



April 2024

### **Membership Renewal 2024/2025**

That time of the year again.

Membership subscriptions needed to be renewed by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

[Here is a link to the online form](#)

### **AGM & Summer Series Prize Giving**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7pm Palmseron North Conference and Function Centre**

Arron has agreed to stand for one more year as treasurer. Yeah!

Most of the current committee have agreed to restand. Another yeah!

**BUT** we need at least one or two new committee members to keep the club moving forward and ensure ongoing development of the club.

**WE NEED YOU.**



### **Waiterere Marathon 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> May**

We already have 5 online registrations.

Once we get to 10 the event will be confirmed – so long as the weather plays ball.

Registration page and list of entries are on the club website.

Keep scrolling for some entertaining reading on the world championships.



## World Champs & North American Championships Ivanpah USA 2024

Congratulations to Scott and Shannon who came second in their divisions in the North American Championships.

World's update after 6 races:

Scott is currently 3<sup>rd</sup> . Dean is 12<sup>th</sup>.

After 5 races: Shannon is 2<sup>nd</sup> and Steve is 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Race results can be followed on Speedhive. [Link](#)

Heather Fox is writing an entertaining daily diary including photos which we are posting on the club facebook page.

Here are the latest few days for your entertainment.

*Heather Fox continues her diary.*

*Colourful sails and butterflies.*

*Day 16 - Day 1 North American Blokart Championships*

*Woken by an alarm on the phone this morning, it's 'oh do we have to get up?!?' It's cold, layers of clothing to help fight against the bitter cold, we pack everything into the pick up truck. Just as well it's a big American wagon.*

*Blokarts strapped in the tray, we're off up the I15, it's Saturday and a little quieter on the roads. It took about 40 minutes to get up to Primm and out to the playa.*

*It's very quiet when we arrive, most people are still in their RVs. Steve and Shannon set up there karts ready for racing.*

*It's a beautiful blue sky day, but man it is cold, when that wind is about.*

*Monarch butterflies fluttered and played in the wind. I'm not sure where they came from, but they were a delight to see fluttering on the breeze. They weren't landing on anything, just flying around. They played in the wind most of the day. Critters of any kind are scarce out here. Although, why would you live in a landscape where the top layer seems to blow away when the winds are strong. There are lots of crows, they seem to be all around Primm. I can hear a couple skawking every so often out around the playa. Some of the Blokarters headed out on the playa, having a blast around, trying to cram in as much practice as they can.*

*A big marquee finally appeared and the toilets, yay!*



*Briefing finally happened about 10.15, where we were all welcomed, and other bits and pieces were discussed. Introduction of race and protest committees were made.*

*They set up the grid and start/finish line.*

*Racing finally began about 11.30, and went through till just after 5pm. A long day out in the playa.*

*It's a huge learning curve, racing on a playa. The texture of the surface is so different to anything our guys have ever raced before, the distances they are travelling are longer. The wind today is inconsistent on different parts of the course. Very tricky conditions. Course*

*changes are made as the wind condition keep changing. It's a slow laborious task.*

*Only three races were held per weight division.*

*Results for Manawatu sailers.*

*Super Heavy Shannon 8 3 3*

*Steve 13 9 11*

*Light Weights Scott 4 1 3*

*Middle Weights Dean 17 13 1*

*Karts packed up for the night in their sleeping bags, dust wiped from our faces, we head back to Vegas for the night.*



Heather Fox diary continues "Hurry up and wait!"



Day 17 - Day 2 North American Blokart Championships.

The colours out here in Nevada are so beautiful, even though there's no grass or much greenery, the hues of colour are incredible. From up close to far into the distance the hues of orange, red, pink, purple and brown and even black stand out. It's a painters paradise. Even the colours of the sky are deep and vivid, whether it's a blue sky day, a sand storm or rain storm. I just don't have the words to describe it!

Another blue sky day today over the playa, but not as blue as yesterday. The clouds to the right are looking a bit ominous coming from behind the hills. The butterflies are back,

sending there fluttering love everywhere.

The air is very still out here this morning. Not a breath of wind. It's a "Hurry up and wait" kind of day.

The playa surface has dried out further since yesterday. Where big jig saw puzzle pieces once lay, now smaller puzzle pieces have been created inside of them. In places they have just crumpled and turned to dust.

