New York State Ski Racing Association - Nordic, Inc.
SPRING MEETING MINUTES
Audio Conference Session, Sunday, April 1, 2012

In his welcoming remarks at 12:30 PM President Darwin Roosa admitted that he was looking forward to finding out how well this session format would work.

He admitted that last season was a real challenge to all. He commended race officials who came up with some very creative formats. The purpose of this meeting is to look ahead to a more successful season next year.

Attendance: Officers: Darwin Roosa, President; David Paarlberg-Kvam, Vice President; Tim Huneck, Second Vice Pres.; and Eric Hamilton, Secretary.

Clubs: Capital Region Nordic Alliance - Russ Myer; Glenville Hills - Eric Seyse; Hudson United Racing Team - Tim Huneck, David Paarlberg-Kvam; Lake Placid Ski Club - Pat Gallagher; NY-SEF - Margaret Maher; Peru Nordic Masters Ski Pool - Chris Rose and Jim Kobak; Rochester Nordic Racing - Jason Hettenbaugh; Rochester X C Ski Foundation - Bill Broderick; Shenende-howa - Tim Huneck; Syracuse Biathlon Club - Nick Gretzinger; Syracuse Nordic - Russ Houck; WFRA Cross Country Ski Club - Jamie Wilson; Wolverine - Larry Wilkinson.

Michael Battisti from ORDA was also patched in through the NYSEF connection.

Minutes of the September 25, 2011 meeting were accepted as posted on the internet with a motion by David Paarlberg-Kvam; second by Nick Gretzinger; carried.

Treasurer's Report - Lee Mahood was not able to attend but promised a report as soon as he was home. The treasury is dangerously low: about $900.

Committee Reports
Each of the committee reports are attached. The following summarize the points made by the chairman during the conference call.

Cross Country (Attachment 1) - Larry Wilkinson reported that there were 13 cross country events; 8 championship events and 5 in the 'regular' season each averaging about 50 racers. For the coming season the ESWG will have a tour-nado formate with a prologue on Friday, Loppett Saturday, and 7 k race on Sunday afternoon. NYSSRA Champs will be at Mt Van Ho-evenburg with a similar format to that planned this past season. Capital Region Nordic Alliance is planning to host the NYSSRA Champs in 2014.

The committee is moving ahead with a technical delegate's training clinic.

CLub sanctioning and membership renewals will be available June 1 so everyone is covered for training clinics. Event sanctioning must be complete by Dec 1, 2012. Cost remains at $50 per day; $4 head tax (JNQ have additional head taxes); $5 non-member fee. BKYSL events have no sanction fee or head tax.

Discussion followed on race seeding proposals... to be worked out by the fall meeting.

Biathlon - Nick Gretzinger said that the biathlon report (Attachment 2) was not ready yet, but promised to have it posted by the end of the day. The first Summer Biathlon will be on April 22. Their priority is 100 new bibs with numbers on the side. Next year will have joint chairman with duties well defined between Nick and Carl Klossner.

Ski Orienteering - Eric Hamilton reported that the age group classes that parallel Orienteering USA's is a success. We also had more youth participating this season. The committee chair is still open. Complete report below.

BKYSL Committee - The 2012 Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Festival was a success even though we had marginal snow conditions. Youth and families are most grateful for Old Forge and specifically the Polar Bear Ski Club. Next year's Festival will be at Bristol Mountain and the Southern Adirondack Bill Koch Clubs are considering hosting the 2014 Festival at Lapland Lake.

Mid Atlantic Juniors - Margaret Maher reported that the committee has not resolved how many Junior National qualifiers there will be. The 2013 Junior Nationals will be in Fairbanks starting March 16, a week later than previous years. Complete report also below.

Racer Camps - Training camps are being scheduled for Rochester, Lake Placid, Queensbury (HURT, Aug 17 - 22) and Castleton and/or Garnet Hill.

Web Site - David Paarlberg-Kvam reported that the site lacked input by two Sections but was otherwise a success.

Membership - Jim Kobak reported that membership is down about 100 from last year which was, in turn, down 150. Discussion followed with emphasis on registration of "additional family members" and contacting former members.

Liability Insurance - Concern was expressed over the payment early in the new membership year while the treasury is low. Consensus was that the COOL Insurance Agency has provided good services for us.

