



June 5-9, 2018
Springfield, Ohio

www.solarsplash.com

News of the *UPS Battery Center* **SOLAR SPLASH® 2018**

Volume 25 - Number 3 - March 2018

25th Solar Splash Anniversary Year!

The 25th Anniversary Solar Splash

In the first 2018 Newsletter we announced our goal of at least 25 entries for the 25th anniversary competition. As of the writing of this Newsletter, we have 17 registered teams, plus several others that are making plans to compete! If your team is not listed at solarsplash.com/2018-teams/ and you are planning to compete in 2018, please drop us a line and let us know. **The deadline for registering is Monday, April 23 to get your Entry Form into Headquarters!** For any questions/comments, please email: hq@solarsplash.com.

Be Prepared for the New Propeller Rule

The Solar Splash staff has approved a new rule that will require the teams to install and remove their propellers more often than in previous events. The intent of this rule is to improve the public's access and interactions with the teams because it will allow unrestricted access to the paddock area. We believe this will significantly improve the overall quality of the event. Under the new rule, **the only area in which the propellers may be installed on your boat is the Restricted Area near the boat launching area** (the Staging, On-deck, and Launching Site areas). The Restricted Area will be separated from the public areas using temporary fencing, and only team members with wrist-bands will be allowed in this area. **Boats in the Restricted Area must be actively preparing to enter the lake or actively preparing to depart the Restricted Area.** Boats will not be allowed to "loiter" within the Restricted Area.

From the teams' perspectives, the biggest challenge will be the process of installing the propeller in the Restricted Area prior to entering the water and removing it prior to leaving the Restricted Area. Consequently, the boat design will have to permit the propeller to be easily installed and removed. This will require teams to develop a plan with the appropriate tools, team members, etc. to quickly and safely install/remove the propeller. It is strongly recommended that the teams spend adequate time practicing this prior to the event. Implement an engineering procedure and practice it! It is imperative that you develop a procedure that emphasizes safety.

The two rules that have changed are as follows:

Previous: **3.5 “Restricted Area”** - The four areas above will be enclosed by a fence and movement in and out of this area will be through a monitored gate. Entry is permitted only after an APBA waiver is signed.

New: **3.5 “Restricted Area”** - The Staging, On Deck, and Launching Site areas will be enclosed by a fence, and movement in and out of this area will be through a monitored gate. Entry is permitted only after an APBA waiver is signed.

[This removes the Paddock from the Restricted Area.]

Previous: **7.15 Propeller Safety** - The motor may not be run with the propeller attached when the boat is on land. If a boat is taken out of the restricted area, the propeller must be removed from the shaft.

New: **7.15 Propeller Safety** - The propeller may not be attached to the shaft except when the boat is in the Restricted Area or on the water. The motor electrical system must be deactivated using the Dead-man’s Switch and the Motor Switch prior to installing or removing the propeller. The motor may not be run with the propeller attached when the boat is on land.

We recognize that this rule change places new demands on you. We would appreciate hearing your feedback as to the “time/difficulty” it would involve for you to install/remove your prop (tools, number of people, etc.), plus what “safety” concerns you may have when the propeller is handled outside the paddock area (sharp blades, gloves, ensuring no power to motor, etc.).

Please get back to us with your thoughts on any “time/difficulty” and “safety” issues. Would you please respond via hq@solarsplash.com by April 15, 2018; or as soon as you can formulate and document your thoughts? Thanks for your input.

“Dolly” Needed for Your Boat

For safety reasons, teams will not be allowed to use heavy trailers to transport their boats to and from the paddock and water. Heavy trailers pose a danger to the people trying to manage the trailer-plus-boat weight, and a hazard to those on and around the docks if the trailer ‘gets loose’. As has been the case in past Splashes, the solution is for each team to obtain or build a dolly – a light-weight trailer – which can be more easily handled. To see various dolly designs used in previous years, check out the ‘team pictures’ taken at previous Splash competitions.

Free Boat Hull for a Current or Future Solar Splash Team

The Stevens Institute of Technology would like to donate their 4th-place-finishing 2017 boat hull to a current or future Solar Splash team. Hull specifications and contacts are listed on the Stevens team page at www.solarsplash.com. Do you know of any potential Solar Splash schools who might be interested in a ‘jump start’ like this?

