

New York State Ski Racing Association - Nordic, Inc

FALL MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2021

by Zoom.com

President Darwin Roosa called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Present: Brian Burr, Saratoga Biathlon; Marc Chmielewicz, 1st Vice President; Janet Findley, Peru Nordic; Sean Halligan, Insurance Committee; Eric Hamilton, Secretary and Shenenehowa Nordic; Ed Luban; Phil Matthews, HURT; Eric Seyse, Glenville Hills; Bob Underwood, Friends of Coles Woods; and Anna Wysen.

Eligibility of voting participants included officers and club representatives from the current year and 2020-21 sanctioned clubs.

Minutes Eric Hamilton moved that the minutes of the April 28, 2021, meeting be accepted; Phil Matthews second, carried.

Opening Remarks - Darwin Roosa welcomed those present. He thanked those who organized the training events during the summer and individuals who have begun planning race events for 2021-22. Sadly, he noted the passing in July of Louie Ehrensbeck an early supporter and organizer of skiing in Old Forge, both Alpine and Nordic. Ehrensbeck was a Winter Olympian in 1968 in Alpine, Cross Country, and Biathlon events. Darwin also announced that Phil Matthews had accepted the position of 2nd Vice President.

Treasurer's Report – Ed Lis, apologizing for not being able to attend, reported that we have a balance of \$37,068.34. Payment has been made for the 2021-22 liability insurance policy premium. Sean Halligan added that we received an insurance refund of over \$37.

Committee Reports:

- a. Biathlon - Brian Burr reported that we had a successful summer season with 5 running biathlon and 2 mountain bike biathlon events. The committee is excited with all the novices that tried summer events this year. (Complete report attachment 1.)
- b. Ski Orienteering - Janet Findley reported that we intend to offer a full slate of ski-o events this winter with events planned at Lapland Lake and in the Albany, Rochester and Lake Placid areas. We'll also offer several try-it events at Mt. Van Hoevenberg for student, seniors and kids groups. Event organizers are currently confirming dates and venues. (Janet's complete report is attachment 2.)
- c. Cross Country - Eric Seyse ran down a list of events of which he was aware (attachment 3)
- d. Mid-Atlantic – In advance of the meeting, Jason Hettenbaugh sent a schedule for the Mid-A JNQs. The dates are included in attachment 3. Junior Nationals are in Minneapolis March 6 - 12. Eastern High School Championships, Farmington, ME on March 18 - 20. Jason noted that the Maine venue might be hard for us to get enough athletes interested to go on the trip.
- e. BKYSL - Janine Phaneuf, also apologizing for not being able to attend, reported that they will be looking at a Feb/March date for the Festival in Old Forge. She is waiting for other clubs to send her dates for other BKYSL races.

- f. Insurance – For the file, Sean Halligan still needs the signed waivers from last season's races at GHN-ADK, Gore, and NYS Nordic Championships. Sean Halligan said that we have a new insurance carrier. They do not have a cost for "additional insureds". Sean will update all instructions and language in the forms that typically need to be downloaded, completed, and submitted by organizers of sanctioned events and additional insured. A pdf of these revised forms will replace the versions that are currently on the website. He will write a summary of the highlights for a website post. Background checks will be required of all coaches including Bill Koch Leaders. An account has been set up for the invoicing and payment of background checks when they are conducted. SafeSport certifications were also mentioned.

Executive Director's Report

Bob Underwood said he will continue to do newsletters and has had good reporting from biathlon, ski orienteering, and cross country. He expressed frustration about trying to feed information to member emails with attachments through SkiReg.com because of the file size limits. Constant Contact could be considered in the future for sending newsletters. He has also found that posting results on UnderdogRacing.com is easier than on the NYSSRA website. Membership renewals are coming in slowly and are now at 90 members. Darwin will post a "time to renew" reminder on the website.

Old Business

- a. 2nd Vice President Phil Matthews posted his email ulysses415@nycap.rr.com in the chat window.
- b. Planning for COVID Year 2 (CY2) - Darwin Roosa said that as COVID and its Delta variant continue to spread we need to keep our racing community safe through proper precautions and updated guidelines for 2021-22. He said that the COVID committee would be revising the guidelines from last year for conducting races and make sure the COVID language is consistent on all necessary forms and waivers. They will also consider season reusable bibs and whether vaccinations would be required for racers and volunteers at events.

He reported that on 9/17/21 NENSA released an update of their current COVID protocols. Among them is having an official COVID Controller at the entrance to each event asking racers and volunteers whether they are experiencing any COVID symptoms and turning them away if they are. If inside space is allowed to be used at any NENSA event, they are requiring everyone wear masks when indoors. Several others of their guidelines are elaborated, subject to change as conditions warrant.

- c. Fluorocarbon prohibition wax policy has not changed. There were no changes or updates from NGOs. Testing for the presence of fluoros on skis continues to be an issue.
- d. Website - It was consensus that we need a more user-friendly platform that, at minimum, has the schedule of races, documents for sanctioning that are downloaded by organizers, list of sponsors, club sanctioning information, pre & post-race blogs, race results, and how to join and who has joined. Discussion included the need for a smaller website that is more manageable for those who post content regularly. All content and operations must reside on a secure server.

