

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the November 17, 2018 Meeting

The meeting held at the Grantville Holiday Inn was called to order at 2 p.m. by President Rich Rock 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. Regional Representatives: Kurt Eikenberg, Don McLaughlin, Grace Huntzinger, Dale Gogel, Hugh Maloney, Mike Ancas and Timm Murphy. Members; Nelson Kase, Dillon Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Dustin Axarlis, Ray Kochin, Jody Miller, Joe Cyburt, Tom Wuellette, Matt Rowe, Matt Kujat, Nancy Lewis, Steve Lewis, Jen DeHart, Mike Robinson, Matthew Hoegg, Rick Terrill, Lisa Spitler, Keith Weikel, Tony Preston, Glenn Hoffman, Gail Knorr, Tom Knorr, Shaun Mellinger, Dale Gogel, Carol Lipperini, Dan Lipperini, Donna Sumner, Mike Ancas, Carolyn Reider, Gary Reider, Richard Kase, George Witman, Mary Anne Fieux, Charles Christ, Crystal Whisler, Grace Huntzinger, Don DeHart, Matther Hoegg, Ray Colbert, and Jason Fraley. We were again honored to have SCCA National Board Area 2 Director Jack Burrows from the D.C. Region in attendance.

Minutes of the March 10, 2018 Meeting - printed copies of the March 10, 2018 meeting were distributed and read individually. In view of no recommended additions nor corrections from the membership in attendance, upon a Mike Robinson motion with a second from Hugh Maloney, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – John Pitman distributed a detailed printed report listing every PHA income and expenditure transaction to date beginning from January 1, 2018 when our balance was \$11,425.94. The current pre banquet balance stands at \$20,400.76. John estimates that the after banquet expenditures are paid the PHA balance should be approximately \$13,090. Upon conclusion of John's verbal report - upon a motion from Nancy Lewis with a second from Kurt Eikenberg - the report was approved.

Audit Committee - Mike Robinson and Mike Axarlis volunteered to serve as the audit committee to review the PHA financial transactions for the 2018 calendar year. The committee will meet after the January 2019 meeting.

Critique of the 2018 Season – Every event except Giants had rain on at least one day. Nelson Kase who recently compiled PHA driver statistics for the past ten years indicated that we enjoyed a very healthy turnout - despite the weather - with a total of 677 competitors running only seven events. The eighth event on our calendar, Polish Mountain, cancelled their event due to continuous excessive rain that made it literally impossible for cars to run the hill. Had Polish Mountain been held, it may have been possible to set a new record for a total number of drivers during a season. In response to this report Jack Burrows SCCA Area 2 Director in attendance said, "This is an incredible healthy report. All other SCCA venues have lost total number of drivers this year."

Jefferson - Ran smoothly overall. Grouping by lap times rather than by classes worked well and should continue.

Pagoda and Duryea - Rich Rock indicated that Pagoda and Duryea needs more younger workers – especially for set-up and tear-down. The same people have been working the hill for years and are getting older thus there is need for help from younger people with more energy. The new 4'x8' length foam blocks are effective for safety protection. They are easy to install and tear down but their size poses a

storage problem. The rain on both Friday and Saturday nights created a problem. The storm at registration at the top of the hill on Friday was “nasty.” Both Reading events have become so popular that drivers, as in previous years, continued to complain about the difficulty in registering for the events. Several drivers who mailed their registration forms found that by the time their forms were received by the event registrar registration had already reached the maximum - and was closed. To this end registration will now be limited to on-line registration only. Drivers who are Reading event sponsors plus officials and those who worked at Pagoda and Duryea event set-ups are guaranteed to have their registration accepted.

Weatherly – The Weatherly Hillclimb Association has started work on constructing a 45’x60’ open sided building with a closed second floor near the site where the food vendor tent typically had existed. It should be ready for use in time for Spring Weatherly in June. They are also attempting to purchase the land on the right side of the roadway from the starting line to the house property at corner one. If successful, this property will be developed for such use as driver’s tow vehicles, trailers, campers plus emergency equipment, etc. The Weatherly Hillclimb Association has recruited some young additional members. Chuck Christ, corner worker at the finish line, suggested that the foliage around the inside of the last corner before the finish be cut so that the workers can see cars going around the entire corner rather than only after they exit the corner. Currently workers momentarily loose of cars as they move through the long sweeping turn.

