Conference.

The Hilton at the San Luis Resort is going to be a fantastic host hotel. Honored with the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award in 2009, the hotel presents first-class accommodations and excellent service. Besides ample meeting room, there is an outdoor Jacuzzi, a pool with a seasonal swim-up bar, an on-site fitness facility and a variety of dining options. The sleeping rooms are well appointed, clean and comfortable.

At the Great Storm Theater you can see showings of The Pirate Island of Jean Lafitte, as well as an unforgettable film about the great storm of 1900. Harbor tours, carriage rides, ghost hunting and ample opportunities to shop 'til you drop provide something for everyone. Last, but not least, everyone should plan to visit the new Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier.

The San Luis Pass is not far south of the city. Be sure to bring a rod and reel and set aside some time to get out on the water.

— Jonette Childs, Site Selection Chair

PROPOSED CHANGES IN BYLAWS ARE IN BLACK; EXISTING BYLAWS ARE IN RED:

Article V: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The executive director will serve at the pleasure of the board of directors as a contract worker. The board of directors will decide on the contractor's pay in accordance with the bylaws.

Job Duties of the executive director shall include but are not limited to:

The executive director will:

- a) Serve as the primary spokesperson for TOWA.
- b) Maintain all TOWA records at a central office and current mailing address for TOWA (a P.O. Box is preferred) Keys to the P.O. Box will be kept by at least two other TOWA officers.
- c) Maintain a TOWA email address and phone line (could be an online number to create a permanent number). Phone and email privileges are solely for TOWA use and proprietary. All

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TOWA News is published monthly by the Texas Outdoor Writers Association and edited by Susan L. Ebert. Layout by SusanEbertink, SusanEbertink@gmail.com. Contributors are urged to submit material by the 15th of each month. For advertising information, contact Susan L. Ebert at (512) 431-2013 or SusanEbertink@gmail.com. TOWA News is emailed to members and mailed first class, if requested, from Porter, Texas. TOWA was formed in 1958 as a professional/social organization for those who communicate about hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits, as well as those in business and industry connected with the outdoors.



The TOWA Newsletter is proudly sponsored by Gulf States Toyota. For information, go to www.buyatoyota.com.



- d) Write and distribute news releases. These must be approved by board of directors. News releases should be sent to an approved list of outdoor publications, TV stations and newspapers to announce winners of the EIC awards, to announce winners of the student writing contest and when TOWA members distinguish themselves and the organization by gaining recognition or reaching significant career benchmarks.
- e) Solicit prospective active and supporting members.
- f) Manage electronic membership database and printed directory to be distributed at annual conference. The ED is responsible for sending out statements to members for annual dues and conference registration. All documents on membership dues and conference registration are subject to scrutiny by no fewer than three qualified designees. All documents, lists, membership contact information is the property of TOWA and shall not be distributed without approval of the board of directors.g) Work with board of directors, president and treasurer to plan annual budget, and present to general membership at the annual conference. And outside CPA will reconcile financial records at least twice annually on Jan. 1 and Aug. 1 and delivered to the board of directors within 10 working days.
- h) Help plan annual conference with the conference committee and program chairs.
- i) Coordinate with conference committee when asked to assign duties for each element of the annual conference. Act as general manager of the annual conference including registration and onsite duties, logistics, meal counts (could be shared responsibility with conference committee).
- j) Solicit conference sponsors and vendors.
- k) Communicate with and monitor all committee chairs and programs as needed.
- l) Inform committee chairs of needed reports and collect handout materials

in advance of board meetings for copying and distribution.

m) Oversee all TOWA publications as needed, including working with the newsletter editor.

Expenditures
The TOWA board or a majority of the general membership must pre-approve expenditures/intake of funds for amounts more than \$200 with the exception of purchases involving routine office supplies, postage, monthly fees paid to approved contractors and conference expenses less than \$200. Checks require two signatures (treasurer, board chairman or president). Funds received must be recorded and deposited in a timely manner or within 10 working day from receipt.
The executive director may attend the conferences of other organizations or educational workshops at TOWA's expense approved by a majority vote of the board of directors. A written list of objective and a written report must follow each approved trip funded by TOWA.

