

New York State Ski Racing Association - Nordic, Inc.

SPRING MEETING MINUTES

Audio Conference Session, Sunday, April 7, 2013

In his welcoming remarks at 12:30 PM President David Paarlberg-Kvam thank those present and noted that this was a successful and effective way of meeting and looking ahead to a more successful season next year.

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

Clubs: Capital Region Nordic Alliance - Russ Myer and Steve Wilson; Glenville Hills - Eric Seyse; Hudson United Racing Team - Tim Huneck, David Paarlberg-Kvam; Lake Placid Ski Club - Pat Gallagher; NYSEF - Margaret Maher; Rochester X C Ski Foundation - Bill Broderick; Shenendehowa - Tim Huneck and Eric Hamilton; Chris Frielinghaus, Ski Orienteering Chair; Saratoga BKYSL - Sean Halligan; Saratoga Biathlon - Darrell Rikert; Wolverine - Larry Wilkinson.

Minutes of the September 23, 2012 meeting were accepted as posted on the internet with a motion by Darwin Roosa; second by Tim Huneck; carried.

Treasurer's Report - Lee Mahood was not able to attend but provided a report that we have a total of \$5,534.50 in the general fund, and \$16,582.98 total worth. See complete Treasurer's Report as ATTACHMENT 1.

Committee Reports

Each of the committee reports are attached. The only noted update was to the Ski Orienteering report. Chris Frielinghuas said that he had talked to Janet Findlay and she doesn't want to co-chair. Eric Hamilton added that the committee's action was unanimous.

Racer Camps - Training camps are being planned for J3s possibly the weekend of July 13 or 20. Biathlon committee will have development camps calendared with running biathlon weekends. At least two biathlon junior clinics will be organized.

National Governing Bodies - Margaret Maher reported that USSA will change some of the junior age designations.

Other Committees

Web Site - David Paarlberg-Kvam noted a couple of minor changes to the website and encouraged continued, timely contributions of content. He has been updating content on sanctioning and other forms on the website's documents page. Dave also reported that Google Reader will retire in June thus removing the service for collecting and sorting blog articles and news. Executive Committee members have agreed to divide up the job of writing blog articles about races and other NYSSRA events. This will give a greater news presence to the website.

Membership - no report.

Liability Insurance - Sean Halligan reported that the premium for the General Liability and Accident Policy (which is really secondary medical health insurance for uninsured participants) will increase 4% in 2013-14 to \$8,954. He questioned whether we needed secondary medical for over \$3,000 when we haven't had a claim in 15 years. Most racers have their own accident medical coverage. He and the executive committee will discuss the options between now and when the policies go into effect in June. Sean reported that 48 Certificates of Insurance were issued in 2012-13. Sean is offering to assist Ed Luban as needed in the review of sanctioning forms and requests for certificates, because two sets of eyes can be helpful.

A. W. A. R. D. - Eric Hamilton reported that he had received no logs as of April 1.

Old Business

Pilot Project at Cole's Woods - David Paarlberg-Kvam announced that Adirondack Sports and Fitness will have a two page article about the project in the next issue. He also promised to forward copies of the marketing materials after the meeting.

Presidential Citation - Eric Hamilton and David Paarlberg-Kvam will be reviewing the criteria before next season.

New Business

Cross Country Division of Roles - David Paarlberg-Kvam thanked Larry Wilkinson for the many years of work and dedication as committee chair. He also encouraged everyone to read the cross country committee report for details on who will be doing what. In addition Ed Lubin will be receiving all sanction contracts and requests for certificates of insurance.

NYSSRA Calendar - David Paarlberg-Kvam rolled out the new sanctioning form noting the incentive to sanction early with Ed Lubin being the principal contact. The objective is to have the calendar complete by November 1, 2013. David also said that Lisa Forshey will be reaching out to NYSPHSAA coaches to coordinate schedules and encourage greater participation by high school aged participation in weekend events.

