

# PENNSYLVANIA HILLCLIMB ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the February 18, 2012 Meeting

The meeting held at Giannotti's Restaurant was called to order by President Tom Knorr at 1 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum of SCCA Regional Representatives were present.

Those in attendance were PHA Officers: President Tom Knorr, Vice-President Rich Rock, Treasurer John Pitman and Secretary Gordon Wise; Regional Representatives, members and guests: Dave Merritt, Dave Aaron, Sue Salsburg, Don McLaughlin, Fred Pfeiffer, John Felton, Dale Gogel, JoAnne Foering, Nelson Kase, Bill Shields, Len Hess, Jerry Hartman, Jane Stinsmen, John Stinsmen, Richard Kase, Bernice Kase, Mary Anne Fieux, Chuck Christ, Sr., Charlie Christ, Jr., George Witman, Nancy Lewis, Gail Knorr, Jack Reifsnyder, Tim Williams, Matt Kujat, Sr., and Grace Huntzinger.

Secretary Gordon Wise distributed the printed minutes of the November 12, 2011 PHA meeting which were read individually by members in attendance, then approved upon a Dave Merritt/Charles Christ motion.

Treasurer John Pitman distributed detailed printed copies of the treasury report that listed a balance of 5,084.93. Members expressed the opinion that the more than \$6,000 paid by the PHA during 2011 for the wireless timing system seemed well worth the expenditure. There currently are no outstanding, unpaid bills. The audit committee of Kurt Eikenberg and Tony Preston will present the 2011 PHA treasury audit at the spring meeting.

**NOMINATIONS/ELECTION OF 2012 PHA OFFICERS** – Those nominated for officers at the November, 2011 meeting to serve for 2012 were: Tom Knorr for President; Rich Rock for Vice-President; John Pitman for Treasurer and Gordon Wise and Dave Merritt for Secretary. Prior to the election, Dave Merritt withdrew his name for consideration. In the absence of additional nominees, President Knorr ordered Secretary Wise to cast one vote for the nominees to serve for 2012.

**POLISH MOUNTAIN HILLCLIMB** – John Felton and Fred Pfeiffer from Cumberland National Road, the organizer of the Polish Mountain Hillclimb, were in attendance to discuss their event that was in its fifth year of existence. Although the event has been popular and successful, they suggested that there is more that they would like to do to increase its financial health in order to ensure its continued existence. They would like to attract more sponsorship and greater driver attendance. The Flintstone Volunteer Fire Company will continue to work alongside "National Road" and the Steel Cities Region through providing emergency services, food and meals and provisions for showers, plus assisting in securing workers, handling publicity, and organizing and providing related local events such as the block party with live music and a car show. Steel Cities Region will continue to officially manage and orchestrate the event insofar as securing the SCCA sanction and insurance, handling registration, providing licensed officials, plus attending to all stated SCCA Rules and regulations covering Time Trial Level IV events required to ensure a smooth running, safe event. John and Fred raised the question of "what could to be done to include the dozen or so Cobra kit car owners who regularly compete in National Road's autocross series who have expressed interest in possibly running at Polish Mountain?" Several members in attendance described the SCCA mandated requirements for both cars and drivers then offered some suggestions regarding possibilities for the inclusion of these folks and their cars. John Felton expressed concern for the relative low number of PHA drivers that have been showing up at Polish Mountain. Approximately only half of the competitors have been those who regularly compete with the PHA despite the fact that that this event is a part of PHA's series.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2012 PHA SCHEDULE** – The final 2012 Schedule of PHA events – as tentatively approved at the November, 2011 meeting and listed in its minutes - was approved upon a Dave Merritt/John Pitman motion. The schedule appears on the PHA website.

**SUPPLEMENTAL RULES** – There are no significant changes to the SCCA Time Trial Supplementary Rules for 2012. All helmets, however, must be dated 2005 or 2010. The mandated Hans devices for drivers in road racing are not required for drivers in Time Trial events for 2012.

**WIRELESS TIMING IMPLEMENTATION** – Grace Huntzinger needs knowledgeable help to set up the timing towers at each event. Despite her requests last season, few persons stepped up to give her assistance. Those who did volunteer were trained by

Grace as how to erect the towers. Their effort was greatly appreciated. Despite this, Grace found it necessary to take two days off work for each event to travel from New Jersey in order to ensure that the wireless system would both work correctly and be ready in time for the event to begin on schedule. Each Region must assume the responsibility of providing people for Grace to train, after which they will then physically erect the timing towers. Each Region must name a coordinator to oversee the erection of the towers the day prior to the event if they want the event to be timed as scheduled. Also, a delivery schedule must be worked out so that the timing tower equipment can be delivered from one event to the next. Some discussion ensued regarding a schedule pertaining as to exactly who would be responsible for physically transporting equipment from this spring's Weatherly event to Pagoda, to Giants, etc., and exactly when the delivery to the next event would take place. A delivery schedule will be "firmed up" at the next PHA meeting.

**POINTS SYSTEM** – Some discussion was held regarding allowing an extra point for breaking a record as well an extra point for competing at all events. No convincing argument for either idea was made. The membership in attendance then agreed with a Rick Kase/John Pitman motion to "leave the current points system alone."

**WEBSITE** – Members in attendance agreed that Dale Witman has done an excellent job with the PHA website. It is much improved. However, more than a few members stated that the notice of the February meeting was difficult to find and some could not find it at all. Many members agreed that important notices (such as for meetings) should come up in a prominent place on the home page. Another suggestion was to include a menu listing all links within the site to be placed vertically on the left side or, perhaps, horizontally across the top of the home page. Persons visiting the site should not have to search under the relatively few links that currently appear in order to eventually find the information they are looking for.

**ANNUAL TECH** – Last year very few persons took advantage of the opportunity to get their annual tech prior to the first event. If anyone is interested in a pre-season tech he or she may contact a qualified Time Trial tech inspector to make arrangements.

**OTHER BUSINESS-** Rich Rock announced that BMR will be holding two autocrosses – the first on March 11, the second on March 25, 2012 at the Morgantown Mall located just off the Reading/Morgantown exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Contact Rich for details. BMR is again holding a raffle for free registration at Pagoda and Duryea. The drawing will be held at the end of the Spring Jefferson Time Trial event. BMR has been getting good cooperation from officials from the City of Reading. This year the city will require a \$500 deposit for a special events permit in order to hold each of the Reading hill climbs. Escalating costs may require a slight increase of registration fees for both Pagoda and Duryea. From Sunday, February 18 to Saturday, February 25, BMR will host an exhibit - including seven race cars - at the Reading Fairgrounds Mall to publicize the PHA event series with emphasis upon the two local events in Reading – Pagoda and Duryea. Rich encouraged members at the meeting to stop by the exhibit to either "lend a hand," or perhaps, to just visit.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m. upon an approved motion from Jerry Hartman with a second from Dave Merritt.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, PHA Secretary