

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the November 2, 2019 Meeting

The meeting held at the Grantville Holiday Inn was called to order at 2 p.m. by President Rick Rock after it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance.

Those present were PHA Officers: President Rich Rock, Vice President John Pitman, Treasurer Grace Huntzinger, and Secretary Gordon Wise. SCCA Regional Representatives: Rick Terrill, Hugh Maloney, Dale Gogel, Don McLaughlin and Regional Representative Alternates Don DeHart and Steve Lewis. PHA members: Nelson Kase, Richard Kase, Kurt Eickenberg, Tom Wuellette, Mike Axarlis, Dillon Axarlis, Tom Knorr, Gail Knorr, Trevor Filipowicz, Mike Robinson, Nancy Lewis, Vincent Wieczorek, Eli Sharp, Glenn Hoffman, Chrystal Whisler, Matthew Hoegg, George Witman, Mary Anne Fieux, Charles Christ, Carolyn Reider, Bertie Geib and Timm Murphy.

Minutes of the March 2, 2019 Meeting – Printed copies of the March 2, 2019 meeting were distributed, then read individually by attendees. Since there were no additions nor corrections from the floor, upon a motion from Mike Robinson with a second from Trevor Filipowicz, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Grace Huntzinger submitted a comprehensive written treasury report listing season ending income and expenditures. The current PHA balance is \$13,422.04. Grace reported recent difficulties dealing with Santander Bank and recommended that we close our account and transfer our business to PNC Bank which has many and more convenient locations. Grace will then apply for a new PHA credit card. After discussion, approval of the report and the transfer of our funds was made upon a motion by Don DeHart /with a second from Steve Lewis. President Rich Rock stated that “fake” emails requesting the purchase of gift cards have been received by several PHA members. He advised everyone to be very suspicious of any similar requests.

Audit Committee – Mike Axarlis and Mike Robinson have agreed to serve on the PHA audit committee to review our 2019 treasury account activity.

Critique of the 2019 season - The 2019 event season was well supported as a total of 741 drivers constituted a new record for the past thirty or more years. There were 211 different drivers, however 62 drove only one event.

Jefferson – Jefferson was a good event despite the fact that it saw fewer (62) drivers than in recent years. It rained on Sunday. As formerly, cars ran laps on the same course both days. Rather than run the same course both days some drivers in attendance suggested running the short course one day and the longer course the next day. There was some discussion about possible format changes in 2020 but no decisions were made at the meeting. The event will be held again next year as per agreement with the new ownership of the facility. Rich suggested that the rental fee will likely increase next year for drivers.

Weatherly – As typical, both Weatherly events were successful and attracted approximately 100 drivers each. The public roadway through the event was recently re-paved and the cement floor of the pavilion was in place for Fall Weatherly. By next spring the roof will be in place. Beginning next spring this facility will house the food vendors that to date have been located under the large 40 x 60' tent. The Weatherly Hillclimb Association has purchased the land from the large pavilion area up the hillside to the creek for parking. They are also attempting to purchase land immediately adjacent to the paved hillclimb road from the start line to the home property at turn one for possible use as a future paddock area. PHA Vice President John Pitman remarked that both Weatherly and Giants events have come a long, long way in improving their facilities over the past years. They have done a great job.

Giants Despair – Giants Hillclimb Association is growing in membership and has made significant improvements to their facility such as the paved pit area, the shaded park-like (race car, enclosed trailer, and RV parking) area, plus the open trailer spaces to the north of the start line. Driver attendance was excellent. It was announced during the event that drivers racing at Giants that weekend represented seven states. The event was highly successful despite the raging rain storm that flooded the grounds shortly after the event closed on Saturday afternoon. However, a potentially serious incident occurred when one car ran off the course at turn two - Devil's Elbow - continued up the hill toward the spectator area knocking down the "snow fence" and one spectator. Fortunately it appeared that the spectator was not hurt. Unfortunately for the event another spectator filmed the accident which almost immediately appeared on the internet which subsequently led to an inquiry from the SCCA National office. In response, PHA and Giants officials are currently looking for ways – such as physical means to assist in preventing such incidents from happening again. Rich Rock submitted to the SCCA National Time Trials Manager documentation of changes made at other PHA event to further improve spectator safety.