Race Schedule - David said that there will be 5 signature cross country ski races in the Mid Atlantic region this coming season with an effort to limit conflicts. Participants earn double points for these weekend festival Junior National qualifying events in Rochester, Old Forge, Lake Placid, ESWGs and the NYSSRA Championship.

Empire State Winter Games - Darwin Roosa will be the coordinator/liaison with the ESWG Organizing Committee at Lake Placid. Darwin said he expects the dates to be announced in the next two weeks. [Announced the following day for Thurs, Feb 6 to Sun, Feb 9, 2014.]

Call for Bids for NYSSRA Championships - HURT will be bidding to host at Mt Van Hoevenburg.

Call for Bids for the Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Festival - The Shenendehowa Nordic Club will be forging a partnership to host the Festival at Lapland Lake. [...aiming for the same weekend as the EHS Championships.]

Open Forum - David Paarlberg-Kvam pointed out the need for more input by under represented ski populations including youth, juniors and women.

Fall Meeting will be September 22, 2012. It was consensus that one “face-to-face” meeting is necessary at least once a year. David Paarlberg-Kvam will look into a possible site in the Albany area with the capability of a video link to tie in a Rochester/Buffalo group.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM on a motion by Tim Huneck; second by Eric Seyse; carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric J. Hamilton, Secretary

----- ATTACHMENT 1 -----

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lee Mahood

...as of 4/8/2013

Balance 4/8/13	\$16,582.98
Balance 9/23/12	10,530.54
Brian McDonald Fund	297.00
Bill Thayer Fund	0.00
Biathlon Fund	1,507.91
Youth development Fund	1,703.65
Mid A	5,358.70
EHS/JII	1,900.89
Special Fund (snow making)	291.33
General Fund	\$5,523.50

----- ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS -----

CommitteeReports.PDF

...containing: X C Committee Report
Biathlon Committee Report
Ski Orienteering Report
Mid Atlantic BKYSL Report
Mid Atlantic Junior Report

NYSSRA NORDIC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Spring 2013

XC Committee Report

With the stepping down of Larry Wilkinson, Jim Kobak will be willing to head up the XC Committee. All committee members approve this. He will speak with Larry about the process for filing TD reports to clarify the process.

The only real change we talked about for xc was to develop a set of flagship events that would receive dates exclusivity and double NYSSRA points. As I recall, we wanted to see the 3 JNQs, The ESGs and NYSSRA Champs have that designation, and we will come up with a catchy label for the 5 events, and maybe even develop another award for participating in that series.

Any ideas for the NYSSRA Champs 2014? I know Dave wants to bring them back to Van Ho and keep them there. That would probably mean that NYSSRA will have to help host/pay for the event. The events could still be run by volunteers from a NYSSRA club and the profits from the event be shared between the club and NYSSRA. The advantage of having them at VanHo is that the late season snow tends to be most reliable and the caliber of venue allows for different formats and courses that can't be replicated at other venues. This is something that will be discussed further.

Some final data for the 2013 season report:

459 members

23 races

1208 total racer finishes

644 member-racer finishes

best attended event (total): LP kort-loppet/Loppet 295 total racers (58 NYSSRA racers)

best attended events (Nyssra members only): Harry Eldridge Classic 72 NYSSRA racers, Harry Eldridge Free 54 NYSSRA racers, Glens Falls 42 NYSSRA racers, LP Kort Loppet 42 NYSSRA racers, ESG Classic 42 racers, ESG Free 40 racers.

worst attended event (total): Bill Thayer Races 12 and 13 racers on each day

worst attended event(s) (NYSSRA members): Cayuga Nordic 8 NYSSRA racers, Byrncliff 8 NYSSRA racers

not surprisingly, the J1M, J2M and J2F are the most active group of member-racers. Our most active group of non-junior racers are the M6 and M7 men, with 101 racer finishes.

The largest field of NYSSRA racers in an age category was 15 J1Ms at the Harry Eldridge Classic.

