

2005 PARA Spring Meeting May 14, 2005

Attendees: see Attachment #1 (last page)

President John Reihner opened the meeting at 9:30am. Attendee introduction followed. John clarified voting privileges for attendees; eligible voters for Business Matters are the four executive officers, twenty-four Board of Directors, and 8 committee chairs. Election of officers is voted by the preceding list plus any general members in attendance.

Review of 2004 Meeting Minutes - A motion by Fred Craft proposed correcting the year of the J4/5 Derby bid from 2005/6 to 2006/7, Chris Klebe seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – John McGregor submitted PARA's Treasury report. John Mc expects another \$6500 in income and \$1700 in expenses before the close of this fiscal year. Changes in PARA fees are not recommended. Fred Craft requested clarification on the purpose of the head tax funds. John Mc indicated that they fund post season coaching and that the last two years show expenses for coaching at each age level are equivalent to head tax income from the corresponding derby. Research from prior meeting minutes indicate that the head tax appears to be introduced in 1997 for PA Cups and were copied by the J3 and J4/5 Derbies by 1998.

Fred Craft motioned to accept the Treasurers report, Klebe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Alpine Official's Report – Rob Lipton submitted his report indicating the activities of Alpine Officials and the subsequent advancement in credentialing. Level 1 and 2 are automatically advanced, while Level 3 require a merit review by the Eastern Alpine Office and subsequent approval at the National meeting.

For the 2005/6 season, Rob will introduce training for Race Admin and Timing, and development of training for Jury Advisors for Start/Finish ref's, TD's, and candidates who are seeking higher credentials. He will maintain the AO website.

Rob summarized the affect that this past seasons equipment rules introduction. He noted that PARA was the only state with a formal protest. He anticipates further clarification on helmet standards to define more specifically the type of helmet and the applicability to each age and discipline. Currently, FIS rules are being followed due to stricter, more cautious standards until of a definitive USSA rule is established.

The Alpine Officials report was unanimously approved for acceptance.

ACC/Race Director Report – Dan Chayes requested that Race Schedule Info sheets deadline is June 15 and the preferred submission is via electronic format.

Dan announced a new type of FIS license intended to reduce the number of unnecessary full FIS license. The provisional license is targeted to racers who only occasionally participate in FIS races and do not desire FIS points or seeding. The provisional license is upgradeable to a full license at any point in a season by paying the balance of the cost between the two licenses. Dan requested advance notice of any athletes attending out of state races and said out of state racers were not permitted in NY qualifying races without the NY ACC's rep OK. Open races; however do not require prior approval. Dan announced USSA fee increase from \$45 to \$60 for student/youth membership.

Dan advised that a GS venue review should be conducted to determine if adequate width exists for a GS event as is done similarly with other speed events. The recommended standard is 40 meters of width, although a homologation may approve a width slightly less than in special circumstances. Dan also indicated that b-netting requirements are increasing with recommendations re: interlacing netting, distance from obstacles, and considering the height of impact. Dan indicated that PARA clubs must demonstrate proactive steps towards these recommendations to avoid regulation by USSA. Bruce Bedell suggested that all GS venues should sketch and measure their GS venues during the summer by walking their courses as well as estimating adequate fencing for each site.

Dan also provided a calendar of 2005/6 Regional and National events; of note the J2 National is relocating to a Western venue in 2005/6 but could return to the East in following years. Dan noted that dates may be revised by one or two days but venue sights may change significantly before the final schedule is announced. Also based on the National meeting, it was recommended that J3/4 course setting should include more terrain features. Dan anticipates a return visit from Shaun Goodwin, Eastern Alpine Manager, during the holiday week and requested input from interested clubs.

Coaches Report – Bruce Newman provided a written summary of post season stats for the State Teams under his direction. Bruce indicated his desire to build a core group of experienced coaches, particularly J4/5, who are familiar with post season racing to improve PARA reputation within the Eastern region. He will utilize the website to develop and communicate the desirable coaching criteria. He recommends that the coaching ratio should not exceed a 1 to 6 ratio due to the difficulty of Regional racing venues.

Bruce recommended that PARA support for a 2005/6 speed event at Sugarloaf. He advised that PARA course setting is presently inconsistent and fencing needs can only be met through the joint effort of all PARA clubs. Bruce Bedell requested additional discussion on Safety and Protection as a New Business item and the agenda item was added without objection.

Membership/Quotas Report – Frank Fox provided a written report in advance in lieu of his planned absence. The membership base continues to increase and presently 1,030 members are registered. Frank reported that an early US Mailing of applications resulted in earlier receipts and a higher rate of return. This practice will continue. Frank also intends to continue posting quotas in the same manner for next year.

The written report was unanimously accepted.

