New York State Ski Racing Association - Nordic, Inc.
SPRING MEETING MINUTES
Audio Conference Session, Sunday, April 13, 2014

In his welcoming remarks at 12:00 noon President David Paarlberg-Kvam thanked those present and noted the time constraints and objective to be done with the meeting by 1 PM.

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

Clubs: Adirondack Vauhti - Matt Torniainen; Cayuga Nordic - Larry Lepak and Jennifer Woltgen; Hudson United Racing Team - Tim Huneck, David Paarlberg-Kvam; Lake Placid Ski Club - Pat Gallagher; NYSEF - Margaret Maher; Shenendehowa - Eric Hamilton; Chris Frielinghaus, Ski Orienteering Chair; Saratoga Biathlon - Darrell Rikert and Sean Halligan.

Also present were Bernie Gardner, Jan Mares, and Andre Sapp.

David Paarlberg-Kvam said that the Fall meeting would be at Siena College in Loudonville, on September 28, 2014.

Minutes of the September 22, 2013 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 $6,344.09 in the general fund, and $18,574.15 total worth. See complete Treasurer's Report as ATTACHMENT 1.

Committee Reports
Each of the committee reports are attached. Added notes were...

- The NYSSRA Championship was well attended.
- Deadline for proposals for hosting the Championship is the fall meeting.
- Race organizers should submit their waiver and release sign off sheets to Sean Halligan soon.
- We had All American finishes at Junior Nationals
- EHS Championships had 15 NY participants and the N Y team finished in the top 3.
- There will be three JNQ next season: Rochester, Old Forge, and Lake Placid
- Discussion followed on Separation of high school races from JNQs and the qualification procedures. Nothing was resolved, but to move discussion later.

Membership - There were 423 registered members on Skireg....138 of which signed up for NYSSRA Plus and were able to participate in NENSA events.

Liability Insurance - Sean Halligan reported that we received a “notice of change”, but he has not had an opportunity to pursue what these changes might be. Sean will report back to the executive officers with further information about this notice.

Club Support Grants - HURT Nordic applied for and received the bronze level designation and NYSEF applied for and received the silver level designation. Discussion followed on the TD requirement of the application. It was consensus that the TD requirement be dropped from the bronze level. We want to strike a balance that both encourages clubs to grow and get better but also does not deter them from trying.

Special Project Updates - The Friends of Coles Woods has focused their initial fundraising effort on improving their grooming and maintenance. Yet to be determined if they will aggressively move forward with snowmaking equipment or set that as a more long term goal or even postpone it entirely. A lot depends on the acceptance of two grant proposals. NYSSRA will accept the Wood Foundation grant for grooming in behalf of member FOCW and turn it over when their 501(c)(3) status is reinstated.

Bylaw Changes and Organization Proposals

- *Membership Language* - Article III section 2 lists 5 classes of membership that are not reflected in our skireg membership page. *Executive Directorship* - There is consensus on establishing a Executive Director position for NYSSRA. Tim Huneck volunteered to review the bylaws and make a proposal to the ex- ecutive Committee.
- *Mid-Atlantic skiing support* - Because of previous discussion this item was moved to later discussion in the Mid Atlantic committee. A big deterrent for finding willing trip leaders is the substantial deposits that have to be made. How can we modify the system so that trip leaders do not have to foot all/any/part of the bill for these trips before being reimbursed by NYSSRA?
- *NYSSRA Committee Outlines:* NYSSRA Competition Committees biathlon, Nordic and ski orienteering and BKYSL were challenged to document their activities, roles, and responsibilities from year to year. Expectations should be clear, for example: responsibility to manage their corner of our new website. What role do they have in promoting their programs to high school athletes and coaches. How should they go about doing it?
- *NYSSRA Board Accountability* - How did we do based upon the organizational outline that was drafted and agreed upon? What help does anyone need? What problems were there along the way? Can we self-assess and see what changes we need to make for next season?

Club Announcements, Racer Camps, Summer Plans -

- New Paltz is forming a new local club.
- HURT junior racer camp July 14th-19th at Camp Meadowbrook in Queensbury. Registration details can be found on the club's website.
- Sean Halligan, Art Stegan, and Carl Klossner are planning a biathlon clinic this spring/summer.

(**Citizen's?) 5k Proposal** - Jan Mares proposed a 5K race option for masters and novices. The loose try-it format did not meet the needs. Real timing should be included and opened to a wider group of participants. Race formats are still up to the discretion of club organizers and not mandated.

Empire State Winter Games - Darwin Roosa announced that the Lake Placid organizing committee has chosen February 5 to 8, 2015 for the 2015 ESWG. Please let Darwin know if conflicts are anticipated with those dates.