The data tells us a lot about what we already know... there are folks racing that are not NYSSRA members, there are not a lot of NYSSRA folks in the western part of the state and the JNQs/ESGs are really already our flagship races (and it was detrimental to both races to schedule the glens falls/LP races concurrently, probably costing each race at least 20 racers). And, there are hardly any adult women racing (in fact the drop off starts after girls are J2s)

I know Dave is looking for new ways to target/enfranchise some underrepresented groups... it seems to me that a creative partnership with the Loppet would be a good place to recruit some groups. For example, there were 63 women who did the Loppet, but only 9 were NYSSRA women. We need to get ORDA to recognize us as a partner in recruiting more skiers to this race, and in turn maybe we could convince them to give a NYSSRA member registration discount or something. Maybe we could give away some NYSSRA raffle prizes at the Loppet raffle (or recognize the NYSSRA Loppet/Kort Loppet champion). And we could probably set up a Junior Development Fund table or 50/50 raffle to show people NYSSRA's commitment to developing ski racers in NY. I'm just thinking that there are people going to that event that have already made a commitment to doing some ski racing, and we might be able to convince them to take the next step and get a NYSSRA racing license.

New York Biathlon Committee Report:

Call to order via e-mail

Club representatives / Voting Members

Items to add to the agenda

Appoint a Secretary for today's meeting
Nick Gretzinger appointed as secretary

Old Business

NYB Webmaster

Make sure to provide the link to the registration site on each event page

Tom Moffet will post shooting awards and top points stats to the website

Advice was given on the best way to rearrange the web page. Tom Moffet will consider rearranging the webpage that emphasizes the calendar and an athlete blog.

Biathlete of the week will be changed to biathlete of the month.

Growth Committee

Summer Website – Nick Gretzinger to perform calendar and results duty

Summer Clinics –

Summer Race Schedule .22LR Cal. The following dates are TENTATIVELY marked on the calendar. Each club is responsible for validating these dates and putting a complete event description with registration link on the calendar.

Paintball Biathlon Schedule

Appoint nominating committee for 1st and 2nd VP

Tom Moffet (who is the committee chair, assisted by Roosa and Carl Klossner) presented that no one approached was interested. The search will continue during the winter season.

Nick Gretzinger is term limited for another two years – The term ends at the Fall 2014 meeting. Carl Klossner will remain as 1st assistant chair but will not accept the chairman position. Marty Maynard has stepped down as 2nd assistant chair.

Awards given for most points for the season – N. Gretzinger

Nick Gretzinger will send out shooting awards in the mail and decide on and distribute awards to the top eight (8) biathletes based on points. [N. Gretzinger Mar 25; I was not able to do this as there were no stats and only one race result posted on the nyb website – we will try again next year]

Send out shooting Awards for the 2011-12 season

Nick Gretzinger will send out shooting awards in the mail. [N. Gretzinger Mar 25: I was able to get most of the shooting awards out to people as I saw them this winter season]

Purchase of NYB Bibs – P. Indick

Pete Indick is still working to find a suitable sponsor to defray the cost.

NYB funding was allocated to bib purchase in the spring meeting. However, NYSSRA Nordic funding is extremely low and will need to be considered before actually making the bib purchase.

New Business

Group club buy for awards (Gretzinger)

Award medal costs could be deferred with a volume purchase of stock medals.

Inserts could be affixed for specific clubs or events.

Adaptive biathlon motion to run concurrently with able bodied at ESG.

(Gretzinger)

Adaptive biathlon divisions could be added to all NYB races. These athletes will compete concurrently with the other divisions (youth, open, master, etc.). The divisions are visually impaired, sit ski, and other.

Jeff Erenstone or James Wallace could provide special equipment such as air rifles and targets.

Member input; For individual race formats, try to put all the racers in a particular age group in adjacent start times. This makes for an interesting race, as everyone can get a sense of who is leading. Also mass starts, staggered waves by age group make for a very interesting race to watch and be in.

ny 2013 SAFE Act Impact on biathlon; There are a few measures of this law that impacts our sport. There is still a lot of confusion and varying interpretations. Legal challenges have been filed, but the law has enjoys popular support, so the outcome is uncertain. Here are the major impacts.

