

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the February 29, 2020 Meeting

The meeting held at the Canal Street Pub in Reading was called to order at 2 p.m. by President Rich Rock after it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance. Officers present were President Rich Rock, Vice President John Pitman, Treasurer Grace Huntzinger and Secretary Gordon Wise. SCCA Regional Representatives: Rick Terrill, Hugh Maloney, John Felton, Dale Gogel, Joe Whiteley, Bill Weaver, Don McLaughlin, Glenn Hoffman, plus Representative Alternates Don DeHart, Steve Lewis and Steve Moyer. PHA members: Crystal Whisler, Matthew Hoegg, Ursula Whisler, Mike Robinson, Nelson Kase, Rick Kase, Chuck Christ, Mary Anne Fieux, Joe Cyburt, John Russell, Clyde Blair, Brian Hallecki, Tom Knorr, Gail Knorr, Bill Feist, Linda Young Pitman, Mike Axarlis, and Nancy Lewis.

Minutes of the January 18, 2020 Meeting – Printed copies of the January 18, 2020 Meeting were distributed, then read by attendees. Since there were no additions nor corrections from the floor, upon a Rick Kase motion with a second from Mike Axarlis, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Grace Huntzinger distributed a printed financial statement prior to her comprehensive oral report that indicated no additional income was received YTD. A few small expenditures for the November, 2019 banquet, trophies, website, printing and miscellaneous - totaled \$560.58. The current checking account balance as of 2/28/2020 is \$15,694.28. Upon an Ursula Whisler motion with a second from Matt Hoegg the treasurer's report was approved.

Audit – The 2019 year audit was completed and approved by a committee of Mike Axarlis, John Pitman and Mike Robinson directly after the close of the January 18, 2020 meeting.

Event Updates – President Rock arranged for the purchase of a large amount of premium oil dry that has proven to be substantially more effective in treating liquid spills on road surfaces than that which has typically been used in automobile racing. PHA event organizers can now pick up the amount that they have ordered which should adequately cover the entire 2020 season. Thanks Rich!

Polish Mountain – John Felten, in discussing last year's August event, indicated that there were problems due to excessive rain in the paddock area and the poor condition of the road surface. Organizers express the need to figure out how to solve their paddock drainage. The good news is that Polish Mountain had the greatest number of cars ever - totaling 79 - that served to end up slightly above the breaking point financially. John reported that the state of Maryland will pave the roadway prior to this year's event thanks to Polish Mountain's hard working officials who persuaded Maryland Senator George Edwards to visit the course in order to observe the road's poor and dangerous condition. George, then, went on to support the process at the state level which led to its approval. John will keep the PHA informed of the paving progress.

Weatherly – Joe Cyburt discussed the progress on the 40x60' building on the hill climb grounds that will house vendors, etc. It remains that the building itself is up and only needs for the roof to be finished. There is also some work to be completed on the grounds surrounding the building that should be finished early during the spring. With the new purchase of additional land there will be some additional parking – the specific use as yet to be determined – most likely for competitors. The building will have some space on the second level and may serve the community prior to and after hill climb weekends. The building has been named "Fairway Community Center." The Weatherly Hillclimb Association is attempting to secure additional grants to continue improvements. Weatherly Association people have also been working with Verizon regarding timing improvements.

Giants – Brian Halecki indicated that the Giants Hillclimb Association is in the process of cutting down more trees to provide more space for competitors. They are also planning to provide barriers at turn one to better protect spectators.

Shenandoah – Rick Terrill informed the membership that Shenandoah will be run as last year with no changes, however, registration fees may increase \$20 per driver to cover insurance costs.

Pagoda and Duryea – Rich Rock met with Reading’s new mayor and is optimistic regarding continuing good will and cooperation between the city and the PHA hill climbs. The roadway may possibly need some repair. The city is planning some improvements on the mountain and Rich suggested that there may be some city equipment stored in near proximity to the fire tower during our events there. Blue Mountain Region is planning a ‘clean-up’ on the hill on April 25. Everyone is welcome to help. Steve Lewis is still in the process of looking at new timing possibilities to use at events.

2020 Supps – SCCA Time Trial Rules have recently been significantly revised by National. They include Hill Climb Rules but much currently included does not apply to hillclimbing. To simplify hill climb rules Mike Robinson, Rich Rock and Grace Huntzinger have been working to clarify and simplify those rules that specifically relate to the way we run our events and eliminate those that do not. The cleaned up version of PHA SUPPS will apply only to hillclimbs and Time Trials. Rich Rock suggested that this revised version may well become the “National Hill Climb Rules.” In case of ties related to timed runs, several tie-breaking processes for first place were discussed. No conclusions were reached. Upon a Rick Kase motion, seconded by Grace Huntzinger approval was given to allow event organizers/officials to decide to either use a tiebreaker or give two First Place awards. The process of an annual tech was discussed. Consensus was that since we have a sufficient number of authorized tech inspectors and given the fact that all cars are inspected at every event, there is no need to require an annual tech. Approval was given to eliminate the annual tech upon a Chuck Christ motion with a second from Mary Anne Fieux. The fact that all drivers must possess a valid government issued driver’s license in order to compete in SCCA sanctioned hill climbs arose. It was mentioned that minors and other drivers with wavers are permitted to compete in several different SCCA track events so why not hill climbs? It is because SCCA Rules state that competitors must valid government-issued driver’s license. President Rock indicated that 2010 helmets will still be good for this year. Also, medical examinations are no longer required for Hill Climb licenses. However a medical history form to be completed by each driver is required for license renewal.

New Business – Rich Rock has been given information regarding new charges for mandatory services at Jefferson and Shenandoah tracks at Summit Point. There will be a \$50 per day charged for the on-site wrecker plus a charge of \$50 per response for the flatbed. A new SCCA policy now mandates a deduction on liability claims at \$1,000 per incident. The Region holding the event will be charged the deduction. Another liability deals with “restricted area property damage.” There will be a \$2,500 deductible charge for damage in a restricted area. There was considerable discussion regarding the definition of “restricted area property damage.” This will have to be clarified by National. The question related to paying for these costs by the Regions was discussed at length. Suggestions including assessing the drivers \$5 or \$10 per event – the money going into individual region insurance accounts, or a singular PHA account reserved for insurance. Upon a motion from Matt Hoegg seconded by Rick Terrill, each event will contribute \$10/entry for a reserve fund managed by PHA for the purpose of paying the deduction on insurance claims for this next year. Grace Huntzinger agreed to take over the management of PHA merchandise (stickers, t-shirts, hats, patches, etc.) Nancy Lewis discussed weekend or trial SCCA membership and SCCA waivers in addition to member resources. Andrew Clark from from the Trout Run Fire Company contacted Rich Rock and indicated that there is some interest in reviving the Rose Valley Hillclimb in the future. There is some interest from South Jersey in the possibility of combining Time Trial cars with PHA at Jefferson. It could benefit both groups if it can be worked out.

The meeting adjourned at 4p.m upon consensus to the entire membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Gordon Wise, PHA Secretary