



## R/C Boat Racing

Interested in R/C power boat racing?

Looking for more information on where you can run them without being chased away by neighbors, park rangers, or the police?



Want to meet a great group of people who have a passion for running fast boats?

If yes, read on, this interesting paper will introduce you to the great hobby or R/C power boating and provide information on how you can get started. You'll find it's easy and will provide you lots of fun filled hours at your local pond.



### How much does it cost?

You can start with as little as \$300-400. This price range will allow you to buy a good ready to run (RTR) boat from your local hobby shop. The RTR boats offer a package which includes boat, engine (or motor for electric boats), and radio. To this package, you will need to add some basic tools, fuel (or batteries and charger for electrics), and batteries for the radio. Once you have these things, you're ready to race!

Another way to get started is to buy a boat hull, hardware, engine, and radio, and assemble it yourself. There is a wide variety of choices for power including gasoline or nitromethane/alcohol powered engines, as well as electric motors. One boat that is relatively easy to assemble, but offers lots of fun for the price, is the Aquacraft Top Speed tunnel hull coupled with an OS .21 XM outboard engine. Add a 2 or 3 channel radio, batteries, fuel, and a few other tools and support equipment, and you can hit the pond.

These are just a couple examples, there are many more. To explore the options, talk with your local hobby shop and your local boat racing club.

### What is the International Model Power Boat Association (IMPBA)?

The IMPBA is a non-profit organization for fostering exciting model power boating. It encourages and assists with the formation of clubs and provides a uniform set of rules. The IMPBA also arranges insurance coverage for members who are running boats at registered IMPBA ponds.

### Why should I join an IMPBA club?

- A club provides access to a dedicated boat racing pond.
- As a member of IMPBA and running on a pond that is registered with the IMPBA you will have good liability insurance.
- The club will have procedures and equipment to ensure that everyone is safe while they are having fun racing boats.
- And has experienced boaters who will help you get started with your new boat, and provide a family friendly atmosphere.





## Why not just run my boat at a public lake or pond?

While this is possible in many places, in others it is frowned on, or even against local laws or regulations. Even if it is permitted, many people find it more fun to share their hobby with others. In addition, there are safety concerns about running high speed model boats in areas where you might hit a full size boat or even worse, a person. The safest place to run boats is on a pond where these risks are minimized.

## I don't really want to race, why should I join a racing organization?

While racing is certainly a big part of the activities of IMPBA boaters, many of us also enjoy going out to the pond and running our model boats. We've discovered it is much more fun to run our boats together than alone. Also, it's important to remember that the IMPBA pond is devoted to boating, making your boating time safer and more enjoyable.



## What do I need to get started?

**Boat** – This can be an RTR as described earlier, or you can buy a hull and assemble it on your own.

**Radio** – RTR boats include a radio. If you build your own boat, choose a good 2 or 3 channel surface (car or boat) radio. The R/C radio typically requires 12 AA alkaline batteries (8 for electric boats), or you can purchase rechargeable battery packs.

### Common items

- Tools – misc. wrenches, hex key wrenches, screw drivers, etc as required to build and maintain your boat.
- Misc. supplies for cleaning and greasing your boat. These are usually listed in the model boat's instruction manual.

### Nitro or gas specific items

- Fuel – The engine manufacturer will provide information on what fuel to use.
- Fuel pump – to get the fuel from the fuel container into the tank.
- Glow driver (nitro only) – this is used to heat the glow plug element when you start the boat.

### Electric specific items

- Batteries – as suggested by the boat/motor manufacturer
- Battery charger – to recharge the boat's batteries



## How do I get more information?

For more information about the IMPBA, visit our web site at <http://www.impba.net>.

For more information about your nearest club, contact:



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