A. W. A. R. D. - Eric Hamilton reported that he had received no logs and none were expected with such a poor snow year. Eric recommended that this program continue. Jim Kobak suggested they keep track of ski race distance with the points list tally and thus putting the onus on NYSSRA rather than the racer.

Old Business

IRS 501(c)(3) Status - We received notification that IRS had received our application for tax exempt status. Speculation was that it may take up to a year for them to process the package.

Presidential Citation - Darwin Roosa noted that the Spring Meeting is the deadline for nominations and extended the deadline to June 1, 2012.

New Business

2013 Empire State Winter Games - The Empire State Winter Games are scheduled for January 31 to February 3, 2013.

Race Schedule for 2012 - 2013 - The season race schedule for X C Ski is located at...
http://www.nyssranordic.com/xc_2009xcsched_detail.htm
You have to scroll down several months to arrive at the early season events.

Open Forum - Items discussed included

- membership recruitment and retention
    1) special efforts to attract former members
    2) make it easier to sign up "other family members"
    3) special events to appeal to families
- Coaches support reimbursements are due ASAP, but before May 1.

Fall Meeting will be September 23, 2012 at SUNY - IT in Utica.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM on a motion by Jim Kobak; second by Eric Seyse; carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric J. Hamilton, Secretary

---------- ATTACHMENT 1 ----------
TREASURER'S REPORT - Lee Mahood

Balance 5/5/12	$12,007.30
Balance 10/15/11	$10,436.93
Brian McDonald Fund	$297.00
Bill Thayer Fund	$0.00
Biathlon fund	$1,323.91
Youth Development	$1,683.65
Mid A	$ 4,858.20
Eastern High School/JII	$1,488.82
General Fund	$2,355.72

----------ATTACHMENT 2----------
CROSS COUNTY COMMITTEE - Larry Wilkinson:
Season wrap up

There were a total of 9 NYSSRA Nordic races held this year plus the BKYSL Festival and a 2 Non NYSSRA Nordic race held at Bristol Mountain and Allegany State Park. All other races were canceled due to poor conditions. Some of these events were held on man made snow (Ski jumps at intervale, West Mountain and Bristol Mountain) The rest got lucky and pulled off their races on marginal but workable conditions. Lets hope that last years mild winter does not become the norm. If it does we may have to look at building relationships with more downhill ski areas.

1. Rochester JNQ 1 – 45 racers
2. Rochester JNQ 2 – 64
3. ESG 2k prologue – 38
4. ESG 7k Distance – 35
5. Hurtathon Hill Climb at West Mountain – 48
6. Tupper Lake Lumberjack Scramble – 23
7. Dewey Mountain Cookie Classic – 36
8. NYSSRA Champs 18k – 46
9. NYSSRA Champs Club Relays – 33
10. BKYSL Festival Old Forge Saturday 49
11. BKYSL Festival Old Forge Sunday- 47
12. Art Roscoe Loppet Non NYSSRA race- 38
13. Bristol Mountain Race to the Summit – NON NYSSRA race – ??

Committee met by email invited to participate were race organizers and club leaders plus others that have participated previously.

- Cayuga Nordic has requested their race to be on Jan 12/13 weekend.
- the Lake Placid Loppet and the ESG's will be on the same weekend. Jan 31 – Feb 3
- The SLU Carnival dates are tentatively scheduled for Jan 13-14
- Peru Nordic will team up with Dewey Mountain again next year for the Cookie Classic
- Peru Nordic is exploring the possibility of having events at the Paul Smith's VIC
- Russ Myer and CRNA (Capital Region Nordic Alliance) are working with both Pineridge Cross Country Ski Area and Garnet Hill Cross Country Ski Center to provide venues for all three disciplines biathlon, xc, and ski-o.
- HURT Nordic Is planning a Junior Development Camp in Queensbury in July dates to follow
- HURT Nordic is planning a traditional ski event in february with sights on another Hill Climb or possibly a Hill Climb spring series following the NYSSRA Champs
- Osceola JNQ Dec 22
- Old Forge plans on the jan 1 and would like to run a 2 day JNQ jan 12,13
- Winona Forest Try It on January 23, 2013. 12.5 Km Classical. And- we will plan on February 26th- 12.5, 25, 37.5, 50 km Classical….but…I would like to add the option of a back up route in the seasonal road trails as a Freestyle.
- Jason hetenbaugh of RNR is proposing that NYSSRA Nordic events use Seeding to enhance the racer experience .
- Jim Kobak offers a self seeding proposal

Empire State Games.

