

PARA
2008 Spring Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2008
Ski Roundtop, Pennsylvania

Call to Order: President John McGregor called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. A total 26 voting members of the Board were present, 22 directors and 4 executives. Non-voting members were also present; 4 committee chairs and 10 general members and guests. See Attachment A for attendee list.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from 2007 Meeting** – Minutes were approved as posted on the website by acclamation.
2. **President's Report:** John's President's report is published on the website. John provided a verbal summary noting that PARA's treasury remains solvent and an accounting audit confirms all monies are present and accounted. Rich Doubledee is appointed to fill the remainder of Mark Milby's term, concluding on this day. Website services were contracted with Lattice Group to supply and host a proprietary, customized website with enhanced security and reliability. PARA organization had a good season despite the challenge poor weather in two consecutive seasons.
3. **Treasury report:** Rich Doubledee presented the 2007-8 Treasury Report and provided a verbal summary. Rich noted that head taxes and coaching expenditures still remain. A significant amount, approximately \$4500, of head taxes was collected today and will be applied to today's report before the year-end report is completed. He noted that reserves might be used to pay coaching expenses that would otherwise be covered by outstanding head taxes. He is submitting a proposed budget that is an agenda item for discussion under new business. The current reserve is about \$10,800 and approximately \$5,000 is in the PARA checking account.

*A motion was made to accept the Treasury report as presented.M/S/C:
Klebe/Rodgers/unanimous.*

4. **Membership and Quotas:** Shiela Nickle presented a verbal report to supplement information posted to the website. A 4% drop was noted in membership levels which is not unexpected following a poor snow year that occurred in 2006/7. The membership level is 971 total, with 764 competitors. Membership revenue is higher than the previous season due to increased membership rates that were introduced this season. She noted that a new club, Deep Creek, was added to the roster of PARA clubs. PARA is contracted to remain with Active.com for electronic registration for the next season. Problems are corrected that were identified through the course of the first season with them. Sheila recommends

that electronic membership be the preferred method for PARA registration. Active.com will also assist any club who wants to expand the service to their own club registration process for membership and/or races.

Sheila fielded two questions:

Q: Is Active.com required for race registration? **A:** It is up to each host club to decide its registration method.

Q; Can an electronic roster of membership be provided that includes name, address, class, and phone number to regional chairs? **A:** Yes, if no opposition to regional chairs having a complete file with that information. It can be put on-line with password protection.

The Membership Chair's report was accepted by acclamation.

5. **AO Chair Report:** On on-line report is posted. John McGregor provided a verbal update in the planned absence of the AO Chair, Rob Lipton. Next season's intent is to provide a single TD to multi-day events to minimize travel costs which are exceeding lodging costs nowadays.
6. **Coaches Report:** Bruce Newman provided a verbal report until a written report could be provided once email issues are corrected. Coaching financial reports were scrutinized for every coach, corrections made by the coaches' chair where warranted and sometimes collaborated. Written guidelines were provided to assigned coaches. The dollars under this year's treasury report reflect accurate levels that can be expected for future years. Future projections will be done based on this year's amounts. This year's increases are due to a significantly higher IRS mileage rates and the addition of a coach to this year's ERS series.

Bruce expressed concern that the IRS mileage rate might reach as high as 70 cents per mile by next year and how that might affect coaching budgets. He would like to see the reimbursement process further automated through Excel reports. A coaching section to the website is possible to house info related to coaching assignments and accounting.

Bruce fielded questions:

Q: Are more coaches being considered for Piche? **A:** Since the event is not an official sanctioned race event, but a "training" opportunity offered by a private club, it does not meet the usual definition of a championship event beyond what PARA supports today. A possibility exists that clubs can offer to support their own coaches individually; however club coaching detracts from the environment of a state team that the event promotes. The event is attended by a high number of PARA athletes; this year's team equaled 34 athletes. It serves a good purpose of attracting athletes to goal-set and strive for post-season events.

