New York State Ski Racing Association - Nordic, Inc.

SPRING MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2021
by Zoom.com

President Darwin Roosa called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and welcomed everyone attending virtually. In his opening remarks, Darwin commended everyone for the successful 2020-21 Nordic racing season given the many uncertainties caused by COVID-19. Thanks were expressed to racers, organizers, volunteers, venue hosts, and families for following our Proposed Guidelines for conducting races and modifying them as needed to keep everyone safe. As organizers stepped up throughout the season to schedule sanctioned events, racer participation increased, and our SkiReg memberships grew to nearly 400. Thanks also go to Ed Luban for being the receiving person for event sanctioning forms. The goal of this spring meeting is to review the past season and begin planning the 2021-22 race season that will likely be under the conditions of COVID Year 2.

Present: Brian Burr (biathlon Chair & Saratoga Biathlon); Marc Chmielewicz (Vice President & GHN-ADK); Eric Hamilton, (Secretary & Shenendehowa Nordic); Jason Hettenbaugh (Rochester NR); Phil Matthews (HURT); Darwin Roosa (Pres); Eric Seyse, (GHN-ADK); James South (PACCSA); Ethan Townsend (St. Lawrence University); Bob Underwood (HURT); Brian White (Past President & Peru Nordic); and Mitch Collinsworth.

Minutes Eric Hamilton moved that the minutes of the Sept 16, 2020, meeting be accepted; Jason Hettenbaugh second, carried.

Treasurer's Report - Darwin Roosa referred to Ed Lis' report (see attachment 1) showing a balance of $39,327.38. Jason Hettenbaugh noted that Mid-A account has a $1000 grant coming. Eric Seyse said that he is requesting reimbursement for awards and mailings for about $1000.

Committee Reports

Biathlon – Brian Burr reported that NY Biathlon had a successful season with 7 races at 4 venues, two of them new venues: Osceola and Lake Placid. Some 46 athletes participated, 10 of whom are USBA ranked. A shooting clinic on June 5 by Andrea Burke at Saratoga Biathlon Club is fully enrolled. No summer biathlon events have been firmed up yet, although running and mountain bike biathlons are being planned.

Ski Orienteering - Darwin Roosa summarized Janet Findlay's reports (attachment 2). We had 9 events all designed with COVID precautions and held with no personal contact, most using the new phone application Usynligo, and staying open for as much as a full week. At least 15 skiers tried each course.

Cross Country - Eric Seyse reported that even though there was an initial delay of races to fill the schedule, the season was a good one. As sanctioned races were added to the calendar, they attracted good participation. The NYSSRA Championships on Feb. 20-21 at Mt Van Hoevenberg were a great success. The event included races for high school athletes who didn't have a formal NYSPHSAA Championship.

Mid Atlantic - Jason Hettenbaugh reported that no Junior National competition event was held in 2021 but hopes that the upcoming USS meeting will help get the Junior Nationals on track for 2022.

Bill Koch Youth Ski League - Darwin Rossa summarized Janine Phaneuf's report: a successful season with great participation by 8 clubs. An end of season weekend at Mount Van Hoevenberg was well attended with 70 BKYSL racers. (See full report attachment 3). The Polar Bear Ski Club will host the 2022 Mid-Atlantic Bill Koch Festival if no one else comes forward.

