

## SUMMARY NORTHERN PACIFIC DIVISION CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

JULY 24, 2008

Unapproved

### VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

- Frank Hamilton, Northwest R. E.
- Bruce Schlaebitz, Big Sky Representative
- Carl Somerton, Snake River R.E.
- Jim Gandy, Reno R.E.
- Cheryl Babbe, Arctic Alaska Board Member, representing AK \*
- Dan Mullin, Oregon Region, Assistant R.E./Representative

\* Chair/Secretary's note: Cheryl explained that AK no longer had a Regional or Assistant Regional Executive and that she was a Region Board Member – following some discussion, the NorPac members on the call indicated they were o.k. with Cheryl's participation as an alternate for Arctic Alaska.

### NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS

- Kim Craddock, NWR Treasurer
- Dave Deborde, NorPac Vice Chair
- Gary Van Horn, Chair/Secretary

### REGIONS NOT REPRESENTED

- San Francisco Region
- Montana Region
- S.W. Montana Region

### Minutes from May

Cheryl asked for an earlier distribution of minutes to make it easier to make corrections closer to the discussions. She pointed out she had asked for this in years past when she was R.E. for AK. There were no objections to the request.

There were no corrections or additions/deletions to the May minutes.

Motion to approve by Jim Gandy/Carl Somerton, second. Approved as presented without objection or change.

### General Discussion of Issues

Carl Somerton, had an additional item to add to the list of issues that National might be able to help with (the list developed during the May meeting). The issue he spoke to was the current difficulty encountered by individual members when trying to order items from Topeka (e.g. rules and manuals, etc.).

There was discussion covering the problems National had encountered with vendors and that they were currently trying to handle requests in-house. Dave Deborde mentioned that Reno had experienced good service with orders and Cheryl said she gets her stuff through the Membership folks without difficulty.

Carl clarified his concern that there was no discernable way to order materials via the National Website. The only way to get something (as near as they could discover, anyhow) was to make a phone call, and that posed a problem for those who do not have access to outside lines during a normal work day. He pointed out that it would be beneficial if the National Office could make the process available through the Website with an easy to use on-line process. The Chair suggested that both Howard and R.J. would see this discussion and be able to carry the message to Topeka.

Dave expressed a similar concern that voice messages left for various folks in Topeka were not getting through with the new phone system. His reason for the comment was because messages weren't being returned, so he assumed it was a system problem.

Bruce Schlaebitz asked if there was any way that the National Office could provide Regions with registration and financial services for Divisional Solo events by allowing Regions to use common accounts. He noted that they now have a system in place for National level events and expressed the idea that something could be set up for Regions to use at the Divisional level and National would be able to charge Sanction and other costs against those Regional accounts. He felt that such an approach would be more efficient and easier to use than the Pay Pal or a similar type system. Part of the issue is the difficulty and cost associated with setting up general banking system accounts that will allow the small Regions to process entry fees and so forth in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Much discussion followed regarding various services available to process on-line payments and provide registration for events currently being used by the various Regions. There was a variety of experience with those systems, and several ideas were shared about which might be the best way to go. There was also a spirited exchange regarding the difference between National and Divisional level events and where the primary responsibility for administration and control was focused in each case.

The discussion was closed with Bruce emphasizing that he would like to see the idea explored by the National Office. His feeling was that there should be more responsibility on the part of Topeka for helping smaller Regions in this way. He said it was not a problem with a Regional level event, but felt strongly that the Divisional and National Solo events should be using the same registration/payment system.

Frank Hamilton opened the next part of the discussion by mentioning there were folks from the Northwest Region who were not happy with the direction being taken toward limiting the scope of an Annual Meeting for NorPac. He emphasized that there was a need for much more than a Board of Director's meeting and a Stewards meeting in the opinion of Northwest Region. The reasons for this position relate to the Mission of NorPac and included:

- Keeping an open door to the national office of SCCA (there is power in numbers);
- Networking with folks from other regions in the west (we race with and we work for each other);
- Shared concerns to be addressed at the Divisional and National level; and
- Shared training opportunities (hard to get experts together for small groups on an ad-hoc basis), and so on.

Dave Deborde pointed out how difficult it has been to arrive at a consensus among the Division's Regions (beyond the idea of "networking") regarding what subject matter would be appropriate for a program during a Divisional meeting.

Frank asked Dan Mullin if it was correct that the Oregon Region Board did not want to be involved as the Host for a meeting in 2009. Dan confirmed that position with the comment: "...the Oregon Region Board had voted against participation as a Host." Dan later added that the R.E. had expressed a concern that Membership Recruitment and Retention should be available from National as a program guide, package or similar approach for the Regions to use.