Starting Jan 15, 2014; ammunition sales or transfers must be conducted via a licensed dealer and a background check. Sales will be tracked and high volume purchases flagged to the state police. This provision of the law, combined with an unprecedented 22LR ammo shortage (6-12 month estimated) effectively ends our group purchases at the state level.

Starting March 15 2013 (already happened); all firearm transfers must be conducted via a licensed firearms dealer (with the exception of immediate family members). This impacts our loaner rifle programs and I suggest we get all these

rifles back as soon as possible. My interpretation is that these loaner rifles are a violation of the law or now the property of the loanee.

The above provisions of the law are all class-A misdemeanors or felonies, which are disqualifying offenses, meaning that if you are convicted, you can no longer possess firearms. Further, ny has a tip line that recently added a \$500 reward for firearm related arrests (not convictions), so please do not assume that 'minor' violations will be 'under the radar'.

The biathlon fund is \$TBD and the Brian McDonald fund is \$TBD
Meeting adjourned via e-mail

New York Orienteering Report

Again this year ski orienteering was off to a late start, because of lack of snow cover for a Lapland Lake season opener in mid December. But snow conditions were excellent later in the month at Garnet Hill.

I would like to thank the following who organized and pulled off successful ski orienteering events:

Aims Coney at Garnet Hill, North River on December 30;
Jim Russell at Mendon Ponds, Mendon on January 20 ("might not be ski");
Patty Lyons at Byrnclyff, Varysburg on January 27; and
Phil Hawkes-Teeter at Pine Ridge, East Poestenkill on February 23.

David Hunter set up permanent ski orienteering courses at Mount Van Hoevenburg, Lake Placid and made sure a supply of maps were available at the Ski Lodge.

Perhaps the biggest ski orienteering event of the season was the Snowgaine at Happy Valley Wildlife Management Area, Williamstown, on March 2 and 3. By numbers of participants the most successful ski orienteering events are the demonstration events with the NENSA and Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Youth Festivals. As Mitch Collinsworth points out these numbers are in the hundreds and each kid has one or more parent. The challenge is to figure out how to tap into some of that to revive this sport.

Although conditions up to the week before Empire State Winter Games were dubious, there was sufficient snow by February 10 to hold an event at Dewey Mountain in Saranac Lake. This was a team effort by Phil and Susan Hawkes-Teeter, David and Lin Grandjeans, Jill Koziol and I and others including the management at Dewey Mountain that really paid off with a quality event.

The NYSSRA - Nordic Ski Orienteering Championships at Saratoga Biathlon in Day on March 10 was a success. This was also a team effort by the Hawkes-Teeter, Hamilton team with help by the Schreiners.

The NYSSRA - Nordic Ski Orienteering Team is an honorary title bestowed on the season points leaders are:

Bryn Holmes F-16	Tyler Koziol M-16
Hannah Fransico F-18	Terry Allard M-18
Stina Bridgeman F19+	Pavel Korniliev M19+
Cindy Gretzinger F40+	Doug Swank M40+
Ellie George F55+	Phil Hawkes-Teeter M55+
Judy Johnson F70+	

Thanks to Janet Findlay and David Hunter we have a new map of the Visitor Information Center (VIC) at Paul Smiths. Not only will this provide a unique ESWG experience next season, but the ESWG organizers will be delighted that we are using another venue in another north country municipality who partially sponsor the ESWG.

I would also like to thank the editor of Orienteering North America for including a story and photographs about ski orienteering in New York State in the March/April issue. This should give a boost to the sport by encouraging the legions who foot orienteer to try the Nordic version of the sport.

Season disappointments beside the less than stellar snow conditions included:

- A lack of a season schedule before December, (my fault due to lack of persistence);
- No male 70 and over on the points list;

- The Empire State Winter Games continue to be too early in the season to be a true championship event. The dates also overlap the historic date that CNYO hosts the popular Zoofari Ski O in Utica.