Kurt Zwally noted that an imbalance between male and female athletes still exists and asked that clubs encourage and support female athletes to increase their participation in the sport.

J1/2 Age Chair Report– Fred Craft provided a written report of J1/2 racing and indicated that the PA Cup venues were great. Fred recommended continued PARA support for athletes at the Eastern High School Championship. He indicated that interest in the Eastern Cup was minimal and asked that eligible racers declare their interest before he initiates contact with them. Bruce Newman also requested that a committed racer should not withdraw without advance notice so that all PARA slots are filled. Bruce indicated that PARA's top ten to fifteen athletes, particularly female athletes, could perform well at this event

Fred announced awarding the Governors Cup was awarded to Ariel Bailey from WPRC and Dustin Gibb from SRRC, upon the Board's approval. He recommended changing the Governor's Cup name as a new Business item.

Fred also recommended changing the dates of the PA Finals to earlier in the season so that PARA derbies mirror the order of post season events. Dan Chayes said that the appropriate selection of State Teams is better achieved by an earlier Finals date that does not conflict with a Regional event and consequently fewer athletes decline. He also advised that setting the date should take more precedent than selecting the venue. Bruce Bedell commented that PARA athletes are competitive in FIS events and so all quota slots should be filled regardless if an opening occurs as a result of another athlete declining.

J3 Age Chair Report– Lisa Clayton provided a written report of J3 racing and noted several items of interest:

- Participation in ERS was disappointing due to conflict with qualifying races.
- USSA is reviewing expanding development camps.
- Qualifier races should end sooner to increase the lead time before Derbies.
- J4 SG experience would be beneficial.
- Seven run points calculation resulted in better, more consistent performances.
- Two athletes declined JO opportunity; clubs need to encourage top athlete participation.

Comments followed the report. Dan Chayes said that although PARA quotas are not negatively affected when slots are relinquished timely, but they are at risk with late declines and particularly DNS occurrences. Bruce Newman asked if consideration in

Derby selection could be given to athletes who choose to participate in a development camp in lieu of attending a qualifying event. Lisa responded that a case by case consideration could be made. Dan Chayes recommended that an athlete commit to the Derby before choosing a Regional development camp over a qualifying race.

Discussion followed about how to communicate ERS eligibility and identify eligible athletes so that ERS quotas are filled. Dan Chayes asked if a selection process required the vote of the Board of Directors. John Reihner indicated that it did not as the J3 Chair had sole discretion. Dan Chayes requested that a New Business item be added so that the process could be documented in the future.

Lisa also indicated a search should begin for her replacement as she anticipates resigning next year.

J4/5 Age Chair Report – Tom Newhard provided a written report and noted the following

- More parental restraint is needed at races.
- J4 Abilities are increasing.
- Post season teams are performing well and respect towards the team is improving
- An additional quota slot is anticipated for the Whistler Cup shootout

PARA Guide and Website – Tracey Beinhaur provided a written report. Recommendations include streamlining the Guide to only include non-time sensitive data. Time sensitive (i.e. race schedules & PARA directory) data should only be housed on the website. Since sponsors desire advertising space linked to the time sensitive information, the website should be developed to handle sponsors media and links.

Additionally, in response to growing concern about Internet misuse, security restrictions will be added to limit access to personal information to legitimate PARA users. Security restrictions on our current data should precede further development of mass mailing and electronic registration for membership or races.

The following questions resulted:

- Q: Can the length of time for race results be reduced? A: The normal amount of time to update race results occurs within several hours of receipt, occasionally reaching 12 hours. The most significant delay occurs in receiving them from host sites. Inquiries about delayed results should go directly to a host venue's Race Secretary.

Chris Starner also noted Bob Grover's work on the original website and expressed gratitude for the value it served in providing PARA electronic information in the past years.

President's Report – John Reihner provided dates and venues for the upcoming season prior to the breakout of Regional committees. The following information was supplied:

Jan 21	PA Cup #1	GS	Blue Mountain
Jan 22	PA Cup #2	GS	Camelback
Feb 4 & 5	PA Cup #3 & 4	SL	7 Springs
Feb 17 – 19	J3 Derby	SG, GS, SL	7 Springs
Feb 25 & 26	J4/5 Derby	SL, GS	Ski Roundtop
Mar 3 – 5	J1/2 Finals	GS, SL, GS	Elk

John also advised that Feb 11 and 12 were available for additional PA Cups depending on the outcome of discussion about PA Cup expansion.

John also introduced three new annual awards; Alpine Official's, Coaches, and Frank Sheibley. John explained that regional nominations for next season will be requested in February and final selection would be by the Executive committee. The final recipients for AO and Coach of the Year would be submitted to the Eastern Alpine office for consideration at their annual meeting.