There followed an extensive discussion regarding issues and items that were (or might be) of interest and importance, including event scheduling, discussions and time with National Office staff and National Officials, various training programs/seminars focusing on or including scheduling of events, development of the Divisional Vintage Series, Membership, Solo, Racing, Time Trials and other events or specialties. The potential of increasing interest with the addition of some actual events, such as a Street Survival School, or a Rally-Cross were mentioned.

Carl Somerton pointed out that there was a need to get information about any meeting out to more people. Updating the NorPac Website on a more frequent basis was discussed and encouraged.

Cheryl Babbe shared that, as in the past, her recommendation was to combine the Divisional Meeting with the National Convention by taking an extra day or scheduling an evening for whatever discussions were felt to be appropriate. Dave Deborde noted that Mike Smith from SFR had found the meeting between the Jumbo Regions and National Officials at this past February's National Convention to be a positive experience. Others commented that there were, indeed, significant differences in the interest and the needs of the various members of the Division – based primarily on the size of the Regions themselves.

Bruce Schlaebitz said that he had found the annual NorPac meetings over the last several years to be both informative and far less expensive than attending the National "do."

Frank Hamilton emphasized the value of participation at the NorPac meetings from the National Office – both officers and staff – and the need to keep the door open with the National folks.

The timing of any meeting for 2009 was discussed and it was agreed upon by consensus that the early January time frame was the best time to secure the participation of folks from Topeka. Any later and they were going to be too involved in the National Convention in February (and early in February for 2009, it was mentioned). Following that meeting, many of the National Officials and staff are already committed by tradition to other Divisional Meetings/Conventions throughout the country following the National Convention. This has been pointed out by both Howard and R.J. Gordy during past conference calls.

*Motion by Jim Gandy that Northwest Region Host the 2009 NorPac meeting in early January in either Tacoma or Seattle – seconded by Frank Hamilton. Motion approved without objection.*

During discussion of the motion Dave Deborde asked about funding and NorPac Board liability with respect to planning for a 2009 meeting. Discussion followed, including expression of a primary concern regarding the amount of financial risk that would be assumed by NorPac. The Chair pointed out that the events in the past were expected to be self supporting from registration fees, program ad sales, Regional and business sponsorship, and events such as the Silent Auction. The NorPac BoD has followed a policy that individual Regions should not be at risk of financial losses by virtue of hosting an annual meeting. To the best of anyone's recollection, only the last two annual gatherings have required reimbursement to the Regions (Northwest in 2007 and Reno in 2008) for shortfalls. The need for approval of a budget by the NorPac BoD was recognized.

*Motion by Frank Hamilton: That Northwest Region be instructed to provide a proposed budget to the Division for a January 2009 meeting. That meeting will be scheduled during the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &*

*11<sup>th</sup> of the month. The proposed budget will include front-end funding by NorPac and will be forwarded to the Chair/Secretary (within 30 days of today's date) for NorPac BoD email approval. It is understood that there should be no loss to the Region within the budget which is approved by the NorPac BoD – second by Cheryl Babbe.*

Under the remaining discussion of the motion Dave Deborde suggested that a limit be placed on the amount of reimbursement for which NorPac would be potentially liable. There seemed to be consensus on this point, as well. The understanding at this time is that the proposed (and eventually approved) budget should provide that control.

The Chair asked if a proposed Meeting Agenda might be ready in time to accompany the proposed budget. Frank wasn't sure that an Agenda for the meeting could be ready at the time the budget was reviewed.

Motion was approved without objection.

### **New Business**

*Jim Gandy moved that NorPac provide an amount of \$500.00 to the Reno Region for trophies and promotional expenses to support the Divisional Time Trials Championship event scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of 2008. The motion was seconded by Dan Mullin. The motion was approved without objection.*

*Dan Mullin moved that NorPac provide an amount of \$400.00 for the Divisional Vintage Series year-end trophies and awards. The motion was seconded by Carl Somerton. The motion was approved without objection.*

Bruce Schlaebitz suggested that the NorPac Website be updated to show the planned meeting as soon as possible.

Cheryl Babbe expressed concern regarding the cost of accommodations for the National Convention scheduled in February of 2009. Her feeling was that a cost of rooms at \$118 to \$120 per night at a facility which was not even on the strip reflected poorly on the negotiations for that facility.

Cheryl also asked that the minutes of this meeting be posted on the NorPac Website within two weeks.

There being no more business to come before the BoD, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

Respectfully submitted,

July 30, 2008

Gary Van Horn Chair/Secretary

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