Insurance Report - Sean Halligan provided a detailed report (A separate document attached to the same transmittal email). Sean pointed out that our insurance policy now has a communicable disease exclusion. Language on the NYSSRA Nordic waiver race sign in sheets and other forms should have included COVID waiver language. This should be given attention and changed next season. Sean needs to receive all paper 2020-21 race sign-in waiver sheets for events held. He submitted a list of races, based on the events online calendar, that still need to send him their signed waiver sheets. For the 2021-22 season, the new policy will renew on July 1. Sean will be working with the agent to complete the renewal application and must have the number of members who raced last season. **He needs Cross Country, Biathlon, Ski-O, & BKYSL chairpersons to provide the number of members that raced this past season no later than May 15.**
Executive Directors Report - Bob Underwood reported that NYSPHSAA had the usual 5 sections racing this season, but no Championship at the state level. He speculated that's the reason the NYSSRA champs had such a high number of high school athletes. Waiving membership fees for juniors also boosted participation. Bob intends to continue with a twice per month newsletter and thanked those that contributed on a regular basis. He was able to capture one corporate donation from Warren Tire for $1,000. He recommended that we continue waiving the upfront race sanctioning fees from event organizers again in 2021-22. Revenue from head tax should be sufficient.
Brian White asked Bob if he had obtained a percentage of the corporate donation per NYSSRA Nordic executive director agreement. This discussion was deferred.

Old Business
Fluoro Wax Policy – Discussion focused on NYSSRA Nordic's fluoro wax ban. Jason Hettenbaugh described Fluoro testing equipment used by USS and FIS along with the issues that have arisen including setting limits, accuracy of detection levels, reliability, measuring residual fluorine on meticulously cleaned skis, penalties for use, etc. The conclusion was that there is no way to enforce; no way to reliably test since older skis still have residue and some newly manufactured skis may have fluorocarbon in the base formula. FIS level teams are still using up their supply of F waxes. It was the consensus that we continue to use the words "banned" and "prohibited" to communicate our policy in various postings and notices.
Officers - Phil Matthews will continue to consider his interest and availability for 2nd Vice President. He promised to give us an answer by mid-summer as some of his other commitments are wrapped up.

New Business
COVID restrictions - Darwin said it is likely that the COVID Committee will reconvene in early fall to evaluate the state of COVID and need for continuing COVID precautions related to the NYSSRA Nordic Proposed Guidelines for conducting races in 2021-22. Discussion followed including whether vaccination would be a requirement to compete next season. We will continue to evaluate as the season planning approaches. A major factor is whether vaccine is approved for juniors and younger racers.
Season Schedule - Jason Hettenbaugh reported that the 2022 Super Tour schedule includes a January 29-30 weekend at Lake Placid followed by a weekend in February at Craftsbury . The 2022 ESWG will likely be February 2 through 5, although no announcement has been made. It helps to know these race dates so other events can be filled in around them, i.e., races at Gore on January 8-9 and January 15-16 as a JNQ. It was the consensus that currently there are too many uncertainties to schedule other Mid Atlantic Junior Qualifiers.*Summer Camps and Clinics* - The June 5 biathlon Shooting Clinic at Saratoga Biathlon is full. June 6 will be a novice clinic with Adirondack Multi Sport to attract cross country skiers. NYSEF will hold their first training camp the first week in June. HURT will probably not be active for a summer camp. Rochester will schedule morning sessions over five days. Brian Burr is looking into biathlon

training at Lake Placid using the range and rollerski loop. Eric Seyse confirmed that 2021-22 NYSSRA membership is up and running on SkiReg.com.
Publicity and Education Work Group - Discussion focused on ideas for how NYSSRA can improve communication and better promote Nordic ski racing by engaging the membership. A potential project is to determine marketing needs by conducting a survey of members such as the survey recently done by RXC Ski Foundation which brought over 400 responses that will be used to plan programs. Other ideas included ways to make the website the "go to" place for information. Identified was the need to get a group of people together to do some serious updating of content on the website and initiate more active management of the website. Several frustrations and drawbacks were pointed out about WordPress as the current website building tool. Darwin Roosa appointed a work group including Eric Seyse, Darwin Roosa, and possibly Dinnie Sloman to explore options for website improvements including discussion with Tom Moffett. It should be noted that at the Spring 2020 meeting, Tom Moffett agreed to review and update website content. A major task included the move of the website to a new server which was completed in November 2020.
Next Meeting - Darwin Roosa set the Fall Meeting as a virtual session on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7 PM.
Adjourned: Being no further business Eric Hamilton moved we adjourn, Jason Hettenbaugh second, carried unanimously at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric J. Hamilton
Secretary

---------- **Attachment 1** ----------

Treasurers Report as of Mar 31, 2021.