Some discussion followed on various methods to finance additional coaches or limits that might be imposed to coaching reimbursement to manage the additional cost. Bruce expressed his intent to avoid parent-coach assignments, although one assignment occurred without his advance knowledge this year. His assessment of this year's coaching was it was the "greatest" roster yet. He welcomed the opportunity to develop critique methods for future years.

7. **ACC Report:** Dan Chayes provided a summary of his written report that is posted on-line. The highlights are:
- a) A draft of tentative dates and locations for post-season events are distributed, use them with due caution as they may change for any reason.
 - b) VT and ME venues are noting a decline in the willingness of host venues to close hill space for race purposes for 2 consecutive days. This trend also exists in PA.
 - c) A development series may be introduced as a qualifying method to Eastern Cup events for Men's technical events.
 - d) Coaching feedback indicates that athletes need: 1) ankle flex, 2) ability to pole plant and arc above the gate, 3) younger athletes are skiing too straight a line.
 - e) Start lists are published in other states without complaint or problem.
 - f) PARA fees are substantially higher than other states. For example: J4/5 race fees are \$10 to \$15 per race and lift fees do not usually exceed \$25.
 - g) Shaun Goodwin will be a staff member of the Eastern Office.
 - h) Homologation is required of all state championship events. All scored events should be on registered hills, minimally, for 2009/10 events. A \$400 to \$500 fee is presently set for homologation services, with Chayes servicing the southern tier and Goldschmidt servicing the northern tier. Fees will increase closer to the advent of the racing season. Homologation does not relieve the host site of responsibility for planning netting and other security issues. Homologation only addresses the bare minimum of standards for racing venues.
 - i) Dan requested consideration for financial support through budget expenditure, approximately \$300 to \$400, for his travel to the USSA National Meeting due to his homologation responsibilities.

Dan fielded a question:

Q: Are any equipment changes approved? **A:** Not yet, it may be addressed at the upcoming National meeting.

Dan concluded his report with a reminder that homologation still requires a host to perform all netting and course preparation needed for the security of racers. Homologation status conveys that a course meets only the minimum requirements for course setting.

8. Age Chair Reports

J4/J5: Tim Brown provided additional verbal comments to his posted report. He reported a successful derby with the changes that were implemented to the GS run. Whistler candidates performed well. He expressed concern for the number of coaches at Piche. He intends to assemble a 4 member team to the J4 Fundamentals based on qualifications from this year and coaches recommendations. He thanked his predecessor, Tom Newhard, for his help while assuming the new position and for his years of service.

Tim was asked if USSA publishes Future Stars slots so that a state is aware when their quota changes. He said it does but not in the typical manner as other slots. This year changes occurred midway in the notification process affecting multiple states and did not reach all stakeholders. A quota meeting is planned in advance of this season and quota slots should be established early and thoroughly communicated.

J3: Lisa Clayton provided additional comments to her posted report. Several ERS candidates declined slots due to the number of school days missed. An overall decline in performances in PARA athletes was observed. Coaches can notify her if other viable candidates exist below the present list of eligible candidates. Lisa will send a notice via email re: their eligible ERS athletes. Lisa also announced that she will be replaced by a new J3 Derby chair.

J1/2: Fred Craft provided additional comments to his posted report. He noted improved performances from athletes who received summer and early season training. He noted that the number of J1/2 racers is slightly down. Although more interest is directed in FIS events, the number of FIS participant is not increasing, about 4 to 5 racers regularly participate.

Fred reviewed his three recommendations. He was asked if the criteria could be expanded for the Sheibley award so that a greater number of athletes could be eligible. Discussion followed that the criteria is wide enough to allow any racer to qualify as standings are not criteria. Dook Rodgers will review the wording to see if any suggested word revisions can be made to open the nomination process to more candidates. The website section will also be expanded to give more prominence to the award.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bylaw revision re: Number of Directors: John McGregor asked for a motion to change Article III of the bylaws. An amendment to the bylaws changes the number of directors per region to match the greatest number of clubs in any given region per the following language:

ARTICLE III: add the following as paragraph 2 of section 1...

