

## Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

### Minutes of the November 20, 2021 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Rock at 2:08 PM, after which it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance.

**Officers present** were Rich Rock, President; John Pitman, Vice President; Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer; and Dave Merritt, Secretary. **Regional Representatives:** Chuck Christ, Dale Gogel, Glenn Hoffman\*, Hugh Maloney, Don McLaughlin\*, Sue Salsburg\*, Rick Terrill, and Gordon Wise. **Alternative Representatives:** Steve Lewis and Steve Moyer\*. **PHA members:** Dave Ascheman, Mark Aubele\*, Michelle Aubele\*, Jeff Avril, Kacey Rovere-Avril, Gibby Bozicevich\*, Dillon Axarlis, Melinda Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Jim Crnkovic\*, David Cutchins\*, Jessica Fessler, Mary Anne Fieux, Trevor Filipowicz, Ken Gillette\*, Jim Hinrichs, Matthew Hoegg, Jeff Isreal\*, Kristen Isreal\*, Rick Johnson, Dave Karp, Bernice Kase, Richard Kase, Don Kennedy, Tom Knorr, Nancy Lewis, Amanda McCafferty, Patti Murphy\*, Timm Murphy\*, Brian Murray, Matt Phillips, Kristie Reid\*, Donna Robinson, Mike Robinson, Matt Rowe\*, Dave Stoner\*, Donna Sumner, Adam Weaver\*, Crystal Whisler, George Witman, and Linda Young. There were additional participants who could not be identified. [\* participated on Zoom]

**Minutes of the March 6, 2021 Meeting:** There were no changes requested. Chuck C made a motion to approve the minutes; Mary Anne F seconded. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Grace H presented financials. The total in the PHA bank account is \$32.2K. This includes \$8.3K for the insurance reserve (a pool to cover the \$1K deductible for claims at PHA events). It was pointed out that other than trophies the expenses for the banquet were not yet captured. Grace suggested that the \$10/driver assessment would be reviewed in light of the current reserve. Rick K made a motion to accept the report; John P seconded. The motion was approved.

**Audit:** The next financial audit will occur following the January 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Mike Axarlis, Nancy Lewis and Mike Robinson have volunteered for the audit review.

**Critique of the 2021 season:** Rich R reported that total entries for 2021 were 60 down from 2019 (681 vs. 741).

**Carlisle:** Gordon W reported that 18 cars had been on display. The 2022 event will be held May 13-14, two weeks before Jefferson.

**Jefferson:** Rich reported that there were 58 timed entries. He indicated that this was the first event without Nelson Kase and thanked Steve and Nancy Lewis, Rick Kase, Rick and Patty Johnson, and Kristen Hack for stepping up. Regarding Jefferson Circuit, Rich indicated that there were no plans for electrical hook-ups

**Weatherly:** Rich reported that there were 99 timed entries at both Spring and Fall events. The new pavilion and parking area were appreciated. Rich also reported that Bryan Fritzler is undergoing therapy, and apparently is beginning to stand and walk although he may be wearing a brace.

**Pagoda:** Rich reported that the event got off to slow start due to Vince's accident. Vince is just now in therapy to start to bear weight. Rich also reported that we had to deal with the media and Facebook regarding the accident. Jim Oswald helped to get the fire department to remove FB photos. On Sunday an incident damaged the guard rail near turn 1.

**Duryea:** Rich reported that an incident damaged the guard rail near turn 7. Neither guard rail damage (Pagoda nor Duryea) has resulted in a claim by the City of Reading to date. Don K expressed concern about the lack of foam blocks for backup when blocks get damaged. They will get replaced, but there is no current storage or transportation for backups (tabled). Rich reported

that tech and the novice program were going to be looked at for possible ways to speed up the event. Rich also reported that repaving by the Pagoda was completed. Dave K requested that placards be placed at turn entry for drivers at Pagoda and Duryea. Jeff A will make the placards; Mike R will store them.

**Giants:** Rich reported that there were 103 timed entries. The event officials stopped a non-participant from flying a drone over the start line; the non-participant complained to SCCA, but no action is expected. Nancy L reported that the three run groups helped reruns (especially for two driver cars). Donna S suggested that drivers be aware of fluid cleanup if needed at turnaround; Trevor F indicated that Pig Pods would be useful and suggested that some be on hand. Tom K observed that spectator protection at turn 1 seemed to be good. Matt H suggested that snow fencing at the “Elbow” in front of the culvert to prevent spectators from sitting in the culvert or from going to the road to assist an incident.

**Polish:** Steve M reported that Polish had 74 timed entries (down 5 from 2019) and that the organizers felt the event went well. Dave M indicated that the slow start on Saturday and allocation of Porta Johns were being looked into. Rich indicated that part of the delay on Saturday was the result of identifying and resolving a radio hack. Amanda M suggested that a backup channel and code word be established prior to the start of each day. Jeff A suggested keyed radios. Dave C expressed concern that some of the lower cars could get under the new guard rails; Steve M indicated that has already been a topic of discussion with the state.