We have learned that the Loppet and the ESG's will once agian conflict From your emails so far there is a desire to continue with the ESG TOURNADO Event that we developed last year. No changes

- Friday Feb 1, 2013 – 4pm 2.5k Freestyle Prologue
- Saturday Feb 2, 2013 – Lake Placid Loppet
- Sunday Feb 3, 2013 – 1PM 7.5k Classical
- Awards to be given for Friday, Sunday and the three day Tour
- No Qualifying – No Points List – Open registration. Entry Fees set by Lake Placid CVB ???? not sure what they have planed. They were trying to organize a weekend planning session for all the sports involved in the ESWGs this april. However, they found it was impossible to get all those involved together at the same time – perhaps an ESWG meeting in the fall.
- Update the ESG official website with the new event details

NYSSRA Champs

CRNA has expressed an interest in hosting the Champs in two years. No interest has been expressed by anyone as of yet for 2013, in which case the XC committee will host.

XC Calendar

I have only heard from a few organizer. Many of our dates rely on knowing other dates so as these dates develop we can move forward. the tentative calendar is located at https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=cmjobdn4ahnke0tmqkv4vtideo%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York
please email me if you can confirm your dates or have events to add.
/
Race Officials
Those that have responded so far are in favor of an event organizer / race official clinic. we have also had some interest from a USSA TD to participate. Typically these are held in a location near a race course for hands on field work in addition to a classroom setting. if you are interested in any dates or host locations please let me know.
/
Race/Event and Club Sanctioning
Since we no longer have Empire State Game Qualifiers. There is a need to update the Sanctioning fee structure page. This is the new page. Event Santion Fees rev 2012
Reminder The NYSSRA Nordic membership year ends June 30, 2012. All Clubs need to renew by July 1st to continue there NYSSRA Nordic liability coverage. If you are having a summer camp you need to submit a sanction agreement at least 2 weeks prior to the event – sanctioning fees are waived as part of your club membership. All participating non members must pay $5/day.
Membership

We will post the NYSSRA Nordic Membership on June 1st. The official membership year begins on July 1, 2012. However, some summer club activities begin in June, this will allow new members to join early instead of joining twice or having them join last year then manually moving their membership over to this year.

New Proposal

There are two proposals for race seeding. An official USSA based Seeding system presented by Jason Hettenbaugh and a simplified Self Seeding method presented by Jim Kobak. Both are attached below. In both cases competitors will be started based on past performance. All J1 and older skiers will race the same distance. There will be a men's race and a Women's race in which all skiers will be started based on ability not age group. The J2 skiers will race 5k in a separate start. I am not sure but it sounds as though men and women will be mixed in the j2 group. The BKYSL classes will be separate and not seeded.
Race Seeding proposal based on USSA Guidelines
2012-2013 NYSSRA Race Seeding
Simplified Self Seeding proposal
Self Seed counter proposal
Comments so far
Jasons Seeding based on USSA guidelines is generally regarded by those that have responded as being to involved for NYSSRA Nordic races. Too much additional work for the race organizers. There is a desire to keep our current points system which awards participation. A few have weighed in that it would be nice to seed Jr's at the larger JNQ races, but in general they don't see the need in smaller races.

Jim's proposal is regarded as a more feasible and workable solution to seeding

----------ATTACHMENT 3----------
BIATHLON COMMITTEE - Nick Gretzinger

I. Call to order via e-mail

II. Club representatives / Voting Members
- *Carl Klossner – Old Forge*
- *Kurt Donath, Carl Snow, Henri Hamel, Pete Indick – Syracuse*
- *Tom Moffett – Saratoga*
- *Russ Myer – CRNA*
- *Sean Halligan – Athlete Rep*

III. Items to add to the agenda
- *None*

IV. Appoint a Secretary for today's meeting
- *Nick Gretzinger appointed as Secretary*

V. Old Business
a. NYB Webmaster
   - *None.*
b. Growth Committee
   i. Summer Website – *Nick Gretzinger to perform calendar and results duty*
   ii. Summer Clinics – *None noted yet. Old Forge will forward the Junior development schedule once the summer schedule is set.*

