

**PENNSYLVANIA ALPINE RACING ASSOCIATION**  
**2007 Spring Meeting**  
**May 5, 2007 – Ski Roundtop, Lewisberry, PA**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** - President John McGregor called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. 16 directors and 4 executives were in attendance meeting quorum requirements. 17 nonvoting members were also in attendance, 2 committee chairs and 15 general members. Attendees were as noted on Attachment A.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Review and Approval of Minutes** – Meeting minutes were approved as amended for two items, Seeding and Post Season Speed Event Qualification. A third item, Expanding the J3 Derby, was listed as a discussion item for New Business. A motion was made *to accept the minutes as amended. M/S/C: Lipton/Klebe/Unanimous*

**2. Presidents Report** – John McGregor provided additional information on two items which required Executive direction during the past season. The first was decision to retain regional authority over qualification events and selection processes when race schedules are significantly impacted by weather. This decision appeared to be effective and did not adversely affect the outcome of post season teams or events.

A second item resulted from a 2006 motion that established qualification criteria for Speed Events. Three members threatened legal proceedings to obtain eligibility citing inadequate announcement of the criteria. Under the threat of a lawsuit, the criteria were suspended and athletes were granted permission to participate subject to a coach's final approval. Consequently, a second review of the standard is listed for discussion and clarification as a new business item.

**3. Treasurer's report** – Mark Milby submitted the Treasury report. A balance of \$17,758 was noted. Mark also submitted projections for 07/08 that indicate a negative balance is anticipated. He submitted various means to make up the deficit by membership fee and/or head tax increases. A question about J4/5 expenses was asked to explain why actual expenses exceeded budgeted amounts by nearly \$5000. Although some costs were due to the increase in mileage and distance, additional research is needed to explain the total increase. A motion was made *to accept the Treasurer's report. M/S/C: Todd/Fedorek/Unanimous*

**4. Membership & Quotas report** – Mark Milby submitted a membership report that noted a total of 940 members and income that exceeded \$2500 last year's revenue. Former Membership Chair, Frank Fox, will provide historical information from prior years to complete PARA records of membership levels. A motion was made *to accept the Membership and Quotas report. M/S/C: Klebe/Lipton/Unanimous*

5. **Alpine officials report** – Rob Lipton submitted a written report which is available on file on [www.PaRacing.org](http://www.PaRacing.org). Rob’s report included several recommended initiatives. The first is an Alpine Official’s committee for the purpose of handling officiating issues, including adjudicating appeals of Jury Decisions, during the in-season. Rob answered questions about the committee for clarification:

Q: An even number of members is noted, how will tiebreakers be handled?

A: The AO Chair only votes in the event of a tie.

Q: What types of issues will the committee receive? A: Jury decisions prior to USSA review.

Q: Does the committee review officiating issues only or are other issues possible? A: Only AO issues, including AO education, within PARA only. It will not review eligibility or selection criteria.

Rob also said that presently every state organizational body has a committee of this nature except PARA. A motion was made *to create the Alpine Official’s Committee*.  
*M/S/C: Bedell/Picariello/Unanimous*

Rob also provided information about Online Registration as he needed to leave before the session for New Business items. Rob said that USSA is considering membership registration. USSA registration could be used to also capture PARA registration, but it would require some changes to PARA membership. They are:

- No family membership is available under USSA programs.
- PARA membership fees would not be collected if a member chose not to be a USSA member.

An alternative registration service is available to PARA through Active.com. It can perform both membership and race registration. Rob outlined the processes, fees, and policies of vendor. John asked for a voice survey of clubs present regarding interest in three features that can be offered by Active.com. The outcome was:

- PARA membership registration – all clubs supported
- On-line Club registration – half supported, half did not
- On-line Race registration – half supported, half did not

A motion was made *to adopt Active.com or other vendor to provide race registration as an optional method for race registration and membership enrollment as PARA’s preferred method. Manual registration will continue to be offered as an option to members. Any fees for on-line registration services are paid by the registrant should that method be chosen.* *M/S/C: Davenport/Milby/unanimous*

6. **Coaches’ report** – A written report by Bruce Neuman, Coaches Chair, was read in his absence. Stephan Antal was acknowledged for his work and Pat Neville was nominated for Coach of the Year. A motion was made *to accept the nomination.*  
*M/S/C: Chayes/ Clayton/unanimous*

7. **Race director/ACC report** – Dan Chayes provided additional comments to his written report that is on file.

