

## **Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association Minutes of the January 27, 2018 Meeting**

The meeting held at the Canal Street Pub in Reading, Pa. was called to order at 1 p.m. by President Rich Rock after it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance.

Those present were PHA Officers: President Rich Rock, Vice President Dave Merritt, Treasurer John Pitman and Acting Secretary Gordon Wise. SCCA Regional Representatives: Dale Gogel, Rich Sweigart, Hugh Maloney, Donald McLaughlin, Grace Huntzinger and Representative Alternates Don Dehart and Steve Lewis. Members: Doug Austin Richard Kase, Matthew Hoegg, Nancy Lewis, Dennis Williams, Mary Anne Fieux, Chuck Christ Sr., Joe Cyburt, Ray Kochin, Ed Grega, Rick Kane, Thor Pitman, Ursula Whisler, Jen DeHart, George Ackerman, Dave Ascheman, Fabio Vlacci, William Norton, James M. Crocker, Don Kennedy, Mike Daley, Donna Sumner and Mike Robinson.

**Announcements** – Bill Norton announced that the BMR annual banquet will be held in mid-February. See him for reservation forms. President Rock informed those in attendance that Kurt Eikenberg's wife, Nancy, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. There will be no viewing. Information will be put on the website forum regarding cards, etc. Last fall Alan Leshner suggested that he had located a road that might possibly be used for a hill climb. In response Rich Rock, John Pitman and a few other PHA members traveled to the road to establish its possibility. The road was located near Carlisle and ran through Pennsylvania's Pine Grove Furnace State Park that lies within Michaux State Forest. After examining the road and talking with two Park Rangers it was concluded that the road was unsuitable for an event. John Pitman indicated that there may be other roads within the park or forest areas that could be explored. He plans to visit the area in the near future and talk with park rangers again.

**Minutes of the November meeting** – printed copies of the November meeting were distributed and read individually. In view of no recommended additions nor corrections, upon a motion from Ursula Whisler, with a second by Donna Summer, the minutes stood approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer John Pitman presented a detailed summary of the PHA treasury account for 2017. The total balance forward at the beginning of the year 2017 was \$7,334.28. **Income** included assessments, \$4,506; miscellaneous sources, \$1,099; banquet reservations, \$5,785; program advertisements, \$2,120 **for a total of \$20,844.28.** **Expenses** included IT/WEB costs, \$344.40; Print and banners, \$217.46; banquet costs, \$7,586.66; awards, \$1,137.32; bank fees, \$10.20; money put into an account for unexpected emergency costs, \$750 **for a total of \$10,046.** **The end of year asset total stands at \$11,548.24.** A motion from Charles Christ with a second from Ray Kochin for approval of the treasury report was approved.

**Audit** - The audit committee is scheduled to meet after the meeting today to review the 2017 treasury books.

**2018 Supps** – Rich Rock and Dave Merritt are currently working on a revision of the PHA supps in order to simplify, clarify and eliminate those national Time Trials rules and regulations under which we now operate that do not directly apply to the PHA. The purpose is to make it easier for drivers to find and understand those rules that pertain only to our events. For instance, current Time Trial Rules include Level I, Level II, Level III and Level IV events. PHA only operates Level III and IV events. Attention will focus upon both driver information as well as organizational information. Dave will create a new set of supplementary rules that will apply only to PHA events yet still conform to the SCCA GCR. It must be noted that our own standards have been more stringent than do current SCCA Time Trial Rules. Dave will draft a new set of supplementary rules in a document for review at the next PHA meeting scheduled for March 10, 2018 at the Canal Street Pub. There is a need to approve and make public the new supps ASAP well prior to our events.

**Timing** - Grace Huntzinger can no longer physically transport the timing equipment back and forth to events and will need assistance to set up and disassemble equipment at the event sites.. Nelson indicated that he will continue to transport the equipment. Hopefully PHA members will step up and assist Grace prior to,

and after each hill climb. Mention was made that batteries for radios may need to be replaced as it appears that they seem to be losing strength. Nelson indicated that he will “look into the problem.”

