

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the March 10, 2018 Meeting

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

Those present were PHA Officers: President Rich Rock, Vice President David Merritt, Treasurer John Pitman and Secretary Gordon Wise. SCCA Regional Representatives: Kirt Eikenberg, Don McLaughlin, Dale Gogel, Hugh Maloney and Representative Alternate Don DeHart. PHA members: Vernon MacIntyre, A. MacIntyre, Robert Oswald, Jr., Richard Kase, Nelson Kase, Crystal Whisler, Ursula Whisler, Glenn Hoffman, Rick Kane, Joe Cyburt, Tony Preston, Tom Knorr, Matthew Hoegg, James M. Crocker, Kathy Fisher, David Ascherman, Chuck Christ, Mary Ann Fieux, Keith Weikel, Don Kennedy, Nancy Lewis, Steve Lewis, Mike Daley, Mike Robinson and Trevor Filipowicz. We were also honored to have SCCA National Board Member Jack Burrows from the Washington, D.C. Region in attendance.

Announcement – Mike Ancas is currently in the process of producing a film documentary on the PHA. To this end it was announced that “Glenn Hoffman will be filming today’s meeting.”

Minutes of the January Meeting – printed copies of the January, 27, 2018 meeting were distributed and read individually. In view of no recommended additions nor corrections, upon a motion by Ursula Whisler, with a second from Crystal Whisler, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – There was no additional income since the last treasurer’s report at the January 27, 2018 meeting. Expenditures since then totaled \$122.42 for printing and four copies of the SCCA GCR. Total assets now stand at \$11,425.94. There was an internal transfer of funds totaling \$750.12 from our savings account to our checking account. The treasurer’s report was approved upon a Mary Ann Fieux motion with a second from Trevor Filipowicz.

Audit – the 2017 PHA Audit Committee of Grace Huntzinger and Michael Robinson has reviewed and approved the PHA treasury activity for the year 2017. Their submitted report in writing states, “The PHA Treasury accounts and transactions have been audited and there are no issues noted.”

2018 Supps – Dave Merritt has completed two versions of the PHA Supps. The first revision was intended to reorganize the Supps to match the TTR; to eliminate duplicate information; and to eliminate information not relevant to PHA. The second revision was intended to retain our previous format (since 2014) with changes to accommodate motions from our November and January meetings plus minor changes from the SCCA. Changes to the second Supps revision are small: minor changes to the SMX class, adoption of the GCR rules for harness expiration and an alternative roll bar design for Mazda Miatas. Dave recommended the adoption of the second revision based upon three factors; 1) Rich has been successfully submitting sanction requests based upon the (old form) 2017 PHA Supps, 2) the requests to realign the PHA Supps with the TTR had been coming from the DTTC, which does not currently exist, and 3) on March 8 the SCCA published the 2018 TTR documents which are confusing and incomplete.

In a recent attempt to reorganize its Time Trial program National has assembled a group of people who recently wrote new Rules that Rich Rock says, “Are simply not quite right – that we don’t like.” They just don’t seem to accommodate our particular, unique organizational and safety concerns related to conducting our events. Our existing Rules are more stringent as they are designed foremost to create the safest possible environment for competitors, workers and spectators while simultaneously providing an event that drivers find challenging. We feel that there is no need to change existing Rules. Jack Burrows, Area 2 Director and SCCA National Board member

who, in attendance, agreed and said that, “the PHA should be a model for the entire country” as we have had in the past- and continues to run a very successful and safe program. He is “behind us,” and stated, “National will not mess with us since all Rules changes must be approved by the Board.” Dave Merritt’s revised Supps were then approved upon a motion from Crystal Whisler, with a second by Ursula Whisler after which Dave indicated that he will see that they get up on our website as soon as possible. So, we will go with the rules that we have had along with a few changes to our Supps.

Jack indicated that National wants to raise the Time Trials program profile and, to this end, is planning a National Time Trials Championship event in Kentucky on September 28-30. The first draft is incomplete but it will not affect any Regional Time Trial programs. It will be somewhat similar to the National Championship Road Race and Solo Run-Offs programs

Event Updates – Blue Mountain has already received approval from SCCA for Spring Jefferson and Pagoda. Track rental has been paid for Jefferson. NEPA has sent the sanction request to National for Giants. Dan Lipperini will be applying for the Weatherly sanction. Carol Lipperini will serve as Weatherly Registrar. Some discussion ensued related to lapping with several other cars on track at Jefferson ending with a decision that cars would run as in the past. A question arose related to how cars would run at Shenandoah. It was agreed that running much in the manner as an autocross - and using about ninety per cent of the course length - would be a good idea. Dave Merritt indicated that a decision about Shenandoah would be made, regarding details, at a driver’s meeting at Spring Jefferson. Gordon Wise distributed printed details regarding registration for PHA driver participation at the Carlisle Import/Performance Nationals to be held on May 18, 19 and 20. Nelson Kase indicated that he would email this information to everyone on the PHA mailing list.

Timing – Nelson Kase indicated that he needs to purchase batteries for timing.

Website – monthly fees need to be paid for the PHA website. In 1959 cars started running under the rules of the PHA which was founded with representatives from among several of the 29 clubs that have, or were at the time currently conducting hill climbs across Pennsylvania. 2019 will be PHA’s 60th Anniversary. Nelson suggested that we come up with some sort of celebration. He will also publish statistics related to the drivers, events, etc. on the website. He is also interested in receive information concerning drivers and anything else of interest regarding PHA’s early years.

New Business – Don Kennedy volunteered to investigate a potential site on Mahoning Mountain Road west out of Lehigh for a hill climb. On April 21 and 22 there will be a clean-up event on Duryea Drive. Blue Mountain Region is seeking volunteers to help. Lunch will be provided. John Hartnett has been in communication with a hill climber from England that has expressed interest in visiting one or more PHA hill climbs to “see how we do it.” Dale Gogel informed the meeting that South Jersey Region will hold an All-Sports weekend at New Jersey Motorsports Park that will include a PDX, driver’s school, infield skid pad, solos and road rallye. John Pitman announced that the new date for the **2019 Banquet will be held at the Grantville Holiday Inn on Nov. 2** with the fall PHA meeting at 2 p.m.

Upon an Ursula Whisler motion, with a second from Crystal, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, PHA Secretary