

NJSRA BOARD MINUTES

2/11/09

Attendance: Russ Selsor, John Nielsen, Phil Godwin, Rebecca Sampson, Chris Donohue, Vince Noggle, John Paulovich, Mike Kowalski, Bob Artsma, Nancy Howes, Rich Howes, Bill Bolte, Dave Kahl, Karl Kullberg, Sharon Aspinall, Patty Backman, Jim Backman

Mike Kowalski motions to accept minutes from 1/18/09 with Vince Noggle added to the attendance, Jim Backman seconds. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

T-shirts cost \$3,500.00, Russ was reimbursed for coaching expenses and Tin Roof design was paid for website design. The balance in the checking account is still above \$35,000.00.

JR. CHAIR REPORTS

J4/5 - Phil has recruited Erich Kikel to help him with tabulating results. Erick has created a DB that can calculate the results from downloads of the actual race results. Phil will have this posted on the website and will share the program with the other chairs.

J3 - Jim presented for Schone. Schone is waiting for last race to post standings. The slots available for post season are:

JO's 3 men 2 ladies

Finals 8 men 7 ladies

Gunstock 6 men 6 ladies

Sunday River hosted and Elite Speed Camp which was attended by Kei Kullberg and Bo Etropolski. Karl relayed that Kei enjoyed the event very much and that Bo & Kei both placed in the top 10.

J1/2 - There is still more race this season. Chad Hawkins and Ricky Beneducci went to a FIS race at Whiteface. We have 12 slots for Finals and are hoping for an extra 3 slots. The break down will be 8 men and 7 ladies. Finals will be at Okemo March 10th to the 16th.

Children's Committee: As per email from Wendy Neal, Eastern Children's Committee Chair, the J4 Whistler Cup event and team has been eliminated. EASEF is trying to come up with something to replace it. Future Stars has not been effected.

OFFICIALS: Bob Artsma will be taking the TD exam on the 16th of February.

CLUB REPORTS:

Mt. Peter is getting ready for the Wiebel race. The training day, Saturday - 2/28 will be GS/SG. The mountain would like a list of coaches attending by 2/23 to set up the groups. GS skis would be the appropriate gear.

Skylands said all races went well and the volunteers worked hard.

Hidden Valley is getting ready to finish up season

Team Campgaw is having a fun race on March 8th. They have formed a new club.

OLD BUSINESS:

WEBSITE: Phil has assigned each board member a page on the website to maintain (Attachment A)

TROPHIES: Dan Muller did medals for Super G and will submit a proposal for this years post season trophies. He would like to know exactly what we are looking for and what price range to work with.

Nancy and Sharon will get the info for him.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Vince Noggle, Rick Fulga, Phil Godwin and John Nielsen. If we start now and spread the word we may be able to get some new people interested for the Fall election.

NEW BUSINESS:

POST SEASON TEAM CAPTAINS:

J1/2 Finals at Okemo	Jim Backman
J3 JO's at Gore	Karl Kullberg
J3 Finals at Waterville	Russ Selsor
J4 Future Stars at Okemo	Chris Donohue
Gunstock	Ted Paliwoda

POST SEASON AWARDS:

Robin Desrat Award to J1/2 female: Kathleen McQuillan and Katelyn Timony were nominated. Each mountain should submit a brief summary of why they nominated that person and we will vote at next meeting

Lenny Scarola Award to J1/2 male: Andrew Walters from Mount Peter.

Coach of the Year: previous recipients have been Roy Scovill, Joe Scarpone, Russ Selsor, Dave Kahl, Jim Backman, John Nielsen and Jason Baker. Each club should submit a nomination along with their reasons for the nomination and we will vote at next meeting.

Banquet will be May 2nd at Mt. Peter. Pricing should be under \$30.00 per head. Rebecca will work on it Sharon will help her.

Karl is looking forward to next year and would like to do a "Slush Cup" type event next April. Everyone expressed interest.