Article III DUTIES OF OFFICERS

TOWA treasurer will serve as the primary bookkeeper for TOWA. Treasurer is a contracted paid position with duties that include but are not limited to:

- a) Manage banking and act as the main consultant on the annual budget with the executive director.
- b) Work with CPA to prepare tax returns and other IRS requirements to maintain legal status with government, including nonprofit requirements OR provide such materials to a contract CPA for periodic reviews and to maintain good legal and financial standing with all state and federal government agencies.
- c) Reconcile bank statements and oversee accounting separately from the Executive Director.
- d) Manage all monies at the annual conference.
- e) Provide monthly balance statements to designated TOWA board members.
- f) Obtain bond for the maximum amount of association assets. Cost of the bond to be paid by the association.

Article V EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The executive director is employed by the association and serves at the pleasure of the board. The executive director's major

responsibilities are, for the most part, defined as follows:

Supervise and review all association publications, including the monthly TOWA News, annual membership directory, and annual conference program. Ensure content accuracy and timely distribution of these publications within budget and according to specifications to be approved annually by the board. Manage public relations for TOWA, including writing and distributing news releases and serving as primary spokesperson for the association. Plan annual operating and capital budgets for the association, including ED expenses, with assistance from the treasurer, president and board chairman. Track expenditures and present a quarterly expense report to the president. Provide counsel for members, guidance for directors and committee chairs and advice in settlement of complaints and/or disputes involving members and their media markets.

Negotiate with hotels, banquet managers, convention bureaus and supporting members to ensure smooth-running and cost-effective annual conference. In addition, the executive director is expected to:

- a) Obtain bond for the maximum amount of association assets within his (her) authority. Cost of the bond to be paid by the association.
- b) Attend the annual conference and other conferences that the board might wish, with all conference expenses paid by TOWA. Prior authorization from the board is required for conference attendance other than TOWA.
- c) Assist the president and/or board chairman in the preparation of all meeting agendas. Inform committee chairs of needed reports and collect handout materials in advance of meetings for copying and distribution.
- d) Recruit active, associate and sustaining members.
- e) Furnish storage for and maintain TOWA records.
- f) Provide a central office.
- g) Be responsible for registration and meal counts at the annual conference.
- h) Assist the president with committee selections.
- i) Implement other duties and responsibilities as needed or

determined by the board of directors.

Current Treasurer duties in TOWA Bylaws

Treasurer; The treasurer shall be responsible for oversight of the association's financial affairs. The treasurer will follow the Texas Secretary of State's guidelines for such a position. The treasurer will work in coordination with the president, chairman of the board and executive director in all matters concerning the finances of the association. He shall present the association's financial review at the annual meeting and at board meetings as requested by the board chairman.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS Under Article I; Membership

Classifications; Active Addendum to No 8 (Information): The classification includes any board approved unpaid volunteer who provides communication and educational services to an outdoor or conservation nonprofit group. This is a flexible category. Candidates for this category must pass the scrutiny of the membership committee and board of directors.

11) Retired member (New Category).

This membership category is available to any former active member in good standing who may no longer fulfill the publication quotas outlined in the bylaws for their professional discipline. Retired members enjoy the full benefits and privileges of active membership. Annual dues are the same as required for active membership.

EXPLANATIONS OF OTHER DUTIES AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Newsletter Editor: We have removed the newsletter responsibilities from the ED duties. This will result in an additional monthly expense if we maintain the status quo. Duties include some writing and editing, compiling stories and calendar items, selling ads, designing and distributing a monthly newsletter electronically. The CPA expense is not new, but possibly could increase because of increased oversight and duties. We expect this annual expense to range from \$750 to \$1,250. Duties would include but would not be limited to twice annual financial check-ups, filing franchise tax and income tax.

TOWA JOB OPENINGS

All TOWA positions are open to all members in good standing, plus qualified nonmembers.

Candidates are subject to a criminal background check and must provide employment history and references.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Qualifications include computer literacy in bookkeeping software, Excel, Internet skills, writing and editing proficiency, conflict resolution skills, public relations and organizational skills.