For the current year, he introduced the award for AO and Coach of the Year by nominating Rob Lipton and Mattie DePaulo, respectively. The award honoring the late PARA racer, Frank Sheibley, begins next season and will be presented to a J1/2 racer at the Derby.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Expansion of PA CUP races – Bruce Newman initiated discussion by stating the current format of three weekends of races is difficult for racers. He proposed adding another day to the PA cups at 7 Springs. Fred Craft also supported expanding the series and suggested that one or two of the races could be dropped from the final number of races used for Derby selection. By adding an additional race and dropping the poorest performance, the impact of a poor or missed performance is reduced and athletes would be motivated to race more aggressively.

Dook Rodgers raised the question about the balance of GS vs SL events in the selection process for derby candidates. He expressed concern about PARA's capacity to schedule and locate a venue for another race due to the limits of GS hills. Bruce Bedell also pointed out that the current date conflicts with an FIS development camp and suggested switching the current locations and dates. John Reihner expressed concern about revising the current proposed schedule as host mountains have little flexibility in offering alternative dates.

Chris Starner suggested making the Finals an open race by eliminating qualifying races as the selection process for the PA Cup Finals, thereby making the PA Cup a seven event series. Although some concern was voiced about reducing the value of achieving a

Derby invitation and the total number of racers, these issues would not impact the quality of the event.

Bruce Newman motioned and Bruce Bedell seconded the proposal to “Drop the qualification process and conduct an open race for PA Cups Finals. “ The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that J1/2 racers should be informed that an invitational process is eliminated and race entries should be submitted for the J1/2 Finals.

Dook Rodgers asked if the prior motion addressed the expansion of the race series. Upon clarification that it did not, he motioned to expand the current four race series to a seven race series as a permanent format. Fred Craft seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

John Reihner also proposed renaming the Governor’s Cup since only one Governor had ever awarded the trophy since its inception in 1997. Fred Craft motioned to rename the cup to the PA Cup Championship. The motion carried unanimously. Fred also motioned for the Board of Directors endorsement of awarding the Cup to Ariel Bailey and Dustin Gibb, the 2005 Female and Male Finals Champions. Lisa Clayton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

PA Cup Venue Selection – John Reihner reported that this year marked the advent of the number of interested PA Cup hosts exceeding the number of possible dates for PA Cups. Consequently, a process is needed to award bids via a formal process. John proposed that an interested venue with known dates should alert the executive committee during the race season preceding a Spring meeting. Lyn Coyne motioned that “ A host site must contact the Executive committee the year prior to hosting a desired PA Cup. Lyn’s motion was further amended by Kurt Zwally to add, “The Executive Committee must inform the PARA organization of their final decision. Fred Craft also amended the original motion to state “ A host site must contact the Executive committee by March 31 in the year prior to hosting a desired PA Cup.”

The motion was subsequently seconded and carried unanimously.

J4/5 Derby Venue Selection for 2007 and 2008 – John Reihner introduced the two bidders, BMSC and SRRC. Rob Lipton presented Blue Mountain’s proposal and Joe Levendusky presented Ski Roundtop’s.

Jon Corchnoy motioned that voting should be conducted by paper ballot; the motion was seconded by Tom Newhard and subsequently carried unanimously. Dan Chayes inquired if dual voting was permitted under the by laws if directors held a committee chair. John Reihner indicated yes and noted that a total of 36 votes should be registered.

Both candidates presented their proposal and a period of question and answers followed each proposal. A paper ballot was cast and the final tally awarded the venue site to Blue Mountain by a vote of 28 to 7, with one abstention.

Overview of WPRC Freestyle Program – Dook Rodgers outlined a WPRC’s program for Freestyle skiing that began this year. Currently nine athletes are supported by two coaches for training only, but no competitions. The closest known USSA competitions are located in western New York. Dook presented the program to raise awareness of Freestyle’s viability and encourage other clubs to consider adding a similar program.

Dook introduced a Freestyle parent, Chris Huffman, to further outline how the program works at WPRC. Chris explained that training requires little hill space requirements (i.e. 300 vertical and 150 meters length). Practice is conducted in a cordoned location for 4 hour sessions, jumps and mogul training are offered. Chris invited visits from other interested clubs.

Montage also announced that Freestyle training at the Olympic Training Center was offered in July. Eligible athletes were required to be USSA licensed and join the Montage Mountain Ski Training.

Safety and Prevention – Bruce Bedell provided an overview of b-net purchased by PARA this year. Eight rolls were purchased and subsequently used six times this season. Although B-net coverage was adequate during this year’s events, improvements are needed in communication and coordinating transportation to a site and on the hill. Bruce reiterated that each venue should walk and draw their venue’s geographics for purpose of estimating and locating b-net.