Nominating Committee - The 2 or 3 people are needed to find a complete slate of candidates for consideration at the Fall meeting. Darwin Roosa will chair the committee and David Paalberg-Kvam will appoint the balance of the committee. Anyone interested in serving on the committee or in any of the offices should contact David.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 PM on a motion by Tim Huneck; second by Eric Hamilton; carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric J. Hamilton, Secretary

---------- **ATTACHMENT 1** ----------

TREASURER'S REPORT - Lee Mahood

Two races have not sent in race sanctioning fees as of March 25th.
(start of season) Balance on 9/22/2013. $16,212.13
(finish of season) Balance on 3/25/2014. $18,574.15

Brian McDonald Fund.	$297.00
Biathlon Fund.	$1,478.91
BKYSL Youth Development Fund	$1,805.65
Mid Atlantic Racing Fund	$5,630.65
General Fund.	$6,344.09
Special Project Fund.	$3,017.85

---------- ADDITIONAL REPORTS ----------

Nordic Skiing - 16 Club Races (including NYSSRA Champs). 21 Including Empire State Games Weekend. 10 Clubs ran a race. Several early season races were cancelled. Questions to ask:..This was the new sanctioning policy effective and scale of fees for getting organizers to commit at the beginning of the season to list their race info on the schedule and complete their sanctioning agreement paperwork timely. Additional report items from Jim Kobak. NYSSRA Championship weekend in Lake Placid was well attended and a proposal has been submitted that the Championship Weekend remain in Lake Placid although any NYSSRA Club can take on the duties of running the event and use profits for their other club ventures. Lake Placid provides the championship caliber facilities that can make that race weekend a true attraction in the NY/NE region. The Hudson United Racing Team has offered to host the weekend again if another NYSSRA club does submit a proposal to do so.

Mid Atlantic Junior Report - Mid-A will look at lowering the JN team qualifying points to 300.00 for U18/U20 athletes. Keep the U16s at 350.00. Based on how the points calculations are done and because there has been a points scoring system in place for a few years, we are back to filling a full JN team with the current points cut-off. I think EHSC is a good racing opportunity for those athletes near the bottom of the JN ranking list.

Championship Events:

USSA XC Junior Nationals Mar 7-15, 2015 Truckee, CA NENSA U16 Championships Mar 13-15, 2015 (site TBD)
NENSA Eastern High School Championship Mar 20-22, 2015 (site TBD)

Boosting ESHC and (U16) Participation and adjusting qualification system

Two ways to go on the trip:

1) Attend the JN qualifiers and attempt to make the JN team (JN qualifiers can go and anyone who misses the points standard) Racers who race at JNQ's have demonstrated a commitment to Mid-A skiing and can go on the trips. We can send them an invite via their email which we should collect at the qualifying races.
2) The second way to go on the trips is to ski into the top 30 at the HS State Championship meet. I think if we were prepared with 60 printed invitations to give to kids who race well at the State Meet we would have many kids willing to continue their ski season. The kids who ski well at states are always coming off a huge racing high. They have the fun of competitive racing, they had the fun of staying in a hotel with their friends, they have raced fast and they want to continue. If we put into their hands a simple...yet exclusive....invite to represent NY high school skiers against New England a lot of the kids will sign up to go. The invite can have a link to a skireg page that they can immediately sign up and pay on.

DPK will sign on to lead the EHSC trip and design and print all the invites if people like the idea and I'll hand them out at next years state meet. I will also update all the qualifying information on the website here: http://nyssranordic.org/u16/

Mid Atlantic BKYSL Report - Eric Hamilton

Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Festival 2014 - I thought the Festival was a success especially with so many Shenendehowa Nordic families pursuing the Junior National and Eastern High School Championships. With a minimal crew we pulled off a memorable experience for our youth and their families. The results of the championship races are posted

http://bkysl.nyssranordic.org/fun-race-results/

Nathan Collinsworth won the Secretary's Cup. A RXCSF team won the hodge-podge relays, Polar Bear Club can in second, and Shenendehowa Nordic came in third.

Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Festival 2015 - Bids for the 2015 and 2016 Festival are being accepted. Please let me or Janine Phaneuf know your interest. Also let us know if you have an idea for a sponsor for these events. Eric Hamilton is confident that he can get the Vischer Ferry Fire Company to be a sponsor at a $200 level for the 2015 Festival.

Mid Atlantic Ski Festival Inc. - Back in the early 1990s when the Glens Falls area was host to the Festival, the organizers formed this not-for-profit corporation to limit personal liability. It was also envisioned that this would become a 501(c)(3) and a NYS Registered Charity. Although the latter never happened there is a checking account with a balance of $868.78 for start up of the next Festival. Now that NYSSRA has its IRS 501(c)(3) status and is a N Y S registered charity, I question the need for a separate not-for-profit corporation for Festival funding. Why not have a NYSSRA account similar to the Junior National Trip account or the Biathlon account? Several host clubs are self sufficient and do not take advantage of the start up funds.

Ks for Kochers - We have...
- BrandonBellizzi, an RXCSF U10 who skied 273 k for a Gold
- LindenBellizzi, an RXCSF U6 skied 105 k and going for a Silver
- AlexCarpentier, an RXCSF U12 skied over 240 k for a Bronze,
- GraceMattern, an RXCSF U12 skied 252 k for a Bronze,and
- MilesMattern, an RXCSF U10 skied 258 k and going for Gold.

If you know anyone else who is keeping track for this please encourage them to get it in.

Youth Ribbon Supply - We have a full supply of ribbons now. If you're low on any please let me know and I will get you a supply or replenish your supply used up this year. I also recommend that this program continue.

Logo - Currently our logo looks like this...



A Shenendehowa High School graphic arts class has suggested something simpler:



What are your thoughts?

Committee Chair - It is time for some new ideas and new approaches within the program. I maintain that it is important to have someone other than a parent oversee our youth program. Janine Phaneuf has agreed to assume the NYSSRA's BKYSL Committee chair.

Biathlon Committee Report - None available

Ski Orienteering Report - Pending