- a. Dan endorsed referee credentialing for coaches but cautioned using referees to fill positions that a host is otherwise is
- b. ~~Steps to protocol~~ protocol and radio channels requirements are more
- c. ~~Specifics~~ Specifics is reducing its field size and consequently quota slots will probably be fewer.
- d. It was recently noted that only 2 venues exist in Vermont for GS races due to fencing requirements exceeding host capabilities; PARA may experience the same trend as
- e. ~~Fencing req changes in 08/09~~ Fencing req changes in 08/09 will introduce stand height standards for all ages. Boot sole thickness may be the next standard introduced. Dan noted that PARA is the only state association in the Eastern region to have an equipment
- f. ~~Protocol~~ Protocol requirements for every venue will be imposed for the 08/09 season. Dan encouraged questions about prerequisites and cost. Eventually a review cycle will be scheduled to re-homologate existing hills. A 10 year period exists for homologation reviews. Homologation, like
- g. ~~Dan asked the techs to create a reflective tarp to use for a race~~ Dan asked the techs to create a reflective tarp to use for a race ~~is a~~ camp as a New Business item.

*A motion was made to accept the report. M/S/C: Derr/Fedorek/unanimous*

8. **J 1-2 age chair report** – Fred Craft announced that Katie Rodgers, WPRC and Skyler Yost are recipients of the PA Cup; and Robert White, LMRT, is the recipient of the Frank Sheibley Memorial Award. Fred noted that PARA athletes are improving in post season events by achieving some top 10 and 15 finishes. Fred asked for suggestions to increase attendance at Eastern HS Championships. Fred also instructed directors to inform their clubs about PARA eligibility requirements to avoid the litigation that nearly occurred this year. A comment was made that clubs without representation are uninformed of PARA motions. A motion was made *to accept the J1-2 age chair reports. M/S/C: Lipton/Klebe/unanimous*

9. **J 3 age chair report** – Lisa Clayton announced Molly Broom and Jeff Puckett as J3 Champions. Lisa also reported some vacancies occurring at post season races for a variety of reasons. She recommended that more opportunities should be developed for J3's SG training and more point races for 2<sup>nd</sup> year J3's. A motion was made *to accept the J3 age chair report. M/S/C: Derr/Lipton/unanimous*

10. **J 4 age chair report** – The J4 age chair report is pending due to the absence of the chair.

**11. Race fee committee report** – Written report on file. Bruce asked that a proposal to cap race fees be considered under New Business.

**12. PA Cup committee report** – Fred Craft summarized the results of a survey of J1/2 attendees re: the perceptions of PA Cup events and possible future changes. The following opinions were evident:

- A SG event is desired.
- Racers are willing to travel out of state for an event.
- Additional races to the current schedule are acceptable.

**13. Fencing report** - Bruce Bedell provided a summary of the current fencing inventory in PARA. A total of 21 rolls exist. This year's purchase from a new vendor, Mountain Supply, offered savings over Reliable Racing, but the quality is less. Bruce recommended that future purchases should be made from RR. The MS rolls should be used as a second layer if multiple layers are needed. A suggestion was made to begin an inventory and net ID method to track the age and supplier of nets. Bruce and Dan Chayes will team to document the inventory and provide the information to the Treasurer for asset reporting to the IRS. Bruce noted that future movement of net will become harder as the inventory increases. Bruce also said that the host site is responsible for obtaining the rolls it needs and that PARA net housed at WPRC is available to the rest of the state for PA Cup and Derbies, or for other purposes upon request. Training is planned for November 11, 2007 on net installation.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Request for membership:**

- **Deep Creek Winter Sports Team** –Derek Berger, DSWST head coach, submitted a written request for recognition as a PARA club within the Western region. It presently has 25 USSA members within its 100 member roster.
- **Central Region** – Club status of three clubs, Mercersburg Academy, Ski Denton, and Ski Sawmill, was discussed as Mercersburg Academy verbally applied for recognition and Denton and Sawmill seceded from each other. Recognition of all three clubs exceeds the number of available seats within the Central region. The three clubs each explained their current status and reasons for requesting for club status.