Bruce said the current supply should be increased steadily each year since additional requirements are anticipated and at least some of the current supply’s life span will be reached within three years. Discussion occurred about the budgetary process for funding future purchases and John McGregor said an annual allowance of \$2000 already existed. Bill Birmingham motioned to “Distribute b-net according to geographic locations” and John McGregor seconded. The motion subsequently passed unanimously. Fred Craft inquired if each Regional director would be responsible for decisions regarding b-net storage and movement. Dook Rodgers responded yes as this was a safety concern that outweighs the cost issue.

Fall Meetings – A general question was raised as to the purpose and need for the resumption of Fall meetings. It was noted that the last Fall Meeting occurred in 1997. It was perceived that a Fall meeting would be useful for the purpose of dealing with issues evolving in the summer and further discussion of executive committee meetings. Rob Lipton proposed conducting a fall meeting in conjunction with AO training. Discussion on the time, length, and location of the meeting supported allowing the Executive Committee’s discretion in calling a meeting based upon the issues occurring during the course of the Summer.

Election of Officers – John Reihner announced that the four current officers offered to remain in their positions and contesting candidates do not exist. Consequently Dan Chayes motioned and Rob Lipton seconded to retain the current roster of executive officers. The motion passed unanimously. The elected officials are:

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

By- Law Revisions – John Reihner introduced the proposed by-laws prepared by John McGregor reflecting input gathered during the Executive and Regional Directors meeting on April 3. John recommended that the proposed by-laws should be voted upon in their entirety and subsequently amended on an item by item basis so that timely resolution could be achieved.

Rob Lipton motioned to accept the proposed by-laws “subject to discussion.” Tom Newhard seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. Subsequent discussion demonstrated a lack of agreement on many issues and Rob withdrew his original motion.

Jon Corchnoy motioned to revise Article III, Section 2 to allow regions to self appoint their own directors, however the motion was not seconded. Lack of agreement existed about the appointment of the directors. This section was considered to be an integral section of the by-laws and pervasive to almost all other proposed sections. Consequently no further progress was made on any section and Ken Fedorak motioned to “Vote upon the proposed by-laws without changes.” Bill Birmingham seconded. The proposed by-laws were tabled by a vote of nineteen nays and 8 ayes.

John McGregor will attempt another revision to address the issues raised by the first proposal. Those issues are:

- A) Address club and membership representation via the selection process for the Board of Directors: i.e.
 - 1) define club status to promote a continuity of clubs participation
 - 2) prevent dominance of a single representative through the overutilization of Proxy votes and/or proportional representation
 - 3) Achieve equitable representation of clubs with varying membership bases
- B) Further define membership eligibility and rights, particularly the category of an “At-Large” member

John McGregor requested that interested parties forward their suggestions for consideration in revising the by-laws.

Adjournment – Bruce Newman motioned to adjourn and Dan Chayes seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

Attendee List
2005 PARA Spring Meeting

John Reihner	President	
Chris Klebe	Vice President, Northeastern Chair	
John McGregor	Treasurer	
Tracey Beinhaur	Secretary	
Fred Craft	J1/2 Age Chair	
Lisa Clayton	J3 Age Chair, J3 Derby Chair, Western Director	
Tom Newhard	J4/5 Age Chair	
Bruce Newman	Coaches Chair, Northeastern Director	
Dan Chayes	Race Director, ACC representative, Central Director	
Rob Lipton	Alpine Official Chair	
Joe Levendusky	J4/5 Derby Chair	
Chris Starner	Central Chair	
Lyne Coyne	Eastern Chair	
Dook Rodgers	Western Chair	
Tish Derr	Central Director	
Kurt Schramm	Central Director	
Kurt Zwally	Central Director	
Dan Chayes	Central Director	
Bruce Bedell	Central Director	
Bill Steinbach	Eastern Director	
Scott Book	Eastern Director	
Tim Brown	Northeastern Director	
Tom Newhard	Northeastern Director	
Jon Corchnoy	Northeastern Director	
Jim Davenport	Northeastern Director	
Bill Birmingham	Western Director	
Ken Fedorak	Western Director	
Hans Schmidt	Western Director	
Dick Sawyer	General member,	
Paul Reed	General member	
Danny Wishard	Non-member guest	
Dave Gibb	Non-member guest	
Jane Hall	Non-member guest	
Chris Huffman	Non-member guest	
Mary Lee Pierson	Non-member guest	
Shelley Baker	Non-member guest	
Frank Fox	Membership and Quotas	rep by Proxy
Mark Rabinowitz	Eastern director	rep by Proxy
Anne Marie Todd	Eastern director	rep by Proxy
Gus Pacariello	Northeastern director	rep by Proxy
Ed Scram	Western director	rep by Proxy