The karts are unwrapped from their sleeping bags, masts are pulled out of their bags and put together, the big 5m sail is pulled out of sail bag, and rigged up. Bags that everything came out of are stashed so wind can't blow them away.

The Blokarts are then pulled out in front of the the line of RVs along from the staging grid, waiting and hoping for wind.

The Blokarts are carefully laid down on their sides, like seals sitting on the beach. sunning themselves.

The wind would blow in, but no sooner did it arrive it soon left again. This continued much of the day.

Today was a day to chat to people, rest up, regurgitate past encounters, meet old friends, meet new friends and even throw a frisbee, and don't forget to "Hurry up and wait!"

The starter camper was taken out on to the playa at one point in the afternoon, even a start/ finish line was set up, but to no avail, the wind just wasn't going to play the game. Patience was the name of this game!

The message went out that the competitors for the Worlds could weigh in today if they wished. The queue grew outside of the tent. People were weighed . The boys are in Super Heavy's for worlds, so they are happy. Scott M in lights and so is Hayden P.

So the "Hurry up and Wait" continued, till just before 5pm, when all of a sudden the wind switched angles and became steady. The rush was on to get the racing underway. The light weights were given very little notice that their race was up, in fact they were called out to the start/finish line. Had they had a little more time, to prepare in relation to the wind speed, some of them would have dropped to a 4m sail, but the race committee were in a hurry to get the racing underway. The wind began to build a little more as the weight categories went through. It was hard to know what to use as each part of the course seems to have different wind speeds and if the wind dropped a little then a 4m could be a gamble. Each group had some 4m and 5m sails and it was a lottery as to which came first. Santi from Spain won his race on a 5m.

Super Heavies lined up, most were still on 5m, with a couple of 4m sails. Off the staging grid and to the Start /Finish line they went. Dial up for two minutes and then off they went, the wind continuing to build a little as they raced. The dust was horrific, making it hard for spectators to see, especially when the Blokarts went into the sun. A 4m sail won, followed by the good trusty 5m sails. Production karts were next up, being blasted by dust and sand as they sailed around the track, with out a pod. Racing was then called, the temperature was beginning to plummet. A quick pack up ensued.

Results:

Light weights Scott M 3rd

Super Heavies Shannon 4th, Steve 5th.



Heather Fox writes

Solar eclipse, planes and Hummingbirds

Day 18 - North American Blokart Championship Prizegiving

Oh the bliss of not having to rush to get up and get moving.

Today is supposed to be Registration and Scrutineering for the 2024 Blokart Worlds, but thankfully the boys got to weigh in yesterday and the North American Championship Scrutineering carried over, so we didn't have to rush out to Primm.

The planes awoke me at 5.30am, we seem to be in a direct flight path to the airport. We haven't heard them until today, so maybe it's the wind direction. The planes have been a constant. Private

jets and big passenger planes, some as close to two minutes apart.

A dash to Lowes Home Improvement store was the order of the day. Tires to change and maintenance on the Blokarts was called for. We meet some real characters at the store as they helped us find what we were looking for. They





commented on our accent and were intrigued as to what we were doing in Las Vegas and what Blokarting was. Low and behold we could hear another kiwi accent, who should it be but Matt Beckett and he was with Dave Miglejy. While paying for our gear the solar eclipse was taking place, Steve headed out with the trolley while I got a couple of other things. A staff member asked if he would like to have a look and he was handed a pair of special glasses. The American people all around were going crazy about it, like it was a once in a life time experience, something mystical, even on the news this morning they were waxing lyrical about it, even saying it was an inner body experience. Steve came back in saying I had to have a look, so I trapzed off to have a look, borrowing the glasses. I must admit it was pretty cool. I tried to take a photo through the glasses but it just turned out as an orange circle. Lowes Home Improvement is an amazing shop, reminded me of Placemakers due to internal signage, but probably more like Mitre 10 but on steroids.

Steve has wanted a hair cut since we left home, he tried to get one in Hawaii but wasn't keen on paying as much as they wanted. As we left Lowes, he asked the checkout operator where to go, she sent him just down the road to a place called Man Cave Salon. He walked in, they offered him a glass of beer, there were pool tables, gaming consoles and chess. \$60 usd later he had a military style hair cut.

The afternoon was spent tinkering with the karts, cleaning out the layers of dust that has accumulated in every crevice and corner.

The washing machine and dryer have also gone most of the day.

Out on the playa a relay race was held, where 20 competitors, were split into teams and they raced. Sounds like it was a lot of fun and the wind was up.

