

2006 PARA Spring Meeting Minutes
Ski Roundtop
May 6, 2006

Call to order – President John Reihner called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Introduction of Members – Attendees are listed on Attachment # 1. Directors, general members and guests introduced themselves. J. Reihner reviewed the agenda and reminded attendees about voting privileges.

Review and approval of minutes of Fall 2005 meeting – The agenda items from the Fall Meeting were listed. Minutes pertaining to By-Laws were read. Motion to approve was made by K. Zwally and seconded by R. Lipton. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Reports:

Treasurer – Written report is on file. Although revenue was lower than anticipated, an overall reserve of \$10,372 is still maintained. No fee increases are recommended for this year. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by R. Lipton and seconded by K. Fedorak. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Membership/Quotas – Written report is on file. Frank Fox announced that he is retiring; his replacement is to be determined. John Reihner thanked Frank for his years of dedicated service.

Alpine Officials – Written report is on file. Robert Lipton recommended that club's include a line item in their budgets to cover TD expenses. Many of the most experienced officials may otherwise drop out just to minimize expenses, as they no longer have children in the program. Discussion also occurred about assignment of a single or multiple TD's for multi-day events. Rob will consider single assignments in the future for championship events. The Alpine Official of the Year was awarded to Walt Dercast.

Coaches - Written report is on file. Bruce Newman also recommended establishing a deadline for requesting a post season coaching assignment. The Coach of the Year was awarded to Mattie DePaulo.

Race Director & ACC Report- Written report is on file. During the discussion re: B-net ownership and liability, John McGregor noted that insurance brokers are unable to get underwriting for race equipment. Dan Chayes also noted the performances of two former PARA athletes who are attaining national recognition; Mark Mikos is invited to attend US Ski Team's development team program, and Scott Venus is a top NCAA racer.

Para Website – Written report is on file. Annemarie Todd will follow-up to confirm the number of years remaining on the domain license.

J1-2 Age Chair – Fred Craft named Albert Torres as the recipient of the Sheibley Award. Dustin Gibb and Katie Rodgers were named recipients of the PA Cup. Discussion occurred re: filling slots via the use of a lottery and/or inviting neighboring southern states to fill an otherwise open PARA slot. Gus Picariello will make additional inquiries with contacts in those areas. Additional discussion occurred about independent racers eligibility to participate in another state's High School races when High School races are not offered in their home state. These athletes are not eligible for the High School championship.

J3 Age Chair – Written report is on file. Lisa Clayton expressed continued concern about unfilled slots for development camps. She encourages coaches to suggest attendance by qualified racers. Lisa recommends some allowance for racers who miss a qualifying event due to a development camp to ensure their eligibility for a derby.

J4 Age Chair – Written report is on file. Additional discussion occurred re: development camp opportunities for J4's. Tom Newhard suggested additional research to see what's available. Rob Lipton said that non-assigned officials might comment when a safety issue is apparent, but encouraged non-assigned officials not to intervene in other cases.

Individual Regional Meetings – Each region broke out in groups for the purposes of race scheduling and issues unique to each region.

Old Business:

Budget – John McGregor presented The 06/07 Budget. No fee increase was recommended. Mileage was calculated at the current IRS reimbursement. Liability coverage for Directors and Officers is added. However additional liability would double cost. Discussion occurred re: upgrading from "hoodies" to quilted vests or jackets for derby awards. Hoodies will continue to avoid depleting assets any further.

Discussion also occurred re: funding B-net fencing as recommended by ACC committee and to replace aging fences. Dan Chayes motioned and Gus Picariello seconded to add an optional line for donations to membership registration for the sole purpose of funding fencing purchases. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws – By-laws discussion was prefaced by a request from J. Reihner that discussion on current proposed by-laws should be minimal. John McGregor said that due to the requirement to provide a 30 day announcement re: amendments, today's proposed by-laws were subject to either be adopted or rejected in total.

Any revisions would require passing the proposed by-laws and then amending them at a subsequent meeting.

John McGregor outlined the major changes proposed:

- Regions are renamed to reflect their geographic vicinity.
- Club membership is defined as a 1) USSA registered club, 2) comprised of PARA members, and 3) payment of \$25 dues by each October. A club can be removed for cause with 30 days notice.
- Board structure is comprised of 28 members (24 regional directors and 4 executive officers). One director represents each club. Procedures for naming unfilled regional positions, should a seat remain open after club assignments, are subject to committee approval.
- Committee chairs do not have voting privileges.

Limited discussion occurred on:

- Introduction of language re: sanctions
- Voting privileges for committee chairs
- Defining general membership status and privileges

A call to vote was made by John McGregor and seconded by Arthur Kania. Proposed by-laws were adopted by a vote of 21 in favor and 13 opposed.

Online race registration – Electronic race registration is pended for further research. Fee comparisons of two vendors were too expensive. A suggestion was made to check PayPal services and fees. Another suggestion was made to post race registration receipts, but was rejected because of the risk of publicly posting a planned absence from home. Additional followup will continue and may include revising the current form for race registration.

Privacy Policy – John Reihner said that an offer to purchase membership data was received this year but was declined. John asked if an amendment should be made to consider sharing any personal membership data. B. Birmingham motioned and H. Schmidt seconded to maintain the privacy of membership data regardless of any request. The motion passed unanimously.

