

**Spring PARA Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2004**

Attendees:

Thomas Newhard	Blue
Brad Updegrove	TMART
Tish Derr	TMART
Tim Brown	Blue
Chris Hafner	Blue
Jim Hafner	Blue
Curt schramm	SDRC
Bill Cox	Deep Creek Winter-Sports Team (Wisp)
TraceyBeinhaur	Secretary
Lisa Clayton	WPRC
Joe Levendusky	SRRC
Dave Gibb	SRRC
Kurt Zwally	SLRC
Dook Rodgers	WPRC
John Reihner	WPRC
William Birmingham	WPRC
Fred Craft	SRRC
Sam Ganow	SRRC
Hans J. Schmidt	WPRC
Annemarie Todd	Elk
Chris Klebe	JF
Jeff Mikos	SRRC
Lyn Coyne	Elk
Jonathan Corchnoy	CB
Jeff Baker	TMART
Ed Scram	WPRC
Frank Fox	Independent
John McGregor	Elk
George Drummond	Shawnee Mt
Mark Milby	SLRC
Dan Chayes	WTSEF
Bruce Bedell	SRRC

The 2004 PARA Spring Meeting was called to order by President Sam Ganow at 9:00 am. Sam recommended that the PA Cup series should follow a schedule similar to the 2003 dates and requested clubs to inform him if they intend to bid as a host site for a PA CUP race. Regional groups subsequently broke into their committees to begin work on race schedules and addressing their issues.

All attendees reconvened after the regional chair committee meetings. The 2003 PARA Spring Meeting minutes were distributed, reviewed, and approved unanimously. The following PARA reports, issues, and actions occurred.

Treasurers Report – John McGregor presented the current treasurer’s report, although an additional \$7209 expenses was anticipated but not yet filed. The current balance of \$22,417.21 was reported. John reported that a money market fund was acquired for the maintenance of \$10, 046.29. John indicated that although income from head tax fees were down, PARA expenses were also lower and the current balance reflected a better than anticipated budgeted balance. Chris Klebe motioned and Frank Fox seconded to accept the 2004 Treasurers report. The report was accepted unanimously.

John also recommended that no increase to current membership fees at this time.

Chair Reports

Alpine Official – Sam provided Winnie Backlund’s written report in her absence which indicated a successful year for officiating. Frank Fox subsequently announced Sam Ganow’s nomination as Alpine Official of the year.

EACC Representative – Dan Chayes reported the following updates:

- FIS guidelines are adopted governing equipment for USSA (including non-scored) races effective with the 2004/5 season. Additional information is not currently available on how rules would be enforced in the Eastern region. PARA enforcement policies will be determined during AO meetings in the Fall. Clubs are advised to inform their membership now about the new equipment rules.
- The requirement to participate in a scored SG is eliminated for post season events.
- The 2004/5 Points List will be distributed in the same manner as this past year.
- Although the Eastern Office is moving to New Hampshire, race reports should continue to be sent to the current address.
- Dan requested that race forms be submitted by June 9 either electronically or by paper. The form is slightly modified to name two email contacts to reduce phone calls. Schedule agreements are expected by October 31.

Race Director – Jeff Mikos resigned this position and is now replaced with Dan Chayes. Dan discussed the consequences of a New Hampshire ski area’s failure to provide

gatekeepers and referees for their regional area's races. The ski area was subsequently barred from further participation. Dan encouraged PARA clubs to continue promoting volunteerism to avoid jeopardizing the success of PARA races. Dan also reported the following.

- Head tax for JI and JII's is increased from \$5 to \$6.
- PARA's quota for Whistler Cup attendees is increased.
- The Children's Committee is reorganized.
- The Eastern High School Championship race is not currently scheduled and the date and venue is to be determined later this year.
- JIII Finals are scheduled for Gunstock, Cranmore, and Attitash.

J1 / JII and JI/JII Finals– Sam report good events during the past year and that the PA Cup Series is working to successfully challenge and promote racing for the JI and JII racers.

Sam advised that the following dates and venues are scheduled through the regional meetings.

January 22 and 23.....Tussey.....SL
February 5 and 6.....Blue Mtn.....GS

Although regional meetings initially determined that PA Cup Finals would be held February 25 – 27 at Elk, further discussion occurred upon realizing that this date conflicted with the date of the J2 Eastern Championship. Consequently March 4 – 6 was selected as an alternative date. The venue will remain at Elk.

Sam advised that the first Eastern High School Championship was a great event and recommended continuing to field a team from PARA. Although no female PARA racer attended the Eastern Finals, the event was a successful and Sam requested that clubs promote continued participation in that event.

Dan Chayes inquired if about the possibility of scheduling a Super G event at Blue Mountain contingent upon that area's homologation. Fred Craft will pursue the question once the area is homologated.

