

## **Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association**

### **Minutes of the March 5, 2022 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Rock at 1:00 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:** Dave Arron\*, Chuck Christ\*, Bill Feist\*, John Felten\*, Don McLaughlin\*, Sue Salsburg\*, Rick Terrill, Joe Whitely, and Gordon Wise. **Alternative Representatives:** Don DeHart and Steve Lewis. **PHA members:** Bill Ascheman, David Ascheman, Jeff Avril, Kacey Rovere-Avril, Dillon Axarlis, Melinda Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Keith Bessette\*, Jim Crnkovic\*, David Cutchins\*, Joe Cyburt, Mike Daley, Mary Anne Fieux\*, Trevor Filipowicz, Ed Grega, Matt Hoegg, Jeff Israel\*, Kristen Israel\*, Rick Kane, Richard Kase, Don Kennedy, Keith Kennedy, Tom Knorr\*, Ray Kochin, Mike Kurtz, Nancy Lewis, Jody Miller, Patti Murphy\*, Timm Murphy\*, Bryner Raudibaugh, Donna Robinson, Mike Robinson, Wil Sekella, Eli Sharp\*, Dave Stoner\*, Adam Weaver, Crystal Whisler, Ursula Whisler, Vince Wieczorek\*, George Witman, Tom Wuellette\*, and Linda Young.  
[\* participated on Zoom]

**Minutes of the February 5, 2022 Meeting:** There were no changes requested. Rick T made a motion to approve the minutes; Ursula W seconded. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Grace H presented financials. The total in the PHA bank account is \$22.3K. This includes \$8.3K for the insurance reserve (a pool to cover the \$1K deductible for claims at PHA events). There was no income for the period. The primary expense was \$6K as a one-time payment to BMR for the timing system. John P made a motion to accept the report; Trevor F seconded. The motion was approved.

**Audit:** The successful financial audit review was held following the February 5 Annual Meeting. Mike A, Rich R and Mike R participated.

#### **2022 Schedule/Event Updates:**

**Carlisle:** Gordon W handed out information sheets. Grace has posted the information on the PHA website.

**Spring Jefferson:** Rich R reported that there was nothing new. He is completing the sanction request and awaiting the outcome of the Supps from this meeting.

**Weatherly:** Joe C indicated that they are in the process of replacing their registrar and caterer. He also expressed concern about the impact of rising fuel prices.

**Pagoda/Duryea:** Rich R reported that there was nothing new. He is completing the sanction request and awaiting the outcome of the Supps from this meeting.

**Giants:** Bill F reported that they had met two days earlier. He also indicated that there would be a car show at the Mall (3/18-20); that there would be no Pocono event this year; and that Joe Dante's garage (the property used for turnaround) had burned down. A \$1K donation was made.

**Polish:** John F reported that he was personally doing well and getting better. He will start on the sanction request around April 1.

**Shenandoah:** Rick T reported that there was nothing new.

**Website:** Grace H reported that there were some changes made to the website for new drivers.

**Timing:** Steve L reported that he and Nancy will be at Spring Jefferson along with the Norton's who will be training.

**2022 Supps:** (Additions in red and deletions in purple)

1. **Safety Proposal:** 9.20 F REQUIRED DRIVER SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Goggles or face shields (eye protection), preferably made of new impact resistant materials, for drivers of open cars. Face shields (and a full face helmet) are required when not using a DOT-approved windshield. Eyeglasses and safety glasses do not qualify as eye protection.

Requirements:	Open Car		Closed Car	
	DOT Windshield	Not a DOT Windshield	DOT Windshield	Not a DOT Windshield
Full Face Helmet	Face Shield Down	Face Shield Down	Eye Protection STRONGLY RECOMMENDED	Face Shield Down
Open Face Helmet	Goggles	Not Allowed	Eye Protection STRONGLY RECOMMENDED	Not Allowed

The proposal was made in order to update the February 5<sup>th</sup> proposal that had been approved. The update returned the first sentence from "all drivers" to "drivers of open cars", and provided a grid to show how each situation is affected.

Bryner R asked about historic cars that traditionally allowed open face helmets; the response was that the second sentence is now a requirement for hillclimbs by SCCA.

A motion to approve the proposal was made by Ursula W; seconded by Crystal W and Bill F. The motion was passed

2. **Safety Proposal:** 9.27 WINDOW SAFETY NETS/ ARM RESTRAINTS

Window safety nets or arm restraints are required. Arm restraints are required on all open cars. Closed cockpit cars may use either arm restraints or a driver's side window net. Arm restraints shall be worn based on the manufacturer's instructions and with the driver's wrists and hands restricted to the inside of the envelope of the bodywork and roll bar/cage.

A motion was made to approve the proposal by John P; seconded by Bill A. The motion passed.

3. **Safety Proposal:** 10.1.1 BREAK OUT TIMES

Break-out times shall be used to require full cages per 10.1 in cars not currently required to have them.

Break-out times in seconds:

Weatherly.....56  
Pagoda.....85  
Giants.....46  
Polish.....58  
Duryea.....120

Driver and car combinations that get a time that is less than the breakout time (they broke out) at any event shall be required to have a roll cage for all events in the following seasons. Break-out times will be reviewed every year.