Consensus was that an ambitious effort to initiate, redesign, migrate data, and launch a new website, however basic, is not realistic at this time – given the three months before the 2021-22 race season. We should work with Tom Moffett this fall to do what is necessary to revamp the current WordPress site to become more workable and ready for our communication needs by December 2021.

- e. Race schedule - Refer to attachment 3.

New Business

- a. Championship Race - Discussion followed on whether or not we could have a championship cross country race at Mt Van Hoevenberg. No resolution.
- b. NYSEF's Shane MacDowell in conjunction with Chris Rose is starting a masters training program. Discussion followed on our relationship with NYSEF, but it was consensus that we would not make our masters mailing list available to NYSEF if they were not a sanctioned member club of NYSSRA – Nordic for 2021-22.

Spring Meeting - Darwin Roosa announced that the spring meeting would be virtual the evening of Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 7 PM.

Adjournment - Being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Eric Hamilton, second by Sean Halligan at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hamilton
Secretary

Attachment 1 Biathlon Report (next page)

Attachment 2 Ski Orienteering Report (next page)

Attachment 3 Draft 2021-22 Race Schedule (following)

(ATTACHMENT #1) - Biathlon Committee Report

New York Biathlon had another successful summer season and successfully negotiated the challenges that COVID has been presenting for the past year and a half. In total, seven races and two clinics were held and with the easing of some COVID restrictions we were once again able to include Novice racers.

Races include:

- Syracuse Biathlon held Sprint on July 10 in Pratts Falls
- Saratoga Biathlon had a sprint/pursuit weekend on July 24 and 25 at the club in Day, NY
- Syracuse and Polar Bear Biathlon held their Pursuit Challenge weekend on July 31 and August 1 at Osceola Ski and Sport
- Syracuse Biathlon held a mountain bike biathlon on August 21 at Osceola Ski and Sport
- Saratoga Biathlon held a mountain bike biathlon on September 12 at Saratoga Biathlon in Day, NY

Other Events

- June 5-Shooting Clinic with Andrea Henkel Burke at Saratoga Biathlon
- September 1- Follow-up shooting clinic with Andrea Henkel Burke at Saratoga Biathlon

Winter Schedule

The Biathlon Committee has tentatively scheduled 5 events for the upcoming winter season, the dates of which will be confirmed after we find out the dates of the other major nordic events so as not to overlap too much. More events may be scheduled as time allows

- Empire State Winter Games scheduled for February 3-6
- US Biathlon National Championship will be March 25 at Mt. Van Hoevenberg

A highlight of the summer was definitely having novices able to participate again. During the winter we did not allow novice participation due to the close contact required to assist new shooters on the mats. The loosening of COVID restrictions allowed for their return and we had a number of new first time participants who are excited to come back in the winter. Everyone is excited for the transition back to snow for the 2021-2022 Winter season!

ATTACHMENT #2 - Ski Orienteering Report

We intend to offer a full slate of ski-o events this winter with events planned at Lapland Lake and in the Albany, Rochester and Lake Placid areas. We'll also offer several try-it events at Mt. van Hoevenberg for student, seniors and kids groups.

Event organizers are currently confirming dates and venues. The one thing we're not certain about is the format of these events. We'd love to get back to the traditional type of ski-o, which is scheduled for a set date with a 2 hour start window and electronic timing. However this involves registering and downloading each participant's timing chip indoors and at close quarters and even though it's only for a brief period of time ski-o folks may not be ready for this. Otherwise we'll resort to the same format as last winter when participants downloaded their map at home, and tracked and timed their course with a special orienteering phone app. This is not as accurate as electronic timing and of course we all miss the socializing aspect but it does mean that participants can try the courses anytime they want and in the end many of our events last winter attracted more participants than usual.

So meet organizers will play it by ear – hopefully the covid situation will ease during the winter but safety will always be our top priority.

ATTACHMENT #3 - 2021/22 Season Schedule

(This is an attempt to summarize all the dates thrown around at the September 22, 2021 meeting. Treat this as a working document.)

Dec. __ Kick Off Race at Gore (Paul Allison)
Dec. 18 - 19 Rochester JNQ
Dec. 19 Lapland Lake Ski Orienteering season kick off
Jan. 2 - 7 Senior Nationals Soldier Hollow, UT
Jan. 9 Skiathlon (GHN-ADK at Saratoga Biathlon)
Jan. 10 Shenendehowa Classic at Saratoga Biathlon
Jan. 15 - 16 Gore JNQ
Jan. 22 Winona Forest Try-It 10K
Jan. 22 - 23 Rochester Backup Date
Jan. 28 - 30 Lake Placid Super Tour / Mid A JNQ / NENSA Eastern Cup
Jan. 29 - 30 GHN-ADK Games 5K/10K Skate & classic pursuit BKYSL to follow.
Jan.? or Feb. ? Glens Falls Coles Woods (Bob Underwood)
Feb. 3 - 6 Lake Placid ESWG
Feb. 5 Winona Forest Tourathon
Feb. 6 Garnet Hill
Feb. 19 GHN-ADK Vauhti Spring Fling
Mar. 2 - 12 Junior Nationals, Minneapolis
Mar. 20 Eastern High School Championships, Farmington, ME
Mar 25 U S Biathlon Championships at Mt Van Hoevenberg