If at any time the number of clubs holding membership in a PARA Region exceeds the number of Directors allocated to the Regions then the number of Directors in all regions shall be increased to allow a minimum of 1 Director per club in all regions. The additional Director(s) shall be apportioned in accordance with each Regions selection procedure in accordance with Section 2 of this Article. Should the number of Clubs holding membership later decrease, then the number of Directors in all Regions shall be adjusted down to no less than 6 per Region as required by these By-laws. Any increase or decrease shall take effect on the day following the Annual Meeting where the number of member clubs was approved by vote of the Directors in accordance with Article II, Section 7.

*A motion was made to accept the Bylaw amendment as proposed. M/S/C:
Klebe/Davenport//unanimous*

2. **Bear Creek Petition for Membership:** Kevin Race, president of Bear Creek's race team, presented the club's petition for recognition as a PARA member club. The club presently has 61 racers. A dedicated racing venue exists with a start and finish building. The club has the ability to conduct its own timing. The club maintains its own equipment inventory. It is a nonprofit club and is also registered with USSA. Bear Creek is located in Macungie, PA near Allentown, placing it in the Eastern region. The region welcomes the addition of Bear Creek to the roster of Eastern clubs.

*A motion was made to accept Bear Creek's petition for membership.
M/S/C: Bond/Doubleddee/unanimous*

3. **PA Cup, Derby, and High School Schedule:**

PA Cups: John outlined a proposed schedule of PA Cups dates to begin the discussion of available venues. Some dates did not match with available venues. Discussion occurred about maintaining a 3 vs 4 weekend schedule. A 4 weekend schedule reduces the number of school days missed but requires more travel/costs and reduces the opportunity to train. A hand survey was taken to see if a 3 weekend schedule, with two Friday events, was preferable. The majority of directors voted yes, one naye was recorded.

The process of locating venues began. Elk, Blue Mountain, Sno, Camelback, Denton (hosted by SRRC), and 7 Springs offered venues. Camelback's available dates did not coordinate with another East/NE venue to co-host a weekend. PA Cup 1 and 2 were contested by WPRC and SRRC. WPRC requested a return to a historical pattern that a PA Cup alternate each year between the Western and Central regions. John McGregor asked for a hand survey supporting which location was preferable. 7 Springs was supported by approximately 50% of directors, no support was offered for Denton. John asked for a motion to formally adopt a permanent rotation between Western and Central regions of a PA Cup event each year. No motion was offered. The following schedule was proposed:

- PA Cup 1 Sat, January 24 Seven Springs SL

- PA Cup 2 Sun, January 25 Seven Springs SL
- PA Cup 3 Fri, February 6 Blue Mountain GS
- PA Cup 4 Sat, February 7 Blue Mountain GS
- PA Cup 5 Sun, February 8 Sno Mountain SL
- PA Cup 6 Fri, February 20 Elk Mountain GS
- PA Cup 7 Sat, February 21 Elk Mountain SL
- PA Cup 8 Sun, February 22 Elk Mountain GS

J3 Derby: The J3 Derby was proposed at Seven Springs on February 13(SG), 14(SL), and 15(GS).

J4/5 Derby: The 2009 and 2010 J4/5 Derby was awarded last year to Ski Roundtop. The 2009 Derby is proposed for February 28 (GS) and March 1(SL). A bid for the 2011 and 2012 J4/5 Derby will be accepted at the 2009 Spring Meeting. Bids should be submitted to the PARA President no later than 30 days prior to the spring meeting.

High School Championship: Concern was expressed about low participation in last year's race, which was about 50 racers. Course prep for a host is labor intensive and hosts generally want to see about 75 to 80 racers to make the effort viable. Alternatives to hosting a 2 day event were discussed for the means of assembling a PARA HS team. They were: hosting a one day SL event or using existing standings to comprise a PARA team.

A motion was made to select a High School team from point standings at the conclusion of J1/2 PA Cup series and the J3 Derby, and appoint a High School age chair. M/S/C: Berger/Picariello/unanimous

No volunteer was offered for the High School age chair. The appointment of the position will be made at a later date.