While in the garage, I stepped outside to check out the constant flow of planes and to my surprise I saw not one but two beautiful little humming birds eating nectar from the flowers next door. It was fascinating to see these little birds fluttering amongst the flowers. Such beautiful creatures. There was also honey bees and butterflies.

With nighttime soon to descend on us, it was time to drive on out to Primm, for the North American Blokart Championship Prizegiving and Worlds Welcome Dinner. Unfortunately Shannon was unable to attend Prizegiving as he has been sick and wanted to rest.

A huge buffet was laid on at Buffalo Bills Wagon Wheel Restaurant. Amazing desserts were the highlight.

Prize Giving began in the entrance of the restaurant, a lovely display of photos by Steve Irby were on show on a big screen and Dave Migley spoke along with another guy who told jokes. Prizes were given out to all weight divisions in both Production and Performance Classes. New Zealanders did well in three divisions. Matt Beckett also gave out Golden Forks to Joint Speed Record Holders- Scott Young and Dave Lussier 77.7 mph. (125.05 km/hr and 24hr Record Holder - BB, sailing 336.1 miles in 24hrs.

NZ Podium Finishes

Performance Light Weights -

Hayden Percy 1st

Scott MacIntosh 2nd

Performance Heavy Weights -

David Gunn 1st

Torkel Stillefors 2nd

Performance Super Heavy Weights -

Theo Vondervoort 1st

Shannon Fox 2nd

Heather Fox writes.



The day has finally arrived!

Day 19 - Day 1 2024 Blokart Worlds - Ivanpah Dry Lake

The Worlds 2024 are finely here! The anticipation has been building since the last Worlds in Manawatu in 2022.

A slightly smaller number of people are competing compared to the numbers in Manawatu. 13 nations, 85 competitors.

A slower start today, briefings at 10am, so we

Made our way out to Primm about 8.30. Not a lot of traffic this morning, although there are still trucks heading towards LA.

Another blue sky day, but with a slight haze, I'm not sure if this is heat or dust.

We arrived out to the playa and it was a hive of activity, getting blokarts ready for racing in the hope that wind would arrive at some stage.

The wind was forecast to arrive around nine, but it wasn't going to be too strong. So it might have turned into a "Hurru up and wait" kind of day.



*The playa has continued to dry out under the heat of the sun and from the wind. Today you can notice that the cracks between the big pieces of clay jigsaw pieces have grown in size.*

*The starters RV was in a different place this morning when we arrived and a course had been set on the forecasted wind. It ran from west to east.*

*Before briefing while the wind was holding our boys got out on the playa briefly to have a blast around, loosen the cobwebs.*

*Once briefing had been Light Weights were called out to the start/finish line. Then middles, heavies, super heavies and Production Karts (without the pod and other fancy stuff )were called one after the other to the starting grid.*

*Another tricky day out there on the playa. Big wind shifts, and big pockets of no wind that you can't see. Resulting in a mixed bag of results. Poor light weights got to start one race three times due to wind dying out, the race was black flagged. Very frustrating day for sailers out on the playa. There were a number of protests.*

*Racing finished just after five, I think everyone was probably happy that the racing was over, even though the wind came up enough for people to go out and just have some fun on the playa.*

*By the time we got back to Las Vegas, the lights were shining, it was time to get dusty washing on and go to bed. Shannon had a great first race coming 1st. His other results were a 4th and an 7th. His Asthma is really playing up making it hard to breathe.*

*Steve's results were 4th, 14th, 3rd*

*Scott had a frustrating day out on the playa today. His results were: 9th, 9th, and 5th. He protested his first race result and won, so will get average points over the total regatta points.*

*From the daily keyboard of Heather Fox*

*"Are we ever gonna get out of this place" - a slow day on the playa*

*Day 20 - Day 2 2024 Blokart Worlds - Ivanpah Dry Lake*

*Just out of Vegas this morning on the opposite side of the I15, there was a Truck Stop, all the trucks heading toward Vegas were being asked to pull in, trucks of every shape and size are lined up to weigh in or have their records checked. This seems to be a regular occurrence, one seen most days on our pilgrimage out to Primm. Even across from the playa at different times of the day, there is another Truck Stop/Weigh station for all trucks heading towards LA.*

*Evidently there is a Weigh Station at Whiskey Pete's where the trickiest can pay to weigh their trucks.*

