

New York State Ski Racing Association - Nordic, Inc.

FALL MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2022

at Mt Van Hoevenberg and by Zoom.com

President Darwin Roosa called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM and welcomed everyone. He referred to the sign-in attendance and designation of voting members for club representation.

Present: Darwin Roosa (President), Mark Chmielewicz (Vice President & GHN-ADK); Eric Seyse (GHN-Adk Vauhti), Curt Schreiner (Saratoga Biathlon); Eric Hamilton (Secretary & Shenendehowa Nordic by Zoom); Jack Rueckheim (Treasurer & Cayuga Nordic); Paul Smith (NYSEF), and Janine Phaneuf (BKSL Chair & Polar Bear Ski Club).

Regrets: Individuals who were not able to attend and submitted reports in advance for their committee responsibilities included Janet Findlay, Brian Burr, Ed Luban, Jason Hettenbaugh, Bob Underwood, and Sean Halligan. Their reports are referred to in business items of the meeting and are attached to the minutes.

Minutes Curt Schreiner moved that the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting be accepted; Eric Seyse second, carried.

Opening Remarks from President & Introduction of Guest

Darwin Roosa remarked that the meeting is the first in-person meeting since Fall 2019. He expressed thanks to the Olympic Regional Development Authority for the meeting arrangements to host us at Mountain Pass Lodge.

Darwin introduced Kris Cheney-Seymour, ORDA, Mount Van Hoevenberg. Kris welcomed us to Mount Van Hoevenberg and presented an overview about the facilities improvements at MVH and the expanded capabilities for ORDA to host a range of world class Nordic events. He described plans for the coming season events including the staging of the FISU World University Games January 12-22, 2023. Kris encouraged NYSSRA Nordic members to sign up to volunteer for the Games and other opportunities. He then answered questions about the venue.

Treasurer's Report - Jack Rueckheim outlined the difficulties dealing with our former financial institution. Our accounts are now with Key Bank including our custodial Mid-Atlantic Junior account. Jack went over the treasurer's report attachment showing a balance of \$39,199, without Mid-A custodial account \$20,356. Janine Phaneuf asked about the \$650 for the Bill Koch Program, the source of annual funds to the program, and how the amount could be increased. Consensus was that upon BKYSL committee request, General fund money can be transferred to the BKYSL program. Also, historically the hosts of the Mid-A Bill Koch Festival is granted \$200 in seed money to kick start planning for the event. This amount could also be increased upon request for a specific amount. Discussion followed about reporting thresholds for IRS and NYS Charities Registration.

Committee Reports

Biathlon – Brian Burr could not be present, but Darwin Roosa summarized the attached including summer biathlon events; an update on the World University Games; volunteers and SafeSport.com; and the preparation of a NY - VT points list and cooperative endeavors.

Ski Orienteering - Darwin Roosa summarized Janet Findlay's report. The season start will be at Lapland Lake on Dec 18.

Cross Country - Eric Seyse announced that the season will start with a race at Lapland Lake hosted by GHN-ADK Vauhti on Dec 17. This will be followed by Nordic Ski events at Old Forge on New Year's Day. GHN-ADK Vauhti has sanctioned their Games on Jan. 7-8, Glenville Hills Classic on Jan. 28, and Skiathlon on Jan. 29. WFRA has sanctioned the Try-It on Jan. 21 and the Tourathon on Feb. 11. HURT has proposed their Brookhaven Fishscale Festivus on Jan. 7 but will likely choose another date to avoid conflicts with other races. Other events will follow. Curt Schreiner suggested that Shenendehowa Classic be on February 18 and the Sacandaga Mini Marathon on February 19. Central NY Nordic plans to sanction a race at Osceola.

Mid Atlantic - Darwin Roosa said that Jason Hettenbaugh provided the calendar of Junior National qualifiers as Dec 17 and 18 at Rikert Nordic in VT, Jan 7 and 8 at Gore, (back up if Gore is unable to host is Jan. 21 and 22 at Osceola) and Feb. 4 and 5 at Lake Placid ESWG.

