

Northwest Region SCCA

Minutes from the NWR Board Meeting of July 1, 2013

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

In attendance: John Taylor RE, Richard Willy (Solo ARE), Chuck Huffington (Race ARE), Rick Wilson, John Weixler (Steward), John Forespring (Membership Chair), Sonja Vasquez CPA, Karen Babb

The revised May minutes were reviewed and a motion (Wilson/Taylor) was seconded and passed to approve them as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Sonja reported that we do not have a formal Treasurer's report per se, so she has worked on coming up with a finalized report, with facts on paper. The report doesn't include Solo since Sonja did not have a chance to get info from them. For 2013 Race has lost, based on what's gone through the bank this year, a significant amount. Sonja will be trying to provide this info every month. She will be getting in touch with the Solo Treasurer and will include Solo's info in the future.

We seem to have minimal internal controls. Lots of checks and transfers have taken place, with no recorded explanations of what they are for in many cases. We need to set up a side meeting to move the Race checkbook to Richard, and to deal with accounting controls so everything is approved and paid correctly.

IRS Tax status; we shouldn't have any issues since we are losing money. We will have to order bank statements to catch up on information we still need. Also can't tell on a race-by-race basis if we made or lost money on particular events. John has seen some of the information, but has not received very much. He did get an email this morning regarding status of Race.

Contracts and obligations have not been not available for Treasurer or others to review. We are accruing liabilities where we can't all see the decision making process. We need to keep people from making agreements on behalf of the Region, without consulting with the Treasurer and/or the Board. Some individuals seem to be taking things personally, when what is being responded to is simply the situation that we are in.

The biggest line item in the report is site rentals. We did pay deposits in 2012 on a lot of those rentals. They are in the books as assets. The 'hole' is deeper if those are counted. When we make a deposit it becomes an asset, which can lead to a liability. Entry fees for a planned event are not income; they represent a commitment to hold the event and to incur the rest of the costs.

Oregon Region is willing to work with us on our debt from last year's joint event. We owe another individual \$4500 who personally paid an ambulance bill that was overdue and hadn't been paid from the Race fund. We have a serious obligation to make these things whole. We still haven't gotten an itemized bill from BMP. It is believed that \$1350 of the total they invoiced is from the August TRSS event last year. The Majors event had substantial costs and insufficient entries, but our reputation would have taken a bit hit if we cancelled it (entry fees would have to have been refunded, and that money had already been spent). We need to get to a profit-center-by-project mode rather than an accrual-by-year mode.

If we get our house in order and have good turnout at the Ridge we could be much better off. The revenue from that event will be important. For next year we just won't run the Ridge in April (the event incurred substantial losses).

Once we get the checkbook we will have better control, but we still won't have visibility of what obligations are already in place. We still owe sanctioning fees for the Majors event.

The TT event a couple of weeks ago actually made money. The flip side of that is that they have an

upcoming event at Bremerton. Apparently there is an obligation to BSCC for us to pay the track fee for one of the two co-operated events. So we will have to pay \$1300 for the rental for the next one, and if we get the same turnout as the last one did we'd just break even.

We (Race) have lost so much in the last couple of years that whatever we make now goes into the black hole that those losses created.

Dick W reported that he sent copies of the Solo reports to Sonja. She indicated she hasn't had time to look at them yet.

It was noted that Race has lost money every year John F has been a member of the Club. Subsequent comments were as follows: Sponsors have stepped up and not been treated well. If the Stewards would treat them better we might be able to keep them. Nobody has done a very good job of marketing us to sponsors. We need to have someone who can deal with a potential sponsor, having no other responsibility at an event besides welcoming the sponsor representative. An individual did offer to help out with the Ridge event but was surprised by the amounts involved, and decided just to help out the worker party.

Armadillo Racing is going to pay for an ad to help get IRDC people interested in our event.

It was suggested that we need to have somebody who is good with a website set something up for the Ridge event. John F will ask someone he knows if he can set something up quickly.

John T is talking to drivers to try to recruit them to come to the late-July event

It was suggested that we need to ask why Pacific Raceways' website doesn't list NWRSCCA as a sanctioning body so people can find our events. It was noted that when we pay a deposit for an event, it should go on their website calendar immediately with a link back to our site.

It was suggested that Joe G should be contacted to see if he can help add things to the website. We need a capability to add things quickly, and with many people having access so it's not so hard to get updates. We need searchable content that is updated frequently. Discussion followed on search terms, Google, etc.

Venue and Committee reports

Race

– Covered above

Trials

– They had event, made a little money, and are waiting to see what happens at their August 3rd event at BMP.

Solo

– Their Nat'l type event “Champ Tour” coming to Packwood 7/13-14. We usually don't make money on that one or on the Pro Solo the following weekend. Site rental there is about \$1K a day, the site owner donates it all to the community. Solo has prepaid all of their site deposits for the year. Their treasurer has very detailed event-level accounting and receipt association with disbursements.

Two of the Solo folks have been working on a new Solo web page. Probably won't be ready until the winter. At some point the NWR website will need to add a link to the new page so people can try it out. It's a good thing to move forward updating our Web presence.

BMP and Ridge sites, usage

– covered above

NWSCN

– It was commented that we need to get it to a less frequent publication cycle. We should be asking questions such as, why do we do a newsletter? Does it add value to our members? If we had an active updated website, then NWSCN would probably not be needed. You get your news from the website and/or a blog there. When we had 1500 members it was cost effective to do it via hardcopy. At this point at least it's more current than the web page. Are we getting a bang for the buck? If it contains information and words of interest, people will read it.

Rally

– Olympus will not be held this year, wasn't going to be a National level rally so it's off.

Membership

– 754 active, 30 expired in May, 29 expired in June; we added 31 in June, and added 23 in May. John F is still not getting info from National Office, has not had a chance to contact them yet. They are apparently not as easy to deal with or as diligent as they used to be.

TRSS

– It was noted that we believe BMW and Tire Rack have subsidies available but we have just not asked for them.

Rallycross

– August 24 there is an event, Oregon sanctioned, in Tenino.

Road Rally

– The Corvette club is having issues so status of their fund-raiser Olympia rally is uncertain.

Survey results

– Tabled until next time

Good of the Order

Discussion followed concerning correspondence, information needed but not received in certain areas, possible incorrect assertions.

Discussion followed on worker issues with a particular specialty chief who needs to be more open-minded.

Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed (Weixler/Taylor) at 8:46 p.m.