

Spring PARA Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2003

Attendees:

Tracey Beinhaur	PARA Secretary
Joe Levendusky	SRRC
Lynda Mikos	SRRC
Tim Brown	Blue Mountain
Chris Kiebe	Big Boulder
Lew Fowler	Ski Denton
Dave Gibb	SRRC
John Reihner	WPRC
Hans Schmidt	WPRC
Kurt Zwally	SLRC
Charles Gregory	PARA Treasurer
Francis Fox	PARA Membership
Sam Ganow	PARA President
Nancy Williams	T-MART
Jonathan Corchnoy	Camelback
Chris Starner	SRRC
Dan Chayes	Whitetail
Scott A. Book	Montage
Susan Steinback	Montage
Bill Steinback	Montage
Wally Phillips	WPRC
Jeff Mikos	SRRC
Tom Hillpot	Guest — Big Bear
Bob Grover	SRRC
Mark Milby	SLRC
Winnie Backlund	PARA Vice President
Lyn Coyne	Elk
Bruce Newman	Elk
Annemarie Todd	Elk
Jim Hafner	Blue Mountain
Mark Rabinowitz	Elk
Bruce Bedell	SRRC
John McGregor	Elk

Meeting was called to order by President Sam Ganow at 9:30 am. Last year's minutes were distributed, reviewed, and unanimously approved.

Alpine Official's Representative Report — Winnie Backlund reported on the Lake Placid Meeting for Eastern representatives. Actions resulting from the meeting were as follows:

- a) Recommended each state adopt a Coaches Education Committee.
- b) Clarified requirements for upgrading Alpine Official credentials: i.e., the Eastern committee approves Level 2, and the National committee approves Level 3. Also, achievement of Level 3 status cannot be attained without timely, well documented race reports by TD's and TNC's.
- c) Nominations were accepted for "Coach of the Year" for each state. John DeMatty was nominated from PARA.
- d) A clinic on FIS updates is planned at the Olympic Training Center. Interested parties should contact Winnie.

Winnie also reported that problems existed in scheduling officials for some races during this past year. With only 21 officials, coverage was not adequate when multiple races occurred in one week. Winnie encourage existing officials to maintain their credentials by working at least 2 races per season and attending update clinics every other year.

EACC Representative — A report and calendar of 2003/4 season was provided by Dan Chayes. Highlights of the report pertained to the following:

- a) Announcement of a race called the Eastern High School Championship. Dan requested that consideration for this event be discussed as a New Business item.
- b) Equipment standards for the 2003/4 season are now specified. 45mm boot stand height is now established for all ages. Binding stand height is also established based on age; 55mm for Masters and J1/2's, 50mm for J3's, 45mm for J4 and younger.
- c) J3 issues were: 1) the elimination of the December's J3 Top Gun Camp; an alternative event is being explored. 2) the Alpine Youth Coordinator position is eliminated, the responsibilities will be transferred to an administrative position within the Eastern office. 3) Two Eastern Race Series events are planned:
 - I) January 10 and 11...GS & SLWhiteface
 - II) February 7 and 8 ...GS & Super G ...TBD
- e) Various issues affecting Eastern states were outlined by Dan for consideration. Topics were: Retroactive state memberships, state caches of fencing, athlete financial support, online membership and race registration, USSA collection of state association dues, poor attendance due to over scheduling of races.
- f) Administrative information was outlined as FYT's by Dan. Topics were: deadlines for Schedule Info Sheets and Comp guide text updates, two new Seed Lists, web access to the race calendar, potential membership fee increase, cancellation of the National Coaches Academy and coaches education changes, funding of fencing and cautions on aged fencing.
- g) Some changes in the 2003/4 calendar from past years were noted. Specifically, the J1/2 Jo's is renamed as the Eastern Championships and the J1/2 Finals is renamed as the J1/2 Easterns. A new race has been added and named the Eastern J2 Championships.

J1/2 Report— Sam Ganow reported that the PA Cup Series continues to be a good format. This year's Derby resulted in 4 racers in contention on the final day, and a tie occurred on the final day for the boys division. Consequently two governor's cups should be awarded. The 2004 PA Cup dates are established for January 24/25 and February 7/8. Sam noted a problem would result from scheduling the final race for February 20 - 22 as has been done in past years with the advent of the Eastern J2 Championships beginning only 2 days after the conclusion of the Derby, Sam outlined various alternatives that would allow J2's to qualify earlier, however none were favorable solutions to the narrow timeframe. Sam requested that the issue be addressed again after committee reports and dates and venues were established through regional chair meetings.

J1/2 Derby — Lyn Coyne reported a successful Derby and noted support and help of all who attended. She indicated Elk's willingness to host again on February 20 — 22 of next year.