- Mercersburg: presently a subgroup of WTSEF, wants independent status to avoid conflict of interest with WTSEF and give voice and representation to Mercersburg Academy students
- Ski Denton: relocated to Ski Sawmill due to geographical distance to Sawmill when the balance of the team relocated and renamed. Surrendered its Central seat to Ski Sawmill for fencing members of the Ski Denton Team that relocated to Ski Sawmill. Retained all assets and organizational structure of former team. All

state and legal requirements are filed to rename itself as Ski Sawmill Race Club, and consequently club recognition is maintained.

John McGregor noted that per the Bylaws the acceptance of new clubs requires the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Directors not just those present and voting. This would require a total of 19 votes to add a new club for representation for the FY 2007-8. John asked for separate motions *to extend club status to Deep Creek, Mercersburg and Denton.*

*Deep Creek: M/S/C: Fedorek/Chayes/19 ayes and 1 abstention.*

*Mercersburg Academy: M/S/R: Lipton/Fedorek/ 15 ayes*

*Denton: M/S/R: Zwally/Derr/18 ayes*

*Deep Creek was accepted as a new club within the Western region. Mercersburg and Denton did not receive enough affirmative votes to be acknowledged as a Central Club, but may reapply next year.*

**2. PA Cup Schedule—proposed dates 1/19 & 20 GS; 2/9 & 10 SL; 2/22,23 & 24**

**Finals:** John MacGregor outlined the proposed dates and asked if any other dates were offered by interested hosts. No other dates were offered. One host, SRRC, has submitted a formal proposal to conduct a two day SL event at a second venue, Ski Denton, on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. BMSC offered to conduct an event

on any Friday/Saturday period and Elk agreed to conduct the PA Cup Finals on the proposed dates. WTSEF also offered to conduct a PA Cup on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that an out of state SG event typically occurs on the first Monday after the first weekend in February (Feb 4<sup>th</sup>) which could be paired with a PARA event. A motion was made to change PA Cup 3 and 4 to the first weekend in February. The motion was made to revise the dates to the first February weekend, and discussed but a January event at Gore was deemed more favorable, and the motion *failed to revise the proposed dates for PA Cup 1 and 2.* M/S/R: Chayes/Klebe/unanimous

Two venues, SRRC and WTSEF, outlined their proposal for the February 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> Slalom events for PA Cup 3 and 4. A motion was made to *award SRRC PA Cup 3 and 4, two SL events, at Ski Denton.* M/S/C: Bedell/Starner/by acclamation/one objection

Scheduling of PA Cup 1 and 2 was discussed. The issue of a Friday/Saturday schedule was less preferable than a Saturday/Sunday, but no venue could accommodate both weekend dates. A motion was made to *award BMSC PA Cup 1 and 2, two GS events for January 18 and 19.* Addendum: *Near the conclusion of this meeting a question arose about a potential conflict of PA Cup 1 and 2 with the MLK holiday schedule. Final approval of the GS dates depends upon the outcome of venue space during the MLK weekend.* M/S/C: Zwally/Todd/by acclamation/one objection

Discussion occurred on the dates of the PA Cup Finals. John asked for a motion to revise the proposed dates, but none were made. Elk confirmed that they will host in the absence of another proposal. A motion was made to award EMSC PA Cup 5, 6, 7 (the Finals) to EMSC on the proposed dates.