VI. New Business
a. Summer Race Schedule .22LR Cal.
   i. *Apr 22 Capital Region Nordic Alliance*
   ii. *Apr 28 Whitetail Preserve, PA*
   iii. *May 13 New Jersey*
   iv. *Jun 10 Old Forge*

v. *Jun 17 New Jersey*
vi. *June 24 Capital Region Nordic Alliance*
vii. *Jul 7-8 Altoona, PA*
viii. *Jul 14 Pratts Falls*
ix. *Jul 28 Whitetail Preserve, PA*
x. *Jul 29 Capital Region Nordic Alliance*
xi. *Aug 11 Oil City, PA*
xii. *Aug 11 Pratts Falls*
xiii. *Aug 18 Old Forge*
xiv. *Aug 19 New Jersey*
xv. Aug 25 Capital Region Nordic Alliance

Paintball Biathlon Schedule

i. *5/19/12 Capital Region Nordic Alliance-Stride Adaptive Sports*
ii. *6/30/12 Capital Region Nordic Alliance-Stride Adaptive Sports*
iii. 7/28/12 Capital Region Nordic Alliance-Stride Adaptive Sports-AW2

Awaiting schedule from the following clubs

i. Western
ii. Saratoga
iii. Lake Placid

b. Appoint nominating committee for 1st and 2nd VP
Tom Moffet appointed committee chair. Darwin Roosa and Carl Klossner agreed to be on the committee. Candidate(s) will be selected for vote at the Fall 2012 meeting.
Nick Gretzinger was asked to stay on as Chairman for another year with Carl Klossner taking on certain responsibilities. – Thus only the second assistant is required for vote this Fall. Vote conducted by e-mail and passed.

c. Awards given for most points for the season – N. Gretzinger
Motion passed. Award will be for top 15 biathletes by total points with no class distinction. Nick Gretzinger will prepare awards. As this was an attempt to encourage attendance, this was delayed due to a poor snow season.

d. Send out shooting Awards for the 2011-12 season
Tom Moffett to provide data to Nick Gretzinger, who will prepare and distribute awards.

e. Purchase of NYB Bibs – P. Indick
Motion passed via e-mail vote. NYB funds will be available as a top priority for this effort, however we are probably several hundred dollars short for 100 bibs. Pete Indick has agreed to coordinate funding, design and purchase aspects of this effort.

VII. Other

a. CRNA may be moving to Castleton Fish and Game pending a final review in April.
b. Summer tristates hosting request has been sent out to PA, NJ, and NY clubs. There are no takers as of yet.
c. This is our first attempt at a virtual NYSSRA meeting. Some things went well, and hopefully we can improve on some things. Let Nick Gretzinger know your inputs.

VIII. Adjourn via e-mail.

----------ATTACHMENT 4----------
SKI ORIENTEERING COMMITTEE - Eric Hamilton:

Like other Nordic ski sports the 2011/2012 ski orienteering season was challenging. The necessity for more rigorous planning than other Nordic disciplines, makes this past season more frustrating. Of a dozen events scheduled only six were held and one of those ended up an unscoreable foot orienteering event.

The Empire State Winter Games were earlier in the season than they have been historically. The successful event at Dewey Mountain, Saranac Lake became a "regular season" event with a festival atmosphere thanks to the Lake Placid Visitor and Convention Bureau and ORDA.

Achievements – With all the disappointments of the season we had some great achievements only dreamed of in the past:

- There were some new faces in the sport, especially in the youth classes.
- We have a new map: Pine Ridge Nordic Ski Center in the Capital District Area.
- The new competitive class system (consistent with OUSA) was well received.
- The NYSSRA – Nordic Championship included a well attended ski orienteering event.

The 2012 NYSSRA – Nordic Ski Orienteering Team was named (the green hats) from season points list leaders:

	Len Cormier (M70+)
Sue Hawkes-Teeter (F55+)	Phil Hawkes-Teeter (M55+)
Ellie George (F40+)	Doug Swank (M40+)
Janet Findlay (F19+)	David Hunter (M19+)
Sarah Duclos (F-18)	Brian Chrzan (M-18)
Amy Duclos (F-16)	Tyler Koziol (M-16)

For next season I recommend:

- No change to the championship qualifying rules, competitive classes, points list, or the way we calendar the season. If ESWG can be later it could be a championship.
- Encourage more involvement:
  1. Mapping new areas (a map of the Paul Smith's VIC has high priority)
  2. Hosting and officiating events
  3. Participants (in all classes including youth)
- A prologue ski orienteering event for the Championships should be considered for late Friday afternoon, but this requires a second course setter and officials crew so not to jeopardize quality of the Championship event.
- A new NYSSRA Ski Orienteering chairman is needed to provide new, more imaginative ideas and more youthful enthusiasm.
- A $2 head tax should be collected at all events to offset championship costs.
- First event of the season will be at Lapland Lake on either Dec 15 or 16, 2012.
- January 2013 (preferably a Saturday) Ski O at Pine Ridge
- U S Ski Orienteering Championships a possibility in February 2014

I would like to thank everyone who helped out during the season planning events that did not happen; making things work in marginal conditions; helping with ESWG; and especially at the NYSSRA – Nordic Championships.

The floor is open for nominations for NYSSRA – Nordic Ski Orienteering chairman.

----------ATTACHMENT 5----------
MID ATLANTIC BILL KOCH YOUTH SKI LEAGUE - Eric Hamilton:

There were 149 Bill Koch Youth Ski League Youth (age 13 and under) who had membership in NYSSRA – Nordic this season.

I pass along the ski community's gratitude to the Old Forge and specifically the Polar Bear Ski Club for a fantastic 2012 Mid Atlantic Ski Festival. Our youth had a great time and didn't seem to mind that they had very little new snow over an icy base. A decision was made early in the week before the Festival to change Saturday's race to free technique. Additional new snow was predicted on Saturday afternoon and evening. If additional snow had materialized then they would have had more to work with as they set track for Sunday's championship. It was a great accomplishment for an otherwise lackluster season.

The Lake Placid and Saranac Lake youth had a fantastic series of paintball biathlon events that stimulated much interest and participation. NYSEF hosted 6 events throughout the winter at the Olympic Ski Jumps in Lake Placid and Dewey Mountain Recreation Center in Saranac Lake. We had over 85 young athletes participate in at least 1 event this winter. This program was supported by the Uihlein-Ironman Sports Fund of Lake Placid.

The RXCSF Youth Ski/Genesse Valley BKYSL has offered to host the 2013 Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Festival. The Southern Adirondack BKYSL clubs are seriously considering hosting the 2014 Festival at Lapland Lake in Mid March. If others have a vision for hosting a Festival please let me know. Guidelines will be provided on request.

We recently received an order of Bill Koch Program first place through fifth place and participant ribbons to replenish NYSSRA – Nordic's supply. These ribbons are available to NYSSRA – Nordic Bill Koch clubs on request.

We recommend that NYSSRA – Nordic continue the practice of waiving first year membership fee for youth 13 and under. This past year there were 51 that took advantage of this offer.

Congratulations to Travis Koziol who skied a total of 18 hours and, as a J6 skier, received a Silver Ski Distance Award. Any one else who kept a ski log needs to get their nominations in for this season's recognition.

----------ATTACHMENT 6----------

MID ATLANTIC JUNIOR COMMITTEE - Margaret Maher:
The 2012 Mid-Atlantic Junior National Team had a positive race week experience at Soldier Hollow, learned a few aspects about "race week on the road" and left with a desire to train hard this summer for next season. Stay tuned to summer training opportunities around the state.

As a team, we saw break through performances throughout the week. Highlighted by:

- Peter Mallery and Tommy Ernst cracking the top 30 in the J2 boys' classic sprint to make it into the heats
- Connor Green skiing into 29th in the J2 boys skate race
- Nina Armstrong skiing into 24th in the J2 girls skate race and 26th in the classic race

- Adam Luban absolutely hammered the J1 boys 10 km mass start skate race, finishing 12th and posting the 7th fastest lap 2 time in the field! A close 2 seconds out of the top 10
- Alyssa Likly working through the field to finish 24th in the J1 girls 10 km mass start skate race, posting the 20th fastest lap 2 time
- J2 boys' relay team of Peter Mallery, Tommy Ernst and Connor Green skiing tough to 6th place, less than 10 seconds out of 3rd and 0.6 out of 4th

Congratulations to Eric Mallery as the Dave Quinn Award nominee from the Mid-Atlantic Division. Thanks for the hard work, determination and love of the sport.

Keep up the good work and get outside!

Margaret and the Mid-Atlantic Coaches Jason, Chad, Marlijne, Steve and Bobs

---