Please read carefully the proposed ED duties, which represent a change in the bylaws. To be adopted the proposal must be passed by majority vote of the general membership.

Please note this is a one-year trial position. At the end of a year the ED duties could change after review by the board of directors, with suggestions from the membership welcome.

Contractor's fee: negotiable

TOWA TREASURER

Qualifications include computer literacy in bookkeeping software, Excel, Internet skills and organizational skills.

Please read carefully the proposed Treasurer duties, which represent a change in the bylaws. To be adopted the proposal must be passed by majority vote of the general membership.

Please note this is a one-year trial position. At the end of a year the Treasurer duties could change after review by the board of directors, with suggestions from the membership welcome.

Contractor's fee: negotiable

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Qualifications include proficiency in newsletter design software, writing/editing skills, newsletter experience a plus.

Please read the newsletter editor duties.

Contractor's fee: negotiable

Applicants for any of the above positions should submit a cover letter and a résumé to:

**John Goodspeed
2226 Encino Loop
San Antonio, TX 78259**

**Or via email to:
john@johngoodspeed.com**

Hobie Mirage Pro Angler 12 Wins ICAST Best of Show

Oceanside, California – July 16, 2012 — Hobie's Mirage Pro Angler 12 has been voted by buyers and media as the most innovative new product of ICAST 2012 in both the overall "Best of Show" and the "Best Boat" categories. Sponsored by Fishing Tackle Retailer, the New Product Showcase is the show's flagship event and was more competitive than ever before. Exhibitors entered over 700 products that were judged on their levels of innovation, execution, workmanship and practicality. The ceremony took place the first night of the show. Morgan Promnitz, Hobie Fishing Product Manager, accepted the coveted award on behalf of the whole Hobie Cat Team.

Long known for their expertise in building watercraft, Hobie Cat introduced the Hobie Mirage Pro Angler 12 fishing boat in March of this year. They took the defining feature used in their kayak line, the patented MirageDrive® pedal system, and combined it with their proven boat-designing capabilities to build this no-gas required, 100-percent fishing machine. Ever since, the boat has been selling as fast as it can be produced. Winning the ICAST awards reflects both the individual success of the Pro Angler 12 as well as the spiraling growth of the small boat/kayak fishing markets, markets in which Hobie is gaining strength and leadership.

ICAST, the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, is the world's largest sportfishing tradeshow and was held in Orlando, Florida, July 11 -14. There were 9,000 show attendees including more than 3,000 buyers and 760 media in attendance.

Since 1950, Hobie has been in the business of shaping a unique lifestyle based around fun, water, and quality products. From their headquarters in Oceanside, California, Hobie Cat Company manufactures, distributes, and markets an impressive collection of watercraft worldwide. These include an ever-expanding line of recreational and racing sailboats; pedal-driven and paddle sit-on-top kayaks; fishing boats, and kayaks; and authorized parts and accessories. For more information, contact Ingrid Niehaus at (949) 499-2225 or via email at ingridn2@mindspring.com.



The Hobie Mirage Pro Angler 12, winner of the prestigious ICAST Best of Show, is selling as fast as it can be produced, a reflection of Hobie's passion for shaping a unique lifestyle around fun, water and quality products.

Texas Teens Must Take Boating Education Classes Before Operating Watercraft

AUSTIN — State game wardens are seeing a spate of mishaps on popular lakes this summer involving teen boat operators who have not taken mandatory boater education.

While the new law became effective last year, Texas Parks and Wildlife law enforcement officials say many teens and their parents are still unaware of the required certification. A serious boating accident in Central Texas last weekend illustrates a tragic scenario game wardens are hoping can be avoided with proper education.

The accident occurred on Inks Lake in Llano County on Saturday, July 21, and involved a collision between a pair of personal watercraft; one operated by a 14-year-old male and the other by a 16-year-old male with a 16-year-old female passenger. Witnesses responded to aid the injured and called 911. The 14-year-old was air-lifted to Dell Children's Hospital in Austin.

The operators did not know each other and all were wearing required personal flotation devices, however, neither operator had taken the mandatory boater ed course. The parent/guardians were not aware of the age restriction and need of a boater education course or needing to accompany the operators.