2008/9 Schedule: *A motion was made to adopt the proposed schedules for the 2008/9 PA Cup Series, J3 Derby, and J4/5 Derby. M/S/C: Fedorek/Newman/unanimous*

4. Regional Breakouts: Breakout sessions began for regional planning.

5. On-line Registration: John reported that about 30% of membership used on-line registration. Another year remains in our contract with Active.com. It is noted that New York developed its own custom registration process and ceased using Active.com as a vendor. Custom registration within PaRacing.org is possible, although a set up and transaction fees would apply. A discussion followed about imposing a surcharge on manual registrations to create parity between on-line and paper processing. The membership chair encouraged on-line registration to streamline the registration process. The membership chair also encouraged club rosters for registration and can provide a template to facilitate sign up and would forego any surcharge if imposed. No motion was offered to change the registration process at the conclusion of the discussion.

- 6. Awards:** John asked that consideration also be given to the AO of the year as it was inadvertently omitted from the agenda.

Bruce Neuman nominated John McNamara, aka Jack Mac, for Coach of the Year. Jack is acknowledged for 30 years of service at EMSC. Bruce noted that nominations should ideally be made in February so that the nomination could be forwarded to the Eastern office for consideration of Regional nominations.

A motion was made to award the nomination. M/S/C: Neuman/Zwally/unanimous

John McGregor indicated that Les Glantz is nominated for AO of the year. Les Glantz is retiring at the conclusion of this year following many years of service in the Eastern region.

A motion was made to award the nomination. M/S/C: Chayes/Reed/unanimous

- 7. 2008/9 Budget:** Rich Doubledee distributed copies of a proposed budget. Increases were noted to maintain current reserves. A \$5 increase to membership fees for athletes and family membership is proposed. Discussion also resulted in additional proposed amendments to the budget:

- PARA fencing should be increased from \$3500 to \$5000 per year. The present inventory level is 28 rolls. The oldest rolls are reaching Year 5 and replacements should begin in addition to increasing the overall inventory.
- An additional 2 coaches should be assigned to Piche. The overall budget was increased to \$8500 to cover additional J4/5 coaching.
- Budget \$400 for representation at the National meeting.

Funding options were explored as the amount of coaching is significantly increasing each year with the number of participants and mileage rates. Various ideas were suggested:

- ✓ J3/4/5 qualifying events head tax
- ✓ Penalties on late head tax payments
- ✓ J3/4/5 calendar fee per race day to host clubs
- ✓ PARA club membership fee increase

A motion was made to accept the proposed budget as amended with increases to fencing, J4/5 coaching, and National meeting representation. M/S/C: Davenport/Chayes/15 ayes

A motion was made to accept the proposed budget as amended to adopt a \$100 calendar fee per each day of racing for J3/4/5 events, open or qualifying. M/S/C: Corchnoy/Picariello/17 ayes

Additional discussion occurred on means to control mileage costs through car rentals, mandatory carpooling, or mileage rate caps. No motion occurred on the discussion items.

8. Other New Business:

a. Fencing: Dan Chayes said the present inventory has increased to a level that additional controls are needed to make the logistics more manageable. He suggests that each region manage its allocated amount, determine if PARA fencing is limited to PARA events only, and designate a labeling system with a unique number (including a means to track its age) for each net. He also offered to coordinate an “state” purchase to take advantage of a high volume discounts.

Bruce Bedell and Dan Chayes, current Fencing Committee members, will designate a regional manager. Discussion occurred on leasing nets to non-PARA events but the idea was rejected due to liability and logistics problems.

b. Speed Event Qualification: Discussion returned to the current standard for qualifying in post season speed events. The present standard for females was accomplished by only 4 females in the state, who achieved the standard by racing out of state. In-state events did not offer adequate scoring to lower female racers’ points. Although reviews have begun at a national level about standards, no changes are expected yet. Discussion occurred on annually adjusting the standard based on standings occurring in prior season, within a specified limit, and subject to reviews by chairs and coaches. The idea was rejected in favor of increasing the point standard to 175 for females only who do not otherwise meet the existing criteria.

