

## **Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association**

### **Minutes of the January 18, 2025, 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; Trevor Filipowicz, Vice President; Eli Sharp, Secretary; and Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer.

**Regional Representatives:** Bill Feist\*, Hugh Maloney, Sue Salsburg\*, Joe Whiteley, Don McLaughlin, Jason Fraley\*.

**Alternative Representatives:** Don DeHart, Mike Daley, Nancy Lewis.

**PHA members:** George Ackerman, Melinda Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Gibby Bozicevich\*, Kris Reid\*, James Crocker, Dave Cutchins\*, Ed Grega, Randy Hartinger, Crystal Hoegg\*, Matt Hoegg, Jeff Israel Sr.\*, Jeff Israel Jr.\*, Kristen Israel\*, Patty Johnson\*, Rick Johnson\*, Ray Kochin, Cory Michael, William (Bill) Norton, Donna Robinson, Mike Robinson, Ursula Whistler, Keith Schaeffer, Don Kennedy, Matt Yohn, Jim Swift, Vincent Wieczorek, George Witman, Karen Witman, Michael Thomas\*, Tim Lewis\*, Mark Aubele\* Michelle Aubele\*, Jeff Avril\*, Kacey Rovere-Avril\*, Keith Gerhard\*, Rick Kase\*, Mike Frohman\*, Tom Daggett\*.

**[\* participated on Zoom]**

1. **Meeting rules recap:** Eli S recapped the meeting rules and process.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Grace H presented the 2024 financials. She said we had a net loss for the year but this was due to the fact that she spent money on merchandise which she expects to make back very soon. Last year, we had an assessment fee of \$10 per entry, raised from \$7 per entry because we thought that we might need to help BMR out with the deficits from two summit point events. Since we never use that and we're doing fine, Grace would like to reduce the assessment fees back down to \$7 per entry for 2025. Rich R suggested we wait to confirm lowering the assessment fees to see if there are other expense impacts, and we ended up moving this item to the March meeting. There were no questions on the finances.

3. **Form Treasurer's Audit Committee:**

Nancy Lewis, Mike Robinson and Mike Axarlis agreed to participate in the audit after the meeting, but Rich Rock ended up taking the place of Mike Robinson.

## **2025 Schedule and Event Updates:**

**Carlisle Event Planning and Promotional Materials:** Bill N returned old display pictures from the club that were displayed at Carlisle and asked for new ones to be provided. He also asked for PHA videos that he could display. He then asked for cars to be displayed, saying participants, cars and trailers get in for free. May 16-17 (Friday/Saturday). Nancy L stated that she has PHA Business Cards and Tri-Fold Brochures to distribute at Carlisle.

**Summit Point Jefferson and Shenandoah:** Rich R stated that advance notice of fees for Summit Point have indicated that cost will stay essentially flat from last year. There is also an opportunity to lock in a five-year deal. The five-year deal would commit to no more than 3% increase in basic track fees. Additional costs like EMS would not be part of that commitment. This is something new that needs a little bit more investigation. There is an ongoing fund allocation from those sponsors who donated money for the Shenandoah event to run last year. Money remaining from last year will be allocated to any shortfall this year.

**Pagoda-Duryea Events:** Rich R informed that the new gates are now up at the top of the hill which will close off from turn nine to the turnaround. Gates are installed, but not operational yet. Cameras will be installed next. The gate will have an activation system that we will have access to on race weekends.

**Weatherly:** Ray K stated they are planning to make the pit area grass again, with a stone underlay for stability and drainage.

**Giants Despair:** Rich R stated the hill is freshly paved.

**Pocono Event Preparations and Banquet Date:** Rich R stated we are good for October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Pocono. That date for a points event complicates the banquet date, but Giants Despair Hillclimb Association only wanted to run it if it was a points event. After much discussion it was decided banquet could be moved to November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Trevor F volunteered to help with the banquet, so that we could then run Pocono as a points event October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. A motion for this was put up for vote by Eli S and seconded by Matt H, a vote was taken and passed with almost unanimous support. Giants Despair Hill Climb Association will also talk to NEPA about the Pocono event.

## **New Venues and Event Promotion:**

Mike D summed up the status for Reading Airport. Everything was put on hold because the airport authority took over the North ramp. That restructures how the whole airport operates. As a result, they couldn't commit to anything for hillclimbs. He will try and reach out in February and see if there's anything that opens up. It'll probably end up being an autocross because of continued development along that stretch of road.

