

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of the January 21, 2023, Annual 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 was in attendance.

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

Regional Representatives: Mike Daley, Dale Gogel*, Hugh Maloney, Don McLaughlin*, Sue Salsburg, Rick Terrill, Joe Whiteley, and Gordon Wise.

Alternative Representatives: Steve Lewis.

PHA members: Bill Ascheman, Gibby Bozicevich*, Chuck Christ*, Mary Anne Fieux*, Bud Grega, Crystal Hoegg*, Matt Hoegg*, Richard Kase, Don Kennedy, Ray Kochin, Nancy Lewis*, Jim Oswald, Kristie Reid*, Mike Robinson, Mike White, George Witman, and Karen Witman.

[* participated on Zoom]

Rich R announced that there was a PHA display at the Expo Center in Oaks, and that today (1/21) was the last day.

Minutes of the November 12, 2022, Critique Meeting: There were no changes requested. Gordon W made a motion to approve the minutes; Bill A seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Grace H presented 2022 and YTD financials. The total in the PHA bank account is \$24.8K. This includes \$9.1K for the insurance reserve (a pool to cover the \$1K deductible for claims at PHA events). Income (\$10.5K) for the period included \$5.7K for the banquet, \$2.7K for hillclimb assessment fees, \$1.1K for the insurance reserve with the remainder on other miscellaneous. Expenses (\$14.1K) for the year included \$6.9K for the banquet, \$6.0K for the timing system with the remainder on other miscellaneous. Hugh M made a motion to accept the report; Bill A seconded. The motion was approved.

Audit Committee: An audit had been scheduled to be held following this meeting. Sue S (in lieu of Mike A), Rich R and Mike R had volunteered to be on the Audit Committee.

2023 Schedule: Rich R called for event updates:

Carlisle: Gordon W reiterated the scheduling for the event (5/12 & 13) and handed out an updated information sheet for 2023 which will be posted on the PHA website.

Summit Point: Rich R reported that he and Rick T had each received contracts for Jefferson and for Shenandoah respectively. Summit Point has proposed significant increases for each event (~\$4K and ~\$6k respectively). Most of the increases are due to EMS (fire and ambulance). Rich is currently working with management to see if PHA can run without the track-supplied fire truck (which are not on site at every PHA hillclimb event). Rich also reported that turnout was low (51 and 54 timed entries respectively) and an income loss for both events in 2022. Don K suggested that we consider Pocono. George W suggested that cost may not be a determining factor to drivers; Rich R felt it was to event organizers.

Reading: Rich R reported that the charges for an ambulance will be going up by \$1K per event.

Weatherly: Ray K reported that the shelter at the start line will now be taxed as if it were a residence (\$3K).

Giants: Hugh M reported that there was no new news.

Polish: Dave M reported that there was new news. In November it had been reported that an attempt would be made to improve the transition from the Paddock to the road.

Other: Rich R reported that the SCCA was increases the per entry fee by \$4.50 for hillclimbs and by \$2.00-2.50 for track events.

Grace H suggested that the need for the insurance fund in event assessments was not needed. It was suggested that the assessments stay the same and that the funds normally allocated for insurance be diverted to the general fund for 2023. Rich R described the pending and unresolved claim for the stone wall in Reading. Grace H made a motion to accept the above change; Rick T seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2023 Supps Proposals:

The following updates to the 2023 Supps were discussed:

1. To change the requirement date for head and neck support systems from 2023 to 2024 [9.20.B]

In the discussion, Don K did not want to change the timing of the requirement while others felt that strongly recommended was sufficient. Mike R reported that less than half of drivers had been using head and neck systems, but they were becoming more popular. Mike D asked if a group purchase is possible. The change to the Supps (as is) was approved with one objection.

2. To change the cage requirements due to breakout times to be for Hillclimb events only. Track events are exempted. [10.1.1].

The change to the Supps (as is) was approved with no objections.