The mandatory boater education law requires anyone born on or after Sept. 1, 1993 who operates a vessel with a motor of more than 15 horsepower or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length take the course or be accompanied by someone 18 or older who meets the boater education requirements or is exempt by age. Accompany means onboard the craft. While all boaters are encouraged to take boating safety education, those born before Sept. 1, 1993, are exempt from required certification.

Texas' state-approved boater education courses are available as one-day classroom training or online. The classroom course takes about six hours to complete and the online course has a three hour time commitment. Costs start at \$20 for both courses. Information about boater education, including schedules of upcoming classroom courses, is available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education/.

Boaters falling under the boater education requirement will be required to carry a valid ID and documentation of having taken and passed a boater education course. Failure to meet the requirements is a Class C misdemeanor, and violators have 90 days to complete a boater education course to have the charges dismissed.

TEXAS HUNTERS GEAR UP FOR THE HUNTERS EXTRAVAGANZA

As August rolls around and hunters start taking regular trips to check on blinds, fill feeders and set out Cuddeback trail cameras, hunters can count on one thing: The Hunters Extravaganza trade shows, produced by Texas Trophy Hunters Association (TTHA), will officially kick off the beginning of hunting season. The 2012 Hunters Extravaganza shows take place in Houston, Fort Worth and San Antonio. The Houston Hunters Extravaganza at the Reliant Center kicks off the three major shows on the weekend of August 3-5, 2012, and is followed by the Fort Worth Extravaganza® at the Will Rogers Center, August 17-19, 2012 and the San Antonio Extravaganza® at the Alamodome, August 24-26, 2012.

Showcasing more gear, guides and outfitters than ever before, the Hunters Extravaganzas prepare the Texas hunter with everything needed to hunt that trophy whitetail buck of a lifetime. As the Hunters Extravaganza grows bigger year after year, TTHA continues to bring exciting contests, celebrities and attractions.

Each show will feature great attractions and Outdoor Celebrities available for autographs and photos. Among the celebrities to keep a look out for: Trophy Hunters TV host and 9-time UFC Champion, Matt Hughes; Don & Kandi Kisky - Nikon Pro-Staffers & stars of Whitetail Freaks TV Show; Jase Robertson, star of Duck Dynasty TV Show; "Dr. Deer," James Kroll, PhD of Institute for White-Tailed Deer Management & Research; "Mr. Whitetail" Larry Weishuhn, wildlife biologist and star of the new upcoming show Trailing the Hunters Moon; and Alex Rutledge star of Bloodline TV.

Attendees can try their hand at the TTHA Championship 3D Archery Tournament plus see the biggest and best trophy mounts from last season in the Annual Deer Competition sponsored by Nikon, Cuddeback, and Big & J Industries. Kids will love the Lone Star Bowhunters Youth Archery Range, the Texas Junior Anglers Catch Fish Pond and Joe Martin's Snakes of Texas! The Hunters Extravaganza is truly fun for the whole family.

Everyone who walks in the door can register for FREE prizes in the Locked and Loaded Big Gear Giveaway, including a HuntVe Utility vehicle, and many other great prizes.

The Hunters Extravaganza show hours for all locations will be Friday 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The ticket prices are \$10 for adults; \$5 for teens 13-17, while children 12 and under get in free. Members of Texas Trophy Hunters Association get in FREE on Friday. In honor of our servicemen and servicewomen, Active Military personnel who show their ID get in free all three days.

The Hunters Extravaganza is sponsored by Nikon Sport Optics, Mossy Oak Camo, and Cuddeback Digital Scouting Cameras, Barnes Bullets, Ten Point Crossbows, Browning, Big & J Industries, Ammo To Go, and Otis Technology. For more information, visit TTHA.com.



Bass Pro Shops Renews Sponsorship of National Hunting & Fishing Day

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (July 19, 2011) — Bass Pro Shops has renewed its sponsorship of National Hunting and Fishing Day that is set to take place September 24, 2011.

Each year NHF Day asks a renowned outdoorsman to serve as honorary chair, and this year businessman T. Boone Pickens will be serving that role.