Bill Koch Youth Ski League - Janine Phaneuf asked that event organizers send her details of local events as they become available. They are planning a Mid Atlantic Bill Koch Festival in Old Forge the weekend of February 25 and 26.

Insurance Report - Darwin Roosa summarized Sean Halligan's report including a new insurer with a new policy with coverage similar as last year; similar additional insured coverage; required background checks; requests for additional insured endorsements and filing after race sign-in waivers with the Insurance chair. Darwin also pointed out that many of the obligations are described in the Pre-Season Check List for clubs and event organizers.

Empire State Winter Games - will be the weekend of Feb 2 - 5 and may include a Junior Nationals qualifier.

Executive Director's Report - Darwin Roosa said that Bob Underwood has committed to continuing as ED this season. Bob plans to produce the e-newsletter, develop Instagram and our social media presence, foster better communication between all areas and with other organizations of our sport, and raise funds. He wants to develop some NYSSRA Nordic ski days including a special women's day with lessons, group activities, lunch, etc. possibly at Garnet Hill.

Old Business

Pre-Season Check List - Darwin Roosa drew attention to the check list for all leaders, organizers, coaches, and volunteers, that calls for the sanctioning of clubs and events to be completed by November 1, reinforces the need for volunteers to join NYSSRA - Nordic to ensure they are covered by our liability insurance, requests for background checks and attention to after race requirements. This "list of things to do" has been posted on the website, emailed to a range of NYSSRA Nordic individuals, published twice in the e-newsletter, and been made available as a handout.

Publicity and Marketing - Discussed early season ads in *Adirondack Sports and Fitness* to promote season enthusiasm, stimulate memberships, and emphasize camaraderie, fun, and fitness. Mark Chmielewicz moved that we authorize up to \$1,200 for such advertising, Eric Seyse second, carried. Mark will contact Darryl Caron to explore ad design layout, size, and costs for space in the Nov. and Dec. 2022 editions. It may be appropriate to use the ad content layout to make printed posters or flyers for availability at ski shops and ski touring centers.

On-line Presence - We discussed a plan to update website and social media for management of postings by content contributors. Include: Who will manage the FB page, monitor NYSSRA Gmail inbox, forward information to Bob Underwood for newsletter content. We need content. (Eric Seyse?) suggested we ask Tyler Koziol for content ...at least his perspective. Darwin will follow up with other sources.

Volunteer Needs - Darwin Roosa pointed out that ORDA is recruiting volunteers to work at the FISU World University Games January 12 to 22, 2023. Individuals can go to lakeplacid2023.com. to read the expectations & benefits for volunteers and to sign up. Cross country volunteers use Vol Code SPTccs and Biathlon volunteers use Vol Code SPTbth.

New Business

Season Race Calendar – See dates in the cross country committee report. Darwin Roosa reminded race organizers to sanction their club for 2022-23 and sanction their events for the calendar before November 1 when the pricing structure goes up. The sanctioning fee for clubs is only \$45. By Nov. 1 the sanctioning fee for an event is \$45 that is due after the event, nothing due if the race is cancelled or rained out. By Dec. 1 the sanctioning fee is \$55 due after the event. For clubs that organize multiple events during the season, they receive 50% off the event sanctioning fee if they sanction all the events by Nov. 1.

Junior Nationals - Jason Hettenbaugh is working on final qualifying criteria and trip leaders for the Junior National Championships, Fairbanks, Alaska on March 13-16, 2023. There were questions about whether a trip would be organized and led to the Eastern High School Championships, Fort Kent, ME on March 10- 12. See his attached Mid-A report.

NYSSRA Championships – The date will be decided in coordination with the weekend and venue chosen for the NY Biathlon Championships. Saratoga Biathlon and Glenville Hills / Maple Ski Ridge are candidate venues.

Nominating Committee - The nominating committee has been working since spring to come up with a slate of officers for this election. They nominated Marc Chmielewicz for president, Phillip Matthews for first vice president, Jack Rueckheim for treasurer, and Eric Hamilton for secretary. They were unable to find a candidate for second vice president. Darwin Roosa opened the floor for nominations. When no nominations were received, he called for a vote on the slate as presented. The slate was accepted unanimously. The changeover of officers took place for 2022-2024 with Darwin Roosa moving to past president, Mark Chmielewicz becoming president, and Phil Matthews becoming first vice president.