**Shenandoah:** Rick T reported that there were 71 timed entries. The air horn used to supplement the PA system and signage to alert drivers to start of a run group seemed to be successful. Rick also indicated that getting enough workers was a problem and that some drivers were needed to fill the gap. (The drivers who volunteered were given make-up runs.) Rich reported that there had been a break-in at the concession stand, although nobody felt it was one of our participants.

**2022 Schedule:** Rich R. referred to the Proposed 2022 in the agenda:

Spring Jefferson	May 28-29 (Memorial Day Weekend)
Spring Weatherly	June 11-12
Pagoda	June 25-26
Giants Despair	July 9-10
Polish Mountain	August 6-7
Duryea	August 20-21
Fall Shenandoah	September 3-4 (Labor Day Weekend)
Fall Weatherly	September 17-18

The following events will be added to the schedule:

- Annual Meeting January 29, 2022
- Organizational Meeting TBD
- Carlisle May 13-14, 2022
- Critique Meeting/Banquet November 12, 2022

The schedule was approved on a motion by Matt H.; seconded by Mike R.

**2022 Supps/Classes:**

- a. **Car and Driver Safety Requirements:** Rich kicked off the discussion by saying that Vince had exceeded the safety requirements of his class, and that had likely saved his life. The following were discussed:

- Mark/Michelle A suggested that cages be encouraged by allowing an equivalent weight savings; e.g., carpeting.
  - Rich reported a number of suggestions that had been made by Will Sekella regarding driving suits in good condition (and including Nomex underwear), safety harnesses current (and including installation), Hans devices, balaclavas, roll cages, full face helmets with shields down, no aluminum racing seats, arm restraints being worn below the elbow, and fire bottles being reachable by the driver.
  - Requiring roll cages for all GT, Production and Improved Touring cars was suggested by Rich. Except for Touring, cars requiring a cage in the GCR should have a GCR compliant cage.
  - It was suggested to have a statement in the Supps that IT cars are not allowed in Street Prepared (as in autocross).
  - Regarding full face helmets, Matt R suggested this be phased in to match the purchase of new helmets.
  - A committee was formed to review the above suggestions and make a recommendation for the Supps to be discussed at the Annual meeting. The committee will consist of Jeff A, Matt H, Rick K, Dave M and Mike R. Dave will schedule and coordinate the committee.
- b. **SPO/SPU Rule Clarification:** Rich reported that it had brought to our attention that the PHA specification for SPO/SPU was different than other SCCA Regions and Divisions. The main difference was that in PHA SPU allowed forced induction whereas in all of the other's forced induction was only allowed in SPO. Rich recommended that PHA use the specification of the other Regions and add SPU FI as a PHA specific class allowing forced induction. It was also suggested that records be split between SPU and SPU FI. The class specification and results will be taken up by the committee identified in the section above. Mark A suggested that SPO and SMX be combined.
- c. **Other TDB:** Dave M indicated that there would be some minor changes made to the Supps having to do with the requirement to have permission of the Chief Steward, incorporating the SCCA protest procedure when finalized and realigning classes to the GCR. Regarding protests, Rich reported on the SCCA decision to a protest at Weatherly.

**Website:** Grace H reported that there was no new news. Participants who had not already done so were encouraged to sign up for the PHA email list on the website.

**Timing:** Steve L thanked the many people who have helped with timing this year (Rick K, Kristen H, Rick J, Patty J, Nancy L, and Chris R). Steve indicated that he will not be able to make all events. He requested that at least 7 people should be trained on timing, and that he could do the training in a weekend. Steve also indicated that at least two people should be running timing at each event. As a contingency, Fred Patton from Phoenix Sports Technology could be hired at \$400 per day plus expenses to run timing at some events (Giants, Reading, Weatherly).

#### **New Business:**

- a. **Social Media Policy:** Dave M reported that SCCA has a Social Media Policy, and that he has drafted a PHA introduction. Both will be posted on the PHA website for review and discussion at the Annual Meeting.
- b. **PHA Membership:** Tom K reported that the Bylaws state that membership "Shall be comprised of the Directors and other individuals who have interest in and dedication to the sport of hillclimbing and other Association activities. Typically, the general membership will include but will not necessarily be limited to drivers, competition workers and organizers." The membership topic was tabled by Rich.
- c. **Other TBD:** Dale G reported that road racing needed workers (flaggers, grid, pit). Dave M reported that he and Rich had working to update the PHA Bylaws which are now 17

years old. The draft Bylaws will be posted on the PHA website for review and discussion at the Annual Meeting. Dave also described creating a policies and procedures document to contain information that would sit between the Bylaws and the Supps.

**Nomination of Officers:** Rick K recorded nominations for Officers. Nomination will close and be voted on at the Annual Meeting (January 29).

- President: Rich Rock
- Vice President: Dave Merritt, [Note: Mike Robinson was nominated, accepted and subsequently declined to stand for office.]
- Treasurer: Grace Huntzinger
- Secretary: Dave Merritt

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting (Annual Meeting) will be on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Canal Street Pub in Reading. Zoom access will be provided. Information will be posted on the PHA website.

Rich Rock adjourned the meeting at 4:52 PM based on a motion by Mike R; seconded by Matt H. The motion was approved.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Merritt  
PHA Secretary