Fund	Balances
Biathlon Fund	$ 2,115
Youth Development Fund	$ 1,601
Mid-A Fund	$ 16,620
BKSL Fund	$ 618
General Fund	$ 18,374
Total	**$ 39,327.38**

---------- Attachment 2 ----------

NYSSRA SKI ORIENTEERING YEAR END REPORT

APRIL 2021

The winter of 2020-21 was a challenge for our sport, as for most others. In accordance with Covid precautions and NYSSRA guidelines we redesigned our procedures to minimize person to person contact and did not offer on-site registration or electronic timing for our events. Our participation numbers were greatly reduced due to travel restrictions on out-of-state and Canadian competitors, as well as to the cancellation of traditional events like the Empire State Games.

As a result of these restrictions participation was a pretty informal affair which actually served to highlight some advantages. Most meet organizers set up their events on a new specialized orienteering GPS phone app known as Usynligo which provided great feedback - it notified participants when they had reached each control, provided overall and split times, showed them where they were on the course and even shared results among other users. Control markers on the courses were not necessary, and although most meet organizers did place them out, at least for a few days, participants could try any course on the app at their convenience during the winter rather than on a specific day and time.

Courses were set in 9 locations throughout the state this season:
Switzkill Farm, Berne
Lapland Lake
Garnsey Park, Rexford
Mt. van Hoevenberg
Durand Eastman Park, Rochester
Harriet Hollister Park, Springwater
Cumming Nature Center, Naples
Mendon Ponds, Honeoye Falls
Webster Park, Webster

Without formal registration and timing procedures it was impossible to get an accurate count of the number of participants but between the user information on Usynligo and word of mouth we estimate at least 15 skiers tried each course, which is a good number especially given the absence of so many of our regular competitors. A special course was also designed for a large group of young cross country racers at Mt. van Hoevenberg, and the annual Bill Koch Festival, also held at van Ho, offered a ski-o event for over 60 participants and their families.

I'd like to thank all of our mappers, course setters and event organizers – Phil Hawkes-Teeter, Eric Hamilton, David Hunter, Janet Findlay, Gary Maslanka, Stina Bridgeman, Linda Kohn and Rick Worner – for their efforts to keep our sport going during this difficult season. The co-operation of the venues is also greatly appreciated, especially those which allowed us to keep control markers out for an extended period of time and the trail groomers who continually fished the markers out from under snowbanks and replaced them alongside the trail! And as always, we appreciate the support of NYSSRA in promoting ski-o in New York State. Hopefully next season will see a return to more traditional procedures that will restore the competitive element and allow us to enjoy our sport in the company of friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Findlay

---------- **Attachment 3** ----------

BKYSL by Janine Phaneuf

Job well done for pulling off a great ski season. It wasn't an easy one , but it was an interesting one,with the pandemic and all the covid restrictions. The following clubs submitted a quick summary of the season. Osceola ski club, Buffalo Youth ski club,Hurt Youth,Shenendehowa Nordic Club,RXCSF,NYSEF, and Polar Bear ski club.

As of now, the Polar Bear ski club is talking about hosting the Mid-Atlantic Bill Koch Festival for the 21-22 season; unless there is another club out there wanting to host?! I am very optimistic that next season will be one where we can socialize and hang out at the races.

Osceola Ski Club 2020-2021. We did not hold any formal practices. We hosted a day-long festival with an individual start freestyle race followed by small group activities (noodle tag, obstacle course, jumps/ bicycle ramps, slalom, and relay races). About 46 kids attended this event. Dustin Hite did organize a Learn to Ski program at Osceola Ski and Sport Resort. This met weekly for 8 weeks. He provided the gear and this was well received with about 40-50 kids joining from the local Camden area. 20 Osceola kids race at our event. 3 kids raced at Lake Placid. 3 kids raced at Winona Tourathon.

