

NJSRA BOARD MEETING
MAY 2, 2009
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

ATTENDANCE: Dave Kahl, Jim Backman, Sharon Aspinall, Chris Donohue, Schone Malliet, Russ Selsor, Phil Godwin, Rebecca Sampson, Vince Noggle, Al Lees, John Nielsen, Clare Mandel, Patty Backman, Laurel Lashar, Karl Kullberg, Mike Kowalski

Jim Motions minutes from Feb. 11 meeting be approved, Chris 2nds, minutes approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: not available

JR Chairs

J4/5 – Phil Godwin reported on the 3 post season events
Gunstock had 36 athletes attend – good even
Future Stars at Okemo had 6 boys and 5 girls attend. The top 30 boys and top 30 girls went to the Can Am event at Sugarloaf. Brielle Antonelli and Ross Antonchak qualified for the Can Am. Brielle came in 18th in the SL.

J3 – Schone Malliet explained that we are not bound by Title nine since we aren't an education institution.

J1/2 – report not available

Post season contact needs to be made easier and more efficient. Phil will post the USSA list on the website.

ACC MEETING: Jim and Dave attended the meeting. The Future Star quota is increasing to 166 athletes with each state getting 2 more athletes. All scored and J3 events must be on homologated hills.

AWARDS – Schone recommends we no longer do post season wear. Sharon seconds. Next year is the last year of a 3 year commitment. The J4/5's will be getting hoodies. The 1/2/3's will be getting red jackets. There was discussion regarding parents ordering and providing extra clothing. Once again we ask programs to relay to their parents that we would prefer they don't do this.

Logistics and Organizational committee hasn't met yet. The J4/5 is a huge group. Must figure out how to split the group. Competition committee needs to address this. The Competition committee is Schone as chair, Phil Godwin from Mt. Peter, Jim Backman

from Mountain Creek, John Nielsen from Campgaw and Chris Donahue from Hidden Valley.

Jim has been in touch with Gore regarding our SG qualifier again. Speed Camp for J4's in the works. SARA would like to participate in a J4 event. We have received an invitation from Sugarloaf for a J3 Speed Camp.

Meeting adjourned.

ADDITIONS TO PRIOR MINUTES REGARDING FEBRUARY 11TH MEETING AND MINUTES.

30 Apr 09

To: NJSRA
Board Mtg, 2 May 09

I respectfully do not concur with the minutes from the last (Feb 11th) NJSRA Board meeting as last written and presented to the Board members in an email dated Feb 19th. More specifically, there was no mention of HVC's response at the that meeting to the concerned Mountain Creek parents letter regarding the alpine races held at Hidden Valley.

After an exchange of emails between Board members, HVC representatives and the letter's authors, it was noted that any subsequent documents concerning this issue could not be entered into record until presented at the next Board meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were finally published on Feb 19th. The only attachments to those minutes were the original letter and comments presented by the NJSRA President. And although some paraphrased comments from two other attendees were also included, the minutes did not include any mention or details of the HVC response addressing the allegations presented in the original letter that was presented a the Feb 11th meeting.

The purpose of meeting minutes is to provide a permanent historical written record of what took place during the Board meetings. Not recording for-record the HVC response to the presented allegations during that meeting is disingenuous to HVC, whose representatives gave a comprehensive detailed account of the facts and actions relative to those allegations. As written, the minutes give the erroneous perceptions that HVC had no response, was complicit with the allegations, and is not capable of organizing & running USSA sanctioned races, all of which are totally false.

Subsequent to all of the above, HVC ran two highly successful USSA races that left no doubt as to HVC's capabilities to organize & run USSA sanctioned alpine races.

HVC requests that the minutes be augmented to properly reflect what took place at the Feb 11th Board meeting with inclusion for-record all subsequent HVC correspondence on this matter, including the Feb 16th email from one of the original letter's authors, Mike Thompson.

Respectfully,

Bill Bolte
HVC Race Director
NJSRA Board member

Dave Kahl
President, NJSRA

12 Feb 09

Overall I felt there were some constructive initiatives taken at last evenings NJSRA mtg. However, my comment at the mtg that 'what was stated in the letter was not what was verbally dialoged by the presenters at the mtg' still stands. In thinking about what was discussed & how the mtg ended, I am still left with no clear understanding that the presenters accepted the facts that were presented to them. Likewise, there was no retraction on their part of the false & exaggerated statements made in the letter. The implication by one of the presenters that the purpose of their letter was to stimulate corrective action does not exonerate one from exaggerating or falsifying the facts to get their point across.

In a post meeting discussion I had with all three presenters, I was left with the feeling that they were satisfied with NJSRA addressing their concerns and left the meeting with a better understanding of how things work. I do not believe the composition of their letter was constructed with deceptive intent. But again, I never received any indication of admittance on their behalf that their letter did not reflect actual facts.

In light of Dan Grund's letter to NJSRA and the realization that the presenters letter is a matter of record, in order for a more friendly, constructive, go-forward approach to addressing 'safety, logistics, & organizational' issues universally within the NJSRA club & mountain programs, that letter needs to be officially retracted or at least adjusted to reflect actual fact. To assert that a statement is true or true enough or as true as anything gets, if it comports with one's feelings about or perceptions of something is not appropriate. If something is not true, it should not remain as a matter of record.

Such retraction is important in order for HVC, NJSRA and all other programs to collectively move positively & constructively forward with the goal of improving all governed programs within the association. Having this letter remain on record without retraction or at least with adjustment to actual facts, does not foster a trust relationship that is necessary for all involved parties to remain constructively engaged.

For the record, HVC is committed to providing a secure racing environment as best as possible and will continue to review & improve, as appropriate, all race operation procedures and practices toward that end.

...Bill Bolte
HVC Race Director

David,

We read the message from Bill Bolte as to the need to formally address the resolution of the letter that we submitted to the Board. We understand the need to do so and will work with you and others to do so in a productive manner. Our preference would be to "amend" the letter and we will do that in a timely fashion. However, I know certain travel schedules and personal matters will likely preclude us being able to complete that until next week.

We agree that certain of the comments regarding safety and the timeliness of response are not accurately stated in the letter due to improper terminology (e.g., time to respond vs. time to clear the hill), although such comments were not intended to deceive, but rather highlight the importance of safety from our

perspective. As we stated that night, we are most concerned about the time to respond and do have a better understanding and appreciation after our discussion that evening. Rather than having us state in a revised letter the specific clock times associated with each injured racer as we would not have access to nor be able to verify the accuracy of such (not that I am questioning it), I think we can draft a revision in such a way that it will address the concern about factual inaccuracies and acknowledge the discussion that evening.

We believe the dialogue was helpful and want to move forward in a constructive fashion. Our intent in writing the letter was to emphasize the safety for our children at each mountain and to make certain that each race is held in a manner that makes it enjoyable for them as well as all of the families involved. I do believe Bill, as well as others in the room and on the Board, are focused on making ski racing not only at Hidden Valley, but at each of the mountains a sport that is enjoyed by the participants and their families and has an appropriate focus on safety for all involved.

We appreciate the opportunity to talk with the Board that evening and look forward to working with you through the Committee that was formed in a productive and constructive manner.

Regards,

Mike