J3 Chair Report — John Reihner reported that Top Gun Camps were attended by 6 racers at Whiteface and 3 racers at Okemo. Also, 8 racers attended JO's, 15 racers attended Finals, and 12 racers attended Piche (2 of which were J4's.) John indicated that the new policy of prepaying post season events upon acceptance was effective. All slots were filled and there were zero "no shows." He recommended that the policy should also apply to J1/2 events. Since it is also already in effect for J4/5 events, it would standardize the policy for all age classes in PARA.

John also requested that a concern should be raised with other Eastern states about racers deliberately missing speed event training and the subsequent last minute slot filling by clubs who have association with event organizers.

J3 Derby — WPRC representatives reported a successful derby, however propose that future events should avoid the President's day weekend due to poor lodging availability. This would force scheduling to the last weekend of the month to avoid conflict with the J1/2 Derby. However, the window to next post season event would be less than one week and therefore unfeasible. Discussion focused on the pro's and con's of scheduling the J3 and J1/2 Derbies on the same weekend. Subsequently, the decision was made to have both on the same weekend, Feb — Feb 22

J415 Chair Report — No report was filed in the absence of the J4/5 chair.

J4/5 Derby — Joe Levendusky reported a successful derby. However one racer was affected by a question the J5 status. Joe asked for clarification of the minimum age for qualifying for a Derby invitation. Racers must be the minimum age of eight, before January 1 of the current season to be eligible for a Derby invitation. Clubs, regional chairs, and derby chairs are responsible to ensure that the minimum age is attained throughout the Derby invitational process.

Joe requested consideration for permanently locating the Derby to Ski Roundtop or assigning the venue for four consecutive years so that sponsorships and administrative relations could be maintained and thereby strengthened. Several clubs objected to the proposal because it excluded many clubs from providing a home derby to a large portion of their membership base. A motion and passed was made to consider changes in the venue scheduling of the JV/IV derby as a business item. In meantime, Roundtop is currently assigned the 2004 Derby which is scheduled for February 28th and 029th.

Membership — Frank Fox delivered the membership report. He noted that this year's membership was 920 members. Frank also encouraged clubs to utilize automated enrollment forms for the upcoming season. He will provide these upon request. Frank also answered a number of questions regarding further automating the process by partnering with USSA or an intermediary agency. Both alternatives have one week to one month turnaround times that is not be viable for the large number of last minute memberships that PARA enrolls. Additional suggestions were made to improve the registration process and will be considered. Frank advised that the biggest gain to improving the process is in hotlinking club websites to the PARA form on the PARA website.

PARA website — Bob Grover reported race results were timely and data was of good quality and format.

Race Director — Jeff Mikos reported that race forms were distributed to anyone who had received them last year. This year's deadline is June 15 and his preferred method of submission is electronic. Due to the number of errors this past year, Jeff encouraged all clubs to double check the accuracy of the published data once posted to the PARA website and to request corrections early.

Coaches — No report was filed in the absence of the coaches chair.

Quota Chair — Winnie Backlund clarified that gender distribution to invitational races reflect the same portions of the PARA membership. Winnie confirmed that a minimum of 2 males to 1 female does not need to be maintained. Gender distribution is assigned at an age specific level, also.

PARA Guide - Lynda Mikos announced that she will continue as the Guide's editor.

Treasurer's Report — Chuck Gregory summarized this year's finances. The report he submitted will have further updates as outstanding receivables are expected. An on-line submission process was requested to ensure more timely receipts. Chuck noted a \$17,000 reduction in our balance from last year. The most significant variance, \$5800, contributing to the loss was higher coaching costs that resulted from last year's changes in coaching reimbursement. Chuck estimated that post season coaching costs approximately \$36 per each member annually, although only a few members qualify for

post season. Chris Starner motioned to accept the Treasurer's report and Mark Milby seconded. The Treasurer's report passed with unanimous approval.

Some suggestions were also noted as means to minimize further balance reductions, ie:

- *Jf/should post season coaching fees be charged?
- *Can we seek sponsorships as a 501 (C3) organization?
- * Can/should monies be transferred to an interest bearing account?

OLD BUSINESS

501(C3) Status — Jon Corchnoy reported the achievement of 501 (C3) status for the PARA organization as of January 6, 2003. The official organizational address is Jon's office. Jon noted that some filings may be required if our revenue exceeds \$25,000. With the attainment of the status, filing responsibilities that will be incurred are 1099 and 1098 forms. Winnie noted that tax filings should be performed by a hired accountant and purchasing D & L insurance for officers and officials.

PA CUP scheduling — Sam instructed regional chairs to meet and provided the following dates and venues for the series.

January 24 and 25..... SL..... Seven Springs
February 7 and 8GS..... Blue Mountain

NEW BUSINESS

Governor's Cup — Sam Ganow reported that Ryan Dunstan and Taylor Harrison received cups as a result of the two way tie. Taylor Shekell was the girl's recipient.