*M/S/C Fedorek/Lipton/by acclamation*

**3. J3 Derby: proposed date Feb. 15, 16 & 17** - WPRC offered to host again on the proposed dates, no other host made a proposal. A motion was made to *award WPRC the J3 Derby on the proposed dates*. *M/S/C: Chayes/Starnner/by acclamation*

**4. J 4-5 Derby: proposed date, March 1 & 2** -For the 07-08 season, BMSC will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the J4-5 Derby as part of the 2 year cycle that began 05-07. A motion was made *to accept the proposed dates*. *M/S/C: Doubleddee/Fedorek/by acclamation*

**5. Regional qualification procedures discussion** -John opened discussion about possible changes to qualification policies. Discussion occurred on the changes that could occur to reduce pressure on the need to qualify and thereby encouraging more time for training. In general, expanding the Derby field size or decreasing the number of qualifying races required could reduce pressure. John advised that each region should evaluate and determine its desired number of qualifying races and asked if the expanding the derby fields was feasible. Increasing the J4/5 field would exceed a manageable size, but additional slots could be absorbed into the J3 field. Lisa said that adding 20 slots would allow 59% of the J3 members to qualify, taking the field up to 85 racers. An amendment to a motion was made to increase the field up to 85 racers but it was rejected unanimously in favor of the original motion to *expand the J3 Derby field to 80 racers (75 qualifiers plus 5 discretionary slots)*. *M/S/C: Chayes/Zwally/by acclamation*

**6. REGIONAL BREAKOUT SESSION** – The general session broke out into its regional groups to conduct regional scheduling and policy amendments.

**7. Online registration** – discussed previously under the AO report.

**8. Web Site operation-** Tracey outlined problems with the website that was frequently hacked throughout this year. Due to the availability of open source code the site cannot be protected from future, and a new platform is recommended. Directors were informed that phone numbers and personal email addresses can be eliminated from the PARA Directory upon request. Website timeliness and use are included in a report on file and regional directors should consider providing interim derby standings during the course of the season rather than waiting till the last qualifying event.

**9. AO / coach membership requirement** – John opened discussion on whether or not requirements, and at what fee, if any, should be imposed for AO's or coaches. Presently no category exists for AO's and so they join as general members at an annual \$25 fee. In contrast, coaches register at a \$5 annual fee. Neither category is required to be a registered PARA member, only as a member of USSA. Since either have very low or no compensation, a mandatory fee was not favorable but a membership would demonstrate a

level of professionalism. A motion was made *to establish an AO/Coach classification at a \$5 annual fee and membership enrollment would be voluntary.* M/S/C:  
*Doubleddee/Fedorek/ by acclamation*

**10. FY 2007/2008 Budget** – Mark presented a proposed budget for 2007-8 that resulted in a negative balance if fees and head taxes remain at the current levels. The greatest expense is post season coaching. This season, some expenses significantly exceeded budget levels that are only partially explained by increases in mileage costs. Mark recommended that a guidelines should be established for coach:athlete ratios and a review process of expenses by both the coaches chair and Treasurer. A request was made to review past expenses in '05 and '06 to determine if amounts reflected the total amount of coaching conducted during prior years.

Mark presented various options for a balance budget through increases to head taxes and membership fees. A motion was made *to increase the head tax to \$9 and membership fees to \$30 for individuals and \$70 for families.* M/S/C: *Picariello/Fedorek/by acclamation*

**11. 2009/2010 J 4-5 Derby bid from SRRC** – John received one proposal from SRRC to host the next two year cycle of the J4/5 Derby that begins with the 2007-8 season. The proposal plans to offer the event on the fourth weekend of February each year. John opened the proposal for discussion.

Q. Why is the J4-5 Derby proposal submitted two seasons prior to the event? Can the Derby bid follow the same deadlines as PA Cup, ie one season prior? A. The Derby bid deadline is two years in advance to permit a new host to assemble the infrastructure needed for the event and observe the prior host's event and activities.

Q. How does SRRC plan to improve the event over how it was conducted in prior years? A. SRRC noted BMSC activities that were popular with attendees and will address areas where criticism has been directed.

John asked for a motion and noted that a simple majority is needed to pass the motion. A motion was made *to award the 2008/9 and 2009/10 J4-5 Derby to SRRC.* M/S/C:  
*Chayes/Derr/Ayes= 10/Nayes=7/abstentions=-2*

**12. Discussion and clarification of Points Limit for post season Speed Events & direct qualifying** – The speed event standard for using GS points in the event is reopened for discussion due to the petition to the Executive Committee and threat of legal action to permit several athletes from attending a post season event as a result of the new standard.