In this role, Boone Pickens helps deliver the message of conservation throughout the hunting and fishing communities, which always takes place on the fourth Saturday in September.

Pickens is one of America's most prominent and influential businessmen. He is a top authority on world energy issues, president and CEO of the investment firm BP Capital Management and founder of Mesa Petroleum. Pickens is the author of "The First Billion is the Hardest" and "Boone Pickens: The Luckiest Guy in the World." Pickens also is a noted philanthropist with gifts to charitable causes exceeding \$700 million.

The sponsorship support of Bass Pro Shops helps support Wonders of Wildlife museum—the official home of National Hunting and Fishing Day. The Springfield, Mo., facility oversees educational initiatives to help the American public understand the indelible relationship between hunting, angling, healthy habitat, and wildlife and fisheries conservation.

"Johnny Morris and all of us here at Bass Pro Shops and Tracker Marine are really proud and honored to be a part of this effort to make more people aware of our time-honored traditions of hunting and fishing," said, Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Marine Communications Manager Larry Whiteley. "We hope that through NHF Day as well as the free outdoor skills classes we hold in our stores across America and Canada, more people will discover the grand sports of hunting and fishing."

"National Hunting and Fishing Day and Bass Pro Shops teaming together to promote wildlife conservation simply makes sense," said Misty Mitchell, Director of Conservation Programs, Wonders of Wildlife. "We are excited to have them as sponsors to NHF Day. Their support is a testament to their continued support of outdoorsman around the country."

Congress formalized NHF Day in 1972 to remind the public that conservation depends on funding and leadership from hunters and anglers. Every U.S. President from Richard Nixon through Barack Obama has issued official proclamations of support for the annual commemoration, now recognized as one of the most effective grassroots campaigns ever undertaken to promote traditional outdoor sports.

Sponsors for NHF Day 2011 continues to grow, and includes Wonders of Wildlife, NSSF, Bass Pro Shops, Smith & Wesson, Sportsman's Channel, Realtree, Cabela's, GunBroker.com, Yamaha, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Izaak Walton League of America and Pope and Young Club.

For more information about NHF Day, visit www.nhfd.org or contact Kevin Jarnagin, Blue Heron Communications, at (800) 654-3766 or via email at Kevin@blueheroncomm.com.

TOYOTA TEXAS BASS CLASSIC CONCERTS FEATURE DIERKS BENTLEY, GARY ALLAN & JAKE OWEN

Limited quantity of free tickets available for Sept. 28-30

CONROE, TEXAS (JULY 25, 2012) – The Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) will bring an exciting lineup with some of country music’s biggest artists to Conroe for free! The Toyota Texas Bass Classic will take place Sept. 28-30 at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center and concerts will be headlined by Dierks Bentley on Friday, Sept. 28, Gary Allan on Saturday, Sept. 29 and Jake Owen on Sunday, Sept. 30.

“Having this trio of country artists at TTBC is exciting,” said Tournament Director Lenny Francoeur. “Combined with the championship fishing, outdoor expos and the new BBQ Cook-Off, TTBC has evolved into a world-class event, and we can’t wait to return to Conroe this year and bring it all together.”

Limited quantities of free tickets are available this year to the three-day outdoor music festival and professional bass fishing world championship. Fans can obtain free tickets online now at toyotatexasbassclassic.com, while supplies last. Tickets are available for Friday, Saturday and Sunday individually. Beginning Aug. 15 fans can pick up TTBC tickets at any Toyota dealership or Academy Sports + Outdoors location in the greater Houston area. Walk-up tickets the day of the event will require a donation towards the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and all days are subject to sell out.