Regional Chair Elections — Sam informed meeting attendees that he had received four written proxies for absentee regional chair representatives. The proxies advised that an attending representative had been assigned to cast their vote during elections of regional chairs and the executives. Sam asked for consensus as to whether or not proxies should be accepted since PARA by-laws do not address the issue and this was the first occurrence. A motion was requested to accept the proxies by Sam and Lyn Coyne seconded. The proxies were accepted unanimously. A by-laws committee will also be formed to overhaul the 1986 by-laws and to include acceptance of written proxies.

Subsequently, regional chairs representatives voted for their chairperson and the results were as follows:

- East..... Bruce Newman
- Northeast.....Chris Klebe
- WesternJohn Reihner
- CentralChris Starner

PARA Fees — Nancy Williams presented about fee structures of other Eastern states in contrast to PARA. PARA fees are significantly lower for per head race fees and membership fees. Since the treasury balance had dropped below \$25000 and is expected to drop further next year PARA fees were reviewed. The following changes were explored and estimated as a potential increase to revenue totaling \$7700:

- Increase per head fee from \$5 to \$7
- Increase individual membership rate from \$18 to \$25
- Increase family membership rate from \$40 to \$60

Frank Fox motioned that the increases should be adopted and Kurt Zwally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

State Cache of Fencing — Dan Chayes noted the current industry standards deem aged fence as unacceptable as UV light degrades its strength and safety. He recommended that an additional 2,000 to 3,000 feet would be necessary to fence state events in the future. This would require the purchase of several sections per year for several years as well developing logistical procedures for scheduling, storage and transportation. Sam requested that a committee form to formalize a plan for a fencing cache and address the following issues:

- Estimate current stockpiles of fencing owned by clubs
- Estimate balance required and plan logistical procedures
- Develop contact list of clubs possessing stockpiles
- Determine if sponsorships can be secured to offset costs
- Determine if rental fee can/should be impose to offset costs
- Obtain executive board authorization for expenditure, currently estimated to be \$2000 for 4 — 6 sections this year

Speed Event No Shows — A group discussion centered on the prevalence of no shows at Speed Events held in conjunction with other training disciplines or races. Bruce recommended that a deposit be charged upon acceptance to any invitational event to ensure attendance, however attendance cannot and should not be forced.

Eastern High School Championship — In followup to the announcement that a new event was added to the USSA calendar, Sam questioned if PARA should send attendees and, if so, what the selection process should be. It was recommended that J2's who missed invitations to the J1/2 finals would be the best candidates. Dan Chayes motioned and Nancy Williams seconded that the J1/2 chair use PA Cup results to select the PARA team. The chair would also be responsible to ensure that the candidate was a high school student within PA or another state. The motion passed unanimously. Frank Fox indicated that High School status would be added to the membership form.

J4/5 Derby Venue Assignment — Discussion focused on whether or not the current 2 year assignment of the Derby's venue could be extended to 3 or 4 years, or if the venue should be permanently assigned to Ski Roundtop. No con was reached on any viable change to the present assignment process. Bruce Bedell motioned that it remains at Ski Roundtop for the 2005 and 2006 seasons. The motion passed unanimously.

Whiteface Hiking — Nancy Williams announced plans for her club to hike the site of the 2003 National Alpine Championships downhill course. She issued an open invitation for other clubs to join with the recommendation that hikers should be J1/2 status. She requested permission to label this a PARA event so that attendees could qualify for OTC lodging. Sam granted permission.

Eastern Cup Coaching — John Reiner motioned that PARA assign a coach to the Eastern Cup races due to 3 to 6 racers attending. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations — Sam opened the floor to nominations for the Executive Board positions. Sam also announced that he will no longer seek the presidency after this year. The following nominations were received

- PresidentSam Ganow
- Vice President. . . Winnie Backlund, John Reihner
- TreasurerCharlie Gregory, John McGregor
- SecretaryTracey Beinhaur

Elections occurred and contested seats were won by John Reiner for Vice President and John McGregor for Treasurer.

General — The following last minute comments occurred in the closing moments of the meeting

- Jeff Mikos is checking with Wally on the points status of JIII racers at Seven Springs.
- Dan Chayes issued a reminder to check your name and personal info in the directory and email any changes to him.
- Sam expressed his intent to maintain the spring meeting's date as the weekend prior to Memorial Day.

Summary of Committees — The following is a list of action committees and chairpersons which resulted from this meeting:

- Fencing — Bruce Bedell
- Sponsorships — Kurt Zwally
- By-laws — Winnie Backlund
- Insurance — Winnie Backlund
- Accounting — Jeff Mikos

Adjournment — The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.