In an effort to improve all programs and events Dave motions that a ***"Logistics/Organization Committee"*** be formed, with at least one representative from each participating program to discuss ways we can

address the logistical concerns of effectively scheduling 180 plus racers. The *“Logistics/Organizational Committee”* will report to the Board, and ultimately their input may be useful to our *“Scheduling Committee”*.

A letter was presented to the board by “concerned” parents regarding the races held at Hidden Valley (Attachment B). The letter was read along with a presentation by David Kahl (Attachment C). The ensuing discussion addressed the concerns expressed in the letter and cleared up some misunderstandings, specifically the incident concerning the injured athlete and the response time of ski patrol. Patty Backman stated that she was the first coach to reach the athlete and that the first ski patrol took over 5 minutes to reach to reach the athlete but not the 30 minutes as stated in the letter. She also stated that the responding ski patroller appeared annoyed at the length of time it took for the sled to arrive. Phil Godwin stated that the ski patroller did have difficulty in controlling the sled and required help to reach the athlete. Once the sled arrived the patient was evacuated from the race hill in approximately 30 minutes. Once the procedure was explained everyone agreed that the 30 minute time frame was not too long.

The committee looking into this is:

Rebecca Sampson Chair

Jim Backman

Mike Thompson parent

Chris Donohue

Karl Kullberg

David Kahl

Jim motions we adjourn, Chris seconds, meeting adjourned.

ATTACHMENT A

NJSRA Web Site Assignments

Web Page

Al Lees		News/Article
Bill Bolte		About us/Program Info
Dave Kahl	973-838-5303	Support Us
Jim Backman	973-209-1275	Mountain Creek - Team Info
John Nielson	201-728-8951	Team Campgaw - Team Info
John Paulovich	973-728-1600	Photos
John Resch	973-875-3870	Officials
Mike Kowalski	973-356-4944	Team Programs/Other Resource Links
Nancy Howes	973-764-6641	Hidden Valley - Team Info
Phil Godwin	201-327-3704	Education/Coaches Mt. Peter - Team Info
Rebecca Sampson	845-986-4940	About Us/Links
Rich Howes	973-764-6641	About Us/History
Roy Scovill	973-299-2983	About Us/Mission Statement
Russ Selsor	973-697-8087	Schedule/Links
Schone Malliet	973-729-4519	Rules and Regulations
Sharon Aspinall	973-827-0788	News/Updates
Vince Noggle		
Rick Fulga	201-401-4264	
Chris Donohue		

ATTACHMENT B

February 1, 2009

Dave Kahl, President
NJSRA
PO Box 265
McAfee, NJ 07428

Dear Mr. Kahl:

We would like to raise some concerns regarding all races held at Hidden Valley (HV). As parents of J3, J4 and J5 racers, we feel the organizational and logistical aspects of the races continue to be problematic, but first and foremost, the issue of safety needs to be addressed.

Safety

The amount of time it takes HV ski patrol to provide medical attention to our children is unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by NJSRA. In the most recent J4 & J5 race held at Hidden Valley on January 25th, it took the ski patrol almost 30 minutes to reach a girl who had fallen at the end of the course and injured herself. While this girl ended up with a fractured tibia, what would have happened if her fall had resulted in a serious head injury? We acknowledge that ski racing has inherent risks that are part of the sport and accept that as a condition of our children participating in the sport. However, there is also a duty on the part of those involved

in the races, specifically the mountain hosting the race, to provide a minimum level of assistance and safety. Taking 30 minutes to respond to a racer who is injured on the course is unacceptable and could contribute to tragic consequences that may otherwise be mitigated.

As a possible means of addressing this issue, we suggest a member of the ski patrol be onsite at the top of the race course, mid-way down the race course and at the bottom to protect the safety of our children. The same rule should apply to races held at Mountain Creek (MC) and Mount Peter (MP). As concerned parents, we would be amenable to consider an extra minimal charge for protecting our children.