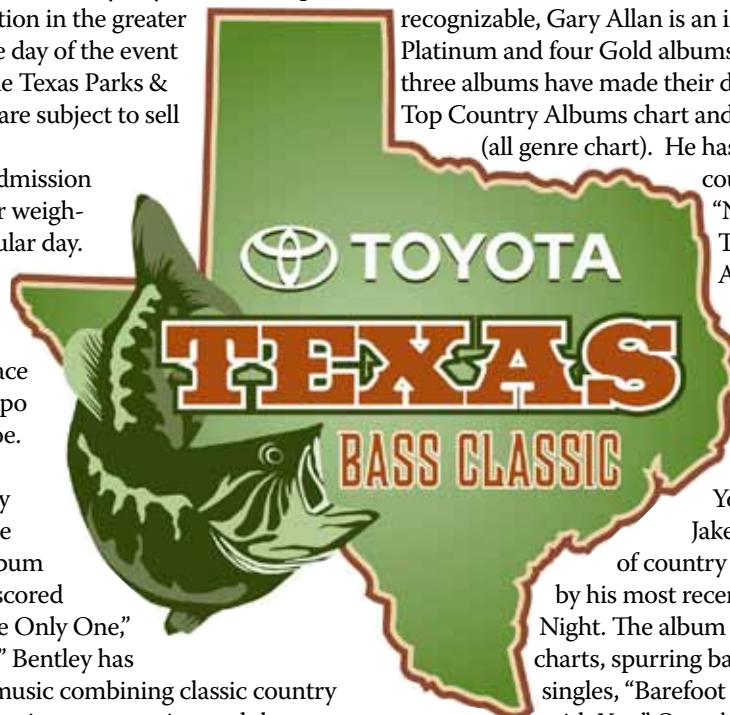
The daily tickets are valid for admission into the festival grounds for angler weigh-ins and the concert on that particular day. All activities, including concerts, weigh-ins, Reliant Outdoor Adventures Area and Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Expo will take place at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center’s festival grounds in Conroe.

CMA Award winning singer-songwriter Dierks Bentley recently released his sixth Capitol Nashville studio album HOME. The new album debuted at No. 1 and has already scored three chart-topping hits “Am I The Only One,” “5-1-5-0” and the anthem “Home.” Bentley has forged his own brand of country music combining classic country songwriting, influences of bluegrass instrumentation and the energy of rock & roll. His five previous studio albums have earned 10 Grammy nominations, sold over five million albums and scored 10 No. 1 hits. Bentley is a member of the Grand Ole Opry and recently wrapped his headlining Country & Cold Cans Tour which made stops earlier this year in the U.S., Canada and Australia.

A stand-out singer-songwriter whose unique style is instantly



Keith Combs, 2011 Toyota Texas Bass Classic Winner



recognizable, Gary Allan is an industry veteran who has three Platinum and four Gold albums to his credit. Two of his last three albums have made their debut at No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums chart and No. 2 on the Billboard 200 (all genre chart). He has released four No. 1 singles to

country radio (“Man To Man,” “Nothing On But The Radio,” “Tough Little Boys” and “Watching Airplanes”) and over a dozen top-10 hits. His guitar-driven, rocked-laced country style dominated his latest album, *Get Off on the Pain*, and will again be his calling-card on his forthcoming studio album, *Set You Free*, due early 2013.

Jake Owen has quickly become one of country music’s hottest acts, catapulted by his most recent release, *Barefoot Blue Jean Night*. The album hit No. 1 on the U.S. Country charts, spurring back to back multi-week No. 1 singles, “Barefoot Blue Jean Night” and “Alone with You.” Owen’s first top-5 hit was 2008’s “Don’t Think I Can’t Love You,” off *Easy Does It*. He is currently touring with Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw on the Brothers of The Sun Stadium Tour.

On Saturday, Sept. 29, Houston-based band Southern Slang will perform prior to the second round fishing weigh-in. Formed in 2010, Southern Slang plays a mix of classic and southern rock

and blues. They recently won the Houston Business Journal Battle of the Business Bands.

The 2012 TTBC will also host a 50-angler field, assembled from the top professional leagues in the world, including the PAA Bass Pro Shops Tournament Series, Bassmaster Elite Series and the Walmart FLW Tour. The format has created a true bass fishing world championship.

The Lone Star Convention & Expo Center is a state-of-the-art facility conveniently located minutes from Lake Conroe and The Woodlands and only 40 minutes north of Houston. The location offers easy access to event activities, local shops and restaurants. For more information visit thelonestar.org.

