

TIRA AWARDS BANQUET IS A SUCCESS

I would like to thank everyone who attended this years TIRA awards banquet. I must say that when I heard the count of 56 for dinner and 59 overall I was absolutely the happiest person in the joint. What this meant to me is that the word is getting out that TIRA is a club that is looking forward and wanting the involvement of their members. We have grown our banquet every year and I think it is time to start looking at other options, The Performance Grill has been wonderful to TIRA and we will always continue to hold our monthly meetings there. But, as I have been saying that we are a team and I heard some really good ideas for next year and after the National meeting and through the earlier part of the year we will look at these and hopefully be able to put something even better together in the future.

The banquet started off with a tribute to Terry and some very nice words from Kip, I new this would be tough but it was a needed piece of closure for 2009, Terry will never be forgotten and it is without a doubt a huge loss for TIRA. After a short intermission for a reload of refreshments Jeff Schneider kicked off the show by reading a letter from the Late George Babcock which he had received as a young boy. This was a great lead into Jeff introducing OUR 2009 George Babcock Award winner and master of ceremonies Kip "Wiener Dog" Brown. Kip had a great 2009 driving and partnering with Jeff "Saint" Bernard and the My Way E-55 team. The team not only took the TIRA High Point Award, Region 10 High Point, a new world record but yep the APBA National High Point Championship. Congrats again to the E-1 My Way Race Team!!! Kip got us rolling with the Rookie of the Year Award –Nick Bonicini, unfortunately Nick was unable to attend along with our Hard Luck Award winner Greg "What's up Dock" Sheard. As Kip reminded us that Greg had a very tough beginning hitting the dock at Lawrence Lake at his very first race in 08, then re-building the boat to come out and scatter a hand full of motors and then to end this year sinking at the dock in Chelan after ejecting the weight bag from the back of the boat during a heat. At least Greg was not the one driving in Chelan, right Marty P? Now that is Hard Luck! The Sportsman Award went to what I think is the best call ever made, this guy does anything for anybody and this sport would be in a world of hurt without him, Justin Weymouth, congrats Justin, it is more than well deserved!!! TIRA introduced a new award this year and we used an old trophy because he is an old guy driving an old boat.

The first ever TIRA Vintage Award winner for 2009 is Steve "Carpet Bagger" Kramer, Steve and I go way back so it has been especially nice for

me to see Steve and Jodi not only back in the sport but becoming a very active part of the club. They field a two boat team of very quality pieces but Steve will be the first to tell you that without the kelp of the Kelson Klan they would not be able to do what they are doing. Way to go! The TIRA 2009 rescue award went to John and Linda Schmidt, not before Scott ripped the mic from Kip and delivery his top 10 reasons why "Boat Racing is better than Sex", it was pretty entertaining. These two very good people who help any way possible, they have been just about everything you can be on the race course and just enjoy being a part of the racing community. It was also nice to see a great turnout of their peers to watch them receive their award, thanks again John and Linda.

We have two awards that we give out every year that you just have to say how do we decide? The first is the Women of the Year Award. Take a second and think about the women we have in this club and the contributions they make race in race out, day in, day out. We have an incredible bunch of ladies but this year we had one the really stuck out, not just in the tummy area for part of the year, or in her orange high visibility vest and flag as the Best Damn Pit Boss. But as a fund raiser, scorer, and registration helper!!! Tiffany Troxell Brown made us all pull up our boot straps and get things done this year. I am very pleased with the trophy committee's choice and Tiffany, we all owe one big thanks for a great job in 2009.

The other is the Roby Ottwell Award, given to the person whose actions and helpfulness are a cut above everyone else. I feel it was an easy choice; this person did everything from setting courses, turn judging, helping in the pits, helping on boats and radio and even to taking a couple laps in a couple boats. I always joke we keep him around because his wife is such a wonderful person when in fact we keep him around because they are such wonderful people. Please help in welcoming our much deserved 2009 Roby Ottwell Award winner, Mr. Jeff Schneider! Way to go my friend.

TIRA has one other award that is given out, it is the Inspirational Award. In 2008 I had the privilege of helping elect the winner and I thought it could not have gone to a better or more deserving person. So when Terry accepted the award last year and I saw the look in his eyes and it made me realize just how much it meant to him. So to win the award this year it was even more special and I am honored to have my name listed under one of the greatest of all times and definitely TIRA's Greatest.

We now move on to 2010, the National Meeting, and hopefully a huge growth in TIRA. This club is about the racers and their families. Please come be a part of this great team and help us grow to new heights. Maybe next year it is your name on the plaque and Kip stuffing the Microphone into

your face (LOL). We always welcome new faces and ideas; just give us the chance to hear your voice. I also need to give another “Big Shout Out” to everyone who helped in the set up and teardown of the banquet area and especially Karl and Debbie for all of their hard work!!!!!! You guys are tops.

From the boat shop:
Your Proud TIRA Dogadore