

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the February 6, 2021 Meeting

The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Rich Rock at 6:10 PM, after which it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance.

Officers present were Rich Rock, President; Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer; and Gordon Wise, Secretary. (John Pitman, Vice President was not available). **Regional Representatives:** Dave Aaron, Chuck Christ, Dale Gogel, Glenn Hoffman, Don McLaughlin, Dave Merritt, Sue Salsburg, Rick Terrill, and Joe Whiteley. **Alternative Representative:** Steve Lewis. **PHA members:** Jeff Avril, Paul Berdych, Jim Crnkovic, David Cutchins, Mary Anne Fieux, Kathy Fisher, Shaun Fraley, Kristen Hack, Matthew Hoegg, Rick Johnson, Richard Kase, Don Kennedy, Nancy Lewis, Patti Murphy, Timm Murphy, Bill Norton, Freddie Ortiz, Sherwin Pacquette, Donna Robinson, Mike Robinson, Eli Sharp, Stan Vann, Adam Weaver, Crystal Whisler, Ursula Whisler, Vince Wiczorek, George Witman, and Tom Wuellette. There were three additional participants who could not be identified.

Minutes of the December 2020 Meeting: <http://pahillclimb.org/about/pha-meeting/>

There were no changes requested. Chuck Christ made a motion to approve the minutes; Mary Anne Fieux seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Grace Huntzinger presented financials as of January 31st. Since the last meeting expenses were \$102; income was \$0. There is \$18,595 in the account, including an insurance reserve of \$1,500. Upcoming expenses include \$17/month website fee, \$30 domain renewal and \$189 timing software renewal. Tom Wuellette made a motion to accept the report; Gordon Wise seconded. The motion was approved.

Audit: Nancy Lewis and Mike Robinson volunteered to meet with Grace Huntzinger after the meeting to conduct the audit.

2021 Schedule: <http://pahillclimb.org/schedule-results/>

Rich Rock reported that schedule had been approved at the December meeting.

Spring Jefferson: Rich Rock reported that he had a signed contract with Summit Point. There has been a significant increase in the Jefferson track rental that may result in a \$20-\$25 entry fee increase. Rich reported that he is working on the sanction request.

Spring Weatherly: Rich reported that Joe Cyburt confirmed he was planning the event. Rich also reported that the pavilion is expected to be completed in time for the event.

Pagoda: Rich reported that Reading is looking into creating two-way traffic on the road at the Pagoda, rather than have downhill traffic go through the Pagoda parking lot. Neither engineering nor bidding have been completed yet. When it happens, it may make the turn at Pagoda wider and faster. It is currently planned for between the Pagoda and Duryea events. The parking area at the fire tower at the top of the hill is currently chained off and locked; Rich has keys.

Giants Despair: Rich reported that planning was underway.

Polish Mountain: Rich reported that planning was underway. The road has been repaved, and millings from the repaving have been added to the paddock entry area.

Fall Shenandoah: Rick Terrill reported that he had a signed contract with Summit Point. There has been a significant increase in the Shenandoah track rental that may result in a \$20-\$25 entry fee increase.

Carlisle: <https://carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=import+and+performance+nationals>

Gordon Wise reported that Carlisle has invited the PHA back for 2021. The event will start at noon on Friday May 14th and close at 5:00 PM on Saturday May 15th; two weeks before Spring Jefferson. We have been offered half of a pavilion with camping in trailers and RV's at the pavilion (tents will be in a separate camping area). Everything is free. More information will come soon.

Pine Mountain Hillclimb, KY: <https://timetrials.scca.com/events/1998149-2021-pine-mountain-hillclimb>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcjcQ5-UFOI> (touring video)

Rich Rock reported that a new hillclimb in Kentucky was being organized for the weekend of May 1-2 by three regions with support from the SCCA National Office and PHA. Registration is expected to open March 1st. Details are still being worked out, including covid restrictions, timing setup and protection of a bridge with stone walls (about halfway up the course). A meeting at the hill is planned for February 21st. Rich also reported that there will a proposal coming out soon (with a two-week review/feedback period) to have many classes (including PHA classes) and that they will be grouped into 8 trophy classes. *[Update (2/10): that original plan has been abandoned and is now being redrafted.]* David Cutchins reported that George Bowland has taken two touring videos including one that shows the paddock area, which will be posted on YouTube in addition to the one above.

Chasing the Dragon Hillclimb: <https://ccrscca.com/road-racing/hillclimb/> (future info)

Rich Rock reported that Dragon will be scheduled for the weekend of July 24-25, which is two weeks after Giants Despair and two weeks before Polish Mountain.