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic tournament functions are operated by the Professional Anglers Association with technical assistance and support from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division. Title sponsor for the event is Toyota. Other sponsors include: Ricoh, ATX Wheels, Coca-Cola, TXU and U.S. Reel. Corporate partnership opportunities are available for 2012. For additional information, visit toyotatexasbassclassic.com or call 1-866-907-0143. For more information, contact Lenny Francoeur, Tournament Director, at (479) 715-6103 or via email at lenny@toyotatexasbassclassic.com, or Adam Harris, Marketing & Communications Director, at (919) 531-0500 or via email at adam@toyotatexasbassclassic.com.



Jake Owen



Gary Allan



Dierks Bentley

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Boating In The Age Of Ethanol Can Bring Challenges, Issues

There are a fair number of stories floating around the docks these days of motors that have become ill-tempered and undependable—or even unrunnable—after an extended period of using the gasoline/alcohol blend known as E-10—a mix of 90 percent gasoline, 10 percent ethanol alcohol now found at most service stations nationwide as part of the mandated effort to reduce air pollution.

But according to the makers of most major outboard brands, there should be few issues with using fresh, clean gasoline containing up to 10 percent ethanol in any modern outboard.

A proposal to allow 15 percent ethanol mixes in pump gas would be totally another matter—ALL manufacturers say this stuff would be poison to current outboards, and the NMMA is handing out warning stickers by the thousands to boat dealers to help them make their customers aware.

How bad is E-15? Very bad based on tests concluded in 2011

by Mercury Marine for the U.S. Department of Energy. Two of three outboards run on E-15 in Merc's standard 300-hour, full-throttle endurance test failed to complete the run and showed severe internal damage according to David Hilbert, thermodynamic development engineer for Mercury.

A 300-horse Verado experienced three damaged exhaust valves near the end of the E-15 run, a result which Hilbert says likely came from operating temperatures considerably higher than a similar engine run in the same test on gasoline without any alcohol.

And a 200-horse 2.5 EFI two-stroke in the test had to be shut down after 256 hours due to bearing failure. Hilbert said more testing would be required to determine if the ethanol in the fuel caused a reduction in effective lubrication and brought on the failure, but

Continued on Page Eight

Continued from Page Seven

an identical engine run on standard gasoline had no similar issues throughout the 300-hour WOT run.

So when E-15 arrives at our pumps, we are all going to have to avoid the stuff like ebola-and that can be a bit tricky if the stuff is everywhere, as E-10 is now, and especially if no-ethanol gas and E-10 become hard to find.

And in fact even E-10 is not all that good for marine engines. Where things get a little sticky with E-10, literally, is when old fuel is used, when fuel remains in your boat tanks for months, or when the mix of ethanol exceeds 10 percent, as tests have occasionally shown it does at some service stations.

If an older rig with a fiberglass tank or certain types of rubber or plastic hoses is fueled with E-10, the alcohol may cause damage to some of these components, and alcohol is a great solvent--it literally dissolves the build-up on interior fuel system surfaces, and this stuff can sometimes cause issues with a motor that would not have any problem whatever with the alcohol feeding through a clean, new fuel system.

Honda has advised their dealers that dissolved material can clog the in-line fuel filter and also create deposits on injectors, pumps, pressure regulators, carb jets, valves and other engine parts. While none of this may cause an engine failure, they can all result in degrading performance.

Mercury advises owners that fresh, clean E-10 from a clean fuel system is fine for all motors built in the last 15 years, at minimum. And Yamaha also says E-10 should cause no harm to their motors, though they do advise adding a 10-micron filter to your fuel line to help get rid of sludge or water that may occur in ethanol blend fuels.

Alcohol-blend fuels attract and retain water. If you leave your boat setting outside through most of the winter, the frequent heating and cooling of the air space inside the tank results in condensation, which can build up. It might cause a steel tank to rust, and if the motor starts

picking up separated water, it might cause rust problems inside the cylinders, dilution of the oil bathing the rings, and misfiring, among other issues.

What are the hints that your motor may be getting a bad diet? The first warning is an engine that stalls or misses badly when you try to accelerate. Stumbling at idle or trolling speed can also be a hint. Fuel filters that clog frequently are another sign that you have contaminated fuel that could be the result of excess alcohol, or of varnish-like materials dissolved from your fuel tank or hoses by that alcohol.