Giants – There will be some enlargement changes to the camping area. Also, a change is planned to alleviate congestion in the upper staging area. After his car burned to the ground, Darrel Danko indicated that there should be some kind of training for Giant’s workers. Ray Colbert suggested there should be opportunities for a “crash and burn” training offered to our workers, officials and drivers.

Polish Mountain – Polish Mountain was cancelled due to an inordinate amount of rain. The event will be back on PHA’s schedule for 2019. National Road Autosport, current sponsor of Polish Mountain, will become a chapter of the D.C. SCCA Region in 2019. It will be named the “Western Maryland Chapter.” Hereafter, Steel Cities Region will no longer be formally sponsoring Polish Mountain.

Fall Shenandoah – There were 93 entries at the Shenandoah circuit. The new “autocross like” format ran well and will be used again next year which will be termed an “SCCA Track Sprint.” Two minor problems existed: since the speaker system proved inadequate, signage was used for communication, and at one point, the finish line was moved back due to rain.

2019 Schedule – Summit Point Motorsports Park was sold recently. As a result, both Jefferson and Shenandoah will cost more to rent. Rich Rock – because of PHA’s long relationship with the track - in negotiating with new track personnel was able to secure both courses for a discounted **rate increase of \$300** each for 2019. The rate, however, will increase significantly beyond 2019. Depending on the increased cost we may or may not schedule events at Summit Point beyond 2019. Some discussion ensued related to possibly considering finding a new venue or a second event at Giants or Polish mountain. Dave Merritt indicated that there is no possibility of scheduling an event at Rose Valley due to the deteriorated condition of the road as well as problems within the Trout Run Fire Company. Upon a motion from Rick Kase with a second from Mike Robinson the following schedule of PHA events for 2019 was approved:

Spring Jefferson -- May 25-26 Spring Weatherly -- June 8-9 Pagoda -- June 22-23 Giants Despair -- July 6-7

**Polish Mountain -- August 3-4 Duryea -- August 17-18 Fall Shenandoah -- August 31 –September 1
Fall Weatherly -- September 14-15**

2019 Supps/Classes – Dave Merritt has been reviewing the PHA supps. He indicated that new rules are being drafted. There will be no class changes – the PHA can run any classes we want. We are moving toward approving our classes. PHA has decided to no longer recommend the disabling or removing of air bags. Dave will write a statement regarding the removable of airbags for PHA events. Upon a motion from Matt Rowe with a second from Mike Robinson approval was granted for Dave to revise the supps.

There was no discussion regarding the website and timing agenda items listed on the November meeting agenda.

New Business/Non-agenda items – Concern was expressed regarding exceedingly noisy cars at the start line. The excessive noise from several cars makes it difficult for officials to hear their radios thus interferes with race communication. It was pointed out that rules already exist concerning loud exhaust noise. Procedures to deal with this problem simply need to be followed.

Ray Colbert indicated that he has identified a potential site for a mile long hill climb near New Kensington. He intends to investigate its suitability as he seeks possible sponsors and interest from various local individuals, groups and organizations.

We have been holding our annual awards banquet at the Grantville Holiday Inn for as long as many of us can remember. Thinking that some of us may welcome a fresh environment for this event John Pitman - our long-time hard working PHA banquet committee of one – inquired as to whether a change of location would be of interest to our membership. Since several in attendance seemed to welcome the idea John suggested that we may want to consider the Classic Auto Mall at Morgantown, Pa. located immediately off exit 298 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The Classic Auto Mall houses a significant car collection on permanent display that he thought would be of interest to us. Since few in attendance were familiar with the Classic Auto Mall a suggestion was made that perhaps we could hold the January PHA meeting there to look at the site for a future banquet location. Numerous members agreed to the idea. However, for 2019, John has again reserved the Holiday Inn at Grantville for next year on November 2.

Nomination of PHA Officers – The following persons were nominated for PHA Officers for the year 2019.

President – Rich Rock

Vice-President – John Pitman

Treasurer – Grace Huntzinger

Secretary – Gordon Wise

Nominations will be open again for all officers at the Morgantown meeting with the election to follow directly after nominations are closed.

Upon a motion from Rick Kase with a unanimous second the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next PHA meeting will be held at the Classic Auto Mall located just off the Pennsylvania Turnpike at exit 298 on Saturday, January 26, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, PHA Secretary