Several questions were explored through discussion with general agreement occurring among directors to maintain standards. The discussion favored standards to prevent risking inadequately prepared racers to speed events, however speed training needs to be

provided to give opportunity to develop speed skills. Further discussion was tabled until the next agenda item could be addressed.

Discussion returned to this topic following the next agenda item. Methods were outlined as a proposal in order to participate in a post season speed event, the racer must 1) directly qualify, or 2) possess a GS profile less than or equal to 150 points, or 3) possess a DH or SG profile less than or equal to 250 points when a GS profile exceeds 150 points. A motion was made *to accept the proposed standards as outlined. M/S/C: Gus/Chayes/unanimous*

**SG training camp discussion** – John asked Dan Chayes to provide information on the possibility of USSA training on Speed skills at a location in PARA. Dan reported that Alex Krebs, from the USSA Eastern Office, is offering to conduct a mid-January/mid-week camp. Currently her proposal is directed towards J4's and J3's, however the need is apparent that speed training is needed at older age groups, too. To keep the field size at a manageable level, a selection process may need to be used or multiple days divided between age groups. Dan will continue discussions to develop this opportunity further and will try to pair the event with the date and location of PA Cup 1 and 2, regardless of age groups to minimize netting setup and teardown.

**13. Race worker provision / requirement** – Annemarie Todd asked for discussion about the means and authority that Race Organizers have to restrict a racer from participating if a parent-worker does not volunteer for a needed position. The intent is to avoid threatening a youth athlete when a parent does not accompany their child due to legitimate reasons.

The following proposal was developed from those suggestions:

For PA Cup Series: A Race Organizing Committee may solicit in advance for staffing help from other clubs. The ROC may not fine or disqualify a racer if a parent/worker is not available or does not volunteer. Staffing assignments lists will be posted three days prior to an event. .

For all other events: Fines and Disqualification may not be levied by a Race Organizing Committee for lack of a parent-worker that is not present for an athlete.

A motion was made *to adopt the policy as proposed. M/S/C: Milby/Clayton/unanimous*

- 13. Out of Area Training Camps Athlete Contract requirement** – John announced a clarification of USSA Code of Conduct policy that required Executive Committee attention this past year. He submitted a proposal to establish the requirement of signed contracts by PARA members at any event that a PARA club may host or sponsor that can be construed as affiliated with USSA. His proposal states:

*Move that in order to insure that all athletes within PARA are in compliance with USSA Code of Conduct, and that it is understood that the Code applies to any events where*



*their activities could be perceived as representing USSA the following shall be required for all activities conducted by a PARA Member Club: All athletes shall be required to sign as a condition of participation a contract stipulating that they will not be in possession of or consume any alcoholic beverage or illegal or banned drugs no matter where the activity takes place. This requirement shall apply to pre-season training and summer camps even though they may take place outside the USA.*

A motion was made to adopt the requirement as proposed. *M/S/C: Milby/Zwally/unanimous*

**14. Other new business –**

a. **Referee Assignments** – Clarification was made about recommended jury makeup and a proposal was developed through discussion re: referee selection by a TD. A proposal was made to limit the selection of referees by TD's for:

- State Championships and PA Cups: The TD shall select a referee that provides distinct regional representation from other members of the Jury, except in extreme hardships.
- All other events: The TD shall select a referee from a club other than his/her home mountain or the host mountain; except in extreme hardships.

*A motion was made to limit a TD;s referee selection as proposed. M/S/C: Zwally/Fedorek/by acclamation*

b. **High School Championship** – Fred Craft presented a proposal to add a 1 weekend statewide event for two race series, 1 GS and 1 SL, for 2<sup>nd</sup> year J3 thru J1's PARA members. The series serves as a qualifying event for the Eastern High School Championship. The series would be awarded on a two year cycle through a bid process. Sno Mountain is interested in hosting the first year. Equipment requirements for J3's are not applicable; J1/2's do have equipment requirements. Seeding will occur by state and not by points for adjacent out of state residents with a USSA license when they are also representatives of their home states. In the absence of an out of state team, a qualified PARA non-resident may join the PARA State Team. A \$50 deposit is required to secure a racer's intent to advance onto the PARA State Team. ~~The bid is not refundable if the athlete does not qualify.~~ *The bid is not refundable if the athlete does not qualify as proposed. M/S/C Book/Zwally/by acclamation.*