Time Trial National Tour @ Pitt Race: <https://stcscca.com/road-racing/schedule/> (future info)

Rick Terrill reported that Steel Cities Region will be hosting a Time Trial National Tour event the weekend of August 27-28. Both Time Trial (lapping) and Track Sprint sessions will be scheduled. Also scheduled that weekend is a double divisional road race, a two-day solo event and an SCCA drivers' school.

2021 Supps/Classes: <http://pahillclimb.org/rules/>

Rich Rock reported that the changes discussed in the December PHA meeting included a new Street Mod Rear (SMR) class and minor revisions have been incorporated in the PHA Supplemental Regulations for 2021 and have been posted on the PHA website. Mike Robinson made a motion to approve the Supps; Rick Terrill seconded. The motion was approved.

Rich noted that PHA events should no longer be referred to as Level 3 or Level 4. Sanctions and entry forms should only refer to being a Time Trial (e.g., Spring Jefferson), a Track Sprint (e.g., Fall Shenandoah) or a Hillclimb.

Timing: Rich Rock thanked Steve and Nancy Lewis for taking over the scoring and timing responsibilities. Steve Lewis reported that he has been training himself and testing the AXWare software; there are challenges with timing lapping sessions (e.g., Spring Jefferson). Grace Huntzinger reported that Nelson Kase had tried to get AXWare to work for lapping and gave up. Grace also reported that the older timing system that PHA has used at Jefferson to support lapping is broken; she is trying to resolve. This may cause Spring Jefferson to become a Track Sprint, similar to Fall Shenandoah. Work continues on this topic.

David Cutchins asked whether we could use transponders. Rich reported that the timing loop at Jefferson is between pit in and pit out. This would require 1 full lap to timing and one full lap to pit in, regardless of direction of race travel (equaling 4 laps per run with two timed laps). Dave Merritt noted that PHA went from 3 timed laps to 2 (with only 1 lap for pit out/pit in combined) when the track was extended a few years ago to reduce catchups and create more runs. Grace reported that transponders would be easier to time but noted that there is still a need to transmit the timing information. Possibly radios or cell modems, although cell reception is weak at Summit Point. Steve reported that he has looked at a couple of transponders: Race Results which only cost \$65, and MicroGate which uses radios. Synching with AXWare seems to be a challenge. George Witman pointed out that there would be a problem with two driver cars; Grace confirmed that 2 transponders may be required and would need to be switched out between runs similar to number plates. Work continues on this topic.

David Cutchins asked whether we could use transponders on the hills. Rich reported that Pine Mountain may use transponders with cell phone modems to create a LAN (local area network). Many of the above challenges at a track would still exist. In addition, Rich noted a concern with northern roads and snowplows damaging the timing loops. Grace suggested that perhaps a PVC pipe could be buried in the road inside of which the wire for the timing loop could run for each event. Work continues on this topic.

Steve Lewis requested that the event registrars provide a list of entrants prior to each event. It was noted that registrars should give Steve access to MotorSportsReg and/or MyAutoEvents. Rich will pass along the request to NEPA and WDCR/WMC. Steve plans to setup an email address for timing; Grace will put the address on the PHA website.

Website: Rich Rock thanked Grace Huntzinger for taking over the website responsibilities. Grace reported that she had upgraded the software, which unfortunately broke the menu links. Grace has fixed those. Grace is in the process cleaning up and performing minor reorganizations of the website. When she has completed those efforts, feedback will be welcomed.

Banquet: <http://pahillclimb.org/schedule-results/>

The banquet is scheduled for November 20th to be held at the Holiday Inn, Grantville PA.

New Business: None

Election of Officers: Richard Kase reported that nominations at the December meeting had been Rich Rock, President; John Pitman, Vice President; Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer; and Gordon Wise, Secretary. Richard then opened the floor for additional nominations position by

position. There were no new nominations except Secretary; Gordon declined his nomination and nominated Dave Merritt (accepted). Richard made a motion to have one unanimous ballot; Jim Crnkovic seconded. The motion was approved. The Secretary (Gordon) accepted the ballot. Rich thanked Gordon for his near continuous service as Secretary since 2002, as well as organizing the Carlisle event and promoting the PHA. Rich also thanked Dave for taking the Secretary role.

Next Meeting: <http://pahillclimb.org/schedule-results/>

There was discussion about having the next meeting in early March. Consensus was to have the next meeting on March 6th at 6:00 PM. Information including Zoom instructions will be posted on the PHA website.

Rich Rock adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Merritt