

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the November 12, 2022, Critique Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Rock at 2:00 PM, after which it was determined that a quorum of Regional Representatives were in attendance.

Officers: Rich Rock, President; Dave Merritt, Vice President/Secretary; and Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer.

Regional Representatives: Dale Gogel*, Glenn Hoffman, Don McLaughlin, Rick Terrill, and Gordon Wise.

Alternative Representatives: Don DeHart, Jennifer DeHart, and Steve Lewis.

PHA members: Mike Axarlis, George Bowland, Kurt Eikenberg, Trevor Filipowicz, Matt Hoegg, Jeff Israel*, Kristen Israel*, Patty Johnson*, Rick Johnson*, Don Kennedy*, Tom Knorr, Nancy Lewis, Patti Murphy*, Timm Murphy*, John Pitman, Linda Young Pitman, Kristie Reid*, Donna Robinson, Mike Robinson, and Donna Sumner.

[* participated on Zoom]

Minutes of the March 5, 2022, Organizational Meeting: There were no changes requested. Matt H made a motion to approve the minutes; Gordon W seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Grace H presented YTD financials. The total in the PHA bank account is \$26.8K. This includes \$9.1K for the insurance reserve (a pool to cover the \$1K deductible for claims at PHA events). Income (\$9.8K) for the year included \$5.1K for the banquet, \$2.7K for hillclimb assessment fees, \$1.1K for the insurance reserve, and other miscellaneous. Expenses (\$8.2K) for the year included \$1.4K for the banquet, \$6.0K for the timing system, and other miscellaneous. Additional expenses for the banquet (~\$6K) have yet to come in. John P made a motion to accept the report; Mike R seconded. The motion was approved.

Audit Committee: An audit has been scheduled to be held following the 2023 Annual Meeting. Mike A, Rich R and Mike R volunteered to be on the Audit Committee.

2023 Schedule: Mike A made a motion to accept the schedule; Rick T seconded. The motion was approved.

Carlisle	May 12-13
Spring Jefferson	May 27-28 (Memorial Day Weekend)
Spring Weatherly	June 10-11
Pagoda	June 24-25
Giants Despair	July 8-9
Polish Mountain	August 5-6
Duryea	August 19-20
Fall Shenandoah	September 2-3 (Labor Day Weekend)
Fall Weatherly	September 16-17

Critique of the 2022 season:

Carlisle: Gordon W and John P manage this event. Gordon requested that someone replace him in finding people to bring cars. Gordon also handed out information sheets for 2023. Grace will email the request for cars and establish registration on MotorSportReg and post the 2023 information sheet on the PHA website. John P indicated that there are no fees for PHA participants. Rich R mentioned that the Carlisle provides great exposure for PHA.

Jefferson: Rich R reported that turnout was low (51 timed entries) and an income loss. Summit Point has confirmed the 2023 dates (including Shenandoah), although a contract and track rates

have yet to be received. Rich reported that he and Trevor F were given a preview of a new track at Summit Point. The track is “unimproved”, that is it has no curbing, no buildings, no corner stations/gazebos. Summit Point wants to develop it; we may be able to get a tour in May.

Weatherly: There were no representatives at the meeting to provide a report. Rich R indicated there were 69 timed entries in the spring and 89 timed entries in the fall.

Shenandoah: Rick T reported that in 2020 there were 82 timed entries; in 2021 71; and in 2022 54. For 2022, Steel Cities lost money. Rick also noted that the track rate went from 60% of expenses in 2020 to 74% because of track rate increases. There was general agreement that a track sprint with 2 consecutive runs was successful. It was suggested that as the number of drivers decreases on Sunday afternoon that either 1 run or adding time between groups might be needed.

Rich R reported that for the Summit Point events, we have been paying a deposit in January and the balance of the track rental at the event. He is looking into a “rolling deposit” where we would pay the entire track rental at the event and “roll” the deposit over to the next year. The goal would be to maintain a commitment by Summit Point to our event dates and to track rates.

Pagoda/Duryea: Rich R reported that there were 66 timed entries at Pagoda and 69 at Duryea. These are historically low numbers. There was some discussion on why entries might have been down. There was discussion on causes; primarily fuel costs, tire costs and delays in getting parts. Mike R made the observation that Weatherly and Giants currently have the largest group of local drivers.

Polish: Dave M gave a report submitted by John Felten. There were 58 timed entries, which when combined with financial support from Allegany County, MD, and members of PHA family was financially successful. For 2023 Polish is looking at ways to solve the transition issue between the road surface and the paddock area.

Giants: Tom K reported that there were 91 timed entries. 53 participated in the recent hillclimb association meeting and are looking to have more bleachers in place for 2023. Steve L expressed concern about event stoppages due to comings and goings from the rehab center at the top of the hill.

