

## **Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association**

### **Minutes of the March 11, 2023, Organizational 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, Bill Feist\*, John Felten\*, Dale Gogel\*, Glenn Hoffman, Sue Salsburg, Rick Terrill, Joe Whiteley\*, and Gordon Wise.

**Alternative Representatives:** Don DeHart and Steve Lewis.

**PHA members:** Bill Ascheman, David Ascheman, Jeff Avril, Kacey Rovere-Avril, Dillion Axarlis, Dustin Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Dave Cutchins\*, Kathy Fisher, Trevor Filipowicz, Keith Gerhard\*, Bud Grega, Randy Hartinger, John Hartnett, Crystal Hoegg, Matt Hoegg, Jeff Israel\*, Kristen Israel\*, Richard Kase, Don Kennedy, Ray Kochin, Nancy Lewis, Patti Murphy\*, Timm Murphy\*, Bob Oswald Jr., Jim Oswald, Mike Robinson, Eli Sharp\*, Donna Sumner, Adam Weaver, Ursula Whisler, Mike White, and Vince Wieczorek\*. [\* participated on Zoom]

Rich R related the background on why there was a last minute meeting venue change from The Peanut Bar to Say Cheese for this meeting.

**Minutes of the January 21, 2023, Annual Meeting:** There were no changes requested. Gordon W made a motion to approve the minutes; Trevor F seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Grace H presented 2023 YTD financials. The total in the PHA bank account is \$24.5K. This includes \$9.1K for the insurance reserve (a pool to cover the \$1K deductible for claims at PHA events). A \$1,000 deductible is expected for the wall repair at Duryea. Expenses paid YTD included \$250 for a 2023 banquet deposit and \$81 for website licensing fees. Mike W made a motion to accept the report; Ursula W seconded. The motion was approved.

**Audit Committee Report:** An audit of the Treasury reports was held following the January 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. There were no irregularities found by the committee.

### **Event Updates:**

**Carlisle:** Gordon W reiterated the need for cars 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 trackside fire services will be required for both Spring Jefferson and Fall Shenandoah. Rich reported a \$3,600 increase at Jefferson, and Rick T reported a 50% increase at Shenandoah with track rental being \$16,310 for 2023. Rick T is expecting an entry fee of \$325 and a minimum of 70 entries to breakeven. Both events will run as before for 2023. However some suggestions were made for consideration:

- Rick T – promote to SCCA Time Trial drivers for which we already support their classes.
- Rich – other suggestions that had come up before included having a one day event (Saturday vs Sunday?); and having a double points event.
- Grace H – use social media to get more sponsors.
- Jeff A - promote to Lemons teams. (Lemons has sponsorship from Ebay Motors; another possibility.)
- Mike W – could scheduling on a different weekend lower track rental?
- Dave C – add our Summit Point events to the WDCR time trial schedule.
- Keith G – run the course in a different direction each and have double points.
- Nancy L – eliminate the dinner (except workers).
- Grace – have dinner tickets be a separate charge.

- Eli S – use MSR to have participants order dinner.
- Rich - have a potluck dinner.
- Jeff - offered to bring a smoker.
- Glenn H – promote to OH/PA Time Trial group.
- Grace – willing advertise to any group that may be interested in our time trial events.
- An informal indicated that there was some interest in running a different direction for each day.

**Pocono:** Bill Feist reported that the Southeast course was available in 2023 for the weekend between Duryea and Shenandoah (August 26-27). Other weekends might be available in 2023 if Saturday and Sunday were different courses. Bill indicated that the track verbally indicated \$10,000, but that he has not seen a contract nor received written details. With regard to the weekend of August 26-27, Dave C expressed concern about three race weekends in a row, and Glenn H indicated that was the same weekend as the Steel Cities combo event. Some suggestions were made for consideration:

- Grace – look at the weekend two weeks after Giants and two weeks before Polish, or after Fall Weatherly.
- Ray K – NEPA has a track sprint at Pocono in October; do a combined event with them.
- Eli S – use Facebook to measure interest on possible dates.
- Bill – could also run a one day event.

