

## **Northwest Region SCCA**

Minutes from the NWR Board meeting of June 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by RE John Taylor at the Poodle Dog in Fife.

In attendance: John Taylor R.E., Rick Wilson Assistant RE, Chuck Huffington (Race ARE), Rich Wexler (Steward), Dick Willy (Solo ARE), Sonja Vasquez C.P.A., Karen Babb, Harley Johnson, John Forespring.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and will be revised per discussion regarding personal references. Revised version to be reviewed at the July meeting.

### Good of the Order

It was reported that the Race group has a more significant debt than was discussed at the prior meeting. An amount is still owed to Oregon from the co-sanctioned July event at the Ridge last year. This is being looked into. Additional amounts are due to a member who covered Medic One expenses for an event, and to BMP (who did not provide an itemized invoice and has been asked for one). The Majors events just completed had more expenses than income (track rental was over \$20K); planning for future events is being changed. Rich W has volunteered to become the Race Treasurer and get more information, which has been lacking, for Chuck et.al. The July event is coming up; last year this one did fairly well financially so that should help. Oregon may have similar issues of their own. A major cause of the issues has been low turnout at events; John T and Rick have been making efforts to indicate that our races are welcoming and friendly. Arrangements may be possible with track owners regarding paying portions of gross rather than fixed fees.

Discussion followed regarding possibly cancelling the BMP Trials event and keeping the Ridge one, since drivers do not seem to support BMP well.

The exorbitant BMP fees were discussed; perhaps the Region should contact the Bremerton media and ask why the site charges so much for events which have benefit to the community (e.g. Street Survival).

### Treasurer's Report

Tax status: Sonja reported that she got some needed records from Sherri. Due to the current scandal, the IRS might have a good window of opportunity right now, to 'fast-track' 501c applications. For the years for which we have no or partial information we can go with an estimate to move the process forward. She has a technique to make quality estimates.

Sonja will send John F information regarding related issues. It was asked how difficult it will be to modify our status once it's been approved; isn't it easier? Sonja responded that we don't have to prove ourselves as a 501c6, since we don't get donations from people who are expecting to write them off on their taxes. Regarding Board member liability, there is none because we have no personal stake in the treasury. John F indicated that we have D&O coverage. Sonja commented that the IRS focuses on big people with big rewards, not little ones. She just has to make sure all the boxes are checked/answered on the 28-page form.

No treasury report has been received from Sol yet; Dick will ask Kristi to CC the reports he gets to Sonja from now on, and he can forward what he already has.

## Venue Reports

### Race

- The last event had 70-75 entrants, but expenses were higher than last year. We should have numbers next month.
- The outgoing Race Treasurer knows that she should be handing off to Rick W imminently.
- Solo is concerned that it will end up subsidizing the Region due to Race losses. John T indicated that Race has to pull its own weight. It would help a great deal if we could get better driver turnouts (100+). He will be talking us up at the events he goes to. Rick W wondered why National can't provide us with graphics in a timely manner so we can better promote events like the Majors.
- Chuck reported that Rose Cup is coming. He will not be at the Oregon 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.
- John T will be going to the Majors event down there to promote our Race events.

### Time Trials

- Negotiations are happening to possibly co-sanction time trials events at BMP with BSCC. Our drivers do not want to go there.
- Harley suggested making a TT race group at a Race event weekend. This has been done by others in the past and has worked out. You have already paid for the track so there are no added expenses for the TT group. Chuck commented that if we can get 10-12 Trials cars he can probably combine other groups to make room for a Trials troupe.
- It was noted that once the Ridge completes its drag strip, drags business at BMP will probably drop off. The BMP management refuses to invest any money in the site or to give others credit for what they invest.
- Rick noted that we are now seeing Portland workers again, and they have said that they will keep coming. Our words and actions help fix issues of this nature.

### Solo

- There have been a Novice school, 3 events, and an open practice. Events are averaging 147 entrants; the practice had 80 and the school had 40.
- Next event is this Sunday at BMP; after that is June 22/23 at Packwood. Tour is July 13-14, Pro is July 20-21. After that is BMP the first weekend in August.
- Bar coding was an adventure on its first use, is working much better now. Still printing timing cards as backup just in case. It's still a little slow getting people through Registration.

