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Newsletter - May 2026

Hello Ash

Welcome to the North American Blokart Sailing Association, your central hub for everything Blokart across the continent.

Stay informed with the latest event updates, relive the action through race recaps, pick up practical Tech Tips, and keep pace with new developments in the Blokart world.



2026 NABSA Officers & Positions

The NABSA Annual Meeting was held on March 30th, the first day of the Ivanpah event, at Alex's Mexican Restaurant.

Neil Foley ran the meeting very efficiently, with members discussing key updates and future plans for the association in a positive and productive atmosphere. It was a great opportunity for sailors to connect off the playa and contribute to the continued growth of NABSA and blokart sailing in North America.

Your NABSA Board for 2026

Jeff Bugbee - President

Aiden Schmiedlin - Vice President

Fran Gramkowski - Treasurer

Vacancy - Secretary

Dave Lussier - IBRA Rep/RC Chair

John Wright - Rec Fleet Chair

Ralph Raymond - Social Media Chair

Frank Small - East Coast Rep

Vacancy - Midwest Rep

Steve Irby - Pacific NW Rep

Ash Rawson - Membership Circulation

Mike Dinning - East Coast Rep



Ivanpah 2026 Wrap-up

This year's North American Blokart Sailing Championships proved to be an outstanding success, delivering an unforgettable week of racing, camaraderie, in classic Lake Ivanpah conditions.

Competitors were treated to fantastic winds every day, creating fast, exciting, and highly competitive racing across all classes. From the first race to the final flag, sailors enjoyed world-class conditions that showcased the very best of blokart sailing.

Beyond the racing itself, the event was defined by the incredible atmosphere both on and off the playa. A large recreational sailing group joined the racers throughout the week, helping create a welcoming and inclusive environment for sailors of all experience levels.

The championship was professionally run from start to finish, with smooth race management, excellent organisation, and a strong volunteer effort ensuring everything operated seamlessly. Off the course, sailors and supporters gathered each evening for relaxed cookouts, sharing stories, laughs, and plenty of good times together.

The week concluded with a polished and memorable awards ceremony, celebrating not only the champions but also the spirit of sportsmanship and community that makes the North American Championships such a special event.

For everyone involved, it was a fantastic reminder of why blokart sailing continues to bring together such a passionate and supportive international community.

Results: <https://www.sailwave.com/results/2026-Blokart-NAC.htm>



Blaklader

A huge thank you to **Blaklader Workwear** for their generous support of this year's event. Thanks to their contribution, our placegetters walked away with an incredible range of premium apparel and gear, adding even more excitement to the prizegiving celebrations.

Special thanks also to Neil Foley for coordinating the partnership and ensuring NABSA delivered strong visibility for Blåkläder across our social media channels throughout the event. Their support and collaboration are greatly appreciated.



Ivanpah Rec n Crew

One of the standout highlights of this year's Ivanpah event was the incredible success of the inaugural Recreational Fleet gathering. Alongside the championship racing, recreational sailors brought a fantastic energy to the playa, creating a welcoming and social atmosphere that perfectly reflected the spirit of Blokart sailing.

For many participants, the Rec. Fleet was an opportunity to meet new sailors, share experiences, enjoy relaxed cruising sessions, and simply take in the spectacular

conditions Lake Ivanpah had to offer. The combination of great winds, open sailing, evening cookouts, and camaraderie made the week memorable for everyone involved.

The positive feedback from attendees has already sparked planning for 2027, with organiser John Wright committed to making the experience even bigger and better.

The enthusiasm surrounding the Rec. Fleet has shown there is strong interest in creating a dedicated space for sailors who want to enjoy the social and recreational side of the sport alongside the competitive racing programme. With the momentum already building, the 2027 gathering is shaping up to be something special.



Sail World Article

The North American Blokart Championships gained fantastic international exposure this year, with Sail-World.com featuring the event in a dedicated article complete with stunning photography.

The coverage helped showcase the excitement of Blokart sailing to a massive global audience, with Sail World attracting an estimated 220,000–300,000 monthly users and generating up to 600,000 monthly visits. A fantastic result for promoting both the championship and the sport worldwide.

Link to the story [HERE](#)





Ivanpah Cookouts

A fond memory many of us share from Ivanpah is that first cookout. As the day's racing gave way to evening light, competitors gathered on the playa to enjoy good food, swap stories, and unwind together. The sense of community was unmistakable.

The Schmiedlin family kept the grill going, generously taking on the cooking so NABSA officials could step away from their duties and join the festivities. It was a small gesture that made a big difference, helping everyone feel part of the same shared experience.

The evening closed with a beautiful desert sunset, an ideal backdrop to a moment that captured the spirit of the event.



BlokartGP

Kiwi's - Allister, Kirsty, Mark and Scott hosted two days of exciting BlokartGP racing at Ivanpah this year!

The fresh new racing format with gates rather than marks gave sailors options and tactical opportunities producing close, fast racing.

Organisers were happy with the initial trial of the new software (albeit a few hiccups) which allowed online spectators to track the action in real time.

Congratulations to Eamon McRobbie from New Zealand, the overall winner of the first ever dedicated BlokartGP event!

BGP organisers would like to thank NABSA for allowing the event to fit within the busy

Ivanpah schedule.

Results: [HERE](#)



Primm Closes

Primm Valley Casino Resort at Primm, where the majority of competitors stay during Ivanpah, will permanently close its doors on July 4!

Read More [HERE](#)

Rumour has it, the Jersey boys are thinking about buying Primm and turning it into a Blokart Sailors Retirement Home.



World Record Gold Fork

At last year's North American Blokart Sailing Championships on Lake Ivanpah, New Zealand's Allister Spick set out to break the 24-hour Endurance Record, aiming to surpass the 589.18 km (366.1 mile) mark set in 2022 at Loring Airbase, Maine.

Launching at 7:45am on March 31st, and supported by fellow Kiwi Eamon McRobbie, Allister powered through near-perfect conditions, covering almost 500 km (300 miles) in the first 12 hours alone.

Despite an overnight collision that damaged his kart, Allister pushed on with determination. After 16 hours on the course — and with championship racing still ahead — he made the strategic decision to retire just before midnight, finishing with an outstanding 648 km (402.6 miles).

Blokart International felt it was only fitting the the award was presented where the record was achieved, so one year on, the Blokart Team was proud to present Allister

with a commemorative Gold Fork at the NABSA Award ceremony, honouring his remarkable endurance achievement.



Hotrod

I am very sorry to have to report that our dear friend and sailing buddy, Bobby (Hot Rods) Jepson, has died. Bobby was in an auto accident near his home in Maine. His car hit a telephone pole, which may have occurred after Bobby had a heart attack. Unfortunately, downed power lines delayed responders from getting to the car immediately.

A beautiful funeral service was held for Hotrod in Boston just days before the Spring Regatta, so many attendees had their karts packed and were already en route to Loring. A more informal remembrance will be held during the regatta.

Bobby was truly one of a kind, and we're all going to miss him terribly.

www.nabsa.org



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