NYSEF - Paul Smith reported that NYSEF is planning a training camp Thanksgiving weekend, another over the holiday break and a third next summer

Next Meeting - It was a consensus that the spring meeting would be held on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 6 PM.

Adjourned: Being no further business Curt Schreiner moved we adjourn, Jack Rueckheim second, carried unanimously at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric J. Hamilton
Secretary

ATTACHED REPORTS

NYSSRA Treasurer's Summary August 31, 2022				
	Fund	<u>8/31/21</u>	<u>8/31/22</u>	
	Biathlon	\$ 1,462	\$ 1,486	
	Youth Development	\$ 1,601	\$ 1,601	
	Mid-A*	\$ 17,620	\$ 12,843	
	BKSL	\$ 618	\$ 618	
	<u>General</u>	<u>\$ 15,673</u>	<u>\$ 16,651</u>	
	Total	\$ 36,974	\$ 33,199	
	Total less Mid-A*	\$ 19,354	\$ 20,356	
	*The Mid-A fund belongs to Mid-A and is only managed by NYSSRA-Nordic			

Biathlon Committee – Brian Burr

Met Sept. 18, 2022 via Zoom with attendees: Eric Seyes, Tom Moffett, Carl Klossner, Brian Burr, Darwin Roosa, Sean Halligan, Curt Shreiner

- Summer clinics went well.
- Dinnie sent info on the Bylaws. Carl agrees with them. Should qualifications be removed for ESWG? Certification committee for training? Maybe Pete and Tom can continue - they have the IBU IR certification. 55 is the max age for a TD. We should work with USBA to have more clinics. Check with Sara and Tracy from USBA. Ignore quals for ESWG. For the moment we will contact USBA for a more formal level 1 & 2 certification. Tom will talk to Tracy.
- WUG assessment and status - Tom said things are still unknown. 5 competition days for Biathlon. Trying to consider flexibility for volunteers. Housing is a question for volunteers because of athletes and coaches. Still need volunteers. Will email everyone on the list serve. Dates are 1 2-22 January. Races are Sat 14 individual, 16th relays, wed sprints, sat mass starts.
- Safe sport - coaches and volunteers have to have this. UWG?
- New Business - NY / Vermont point series - simple. Cross state races. Getting interstate points component in Craftsbury, Jericho, Saratoga. Overlapping with the Eastern Series; speak with John Madigan. We need the dates early to ensure deconfliction. Brief discussion of prizes. Sean said gas cards. Shooting awards? Getting back to what we used to do in the early 2000's. Dinnie will keep the tabulations.
- Dates for races: Jan 1st Polar Bear with Osceola as back up, teaming with Syracuse on 18/19 Feb. ESWG 2-6 Feb, Saratoga 28/29 Jan. Syracuse will have 1 or 2 more races. NYSRA champs? Feb 25/26 Bill Koch in Old Forge (avoid this weekend).

- Finances - treasurers report balance \$1486 as of Aug 31, 2022.
- We have access to "expert voice" discounts on biathlon equipment and products.
- Curt - left handed Fortner \$3K
- Motion \$250 grants award to a boy and girl biathlete. Approved.
- 22 October Saratoga trail clean up with a picnic.

Ski Orienteering – Janet Findlay

Unfortunately I won't be able to attend the fall meeting next weekend as I'll be up at the Ottawa O Club's annual weekend orienteering event. I've attached an outline of our plans for this winter – please let me know if you have questions or concerns and hope the meeting goes well.

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 as conditions permit. Our major undertaking this season will be hosting the U.S. National Ski Orienteering Championships, in conjunction with the Empire State Games, on Feb. 4-5. There will be two traditional competitions with Dewey Mt. and the VIC as the tentative venues. Several DIY courses will also be set at Mt. van Hoevenberg that participants can do on their own schedules using a GPS phone app. The Empire Orienteering Club of Albany and Orienteering USA are the co-hosting organizations and we are looking forward to welcoming 60-70 competitors from all over North America.

