



SWMS Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023

General

Note: This board meeting was held via the internet-based Zoom video conferencing application.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by President J. Stoughton.

Attendance: A. Sanford, J. Stoughton, D. Eilers, J. Colbert, L. Haynes, T. Wolicki, M. Luders, V. Yarberry, B. Richards, S. Claunch, S. Marino, S. Brown, L. Pittsley, E. Cahan, M. Tribble

Announcements from the President and Board Members:

- Motion to approve the 3/2023 meeting minutes was moved and seconded.

Treasurer's Report

- A comprehensive treasurer's report is generated by J. Colbert in Excel format, in the form of a monthly, running summary. These documents are sent out separately to the Board. A snapshot is provided below:

Beginning balance for March 2023	\$18,371.66
Deposits	+7,168.40 [membership and entry fees for Suika Race 1]
Withdrawals	-7,266.70 [track rental, transponder rental, worker drinks for Suika Race 1]
Estimated Ending balance Reported for March 2023	\$18,273.36

- Motion to approve the prior treasurers' report was moved and seconded.
- Treasurer's Notes:
 - An insurance payment of approximately \$2,200 is planned for April.
 - MSR statistics:
 - Approx. 20 cars Saturday, 20 cars Sunday
 - MSR registrations = ~\$6,200, Day-of checks and cash = ~\$1,000
 - MSR fee is 5.2% per transaction, over the course of a SWMS season about \$1,500 paid to MSR fees.
 - Overall, reasonable transition progresses towards MSR registrations

Events and Races

- **April Race: SPRINGTIME IN THE DESERT, April 15th and 16th**
 - Chief Steward: B. Lee
 - Race Chair: L. Haynes
 - Quick Event Report:
 - A number of Legends entrants arrived at 9am and overwhelmed registrations a bit.
 - Day-of schedule changes were made, which are hard for timing and scoring to easily accommodate; indeed, about 1 hour of edits and reprogramming needed to adjust to the new schedule and run groups.
 - The lack of workers Saturday morning caused scrambling and forced the use of the short track.
 - The changes to the track length (the short track was forced to be used Saturday morning) were hard for timing and scoring to adjust to. In the future, changing the track length could be easier, but in general an all-new timing “event” is needed to be opened any time the track length is changed.
 - The single entrant in the kart group on Sunday was viewed by some as challenging.
 - SWMS maintains a policy of “a class for every car.” Indeed, it was noted that often the HPDE run group is openly operated with only a single entrant.
 - Safety:
 - An entrant had a tumble out of a car during circling within the paddock.
 - Once again, there were spectators beyond the safety barrier at the end of the front straightaway.
 - Accommodating the Competition Licensing School (CLS) within the weekend was generally found to be a hassle (and makes for a long day), but it was also noted that CLS is not offered every weekend. Additionally, CLS is accepted as important to license and welcome new competition entries.
 - The Board agreed that CLS should only be offered once or twice per season, deciding that CLS will be offered at the April and September events for 2023.
 - The MSR event setup was found to work well for the April event, A. Sanford took an action to clone the MSR setup for the May event.
 - Students:
 - Positive feedback on the school classes and sessions, noting that the SWMS schools are well organized.
 - Three new CLS provisional licenses were granted, congrats to the new licensees.
 - Attention to detail was noted as required to keep the two class sessions straight during announcements (HPDS vs CLS).

Old Business

- None

New Business

- **Question:**

- B. Richards asked if there is new growth within SWMS entrants now that the track management has changed.
- J. Stoughton noted that memberships and entrants during the winter series races were certainly higher for 2023 than in years past, but that the correlation with changes to track management was difficult to make. It was noted as certainly being the goal of the new management to bring excellent energy and exciting improvements to the Suika Circuit road course.

- **Race Chairs for 2023 Events:**

- ~~March Weekend: J. Stoughton~~
- ~~April Weekend: L. Haynes~~
- May Weekend: L. Pittsley
- June Weekend: ~~J. Colbert~~ A. Sanford
- July Weekend: A. Sanford
- August Weekend: S. Claunch (D. Eilers assist)
- September Weekend: Kart Group (E. Cahan not available this weekend)
- October Weekend: M. Travers

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- New chairs were being discussed within the vintage group, which is good news.
 - L. Pittsley has generously agreed to be a mentor for new race chairs.
 - S. Claunch reinforced that even a new race chair is never alone in the process, plenty of helping hands to answer questions or assist in running a race weekend.

- **Worker Topic(s)**

- T. Wolicki informed that the ambulance crew and tow operator are no longer able to support corner working duties.
- D. Eilers presented an idea about running CLS weekends:
 - In the morning, students perform the duties of corner workers and racing group sessions circulate on the track.
 - In the afternoon, racing groups perform the duties of corner workers and students circulate on the track.
 - Benefit: Students and racers work a corner station, which lessens the long days currently being asked from volunteer corner workers on CLS days (~8+ hours).
 - S. Brown noted that SCCA NM autocross has used this model on autocross days to great success for years.
 - T. Wolicki noted that racers are not always well trained for corner worker duties.
 - B. Richards noted that cross training, via placing a corner worker together with a racer at a corner, could be leveraged to bridge skills.
- J. Stoughton noted that the dire shortage of corner workers places race weekends at risk and that flexibility is needed. New for 2023, any corner worker is able to perform lunchtime lapping for free in exchange for corner working duties.

- **Administrative Positions (J. Stoughton)**
 - 1) An open position for a “liaison to new track management team”
 - The SWMS Board is recommending a single point contact with J. Guthrie/Suika Circuit.
 - L. Pittsley agreed, a single point contact aids in efficiency and prevents duplicate communications to Suika Circuit.
 - B. Richards noted that with up to 8 different race chairs, a single point contact would standardize communications between SWMS and Suika Circuit.
 - The SWMS Board will resume this topic at a future board meeting.
 - 2) MSR: How to better integrate registration with timing and scoring
 - Goals:
 - Make registration simple and easy to use for SWMS members and entrants.
 - Make the first hour of the race day easier for being-the-scenes operations.
 - Enable SWMS to collect the right data from registration, which can then be directly integrated into timing and scoring software.
 - 3) Finances: B. DeBerry offering to help automate financial “bookings” for day-of sales and registrations (cash and check registrations).
 - J. Stoughton noted that SWMS is extremely fortunate that the club has excellent, positive member responses to calls for help, ideas, ect.
- **RMVR Notice: Seat Belt/Harness Ruling**
 - RMVR has elected to accept that all belts and harnesses (SFI and FIA) are valid for 5 years in the RMVR club racing environment.
 - A. Sanford and B. Richards to update SWMS belt/harness rules to the same 5-year requirement.
- **Bringing Multiple Cars**
 - It was brought to the attention of the SWMS Board that some entrants would like to bring two cars; one driver who drives in two classes.
 - Vote:
 - For: All
 - Against: None
 - The SWMS Board agreed to set the price for a racers second car to be \$75 for a single day, \$150 for two days.
- **Social Event**
 - Calling all good ideas and people.
 - S. Marino recommended that the SWMS Board inquire if G. Sanford is interested in planning the social event.
- **Activities for Children at Suika Circuit**
 - The SWMS Board was asked if there are plans to add something for young children to do at the track during race weekends.
 - While it was agreed that SWMS might not be able to do anything, perhaps Suika Circuit could add a play structure.
 - Long-time SWMS members noted that, at one time, a play structure was present at the track. However, a liability situation removed the play structure.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM

The next Board meeting will be held on 16-May-23. See separate upcoming email for Zoom instructions.