Rich R stated that January 24 & 25 is the Motor Sports Expo down in Oaks but didn't yet know how much space would be available. There is also another show in February that we are invited to be part of and Rich R had a flyer for anyone who was interested.

## **4. Proposed Changes to the Supps for 2025:**

Mike R began to review the proposed PHA classing structure changes. He didn't believe there were any new changes we needed to address from the SCCA GCR. Grace H recapped the latest updates: P replaces P1, and P2 is still listed in the GCR for 2025. Any changes to P2 were pushed back. It also looked like there is a new class called GT3U, likely a consolidation of classes and eliminating GT3. The Street Prepared changes were previously discussed at the November meeting and at that time, there didn't seem to be a lot of opposition to anything other than eliminating SMR. Mike R and Matt H had looked through the past results again and still believe there is not a need to keep SMR based on times and raw data.

There followed a lot of discussion on the impact of modifying the Street Prepared classes to what Mike R proposed, and the possibility of keeping SMR as a PHA specific class.

Finally, after all of the discussion, a proposal was made by Grace H to get rid of all of the Solo Street Prepared classes and convert to the new structure. In this proposal PHA would still retain SMR, and the fate of SMR would be decided under a separate vote. A motion was raised by Mike T, and Crystal H seconded for a vote on accepting the eight new classes and removing all of the Solo classes and the PHA SMX class. The Solo classes being eliminated would be all of the Street Prepared classes, and the three Street Modified classes (SM, SSM, and SMF). In favor were 80% of the room, opposed were two people. The motion was accepted.

A second motion was raised from Mike R to eliminate SMR, and Matt H seconded. The vote was postponed until later in the meeting due to a request from some affected PHA members. The vote was eventually taken toward the end of the meeting, after more discussion and debate, and the result was 12 in favor of eliminating SMR (both in person and on Zoom), and 18 opposed to eliminating SMR (both in person and on Zoom). Therefore, SMR continues to be an available option in PHA for those who have an SMR legal car.

## **5. Changes to Website and Social Media:**

Grace H stated she had put the schedule up for next year. There were no further comments or questions.

## **6. Updates on Timing:**

Nancy L gave an update on timing. She would like some volunteers. The woman she was hoping to take over Weatherly moved out of the area. A volunteer would not have to commit to every hillclimb, but if somebody could commit to Giants, and if somebody could commit to Weatherly or whatever other hills, that would be a huge help.

She does have to get with the software company, Pronto, and alert them of these new classes and have them update the software. She also needs to ask them about the server based live timing.

She will be testing some of the equipment at the BMR spring cleanup just to see if she can eliminate the need to run a long cable. She doesn't foresee any equipment expenses. Otherwise, no other updates.

## **7. New Business / Non-Agenda Items:**

Nancy L asked about Jason F and Mike R having novice videos created and inquired as to the status. Jason F stated that he tried filming something, but it is a problem for him and Mike R to be able to do the novice meeting and still record at the same time. None

of what he got is really usable for putting a full video together. So having somebody to film for them would greatly expedite that process.

If anybody has the willingness to volunteer to help Mike R and Jason F film a novice meeting or two, please reach out to them. Eric Santiago was suggested as a possibility and this option will be followed up on by Mike R and Jason F.

Rich R said that Summit Point has given us the opportunity to hang a permanent PHA banner at the track. Rich R said a banner would need to be made but would be hung at no cost. Mike T offered to put \$100 towards the banner.

Tim L raised the opportunity to collaborate with WDCR for a time trial at Summit Point on the Holiday Monday after one of our events (similar to what is happening with TT Nationals in Las Vegas). This was viewed as a good idea and Tim L will follow up with them on this and report back at the next meeting in March.

#### **8. Election of Officers:**

Rick K reopened the nominations for the four officers. No new nominations were made. The nominations were closed. The four current PHA officers were uncontested (Rich R, Trevor F, Eli S and Grace H). Rick K moved that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for those four officers. This was duly done, and the officers were accepted.

#### **9. Meeting Wrap-Up and Next Meeting:**

Rich R stated that the next meeting will be Saturday March 8, using the same schedule as today. The motion to adjourn was made by Matt H and seconded by Nancy L. This was unanimously approved, and the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Eli Sharp  
PHA Secretary