*As we arrive, it is very quiet out on the playa this morning, most people are still hiding out in their RVs trying to keep out of the heat. The pilots who aren't staying on the playa slowly trickle in from Vegas or Primm. There are smells of eggs and bacon wafting through the air.*

*There are a lot of jet streams high up in the blue sky.*

*It looks like the racing may be located more central today, so we won't need to move the pick up further down the park up line. Much better for spectators and those who are based in RVs.*

*Setting up the Blokarts is suddenly becoming a bit more robotic. Will the wind arrive or will it be a "Hurry up and Wait" day? It's not forecast for much wind.*

*5 and 4 m sails are set up in the hopes that wind may arrive and that it will build.*

*Briefing at 9am, explained that races today will be 7mins long and talked about a few other rules, such as starboard tack going over the start line. The racing would be then be postponed after the photo and then another briefing would happen at 11am. The PRO then explains that the famous Worlds photo will be taken and Steve Irby tells everyone how to go about putting your kart and pilot in the correct position. USA and NZ being the biggest contingents are then asked to take there karts out to the playa and line up in a semi circle pattern with a big gap in between the two groups. The rest of the countries were then to fill in the gaps. Stand next to your boom and push it to the right. After a bit of fluffing around the stage was set and Steve Irby took the photos to stitch a photo together. All the rest of us amateur photographers with cameras and iPhones etc. then got to have a go at taking a photo. Some of photos have other photographers standing in the way. Then Santi from Spain tried to start a Mexican wave. After a few unsuccessful attempts, Santi got the crew doing a Mexican wave.*

*People mingled and mixed until 11am, which was when briefing was due to start, but low and behold, no briefing, Light weights were called to the start gate and then to the start/finish line.*

*The first round for the day was underway. More tricky sailing conditions.*

*Following on was the second round before once again the wind lost it oomph!*

*The sun was scoring, temperatures reaching up to 25 degrees Celsius. Shade was needed and so was water.*

*After the wind decided if it was coming or going, it stayed for a little while, so the Light Weights and Middle Weights got to have there third round, although the conditions were fickle at times.*

*The Heavies lined up, but all to no avail. The wind died out on some parts of the course. So they sat for a while before being told to go in. The wind then increased a bit, so some of the sailers took there Blokarts for a blast. At one stage Shannon put music on, just to blob out to, the song that popped up was "Are we ever gonna get out of here" quite pertinent today as it feels like the day has just dragged on and on! Not fun for spectators or Blokart pilots alike.*

*The message was sent around to say break until 5pm, when they would attempt to get sailing underway for the Heavies. and do the rest of the round. The wind just wasn't playing ball.*

*Sailing for the day had been in variable conditions where the wind kept shifting. I think most people were quite happy it was over for the day.*

*Blokarts were packed away for the night, awaiting an even hotter day on the playa forecast for tomorrow. Some of hardy souls were off to Happy Hour at Buffalo Bills but on by NABSTA.*

*We headed back to Vegas. Shannon is really struggling with Asthma and although we attempted to bring all medications with us, the doctor wouldn't prescribe him prednisone or antibiotics just in case, so although his inhalers have helped we just couldn't get it under control. A quick phone call to an urgent care doctor who specialises in tourists who visit Las Vegas. An over the phone consultation had us heading to our nearest Walgreens Pharmacy, where the consult was finished in the car and a prescription was phoned through while we were on the line. Incredible service, the NZ doctors could learn a thing or two. \$175.00 usd later. We thought it would be thousands! We went inside Walgreens and within 20 minutes we had the prescription. Now Walgreens is an amazing Pharmacy. They sell all the normal stuff you would get in a Pharmacy at home plus a lot lot more. Try groceries, snack food, chocolate bars, lollies, water, gateraide, toys, games, souvenirs, some clothes, wine and how about cigarettes!*

*A one stop shop! Prescription was \$45 USD.*

*Straight to the car, down the tablets, and use the different inhaler. Within 10 minutes his cough had changed in tone and he said it felt different. The Dr encouraged him not to go back to the dust! "Yeah right!" "Have another Tui!" The Dr wants to speak to him everyday until we leave, amazing service. Home to the AirBnB for a restful night. Let's hope we don't get a noise complaint tonight!*

*Results for the day:*

*Steve 1st 5th*

*Shannon 5th 6th*

*Scott 2nd 5th 2nd*