**Giants:** Bill F reported that there will need to be guard rail repairs; otherwise, they are good to go.

**Weatherly:** Ray K reported that there was no new news.

**Polish:** John F reported that they were ready for permits, and they need to have a good entry count. Some suggestions were made:

- Grace H – make Polish Mountain a double points event with separate Saturday and Sunday events. An additional factor is that drivers at Polish get more runs than any other hill. Ray K suggested a Facebook poll to measure interest.
- John H – make Polish Mountain a triple points event, similar to Grace's suggestion with the addition of combined times (Sat/Sun) points.
- Matt H – to qualify for double points at an event, require participation at all 8 events.

**Reading:** Rich R emphasized that we need to support all the events. Mike D suggested that perhaps a season pass could be developed. Rich pointed out that existing PHA events are as is this year, and we need to continue the discussion.

## **2023 Supps/Recent SCCA Changes:**

### **Street Prepared – National Solo Rule Changes:**

Rich R reported that Solo Classes ASP and BSP were being removed and that the remaining classes would be realigned. Four options had been suggested:

1. Freeze our SP classing as it was in 2022, and work towards creating our own (PHA) classing structure for the category to be implemented in 2024.
2. Freeze our SP classing as it was in 2022 and follow whatever the SCCA classing for SP is in 2024 and future years.
3. Follow the current (new) SCCA Solo SP rules for 2023 and work towards creating our own classing structure for 2024.

4. Decide that we will follow SCCA's lead regarding all Solo classing changes now, and going forward (while keeping PHA's Supplemental Classes)

A poll was taken of those directly affected: Keith G, Ray K and Steve L preferred option 1; Glenn H preferred option 2, and Adam W preferred option 3. Matt H made a motion to accept option 1 and Ray K seconded it. The motion was passed.

A committee was formed to look at creating PHA classing for Street Prepared prepped cars. Mike R will chair the committee. Other volunteers include Bill F, Matt H and Ray K. Others may express interest to participate to Mike R.

### **Safety – National Hillclimb Rule Changes:**

Three changes were made to the National Hillclimb Rules:

1. One-piece, bucket-type race seats will be required. PHA will need to comply with this new rule. However, a request was made to inquire whether this applied to vintage and historic classes. The retention of strongly recommending an upper brace for non-FIA seats was approved.
2. Harnesses expiration was changed to highly recommended (from “not subject to”). This will not affect PHA. Our Supps require compliance with expiration dates.
3. Roll Bar / Cage tubing sizes eliminated the 1.00 x 0.060 for under 1,000 pound vehicles. It was also found that 0.080 tubing was different between under 2,700 and over 2,700 pound vehicles. The PHA tubing sizes will be brought in compliance with these items and reordered from lowest to highest vehicle weight (similar to the GCR and the National Hillclimb Rules).

**Website:** Grace H reported that the “.NET” PHA website is empty and no longer redirects to “.ORG”.

**Timing:** Steve L reported on the following items:

1. The software will be updated for 2023.
2. The damaged sensor from Weatherly has been retrieved and repaired.
3. Need 4 people to help with timing setup and with timing operation at each event.
  - a. Drivers will be offered make up runs for the half day worked.
4. Steve will conduct in person training at his house after the March PHA meeting.
5. Steve may need additional health care treatments and not available at all events.
6. Phoenix Sport Tech can setup and run the timing system if needed at an estimated cost of \$400 per day plus food and possible hotel (if not Reading, Weatherly or Giants).

**New Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** Rich R reported that the next meeting (2023 Critique Meeting) is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Grantville to be followed by the banquet. Grace reported that meeting would start at 1:00 (vs. 2:00 previously).

The Organizational Meeting was adjourned at 3:54.

Respectively submitted,

Dave Merritt