**Note: Break-out times shall be implemented starting with the 2022 season with cages required as a result for the 2023 season.**

Vince W suggested the breakout times should be slower, and that rally style cages would be better for hillclimbs. Eli S suggested that participants could scrimp on anything but safety. John P pointed out that speeds keep getting higher. Don K referred to the danger of hitting a tree sideways. Dave C questioned whether a whole class should require a roll cage if a driver breaks out.

A motion was made to approve the proposal by Tom W; seconded by Mike R and Mike A. The motion passed.

**4. Safety Proposal (2023): 9.11 FUEL CELLS**

~~Requirements for fuel cells are waived for PHA Time Trial and Hillclimb events.~~ All cars in GCR classes must be equipped with a safety fuel cell complying with the GCR specifications (9.3.26), except for Touring, B-Spec, Spec Miata, Improved Touring, American Sedan restricted prep, production-based Vintage cars, and cars where the stock fuel tank is located between the axle center lines and within the main chassis structure (i.e., frame rails, etc.). Stock fuel tank must remain in its stock location, or as otherwise specified in the GCR. Any car equipped with a fuel cell must meet all requirements for fuel cells as specified in the GCR.

**Note: Fuel cells for the above classes shall be implemented starting with the 2023 season.**

A motion was made to approve the proposal by Trevor F; seconded by Crystal W. The motion passed.

**5. Safety Proposal (2023): 9.20.B REQUIRED DRIVER SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

The use of a head and neck support system (SFI 38.1 or FIA 8858-2010) is ~~highly recommended~~ required.

**Note: Head and neck support devices shall be required starting with the 2023 season.**

Don K and Jeff A pointed out that these devices have a 5 year certification. This will be addressed in the 2023 Supps. It was also noted that a group buy of devices could be arranged.

A motion was made to approve the proposal by Mike R; seconded by Bill A. The motion passed.

**6. Safety Proposal (2023): 9.20.B REQUIRED DRIVER SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

**Note: Full face helmets for all drivers shall be required starting with the 2023 season. SA2020 open face helmets will be exempted until the first full PHA season that SA2025 full face helmets are available if both of the following conditions are met:**

- 1. Proof of purchase (e.g. a receipt) is provided showing that the SA2020 open face helmet was purchased prior to March 5, 2022, and**
- 2. The car driven has a DOT approved windshield.**

Don K objected to the proposal based on potential breathing problems. Case by case exceptions might be possible, although this was not committed to. Grace H and Jeff A indicated that other organizations have this requirement. Vince provided his experience. Ray K asked if we knew how many would be affected, and if a head and neck restraint would be sufficient with an open face helmet. Tom K suggested that full face helmets are stronger than open face.

A motion was made to approve the proposal by John P; seconded by Crystal W. The motion passed.

7. **Safety Proposal (2023): 9.37.6 STREET MOD EXTREME (SMX)**

REQUIREMENTS

E. Fuel cell

All cars in SMX must be equipped with a safety fuel cell complying with the GCR specifications (9.3.26), except where the stock fuel tank is located between the axle center lines and within the main chassis structure (i.e., frame rails, etc.). Stock fuel tank must remain in its stock location, or as otherwise specified in the GCR.

**Note: Fuel cells (per the above) shall be required in SMX starting with the 2023 season.**

A motion was made to approve the proposal by Ursula W; seconded by Trevor F. The motion passed.

**New Business**

1. Rich R reported that a potential sponsor for Reading events would like to sell canned cocktails at the events. The discussion was largely negative (spectators, liabilities, etc.) Bryner suggested it may bring in more spectators. Rich R plans to check with SCCA.
2. Sue S addressed the issue of worker recruitment. Suggestions included PR, signage, a volunteer table, and a corner worker video on the PHA website and at car shows (e.g. Carlisle). Mary Anne, Sue S and Chuck C volunteered to form a committee with Carlisle as a target. It was suggested that Donna Sumner should also be involved.
3. Dave M reported that there now a protest procedure for SCCA Time Trials and Hillclimbs. The link has been added to the PHA website under "Policies". The Supps will be revised as follows: Instead of a "Protest" Competitors with a question or concern about another competitor's vehicle or behavior may file a "Compliance Query" to the Chief Steward, in writing prior to the end of competition for an event. The Chief Steward or designated official or compliance committee will determine the answer to the question as soon as possible and before official results are posted. Details can be found at: <https://timetrials.scca.com/pages/protests-appeals-and-penalties>

**Election of Officers:** Richard K presented the current nominations and asked for any additional nominations. None were offered. Those nominees were President – Rich Rock; Vice President – Dave Merritt; Treasurer – Grace Huntzinger; and Secretary – Dave Merritt. A motion was made by Richard K for the Secretary to cast one unanimous ballot; Dave M seconded. The motion passed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting (Critique Meeting and Banquet) will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Grantville. Information will be posted on the PHA website. A concern was expressed about the date for future Critique Meetings/Banquets if we add an October event at Pocono. The Bylaws may be presented by special meeting, although not scheduled yet. Ray K suggested that new classes be given one year from approval to implementation (although not a Bylaw issue.) This will be a discussed at a future meeting.

Rich R thanked John Pitman for his service, and adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM based on a motion by Gordon W; seconded by Bill F. The motion was approved.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Merritt  
PHA Secretary