c. **Race Fee Cap** – Bruce Bedell proposed a cap on the race fee charged by a host club for one day and multi-day events. An example is \$35 per day with consideration to if the host club is able to control lift ticket costs or not. Discussion occurred about the various costs that could occur under the

proposal for multi-day events. A motion was *proposed and defeated to impose a race fee cap. M/S/C: Bedell/Reed/ rejected by acclamation.*

- d. **Increase the PA Cup Series to 8 races in 2007-8** - Fred Craft proposed increasing the current 7 race series to 8 races for the upcoming year only. If successful, the increase shall be reconsidered at next year's Spring Meeting as a permanent change for future seasons. During the course of the discussion, an apparent conflict exists with the MLK weekend for the current PA Cup series, and so a date could not be firmly established until the conflict could be reconciled. A motion was made *to add a single race, a SL, to the PA Cup Series in 2007-8 only based upon the availability of a date and venue immediately following PA Cup 2 at a venue close to the location of PA Cup 2* M/S/C: Chayes/Reed/ by majority/ 1 nay.

- 15. Election of officers** – John reminded that the election of officers was revised by last springs By Laws. In the past the entire slate of officers was subject to voting. Under new by laws, the President and Treasurer are voted in alternating years with the Vice President and Secretary. All positions serve for two year terms. This year the VP and Secretary positions are subject to nomination and elections.

The current officers agreed to remain in their respective positions. John asked for nominees to contest the candidates and none were offered. A motion was made *to accept the slate of officers as presented. M/S/C: Fedorek/Clayton/ unanimous.*

- 16. Adjournment:** A motion was made *to adjourn. M/S/C: MacGregor/Klebe*

Meeting Minutes prepared by,

Tracey Beinhaur  
PARA Secretary



## Attachment A - May 5, 2007 PARA Spring Meeting Attendees

<b>Last name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Present, Absent, 1= prs &amp; voting</b>
Bedell	Bruce	director	1
Beinhaur	Tracey	executive	1
Birmingham	Bill	director	Abs
Book	Scott	director	1
Brown	Tim	director	Abs
Chayes	Dan	director, committee	1
Clayton	Lisa	director, committee	1
Corchnoy	Jon	director	Abs
Craft	Fred	committee	Prs
Davenport	Jim	director	1
Derr	Tish	director	1
Doubledee	Rich	director	1
Fedorak	Ken	director	1
Hardy	Steve	director	1
Kania	Arthur	director	Abs
Klebe	Chris	executive	1
Krout	Michele	committee	Prs
Lipton	Rob	director, committee	1
McGregor	John	executive	1
Milby	Mark	executive, committee	1
Newhard	Tom	director, committee	Abs
Newman	Bruce	director, committee	Abs
Nickle	Sheila	committee	Abs
Picariello	Gus	director	1
Reed	Paul	director	1
Rodgers	Dook	director	Abs
Schmidt	Hans	director	Abs
Schramm	Kurt	director	1
Starner	Chris	director	1
Todd	Anne Marie	director	1
Zwally	Kurt	director	1
<b>Gen Mbrs &amp; Guests</b>		<b>Club</b>	
Dix	Paige	WPRC	
Fowler	Lew	Ski Denton	
Filling	Bill	SRRC	
Holzwarth	Dave	Mercersburg	
Fox	Frank	Independent	
Sawyer	Dick	Independent	
Carts	Scott	Ski Denton	
Berger	Derek	DCWST	
Green	Steve	DCWST	
Antal	Stephan	WTSEF	
Wishard	Danny	LMRT	
Dix	Paige	WPRC	
Sulpizio	Tony	BMRT	
Rutledge	Preston	WTSEF	
Dymeck	Don	Ski Sawmill	
Doubledee	Kim	Blue Knob	