Logistics/Organization

Hidden Valley continually holds races that are delayed due to technical or mechanical problems and a typical race at HV runs into the early evening hours. Added to the inefficiency, the HV facility has had heating and sewer issues making the day unbearable for family members and racers alike. Mountain Creek and Mount Peter manage to hold a race absent of these issues and the races are usually finished by early afternoon. It is unacceptable that we are subjected to such unpleasantries in addition to paying \$45.00 per race.

The lack of organization, inadequate equipment and poor safety provided should no longer be tolerated. We would like the NJSRA to suspend any racing activities at HV until they are able to demonstrate their ability to efficiently and safely manage a race with many young children and provide a comfortable environment for them and their families. Until these issues are addressed, we would like to see the races held only at MC and MP in the future. We are in the process of collecting signatures from other parents at Mountain Creek and Mount Peter and we are planning to attend the upcoming NJSRA board meeting of February 12th.

Yours sincerely,

cc: NJSRA Board of Directors

ATTACHMENT C

Before we go further with the letter presentation and discussion, I would like to address the Board and our guests regarding the letter that was recently presented to the Board.

- 1.) Given the short notice of review I do not think that the Board is in a position to determine if the opinions expressed in this letter represent facts, however; I appreciate the opportunity to welcome constructive criticism in any way that can improve the venues of all participating programs within NJSRA.
- 2.) Each mountain, program director, coach, official, parent and athlete bring a small piece of what NJSRA is to the mountains every day. The loss of any one of our four participating programs would have a serious negative impact on all members of NJSRA. With that being said just operating a ski area in the NJ climate is a challenge in itself.
- 3.) I suggest that in the areas that NJSRA can move forward to promote positive change, we work together and continue to do so. There are several areas mentioned in the letter that NJSRA may be able to affect a positive, constructive impact. Certain topics of the letter may be better answered by others and frankly do not fall under the jurisdiction of NJSRA.
- 4.) Regarding *Safety*, I have asked that each program bring a copy of their/National Ski Patrol safety and evacuation plan for review. Further discussion by the Board or its members regarding “safety”

as it pertains to the incident mentioned in this letter should not move forward without facts, and without the authorization and direction of USSA.

- 5.) **Logistic/Organization** will ask for a **“Logistics/Organization Committee”** to be formed, with at least one representative from each participating program to discuss ways we can address the logistical concerns of effectively scheduling 180 plus racers. While I don’t think it is necessary to state the obvious I will in this instance. When sending 180 racers down a 25-30 second course, it will take one half the time than it will to send the same number of racers down a 60-75 second course. From a development standpoint, if our athletes have achieved personal goals that bring them to post season events, should NJSRA support their success through balanced competition so that all racers experience a variation of terrain, course length and difficulty? I would think everyone is in agreement that the answer to that question is yes. At the Board level, most of the volunteers in this room have been involved with New Jersey ski racing for many years. There are no secrets, except maybe wax selection on speed day. With that being said, between suggestions from each program for timing and software tricks, to additional timing clinics, I am confident that by working together, the hours spent at a typical J4,5 race can be reduced. The Logistical/Organizational concerns can be addressed professionally and constructively. I can assure you that everyone in this room that has been involved in a race; each at their own mountain...has had more than one computer crash, finish eye problem, bad wire, or faulty start wand.
- 6.) Following the discussion and feedback of our **“Logistics/Organizational Committee”**, they will report to the Board, and ultimately their input may be useful to our **“Scheduling Committee”** regarding “J6” skiers, and the impact they currently have on our J4, 5 races from a logistical standpoint.
- 7.) In closing, as the Board looks to our programs for the next wave of volunteers, officials, committee members, and Board members, I ask and invite anyone who can channel and organize a positive effort, to become more intimately involved in the decision making process.

David Kahl-NJSRA President