

Pennsylvania Hillclimb Association

Minutes of March 7, 2026, 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; Jason Fraley, President; Trevor Filipowicz, Vice President; Grace Huntzinger, Treasurer; and Todd Burkey, Secretary.

Regional Representatives: Glenn Hoffman*, Hunter Huffman*, Don McLaughlin, Sue Salsburg*, Eli Sharp*, Jim Swift, Joe Whiteley.

Alternative Representatives: Don DeHart, Nancy Lewis.

PHA Members: George Ackerman, James Apgar*, Melinda Axarlis, Mike Axarlis, Gibby Bozicevich*, Dave Cutchins*, Joe Cyburt, Jordan Gauseur, Randy Hartman, Crystal Hoegg, Maci Hoegg, Matthew Hoegg, Jeffery Israel*, Kristen Israel*, Patty Johnson*, Rick Johnson*, Don Kennedy, Tim Lewis*, Corey Michael, John Perkins, Paul Perkins, James Rathman, Kris Reid*, Donna Robionson*, Mike Robinson, Brian Serfass, Ellen Whisler, Ursula Whisler, Vince Wieczorek*, Matthew Yohn.

[* participated on Zoom]

- 1. Meeting Rules, President Introduction:** Todd B recapped meeting rules protocol and process. Rich R announces PHA leadership changes; Todd Burkey assumes secretary role from Eli Sharp. Jason Fraley assumes President role from Rich Rock. Rich R presents Jason F with the official embossing seal of PHA from 1965.
- 2. Treasurers Report:** Grace H presented the 2026 Treasurers report YTD. January Audit Committee review passed. Basically, there has been no income. Expenses include domain name renewal, Grantville Holiday Inn banquet down payment and pamphlet printing. The insurance reserve remains healthy, and the checking account balance is strong.

Grace H provides background regarding assessment fees and Insurance Reserve. Insurance reserve was created when SCCA changed their insurance policy requiring a deductible per incident. PHA has paid out deductibles twice to Giants Despair and once to BMR.

All of the current organizing regions and associations agreed to repurpose the insurance reserve fund to help track events, after the first \$2000 loss, PHA will reimburse up to \$2000 from the fund. The regions and associations were not interested in levying an additional assessment fee to replenish the fund. And when the fund is gone, it's gone. Bottom line; the 2026 assessment fee is \$10/entry, and the insurance reserve fund has been repurposed to help out the track events for up to \$2000 after the first \$2000 loss.

3. 2026 Schedule and Events Updates:

Carlisle and Other Shows: PHA has been invited back to Carlisle in the same building as last year, with an exterior tent for overflow. Load in Thursday, load out Saturday. Sign-ups will be posted on PHA website. Promotional strategies were discussed, including three promotional brochures that have been printed and are available to distribute to regions, particularly Steel Cities. Saturday television coverage from FMZ69 2025 Spring Weatherly will be played for demonstration.

Jefferson and Shenandoah: Rich R placed \$1000 nonrefundable track deposits with Summit Point. Low entries plague Jefferson, only forty-six last May. Jefferson will open for registration around April 1. If there is insufficient funding pledged and/or entries, the event may be cancelled. If we cancel one event or both of the events, it is unlikely we will get those dates back. Additionally, Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend are premium dates. Decision to cancel Jefferson or not to cancel, will occur before April 25 to facilitate thirty days cancellation notice with Summit Point. Susquehanna region autocross community being leveraged for possible revitalization of track events. Shenandoah schedule remains unchanged.

Pagoda and Duryea: No updates or concerns reported.

Weatherly: Joe C reports he is in communication with PENN-DOT, they will be evaluating the area roads in April. FMZ69 Radio & TV of Allentown will be filming the Saturdays of the Spring and Fall events, following the cars with more cameras providing bottom-to-top coverage. Each of the main contributing sponsors is back for further support. Budget for Spring event is eighty cars.

Giants Despair and Pocono: No representatives from the Giants Despair Hillclimb Association were present. Nancy L states that there will be insurance for Pocono in about a week.

PHA Banquet: Grace H placed deposit for banquet to be held November 21, 2026, at the Grantville, PA Holiday Inn. Grace H asks the group to consider writing articles for the banquet program.

Possible New HC Venues: Three are discussed. Mike R identified Scotts Run Road in French Creek State Park, PA. It is approximately one mile long, wide and with new pavement. Mike R will coordinate with some other enthusiasts and evaluate further. Jason F identified Route 77 in Thurmont, Maryland, running over to Sharpsburg, Maryland. It has two-year-old pavement, there are no houses and it appears re-routable. It is a rural state park with workable local community members. Rich R discusses Emporium, PA. Jason F drove the road. There are high guardrails, dips in brake zones, small pit and paddock area and limiting infrastructure. Borough council president's son is the contact person in Emporium. Rich R will reengage discussion to determine local interest level and what some advance work would look like.

- 4. Changes to Supps for 2026:** Grace H and Mike R reviewed several minor rule changes made to racing regulations. Key updates included adding a five minute mandatory cool off interval between reruns, modified the exhaust requirements for SU and SM classes, amended language for non-metallic chassis, open faced helmet exemption extended one year, updated head and neck restraint language, tow hooks must be closed, clarified roll cage requirements for certain engine swaps and match some PHA classes to AHS classes.

An PHA Supps Committee has been formally created to address the structure and process for rule change requests. Jason F selected committee members and officers. Mike R is committee president. Grace H is committee secretary. Committee members are Matt Green, Matthew Hoegg and Hunter Huffman. A dedicated email address will be created for submissions. Grace H presented new a draft document "Governance for the PHA Supps Committee" and a proposed rule process flow.

The Supps Committee reviewed a specific rule change request regarding torque arm mounting in the street modified rear-wheel drive class and decided to reject it citing concerns about maintaining the integrity of the class rules.

- 5. Eastern States Hillclimb Championship Series:** This is a new East Coast championship collaboration between two regions: PHA and AHS. The championship is comprised of three events in your home region and two events

in your away region. PHA and AHS have thirteen events scheduled, with no conflicting dates. A shared classing system will be utilized between PHA and AHS events. Classes that do not directly carry over will be placed in a developing matrix. Summit Racing will be putting up contingencies for first place, second place and third place. PHA requires use of HANS, AHS recommends use of HANS.

- 6. Changes to PHA Bylaws for 2026:** Grace H discusses changes to PHA Bylaws that were necessary to regain tax-exempt status, 401(c)(7), a not-for-profit organization. BoD reviewed and voted on February 14 passing the changes. Amended Bylaws were submitted to accountant taking 4-8 weeks to get our status to begin filing tax returns this year.
- 7. Website and Social Media Updates:** Jason F states Instagram is gaining followers and still tagging Instagram for PHA. Will advertise for Pocono and the full series. Facebook has been updated with current schedule.
- 8. Share Any Updates on Timing:** Nancy L indicates the need for timing volunteers.
- 9. New Business / Non-Agenda Items:** Crystal H makes motion to (re)establish PHA Chiefs of Tech, Timing, Safety and Novices. Nominated; Mike R Chief of Tech, Jason F Chief of Novice Drivers, Nancy L Chief of Timing, Matt G Chief of Safety. The PHA Chiefs help coordinate event staffing. Create a current document listing the specialties and describe the duties.
- 10. Meeting Wrap-Up and Next Meeting:** It was noted that Tech inspectors can be difficult to locate. The suggestion was made to supply a bright colored garment for tech inspectors to be more visible. Jason F is seeking volunteers to assist with novice drivers with the objective of driver retention. The next scheduled meeting is November 21.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Burkey
PHA Secretary