JIII and JIII Derby– Lisa Clayton reported the Derby at 7 Springs was successful despite the limited number of volunteers caused by simultaneous events for JI/II's on the same weekend.

Lisa also noted the participation levels in elite races. Although Finals and JO's were filled, Piche and the first day of Top Gun were not. Coaching for Top Gun was not available, although parent coaches volunteered to fill in. Since scheduling for this event begins in the summer of the prior year, Joe Levendusky suggested that a contact be established with USSA soon to obtain early notice of the dates and plans.

Prepayment of post-season event fees upon acceptance at the derby is working well. No cancellations or unfilled slots occurred with prepayment. Notice of the prepayment requirement will be issued with Derby invitations next year.

JIV/JV - Tom Newhard reported a successful event for the JIV/V at Ski Roundtop. Sixteen athletes were sent to Future Stars and the prepayment of entry fees also resulted in all slots being filled. Tom noted the PARA team placed third, over VARA, at the Piche/Thompson event. Tom praised the coaches who supported the PARA team at both camps.

JIV/JV Derby -Joe Levendusky reported that 103 athletes attended the Derby. He encouraged Region chairs to provide their Derby lists to the Derby chair at the earliest possible date to allow enough time for Derby packets to be sent.

Chris Klebe questioned when a bid might be submitted for the next JIV/JV Derby. Sam responded that bids for the 2005/6 season would be requested at the 2005 Spring Meeting.

Membership – Frank Fox announced that the renewal application would be mailed instead of asking members to download the form. This change would hopefully reduce the number of late applicants that occurred this year. He also will print a statement about the PARA guide being online on the membership card.

A discussion followed about membership levels and Frank noted that we currently exceed the levels prior to when SARA ceded which was 6 years ago.

PARA Website - No report filed in the absence of Bob Grover

Coaches Report – No report filed in the absence of Matty DePaulo

Quota Report – Sam Ganow requested that the PARA guide publish quota formulas to clarify how Derby slots are allotted each year.

PARA Guide – Lynda Mikos announced her resignation from this position and requested a volunteer to replace her. She asked if the guide could be placed on line and if another volunteer could be assigned for locating sponsorship. Kurt Zwally volunteered for the sponsorship work. Lynda noted that the cost of producing the guide is currently equivalent to the amount of advertising revenue.

Addendum: Bob Grover indicated that the guide could be placed on line however a volunteer is needed to update the guide each year. He also recommended that the guide should be reproduced with Desktop Publishing software to facilitate its yearly update.

Old Business –

By Laws/ Constitution - Sam advised that revision to by laws and the constitution remains active and encouraged comments. Sam clarified voting privileges and the acceptance of proxies. The eligible voters for action items are the four executive officers and 8 chairpersons for AO, EACC, J1/J11, JIII, and JIV/JV age chairs, Membership, Race Director, and Quotas. General members who are current PARA members may vote during the election of officers.

Frank Fox indicated that a number of amendments were ratified during the past years and existing by laws have not be updated to reflect. He requested that prior meeting minutes should be used to review and update the by laws.

PARA Fencing – Bruce Bedell requested that \$3000 be disbursed for the purchase of 6 rolls of B-net and 14 poles. John McGregor motioned to disburse funds and Dan Chayes seconded.

Additional discussion continued regarding b-net. The rolls would be stored at a location near Ski Roundtop when not in use or transit. Transportation costs are not anticipated because it can be sent via coaches and athletes. However, if a cost would be incurred it would be the responsibility of the host site since they bear the responsibility of protection. In the event of simultaneous venues, priority would be given to the site where faster athletes and steeper terrain exists; this would generally favor the older age class.

Bruce also produced a Best Practice guide on how other organizations utilize b-netting as a way to educate PARA members. Bruce pointed out that the life expectancy of b-net is unknown and should not be considered indefinite. He advised that rolls should be kept out of the sun. B- net should be discarded if holes appear and parts from different vendors should not be mixed. Although sponsorship should be sought for b-net as a way to offset its cost, Bruce advised that PARA should not delay action today in favor of future sponsorship. Bruce also advised that b-netting at Elk Finals was adequate this year, however current amounts would not be sufficient for a SG unless PARA would allot additional purchases.

The motion passed unanimously.

Governor's Cup – Dustin Gibb and Elizabeth Karam were nominated for the 2004 Governor's Cup.

NEW BUSINESS

Under 8 Membership – Tracey Beinhaur raised the issue of the management of racing for ages under eight. Consistency between clubs varies as to whether or not the under eight age group is separate class from JV's. Frank Fox clarified that a JVI class is not a USSA classification because the JV class is defined as athletes 10 and under. USSA classification does not distinguish athletes under the age of eight for any reason.