Pa Cup & State Races –

Future PA Cup scheduling – F. Craft opened a general discussion about scheduling PA Cup dates and venues. Points raised were:

- Need to make selection earlier, ie 07/08 dates should be selected no later than February 2007.
- Reconsider revising 3-day culminating event at Elk so that the season can be wrapped up earlier, giving more lead-time and less conflict with

Eastern post season events. Possible alternatives are a) 8 races across 4 venues throughout the season or b) two 3-day events.

John Reihner proposed a committee to review and propose an alternative PA Cup scheduling plan. Committee members are as follows: F. Craft (J1/2 Age Chair): B. Newman- (Northeast & East), K. Zwally (Central), and a third member from Western to be named.

Current schedule for 06/07 – Discussion began with trying to reconcile conflicts that have developed with scheduling PA cups and state championships.

- **Pa Cups** - Blue and Camelback are PA Cup sites for January, however two consecutive weekend days are not possible. The motion was made and seconded by B. Newman to conduct GS races on Friday and Saturday. The motion passed unanimously. Consequently the PA Cup schedule is as follows:

Friday, Jan 19.....GS.....Blue Mountain
Saturday, Jan 20.....GS.....Blue Mountain
Saturday, Feb 3.....SL.....Tussey
Sunday, Feb 4.....SL.....Tussey
Friday, Mar 2.....GS.....Elk
Saturday, Mar 3.....SL.....Elk
Sunday, Mar 4.....GS.....Elk

- **J3 Derby** – A question was raised about if bidding is conducted for the J3 derby and when it should be submitted. If a club wants to bid for the event it should be done at a Spring meeting one season prior to the desired year, ie. bid requests at the Spring 2007 meeting determines the 07/08 derby site. D. Chayes noted that J3 JO Finals eligibility requires an athlete to participate in a Super G event on a registered SG, but not homologated, hill. The 06/07 J3 Derby is scheduled for:

Friday, Feb 16.....SG.....7 Springs
Saturday, Feb 17...SL.....7 Springs
Sunday, Feb 18.....GS.....7 Springs

- **J4 Derby** – The proposed date, Feb 24th and 25th, for the J4 Derby at Blue is not possible. An alternative date is proposed, Mar 3rd and 4th, however it conflicts with the PA Cup Finals. The alternative weekend would push the event to the second week of March when weather is unreliable and lead-time to Whistler Cup is too tight. Consequently, the J4 Derby schedule is:

Saturday, Mar 3....TBD.....Blue Mountain
Sunday, Mar 4.....TBD.... Blue Mountain

New business:

Late entries - Dan Chayes motioned that Late Entries must be accepted at any regional qualifying event prior to the race day registration period and are subject to 150% penalty of the race fee amount. Gus Picariello seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Establish limit or 2 GS runs per race day – Following a motion by Tish Derr, discussion occurred re: if 3 GS runs in one day should be eliminated because the time between races is inadequate for protests. Motion was withdrawn, as time is adequate as long as race administration guidelines are followed and coaches are informed.

Seeding Former Top Ranked J3 Athletes –Dan Chayes motioned to grant an "Automatic" first seed position to any PARA J3 racer who, in the previous seasons age class championships, finished first, second or third in overall rankings in the event said racer is unable to fully participate in their regional qualification process as a result of their participation in out of state training camps and/or races. Bruce Newman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Expand Field of J3 Derby Athletes – Lisa Clayton opened discussion about the use of discretionaries to allow a deserving athlete to qualify for Derbies. Several motions were made and withdrawn re: expanding the number of quotas and/or discretionaries as the current field of J3 derby racers appears to narrow and is causing too many tiebreakers. Gus Picariello motioned and Lisa Clayton seconded to allow additional discretionaries based on the Age chair recommendation as long as documentation is provided. The motion passed unanimously.

Establish Point Limit for Eligibility for Post Season Speed Event - Bruce Newman motioned to establish a points requirement for post season speed events for an athlete who does not otherwise directly qualify and does not have a USSA points profile in DH or SG:

The following standard is applied:

Men and Women must have a maximum of 150 USSA GS pts when no point profile exists in either DH or SG.

Second year J3 athletes eligible for Junior 1-2 Finals DH/SG will be approved by a panel of three; 1.) The PARA Regional Chair from the athletes region, 2.) The PARA J3 Age Chair, 3.) The Coaches Chair

The motion was seconded by Dan Chayes and was subsequently approved unanimously.

PARA Race Fee Committee - Bruce Bedell opened discussion about the cost of PARA race fees comparative to other USSA regional fees. Some PARA fees are the highest in the nation. Bruce proposed establishing a committee comprised of one member from

each region to approach PSAA to see if race fees can be limited to \$50 per day. Kurt Zwally seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

FIS Renewal Date – Fred Craft made a point of order to announce that although the FIS renewal deadline is January 1, PARA athletes should enroll now to maximize quota slots for FIS events, as slots will be based on enrollment levels as of July 1.

Out of State SG Camp – Fred Craft also requested that age chairs and coaches chair work together to see if an out state organization would host PARA athletes and PARA coaches at their SG development camp.

Election of Officers – John Reihner announced his resignation as President
The following slate of officers were nominated, seconded, and unanimously elected:

President – John McGregor
Vice President – Chris Klebe
Treasurer – Mark Milby
Secretary – Tracey Beinhaur

Adjournment occurred at 2:35p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by,

Tracey Beinhaur
PARA Secretary.