Reminder of NEW “Video Award”

Each year, teams prepare a written report and a visual display to help tell a story about how their boat was created, improved, or otherwise readied for Solar Splash. As we prepare for the 25th annual Solar Splash competition, we invite each team to tell its story through video. **We are thus offering the very first Solar Splash Video Award.** Films should provide a short and exciting narrative about the team formation, the boat construction, water trials, or whatever the team feels best represents their efforts. Styles may differ, but these videos may include boat construction and testing, team member interviews, drone footage, stop motion techniques, candid moments, and live video of past events.

Submitting a video for award consideration is optional. The Video Award *must be applied for*. However, if you do create a video, you are welcome to use it as part of your team’s visual display.

To Enter your team for the Video Award, please prepare a video meeting these criteria:

- Is at least 1 minute but no longer than 4 minutes
- Contains no profanity or inappropriate video content
- Does not violate copyright; be careful with background music
- Promoting your school and acknowledging your team’s sponsors is fine, but do not make your video an overt advertisement

Upload your video to YouTube and send the link to Solar Splash Headquarters at hq@solarsplash.com. The video link must be received by **5 pm Eastern Time, Tuesday, May 29, 2018** to be considered for the award. The team judged to have the best video will receive the Award. Good luck!

Reminder for the “Innovation Award”

Solar Splash gives many design awards each year that are determined by teams of judges at the event. The Innovation Award *must be applied for*. This award is intended to reward the team with the most innovative development. Does your boat include a novel engineering creation? Whether it be a new propeller design, a new hull design, the development of a new drive system, or special features on the solar module, Solar Splash wants to know about it.

To apply for the Innovation Award, please prepare a narrative, not to exceed 250 words, that describes your team’s best innovation this year. Include in your narrative:

- Description of the advancement
- Why the advancement is valuable, including quantifiable metrics if possible
- Brief story of how the team first came to imagine this advancement or see a need for it

Send the narrative in an email to hq@solarsplash.com. The narrative must be received by **noon Eastern Time, Wednesday, June 6, 2018** (during the competition). The innovations will be validated and evaluated, and the team with the best innovation will receive the Innovation Award. Good Luck!

Springfield Hotel and Camping Information

Looking for a hotel close to the Solar Splash site and wanting to spend more time socializing with your competitors? If so, then consider joining other teams at the Hampton Inn in Springfield. The Hampton Inn is conveniently located close to the Solar Splash event site; approximately 5 miles down I-70 from the Clark County Fairgrounds. Solar Splash has negotiated a limited block of rooms for teams at reduced rates; \$99 for a 2-queen or 1-king room. These rates include a hot breakfast, free wifi, microwave, and refrigerator in each room. Please note that the number of rooms available at this rate is limited, so consider reserving early. The deadline for reserving rooms at the Solar Splash rate is May 2 at 6:00pm EDT. Reservations may be canceled up to 24 hours prior to arrival. Please use the Hampton Inn reservation link on the “Travel and site information” page on the Solar Splash website to make your reservation. We look forward to seeing you at the Hampton!

The Splash site is at Exit 59 on I-70, and there are several hotels, including the Hampton Inn, located at Exit 54 on I-70.

If you would rather camp, camping at the Fairgrounds is available for FREE. If your team is interested in camping, contact Tim Dewhurst (dewhurst@cedarville.edu) for more information.

Solar Splash Schedule of Major Events and Activities

An updated listing of the dates and times of Solar Splash major activities and events can be found in **Rule 11 in the 2018 Rule Book**, as listed on our website, www.SolarSplash.com. All teams are expected to be aware of the stated times, places, and specific events and activities.

FYI: Lunches will be provided free to Solar Splash participants for all five days of the competition. Also, a free banquet dinner will be provided on Tuesday evening for all teams, during which the Technical Report winners will be presented their awards.

Major Dates/Deadlines for This Year:

Monday, April 23, 2018: Last date for receipt of the Entry Form to register for Splash 2018.

Monday, May 7, 2018: Last date to submit the “Technical Report” without a points penalty.

Tuesday, May 29, 2018: Video Award submissions due (post to YouTube and email link to hq@solarsplash.com).

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: First day of the Competition. Skippers must be onsite for the Swim Test by 2:00 pm.

Wednesday, June 6, 2018: Innovation Award applications due (email to hq@solarsplash.com).