## Street Survival

- BMP costs: Sonja offered to write to the Bremerton Sun about the merits of the Street Survival program, and to mail a copy to BMP. John F volunteered to write to the Olympia paper. The TRSS schools might be publicized via the school districts.
- The November date is still being discussed.

## Committee reports et.al

### BMP

- Already covered, a problem site due to excessive costs and poor conditions.

### Ridge

- The track is still involved in legal battles. Some people have heard rumors that it is shut down (it's not). Two of the three main owners are still fighting legally.
- Perhaps we can see about reduced rates next year due to scheduling problems, status uncertainty, legal fighting.

### Pacific

- We can tell them we are losing money on our traditional-date event. Chuck commented that they are selling every date they have open. Jason drives in our club, perhaps this will help. If something doesn't change we cannot afford to keep going there. We also have to get more drivers to show up.

### Stewards behavior et.al.

- Chuck reported that a car was towed in by Race Rescue, who was terribly negligent and towed the car through gravel, which destroyed tires and damaged fenders. The Steward's response was "you signed a waiver" which is not very member-friendly. Other comments were "what do you expect from guys who get paid a burger and a beer." Flippant comments like this were unnecessary.

The driver reported that they (RR) didn't even know where Impound was. Rick commented that they are paid, they should know better than to do this. We pay Pacific Raceways to provide that service; they should make the people they hire aware of how to do their job. If we pay for a service, they should have people who are competent to do it. John F commented that we should talk to Jason about that. Rick noted that this is not the first time we have had problems with contractors. The need to change some policies and address some issues; they should never take a car through gravel unless it started there because the driver put it off.

Unfriendly Stewards and poor comments are a reason people don't want to drive with us any more and go to Conference or Oregon Region. Or, nowadays, NASA. It was suggested that a letter be written to National Office explaining the situation. This is what a Steward did, in a situation that should have been taken more seriously due to the car damage incurred. You don't get a lot of second chances to treat people right; drivers treated badly will talk to their friends and they will go away too. Sometimes all the Steward is, is a traffic cop. They may not have a good feel for who they are talking to or the impact of their comments. We need to be more aware of what we are doing. Something pushed "up the chain" would come back down to the Stewards as a whole, not just the bad one.

### Membership

- John F reported that he still does not receive good numbers. What he gets from SCCA National is unusable. He will call them and tell them what he needs. He's in the middle of auditing with his business and will be preoccupied with that for another week or two. After that he will have time.

## RGNW

- John F reported that someone broke into his storage place and took some equipment.

## Old Business

### Spokane chapter

- Ron Hoff asked John T to look at their race track and who they are. They are members of ASNW. Their overall goal is to get SCCA certification for that track and they would like a race date. We will turn it over to the people who are involved in site surveys and see if it is a viable track. Hoff is still putting together a core group of people to start the chapter. John T has talked to the drivers over there to promote our upcoming Ridge event. Survey of track and chapter status are still TBD.

Chuck indicated that he thought Bob Grass was going to look the Spokane track over. John noted that Skip was there but he doesn't know what he thought. Runoff areas and paddock may be concerns. It is a public owned facility so getting funding to make improvements may be a challenge. They are trying to move back parts of a K wall and add tire walls to soften some of the angles. There are quite a few people who would be interested in joining us out there for a date. Their flaggers were impressive after getting an intro to what they are doing.

### Board members

- Still need a Secretary. Rick Weixler has agreed to accept the Member-at-Large position vacated by Von Ravensburg (due to work conflicts).

### Survey

- John T noted that under the section asking about people being willing to help, several said they would. We should follow up on the Archivist interest. Tom M apparently has a way to find out who those people are. John T and Rick will follow up and see what they think they could do.

Rick indicated that he has talked to about a dozen drivers; a general consensus is that we are inefficient and waste their time at Registration, and Impound is "ridiculous." These people had specific details compared to other events. They were happy that Rick was asking them about their concerns. John F indicated that he gave some input to a guy whose car was too loud, about how to pass Sound.

### Other

- The year-end banquet was discussed briefly; if members are not going to support it, there may be no positive ROI to doing one. In addition, the Casino location may not be available on a Saturday this year.

Motion seconded and passed to adjourn, 9:07 p.m.