A motion was made to revise the speed event standard from 150 to 175 points for female racers with no exceptions. M/S/C: Clayton/Picariello/unanimous

c. Ski Denton Petition for Club Membership: Lew Fowler petitioned for club status for Ski Denton. He cited Denton’s ability to co-host events and 12 years of operations, some of which occurred as a previously recognized club. Denton would return to the roster of Central clubs.

A motion was made to accept Ski Denton’s petition for membership. M/S/C: Picariello/Schramm/unanimous

d. SARA Club Inquiry: John said that a SARA club inquired about relocating and eligibility to compete in PARA events. He recommended that the club begin competing in PARA events before it pursues relocation to another state association. They were advised that eligibility for PARA state championships, is limited to those who train and compete in PA only, and membership is limited to only one association in a given year. His recommendation does not convey eligibility.

e. Expanding PA Cup to 8 race series: The PA Cup series was originally adopted as a 7 race series, but has been amended for the past two years as an 8 day series. Discussion occurred if the series should be permanently expanded to be 8 days. No motion was offered as clubs want to assess if membership is receptive to establishing 2 weekdays as PA Cup dates.

f. General announcements:

- **XMAS races at Seven Springs:** WPRC asked that club promote the XMAS races at Seven Springs as points opportunities. The participation of low point racers is critical to continue attracting other racers and offering the opportunity to lower points in the early season.
- **Free Style Teams** - Clubs should consider developing Free Style programs and pursue competitions so that these events can achieve sanctioning.

9. Election of Officers: Two positions are scheduled for election to two year terms; President and Treasurer. An uncontested nomination for President is John McGregor.

A motion was made to accept the nomination for President. M/S/C: Klebe/Newman/unanimous

Two nominations are made for the position for Treasurer; Bill Boucher (WPRC) and Rich Doubledee (BKRT). Both candidates presented their qualifications and experience.

A motion was made to accept the nominations of both candidate and conduct voting via a paper ballot. M/S: Fedorek/K. Doubledee. The results of paper ballot were: Doubledee, 14 votes and Boucher, 9 votes.

10. Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 2:15pm.

A motion to adjourn was made. M/S/C: Chayes/Klebe/unanimous

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Tracey Beinhaur
PARA Secretary

Attachment A – 2008 PARA Spring Meeting Attendees

Board Member		DIR	COM	EXE	
Bedell	Bruce	x			present
Beinhaur	Tracey			x	present
Berger	Derek	x			present
Book	Scott	x			present
Bradley	Marguerite	x			present
Brown	Tim		j45a		present
Chayes	Dan	x	acc		Present
Clayton	Lisa	x	j3a, j3d		Present
Corchnoy	Jon	x			Present
Craft	Fred		j12		Present
Depaulo	Mattie	x			Present
Davenport	Jim	x			Present
Derr	Tish	x			Present
Dix	Paige	x			Present
Doubleddee	Kem	x			Present
Doubleddee	Rich			x	Present
Fedorek	Ken	x			present
Hardy	Steve				absent
Klebe	Chris			x	present
Krout	Michele		j45d		present
Lipton	Rob				absent
McGregor	John			x	present
Newman	Bruce	x	co		present
Nickle	Shiela		mb, j45d		present
Picariello	Gus	x			present
Reed	Paul	x			present
Rodgers	Scott (Dook)	x			present
Schmidt	Hans	x			present
Schramm	Curt	x			present
Starner	Chris	x			present
Todd	Anne Marie	x			present
Zwally	Kurt	x			present
General Members and Guests					
Fowler	Lew		Ski Denton		
Mair	Rolf		Sno and Bear Creek		
Schramm	Ryan		Bear Creek		
Race	Kevin		Bear Creek		
Pavitt	Gene		Bear Creek		
Newhard	Tom		Blue Mountain		
Boucher	Bill		WPRC		
Gibb	Dave		SRRC		
Filling	Bill		SRRC		
Glover	Julia		TMART		