Pagoda and Duryea – both Reading events ran well, as usual. It was observed, however, that Pagoda had numerous cancellations during the week before the race. It rained during the weekend. Perhaps this had something to do with the cancellations. At Pagoda there were some technical problems with the radios. The radio repeater at the top of the hill had been changed from analog to digital causing problems with the analog radios. Blue Mountain Region has since purchased 30 new digital radios that were used at Duryea which solved the problem.

Polish Mountain – John Felten sent a letter to be read at the meeting thanking PHA drivers for their support at Polish Mountain. They had 78 Cars that ran the event which was slightly above the financial breaking point. There was a physical problem with the condition of the road pavement that needs to be addressed. Officials of Polish Mountain will be working to address the road surface problem. The event ran well except for the intense rain storm that cause severe flooding in the paddock.

Shenandoah - Shenandoah at Summit Point went well except for the fact as Rich Rock says, "Shenandoah eats cars." The jersey wall barriers don't move out of the way. Drivers like the Track Sprint format and the complexity and variation of the course as well as the physical configuration of the track property beyond the track itself. The food truck provided mixed reviews. Shenandoah will be on the schedule again, but, as Jefferson, there will be an increase in charge for the track.

2020 schedule – President Rock indicated that the 2020 schedule of events will be held on the same weekends as in the past recent years. It is:

Jefferson- May 23-24. **Spring Weatherly-** June 6-7. **Pagoda** June 20-21. **Giants** July 11-12

Polish Mt.- August 1-2. **Duryea-** August 15-16. **Shenandoah-**Sept. 5-6. **Fall Weatherly-** Sept. 19-20

2020 Supps/Classes John Pitman proposed adding a new class for FV cars that are equipped with non FV spec tires. After discussion, upon a second from Rick Terril, the motion was approved. Mike Robinson proposed requiring GT Spec full roll cages for all SMX cars. His motion was approved after a Glenn Hoffman second. Hillclimbs now fall within the general SCCA Time Trial category but are considered entities unto themselves with their own rules. Drivers are required to possess SCCA Hillclimb or SCCA Time Trial licenses or Novice Permits. When renewing their SCCA memberships, previously licensed hillclimb drivers should automatically receive the designation Hillclimb Driver and, perhaps TT Driver Intermediate on the back of their cards. If not, contact SCCA Licensing at National.

Timing - Grace Huntzinger who has been instrumental in designing, operating and maintaining our wireless timing equipment at all hill climbs for many years announced that as of now she has stepped down from all her former responsibilities. What remains is that someone needs to step up and assume all responsibilities for our timing equipment. Without someone to set up equipment at each event and maintain it in between events, there will be no hillclimbs. Hopefully several people volunteer to share this responsibility. As far as timing equipment is concerned, while our equipment works, transmitter units inside Race America T-Link units are no longer available from the manufacturer. This puts us at risk should one of our transmitter units fail. Last year we borrowed a spare unit from SCCA's South Carolina Region by way of George Bowland and we will continue to be able to borrow the spare for the 2020 season. We may be able to purchase that unit and other spares from them in the future. Race America has indicated that they are considering manufacturing a high powered T-Link system. Steve Lewis has been taking a look at two systems - transponder and Microgate, At Weatherly a test using Microgate seemed to correspond to what we have been using. Steve said that there may be a new system that uses cell phone modems to communicate and recommended that we wait until January to see what is coming out. Rich mentioned that he has heard that Verizon is working on developing wireless timing technology but has no conformation or specific information to share.

2020 Banquet – John Pitman reported that he will be making reservations for our next Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn at Grantville. It was suggested that in the future we may want to consider the Holiday Inn at Morgaintown. Incidentally, John is looking for someone to take over organizing the PHA Award banquets.

Nomination of PHA Officers – Rick Kase, Nominations Teller opened nominations for PHA Officers to serve for the 2020 year. Both Rich Rock and Glenn Hoffman received nominations for President. Both John Pitman and Don McLaughlin were nominated for Vice President. Grace Huntzinger was nominated for Treasurer. Gordon Wise was nominated for Secretary. Upon a Trevor Filipowicz motion, with a second from Mary Anne Fieux, nominations for officers were closed. Nominations for officers will again be open at the next PHA meeting prior to the elections.

Upon approval of a motion to adjourn from Charles Christ with a second from Mike Robinson, the meeting ended at 4: 20 p.m. The next PHA meeting will be held on either January 18 or 24, 2020 - the location, date and time to be announced.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, Secretary