Discussion occurred on the purpose of designating a separate age class for under age eight athletes. Potential consequences would be: track the number of starts, control entry into events in which Seniors also race, the potential development of alternative race events designed for the youngest racer, and reduce confusion about eligibility for the JIV/V Derby.

Tracey Beinhaur motioned to designate a below age eight class for purpose of tracking and race eligibility, Lynne Coyne seconded. The motion was defeated unanimously.

Develop JIII Cup Series - Chris Klebe proposed the development of a Cup series, similar to the JI/JII series, exclusively for JIII. Its purpose would be to lighten the field at JIV/V events, expand travel opportunities for Western racers, add another event to the Northeast and Central calendars, and expose JIII racers to course settings designed specifically to that age group. Some concern was expressed regarding the number of events scheduled for the calendar year and if conflicts would occur with Elite camps. Training at a elite Northeast camp are perceived to offer more benefits that additional racing in PARA.

Chris Klebe motioned to establish PA Cup series for JIII racers with one event in the Northeast and one event in Central and a 3-day Final event at Seven Springs for the 2005/6 season, Tom Newhard seconded. The motion was defeated by a majority of nays.

Revise Scoring for Derbies – Tom Newhard proposed using scoring by using World Cup points to achieve consistency between all derbies. Discussion followed on the various methods used at each derby. Alternative methods of counting runs vs. accumulated World Cup points were considered. Fred Craft motioned using new World Cup points and counting all runs as the method for scoring Derby races, Jeff Baker seconded. A roll call vote was requested. The motion passed with a 14 to 7 vote.

Derby candidate's late membership penalty – Sam Ganow requested PARA regulations address the eligibility of a racer who qualifies for derby and does not have a current PARA membership. Sam suggested that the racer be allowed to race however a penalty be established.

Sam Ganow motioned to allow a racer who qualifies for derby to race but apply a financial penalty of \$100, Tom Newhard seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Election of Officers – As required by the by laws the annual nomination and election of officers was called by Sam Ganow.

The following candidates were nominated, uncontested, and subsequently elected unanimously:

President.....John Reihner
Vice President.....Chris Klebe
Treasurer.....John McGregor
Secretary.....Tracey Beinhaur

General Housekeeping Items:

A request was received to share the PARA membership mailing list to a vendor for a new product called a ski scooter. The vendor offered \$80 per sale to a PARA member. The executive board requested additional information for review.

Dan Chayes welcomed the return of the WISP to the Western Region's circuit. A race at Wisp is being planned.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Addendum: The following actions resulted from an executive board meeting conducted by phone conference on June 24th.

Attendees were: John McGregor, Chris Klebe, Tracey Beinhaur, and John Reihner. The meeting was called to order at 8:33pm.

Alpine Official's Chair - John Reihner proposed the presidential appointment of Dr. Rob Lipton to the Alpine Official's chair. Upon his appointment, John requested that Rob tackle the issues of TD scheduling and education. John asked Rob to provide more clinics and help identify potential candidates for advancement thereby increasing the overall number of officials in general and advancing those already within the group. Also, John is requesting that an effort be made to establish mentoring to new officials and to provide a general overview to the PARA organization to stimulate interest. John encouraged Rob to seek opportunities for officiating outside the PARA circuit to broaden our officials' knowledge.

John expressed respect and admiration for Winnie's service in this position during the past years. He will contact her to share his gratitude and to ask if she would continue to serve as the Quota chair.

By Laws Committee – John Reihner is adopting the chairperson's role on the by laws committee. John is seeking all prior minutes dating back to 1986 to compile all amendments. Of most importance is the status of PARA's 501-3C status, any requirements for filing taxes, and if a formal announcement is required. John is also

seeking to determine if any statutory regulations exist regarding amending by-laws under 501-3C incorporation.

Coaches Chair – John expressed his intent to retain the existing Coaches Chair. John will contact Matty DePaulo regarding his about his desire to continue serving in this position.

John McGregor reported that coaches' reimbursement requests reflect 2 full days for travel days when they should only reflect one and half. John will request that Matty clarify the amount of time that coaches may bill on travel days.

Liability coverage for Directors and Officers – John Reihner proposed initiating research into the cost and availability of liability coverage for Director's and Officer's activities. John will begin the research.

Fencing – John McGregor asked for clarification on the Fencing motion during the Spring Meeting. He will contact Bruce Bedell to initiate purchase of the approved b-netting.

PARA Guide – John Reihner endorsed placing the PARA guide exclusively on-line, but asked if this was ok'd by the webmaster. John also asked if Lynda Mikos could continue soliciting advertising. Last year's revenue was \$1700. Since the guide will not be printed, consideration should be given to how sponsors can be reflected on the website. Tracey Beinhaur will contact Bob Grover and Lynda Mikos about these issues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.