3. We have had three cars recently that have not been compliant with the exhaust system rule [8.3.G]. The proposed wording was: "Alternate Exhaust designs may be approved so long as it poses no danger to driver or workers and must be approved by race officials on a per case basis. Side exhaust pipes coming out ahead of the equidistant point shall have a turndown. Vertical exhaust pipes coming out of the vehicle hood shall terminate above the windshield/roofline and will only be approved for vehicles with a windshield and a roof. Cars with approved alternate designs may only compete in Special or SMX, and they must meet all other required safety rules."

George W expressed concern that the wording allowed too much discretion. The change to the Supps (as is) was approved with two objections.

4. To modify the roll cage requirement for Street Modified cars with a cross manufacturer engine swap to only include the following situations: "if either there is change in the number of cylinders or there is a change from NA to FI." [10.1]

Grace H suggested that NA and FI be spelled out based on a question from Jim O. The change to the Supps (with the suggested change) was approved with no objections.

5. A revision will be noted in the Supps that a review of the breakout times did not require any changes for 2023, and that there are two GCR class updates (F6 replaces F5 and T5 has been added.)
6. Wording for incorporating previously approved 2023 updates for fuel cells (Specials and SMX) and full face helmets.
7. The fully approved Supps will be posted on the PHA website.

Website: Grace H reported that the PHA website had been down for a day near the end of December due to many BOT forum account requests, resulting in the subsequent need to update the website software.

Timing: Steve L reported on the following items:

1. Driver/entrant information on MotorSportReg must be correctly entered.
2. Need help with timing setup and with timing operation.
 - Drivers will be offered make up runs for the half day worked.
 - Accommodation for pit spaces will be provided.
3. Steve will conduct a Zoom training session on the 2nd weekend in February. Regional Representatives and event organizers will be strongly encouraged to attend.
4. Steve will conduct in person training at his house on a date after the March PHA meeting.
5. Rick J and Bill N will be available to train onsite at most events.
6. Steve may need additional health care treatments and not available at all events.
7. Phoenix Sport Tech can setup and run the timing system if needed at a cost \$800 plus food and possible hotel (if not Reading, Weatherly or Giants).
8. Steve reported that incorrect times or DNFs may be posted on Live Timing before correction, but he prefers that to delaying posting all times by 10 minutes.

Nancy L each reiterated some of the above; and also indicated strong interest at the PHA display at the Expo Center. Rich R indicated that it is important for event organizers to support the timing setup and operation with local resources.

New Business:

Bylaws Revision

The proposed changes to the Bylaws were reviewed and discussed page by page at this meeting, following the review and discussion at the Critique Meeting. The only change from the previous discussion was to modify the requirements that the Critique Meeting be scheduled at least 30 (versus the previous 60 days) days prior to the Annual Meeting to allow scheduling flexibility. Don K asked about bonding the Treasurer. Gordon W made a motion to approve the ByLaws with the above modification; Rick T and Mike R seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The fully approved ByLaws will be posted on the PHA website.

Membership Policies

Membership criteria were reviewed and discussed at this meeting, following the review and discussion at the Critique Meeting. The wording for the first general membership criteria was modified to: "Participation in three SCCA sanctioned PHA competition events (i.e., Hillclimb or Track event) in the previous two years in any combination of the following:

- Driver
- Competition Worker
- Organizer
- Official"

Dave M made a motion to approve the general membership criteria with the above modification; Grace H seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mike R made a motion to approve the regional membership criteria; Ray K seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Both of the fully approved membership criteria will be posted on the PHA website.

Election of Officers: The current officers were presented and the general membership in attendance was asked for any additional nominations by Rick K. None were offered. Those nominees were President – Rich Rock; Vice President – Dave Merritt; Treasurer – Grace Huntzinger; and Secretary – Dave Merritt. Since there was only one nomination for each officer position, Rick K made a motion that the Secretary cast one vote for the four positions and close the election process.

Next Meeting: Rich R reported that the next meeting (2023 Organizational Meeting) is scheduled for March 11th at 1:00. The meeting will be held at the Peanut Bar Restaurant in Reading, PA. Lunch is available at noon.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 based on a motion by Rick T and Mike R.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Merritt
PHA Secretary