2021-2022. As we look forward to the next year, I can say for certain that Pete and I will plan a festival again. The first day will look the same as this past year, but if it's possible, it would be nice to include a classic race for the 2nd day. Dustin intends to do his Learn to Ski Program again. We are planning on meeting with him to discuss how to merge this program with the concept of the ski club. I expect that we will aim to have practices for the ski club at the same time/day as this Learn to Ski group to focus on more race specific training. Obtaining skate gear for kids to be able to try this without asking the parents to purchase them is a barrier. 2021-2022 needs to be a growing year for the ski club with a focus on trying to get additional parents with younger kids involved. Joan/Pete Newell Club leaders/coaches

Buffalo Youth Ski club: 17 skiers 2nd year as a club. The clubs goal is always to just get more families participating, and so far that has been a success. 2 families returned from last year, all kids and parents new to skiing! Gear has been a challenge, I outfitted 10 kids/parents this year with gear but still had to turn away 1 family since we couldn't find anything this late in the season. I'm always searching and in need of more gear. I hope to keep building a small loaner supply so families can rent affordably from us if that's the obstacle. Looking for any brilliant fundraiser or ways to keep building ideas. Erin Wilson ,head coach/leader

Hurt Youth: The Town of Greenfield Bill Koch club had 30 skiers this year. We met weekly from mid December until mid March skiing at Brookhaven Golf Course. We enjoyed good snow coverage almost all year. Chris Yarsevich club leader/head coach

Shenendehowa Nordic Club: 34 members, skied a total of 12 Tuesday practices, and 3 weekend events including Winterfest. Garnsey Park is excellently located so we routinely attract youth from 4 school districts: Shen, Nisky, Scotia/Glenville, BH/BL. One practice was devoted to orienteering (on foot) with an introductory course that covered Collins Park. For the Town Of Clifton Park's WinterFest February 6 we held a Bill Koch Youth Race.

Two dozen youth participated from one lolly-popper on a 0.4 k loop to older youth doing

1, 2, or 3 one k loops depending on age. Carrie Buetow continued to come up with creative stretches, sprints, and challenges to warm up and keep youth occupied as others arrive and sign in. In December meeting of parents to cover health and

safety rules, ski equipment, and other expectations. This meeting was on a zoom.us Platform.

Eric Hamilton Club Leader/coach and Carrie Buetow coach

RXCSF: 75 skiers, and despite masking/distancing were able to have a good time with many of our usual favorite practice activities and events - a photo-scavenger hunt (post-inauguration themed, with guest appearances by the Bernie Sanders meme), our own skiing bingo, a mini-marathon where we collectively skied 444 km in an hour, and a pared-down hometown Birkebeiner-themed mini "festival" that was small but fun. About 15 kids went to the Lake Placid BKL fest, and about 10 skied the JNQ circuit (posing as U16s, or in the BKL races) and the U14 NYSSRA championship. Matt Bellizzi Club leader/coach

NYSEF: 36 kids signed up this year, they participated between 1-3 days per week. For biathlon we had 12 kids participating, holding practice 1x per week.

Felt fortunate that we were able to attend the few races that we did - Gore, 2x, Garnet Hill and the NY-SEF Mid-Atlantic Festival.

Despite COVID restrictions and the lack of racing opportunities, we had a successful season, all in all a lot of fun was had and we were able to spend more time doing some adventure type skis, which was awe-some!! Kim Douglas Coach

Polar Bear Nordic Youth Team: 25 skiers this season, a few new families to the sport. Masking and distancing didn't discourage us from practicing 4 times a week at various locations in Old Forge. Most of the team did make it to a race- PBSC racers attended Gore, Lake Placid, Osceola, Old Forge races this season. All and all the ski season brought kids outside and together safely, while we followed all covid protocols. Kids and parents will tell you it was a fun season. Janine Phaneuf Coach