**Website** – the PHA website contract for 2018 is under contract.

**Old Business** – SCCA sanction fees, insurance, etc. will be the same as last year. Summit Point Motorsports Park contracts for both events in 2018 have been received. DC Region has granted permission for PHA’s 2018 Summit Point and Polish Mountain events to be held within their jurisdiction. Rich Rock has looked into the costs for private track rental at Summit Point. The costs are \$1,700 per day for Jefferson and \$2,226 for Shenandoah. This includes emergency personnel. Each track limits usage to a maximum of six drivers per day. However, there is only one day left that is available for rental this year.

**New Business** – Doug Austin, Susquehanna Region Assistant Executive who attended the SCCA National Convention reported that the agenda was friendly to novices and was mainly focused upon leadership. He was extremely pleased to announce that Susquehanna Region was named “SCCA Region of the Year.” Doug also reported that the SCCA is currently developing a National Time Trials Event to be held in Kentucky on September 28-30. There will be a cap of 200 cars. There is a possibility of holding a Track Cross event during the afternoon as well. \* **Belts** – On SFI belts expiration dates are listed to expire on either June 30 or December 31 of a designated year. The June 30 date may be ignored as the SCCA has declared that they are now good for use until the end of the year that they expire. \* **Live streaming** – BMR is considering the possibility of live streaming their events. Nelson Kase will look into a camera and data requirements and whether this equipment can be rented. \* **Helmets** – Helmets with 2010 and 2015 dates of manufacture are legal for use until 2120.

**Event Updates - \* Blue Mountain** - Pagoda and Duryea roads are good but will require a small bit of patching. An issue at Duryea is that more drivers wish to register than can be accommodated. The event is so popular and applications are received so fast after registration opens that it closes within days because the maximum limit of drivers has been reached causing much grief among those whose applications beyond the first 100 are then rejected. Also, due to the large number of cars and drivers, the long length of Duryea and occasional unfavorable weather, the number of runs are often less than the drivers would like. Discussion ensued relating to what changes can be considered to increase the total number of runs for the weekend. Some suggestions discussed were to limit the time for novice orientation including limiting familiarization runs to only one run up the hill per car (including two driver cars); having novices suit up prior to their orientation; starting novice orientation earlier on Saturday morning. Other suggestions included: to limit the time for lunch to one-half hour and to employ only one way traffic out of the pit area at the end of the last run to limit congestion. BMR will continue to look at realistic, workable ways to compact time. Some batteries in existing BMR radios may be losing power. Nelson said that he would look into the matter and if so, new batteries may be needed. Rich Rock, however, indicated that the Region is considering switching from analog to digital radios. \* **Weatherly** - Joe Cyburt indicated that the Weatherly Hillclimb Association has reached a financial agreement with the Northeast Pennsylvania Region and that the Weatherly Hillclimbs will continue as scheduled. Their fees will be increased by ten dollars per event. Joe also announced that they have purchased one acre of new property up the hill behind the starting line adjacent to the land they already own upon which the concession vendors occupy. Use of this acre is still under consideration but may possibly be used for additional competitor parking. \* **Steel Cities** – National Road Autosports will no longer be associated with the Cumberland autocross events. They will continue as a sponsor of the Polish Mountain Hillclimb. At the Shenandoah event Steel Cities may run the event as a level III “Track Cross” event at which cars will start much in the same way as a typical hillclimb, with a 10 to 15 foot start, one at a time, and run continuously part way on the track to a defined, marked finish point located well before reaching the start line, then slowly proceed back to the paddock area. The course may run approximately one and a half miles in length on the two and a half mile road course. Runs

will be continuous much like an autocross and will eliminate the need for the somewhat confusing “pod” assembly of cars leading to the start line.

**Election of Officers** – At the November 11, 2017 PHA meeting the following members were nominated for PHA Officers to serve for 2018 : President, Rich Rock; Vice President, David Merritt; Treasurer, John Pitman; and Secretary, Gordon Wise. Teller Rick Kase opened the floor for additional nominations. Since no additional nominations were made, Rick Kase in his position as election Teller “Hereby moved that the Secretary cast one vote for each of the persons nominated for their respective positions.” With a second from Tom Knorr, the motion was then approved.

The next PHA meeting will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2018 with an alternate date on March 17 at the Canal Street Pub 535 Canal St. in Reading, Pa.

The PHA banquet is planned for Saturday November 17, 2018 at the Grantville Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA.

Upon approval of a motion from Tom Knorr with a second from Matt Hoegg, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, PHA Secretary