I would like to nominate Janet Findlay and Chris Freilinghaus to co-chair the ski orienteering committee. I think that with the community's support, the leadership and novel approach to the sport leadership will take the sport in a new and positive direction.

One of my tasks is to outline what I do and what should be done and circulate it for committee discussion in a couple of weeks.

New York BKYSL Report

2012 - 2013 Bill Koch Youth Ski League Season Report

NYSSRA - Nordic has a good policy in place with membership fees waived for first year new members age 13 and under. 29 youth took advantage of that this year. That roughly equates to those that “graduated” or aged out of the youth program.

Even though it was completed some 15 years ago the *BKYSL Leaders Manual*, still serves as a reference for those days when inspiration for a fun lesson or ski game doesn't come to mind when planning a practice. This document is available as a PDF that can be downloaded from the NYSSRA web site.

We had a highly successful Bill Koch Festival at Bristol Mountain, with a clever theme “Festival in the West”. Many followed the theme with western hats, bandanas and a few mustashed youth. There was a great turn out by Genesee Valley youth and sparse turn out from Old Forge, from Syracuse, from the Shenendehowa BKYSL, From Cayuga Nordic, and one from the Higley Ermines. There was a great showing from Erie PA area and I will add their contact information to the on-line listing of BKYSL local Clubs. Adam Carpentier came closest to the mystery time to win the Secretaries Cup.

NYSSRA does maintain a supply of ribbons for local BKYSL events to which other regional clubs are invited. That supply must be replenished.

The southern Adirondack region will host a Bill Koch Festival in March 2014 at Lapland Lake. The theme will be, “It is time for a new generation of Super Heros!”

The Ks for Kochers logs were due by April 1, 2013. There are two Gold medal seasons one for 410 kilometers by J4 skier Adam Bolit of the Higley Ermines, and one for 243 kilometers by J5 skier Adam Carpentier of RXCSF.

My thanks to Heidi and Bill Broderick who recently started a Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Group on FaceBook. This should help greatly with communication between divergent coaches through out the Mid Atlantic region!

Nominations remain open for a BKYSL Committee Chairman for the 2013 - 2014 season.

Mid-Atlantic Skiing Report

Conference Call on 4/4/13: Margaret Maher, Jason Hettenbaugh, Bernie Garner, Dave Paarlberg-Kvam, Anna Gorbald, Rob Hinsdill

Regional Representatives Report:

Summer training in Rochester and Lake Placid areas. Tentative dates for HURT camp 7/15-20. Dave would like to add Tuesday/Thursday training out of Saratoga area in August.

Junior National Trip Review (Jason): Fairbanks, AK

16 athletes attended with solid results. Athletes were prepared to race at the JN level. No travel problems with athletes flying to AK on different flights. JN 2014 in Stowe, VT.

EHSC Review (Dave): Presque Isle, ME

17 athletes attended. Athletes had a great trip and came away motivated. How do we promote this trip to NY athletes?

J2 Championships Review (Margaret): Holderness School/Plymouth, NH

15 athletes attended. A positive trip all around for the young athletes. How do we promote this trip to NY athletes?

Promoting junior trips:

Get trip info to HS coaches early in the season so the info can be distributed to athletes
Keep Mid-A website updated with event/trip info
Facebook/Twitter

Schedule for 2013/14: focus on 3 junior race weekends

Limit (avoid if possible) conflicts between HS races and JNQ races
Suggested we make one of the junior weekends (2nd or 3rd weekend preferred) a 3-way JNQ/EHSC/J2 Champ qualifier. 2 race format for all athletes (3 km freestyle and 3km classic for combined overall time). EHSC and J2 teams would be named that day, alternates named in case athletes turn down their spot.
Need NENSA schedule / SLU Carnival / ESG / LP Loppet dates

Elite Team: Gavin Hess (top 10 at JN)

NY HS State Meet: at Bristol in 2014

Lisa Forshey to be added as a High School Liaison between NYSSRA Nordic, Mid-Atlantic and NY high school coaches.

Dave Paarlberg-Kvam to be added to Mid-Atlantic committee as Capital District Rep.