PHA Family: It was sadly reported that Jack Danko’s wife had passed away; Wayne Domkowski was in the hospital; Patty Johnson had broken her collarbone; and Kristen Israel had had surgery. Cards were available at the banquet.

2023 Supps Proposals:

The following updates to the 2023 Supps were discussed. A summary of the changes will be posted on the PHA website along with a full Supps draft. Further discussion and voting are planned for the 2023 Annual meeting.

1. To change the requirement date for head and neck support systems from 2023 to 2024 [9.20.B]
2. To change the cage requirements due to breakout times to be for Hillclimb events only. Track events are exempted. [10.1.1].

Kurt E expressed concern about the breakout rule in entirety, although this had been discussed and approved by a significant majority in March. Mike R reported that 2 drivers had had breakout times in 2022. Grace H asked about the annual breakout time review.

3. We have had three cars recently that have not been compliant with the exhaust system rule [8.3.G]. Some suggested wording for the meeting included: Alternate Exhaust designs may be

approved so long as it poses no danger to driver or workers and must be approved race officials on a per case basis. Cars with approved alternate designs may only compete in Special or SMX, and they must meet all other required safety rules.

Suggestions for guidelines at the meeting included that vertical exhaust pipes coming out of the vehicle hood extend to above the height of the vehicle windshield/roof and that they do not obstruct vision, and that side exhaust pipes not coming out behind the front wheels should have a turndown.

4. Wording for incorporating previously approved 2023 updates for fuel cells (Specials and SMX) and full face helmets.

Website: Grace H reported that there were some changes made to the website for announcements on the home page.

Timing: Steve L thanked Nancy, Rick and Patty Johnson, the Norton's, and Sharpie (Dave Ascherman) for their help in 2022. Kristen Israel volunteered to help with timing in 2023. Steve and Rich R each emphasized that more volunteers were needed. Even being able to help at one event or with one timing task would be useful as it will create a pool of volunteers. Steve plans to offer training classes in January.

Rich R noted that timing is critical to the running of PHA events. Nancy L suggested younger volunteers who may be familiar with technology but too young to drive. Tom K suggested that technical schools near events might be a source of tech savvy young volunteers.

New Business:

Bylaws Revision

The following updates to the 2004 Bylaws were discussed. The proposed Bylaws revisions will be posted on the PHA website. Further discussion and voting are planned for the 2023 Annual meeting.

Rich R noted that most of the changes being proposed are to modernize the language that is now 18 years old.

1. "Solo 1" and "PHA" were changed to "Association", and other SCCA references were updated
2. Procedures and criteria for general membership and new Regions were authorized to be by general membership motion
3. Event assessments were authorized by general membership motion
4. The officers will require a minimum of 3 people
5. The election procedure was modified
6. "Written communication" was replaced by "communication"
7. The President will be allowed to fill vacancies from the general membership.

Tom K pointed out that if the appointee is not a Director, they should not have Board of Directors voting rights.

8. The requirement to bond the Treasurer was removed

Tom K expressed concern based on reports of treasurers from other organizations absconding with funds

9. Future approval of Bylaw changes by the Board of Directors

Membership Policies

The following membership criteria were discussed. The proposed membership criteria will be posted on the PHA website. Further discussion and voting are planned for the 2023 Annual meeting.

1. General Membership: those who have participated in a competition event in the previous two years. Other eligible persons would include PHA Officers, Directors (and alternate regional reps) and Hall of Fame inductees.

There was discussion whether participation in competition events should only be once and for 2 years. Also, how we will monitor these?

2. New Regions: hosting a PHA competition event

Other New Business: Tom K started a discussion (initially a motion) regarding inviting PHA event organizers to the PHA banquet. First, an explicit invitation was recommended. Second, offering to pay for their meals was also recommended. Discussion could not reach a consensus on how many free meals to offer each event organization, nor how that would be paid for. Two suggestions, each with support, were 1) three free meals per event to the organizational body and 2) three free meals per event organizational body regardless of the number of events they organized. Discussion on this topic has been postponed to the next meeting.

Election of Officers: The current officers were presented and the general membership in attendance was 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. Dave M noted that it would be beneficial to have 4 individuals as officers for diversity. John P made a motion to approve the nominations; many others seconded. The motion was approved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting (2023 Annual Meeting) will be on January 21, 2023, with a backup (snow) date of January 28th. Canal Street Pub is closing at the end of 2022, and the new location has yet to be determined. Information will be posted on the PHA website with the location when known.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM based on a unanimous motion.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Merritt
PHA Secretary