The risk of covid transmission is still a major concern for meet organizers and precautions to avoid close contact, especially when participants are downloading their timing sticks indoors after finishing their course, are still a priority. Organizers have risen to this challenge by adopting innovative procedures and thanks to the patience and understanding of racers we are once again able to offer in person events with electronic timing.

We look forward to a long snowy winter with good times on the trails!

Janet

Mid-Atlantic – Jason Hettenbaugh

Draft JNQ Schedule

- Dec 17th -18th Rikert VT (out of region JNQ athletes can use both days to count towards Mid-A qualification); 5/10km Classic Individual; 5/5km Skate Pursuit Start
- Jan 7th and 8th Gore (they may not have the A-Climb available due to the timing with WUG) Skate Sprint, Classic 5-7.5k. Back-Up Date if Gore is unable to host is Jan 21 / 22 at Osceola. Possible only 1 day at Osceola
- Feb 4th-5th (ESGs) (in discussion with Larry Wilkinson for adjusting the distance on Saturdays Mass Start) 5/10km Skate Mass (they have 5/20km), 5/7.5km Classic Mass
- March 13-16, 2023 Junior National Championships, Fairbanks, Alaska

Insurance Committee – Sean Halligan

Sorry I won't be there Sunday. The insurance report is short & sweet.

- New policy was paid for (\$3,685) and is in effect.

· Despite a reminder the company still didn't do the additional insured endorsement the way we wanted it worded but that was fixed this week so we are good to go.

· You already did a great job reminding people about getting the waivers done and sent to me and also the need (and exceptions) for background checks of coaches. Just a reminder that we are requiring they have them done every 2 years so everyone who did it last year is ok for this year. If you had one from another source (USBA etc.) and it was already a year-old last year, then you need to renew it. Doing so through USBA or USSA etc. saves NYSSRA money!

· If clubs need additional insured endorsements, they should request same when they sanction their club/race. Read the instructions on the web site and don't ask for one if the property owner isn't asking for one!

Sean

Sanctioning of Clubs and Races - Ed Luban

I cannot make the meeting Sun. but have this brief report about sanctioning.

Clubs: We are ahead of the last few year's pace for club renewals; things are back where they were 6-8 years ago. The following clubs have renewed:

- Rochester Nordic Racing
- Shenendehowa
- WFRA
- Cayuga Nordic
- GHN-ADK Vauhti (received check, need form completed)
- Gore Mt. (form completed but they need an invoice to pay, which Jack has sent)

We also have a new club that's registered and paid. CNY Nordic is a group of masters in the Syracuse area that's developed over the past couple years. They had a healthy turnout at the WFRA races last year and hope to host a race in Osceola.

Races:

- WFRA has sanctioned the Try-it (Jan. 21) and the Tourathon (Feb. 11).
- GHN-ADK has sanctioned GHN-ADK Games (Jan. 7-8)
- Glenville Hills Classic (Jan. 28), and a skiathlon (Jan. 29). All those races are on

the calendar, though I haven't yet put in the details. HURT has also proposed holding the Brookhaven Fishscale Festivus on Jan. 7, but that may change given the conflict with the GHN-ADK races. I've put it on the calendar as tentative.

That's all I've received so far.

CNY Nordic and Dustin Hite (Osceola) are considering Feb. 4 for a race, but that apparently conflicts with ESG. They're meeting next Fri. and will look at other dates, preferably later in the season, depending how the schedule looks after tomorrow.

Eddie

Executive Director's Report – Bob Underwood

I will not be able to make the meeting today in Lake Placid. I hope things go well and you have a productive meeting. A few things.

Kris Cheney-Seymour has asked me if he could speak about things coming up at Van Ho in the coming years. Lots of great events.

In terms of my commitment, I will stay on as Executive director, if you will have me.

I plan on working on

- the newsletter again this year
- Trying to develop Instagram and our social media presence
- Trying to foster better communication between all areas of our sport
- Fundraising
- Develop some NYSSRA Nordic ski days. Thinking a women's day with lessons, group activities, a lunch, etc.

I would like to work on a way to make junior memberships free for our junior members.

Let me know your thoughts on any initiatives I should be thinking about.

Thanks

Bob Underwood