How do you protect your motor?

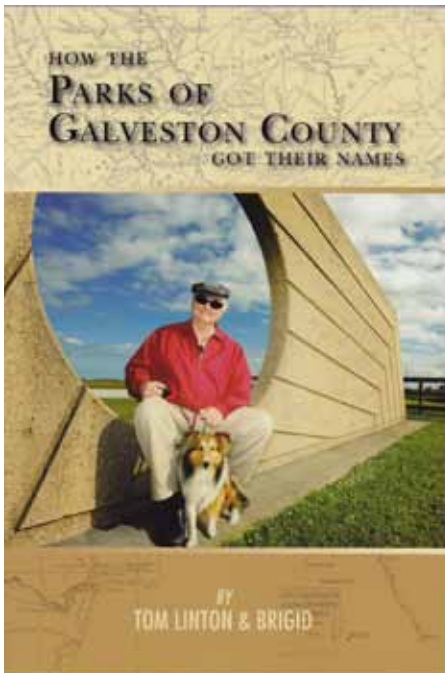
1. Buy your fuel at high-volume stations where there's frequent turnover; this is likely to avoid build up of condensation in the storage tanks.
2. Avoid storing your boat with a near-empty tank. The less gasoline there is inside, the more space there is for condensation.
3. Avoid running your boat down to near empty; the pickup line is more likely to suck in water or gunk washed off the tank walls when the tank is near empty.
4. Install an extra water-separating fuel filter in your fuel line.
5. Use a fuel stabilizer if your boat is to be stored for more than a few weeks.

If you're concerned that your fuel may have excess alcohol content, you can order a gasoline/alcohol tester from the American Honda Parts Department, or from www.fueltestkit.com, among other sources. These kits allow you to test a small sample of gasoline and determine how much alcohol it has in it, as well as whether it's contaminated with water.

And fuel stabilizers, including those available from all major outboard makers as well as from companies like ValvTect, www.ValvTect.com, can help in improving fuel life when stored for long periods.

— Frank Sargeant, the Fishing Wire

TOWA MEMBER NEWS



TOWA member Tom Linton's new book "How the Parks of Galveston County Got their Names" should be required reading for 2013 Conference attendees! Contact Linton at sapeloga@msn.com to buy a copy.

MAGAZINE SEEKS WRITING TALENT

Texas Bowhunters Journal, whose editors say is already in the fast lane to achieving its goal as the premiere outdoor magazine in Texas, is looking for new writers to join their team.

Many TOWA members met Mary Bone and Michael Middleton, the magazine's editorial leaders, at our 2012 annual conference and already know of the excellent work they have done in producing a colorful and informative magazine that offers writers many article and photographic opportunities.

Check them out at texasbowhunter.com, a website that began in 1998 that already has more than 25,000 registered members and which has since joined the print media with *Texas Bowhunters Journal*.

Writers who are interested in submitting articles to the magazine should email Mary Bone at mary@texasbowhunter.com.

CALENDAR

August 3-5 — Houston Hunters Extravaganza at Reliant Center

August 17-19 — Fort Worth Hunters Extravaganza at the Will Rogers Center

August 24-26 — San Antonio Hunters Extravaganza at the Alamodome

Sept. 1-Oct. 24 and Dec. 22-Jan. 6, 2013 — Dove Seasons in the North and Central Zones

Sept. 15-30 — September Teal Season

Sept. 21-Oct. 28 and Dec. 22-Jan. 22, 2013 — Dove Season in the South Zone

Sept. 28-30 — Toyota Texas Bass Classic at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center, Conroe

Sept. 30 — TOWA Board of Directors meeting, Galveston, Texas. Any interested members are invited to attend. This meeting will also be the date of the General Membership Meeting to vote on the bylaws changes outlined in this edition of the TOWA newsletter. Ballots will be mailed or distributed electronically to all members.

Feb. 14-16, 2013 — Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun for the 2013 TOWA Annual Conference, at the Hilton at the San Luis Resort in Galveston. Details to follow in the September TOWA newsletter.