

New York State Bicycle Racing Association Board of Director's Annual Meeting Minutes

Telecon, 10am-2pm, Saturday, 31 January 2015

Dial in: 1 (605) 475-5920 Participant code: 298-2449#

Attendees: Jeff Poulin (President), Tom Weichmann (Secretary), Lucia Deng (Women's Rep), Todd Scheske (Western), Eric Curtis (Western-elect), Dave Beals (CX), Dieter Drake (Adirondacks), Rod Millott (Treasurer), Myles Romanow (Long Island), Michael Cormier (Buffalo- BBC/GVCC)

(Note that USAC gives 1 CEU credit for attendance at the LA annual meeting; Jeff reported the above to USAC)

Not Present: Alan Atwood (RTC Rep) Gary Toth (NY Permit Coordinator), Eric Ragot (NYC-outgoing), Andrew Ross (Vice President-outgoing), Lloyd Campbell (Central), Martin Bruhn (Hudson Valley-outgoing), Helen Hatch (Women), Camie Kornely (Women)

Message from the President:

Welcome to our annual meeting! 2014 was another great year for NYSBRA and stacks up with our recent accomplishments as follows:

In 2011 NYSBRA got the grants program off the ground. NYSBRA will continue to expand participation through increased advertising, especially to women and juniors.

In 2012 we got improved consistency of rider upgrades, getting the word out that:

- Upgrades depend on having race results in the USAC results database! To ensure this, riders should continue to insist promoters submit their results to USAC!
- Upgrades are done as consistently as possible, in accordance with USAC rules and guidelines, and are processed fairly and promptly (normally within 1 week).

In 2013 we built the NY Anti-Doping Program with funding from NYSBRA, clubs, and private donations. It is expensive; \$3500 per test, and with matching funds from USAC NYSBRA once again had two 2014 NY events tested (Tour of the Battenkill and the Dave Jordan Memorial). NYSBRA plans to bring USADA to a minimum of two events in 2015. I hope all clubs and private individuals contribute!

2014 was a tough year recruiting and retaining officials due to new licensing requirements. We can't put on safe, fair, and fun races without good officials and we continually seek people interested in this role. If you are interested, please let us know.

For 2015 I'd like to see an increase in support for rider's skills clinics. NYSBRA gladly supports clinics by providing grants and we encourage all clubs to put one on! Clinics lead to safer riding and provide a nice way to invite new people into our great sport.

Thank-you! Now let's go out and ride!

-jeff

1. President's Report (Jeff Poulin)

a. 2015-2016 Officer and Board Terms

- i. Officer and Board members begin their 2 year terms today:

President: Jeff Poulin
Vice-President: Todd Scheske
Secretary: Tom Weichmann
Treasurer: Rod Millott

NYC Regional Rep: Lucia Deng
Long Island Regional Rep: Myles Romanow
Hudson Regional Rep: Open Position- Eric Ragot acting
Adirondack Regional Rep: Dieter Drake
Central Regional Rep: Lloyd Campbell
Western Regional Rep: Eric Curtis

- ii. The Hudson Region Rider Representative remains unfilled. We sincerely thank Martin Bruhn for serving as the Hudson Rep for the past 4 years! Eric Ragot, who has been doing the license upgrades for riders in the Hudson Region will continue to perform his role. The NYSBRA Board unanimously approved Eric to serve as the "acting" Hudson Rider Representative with a vote on the board until a new Hudson Rider Representative steps forward.
- iii. This was our first election and we learned many things, among them the need to establish minimum experience and qualifications guidelines for each position.
- iv. Tom Weichmann has drafted guidelines and distributed them in advance of the meeting. We discussed the guidelines and gave feedback to Tom to incorporate into the next draft of the guidelines.
- v. Tom consolidated comments from the 4Q NYSBRA Officer's telecon, re-issued, and we presented the current draft.
- vi. The only comment remaining (after discussion) resulted in the removal of the suggested qualification for regional rider rep should be a race director. The rationale for it is to better understand what it takes to promote a race, but the rationale against was that the rider rep is representing the riders.
- vii. The vote was unanimous for Tom to post the final guidelines to nysbra.com.

b. 2015 State Championships

- i. NYSBRA is proud to announce the 2015 NYSBRA State Championships:

- Road Race- will be hosted by Joe Grgic of Century Road Club Association (CRCA) at the Bear Mountain Spring Classic, Bear Mountain, 10May
- Criterion- will be hosted by Jeff Poulin of Tioga Velo Club at the Chris Thater Memorial Criterion, Binghamton, 22-23Aug
- Time Trial- will be hosted by Susan Hudson of Mohawk Valley Bicycling Club (MHBC) at Lake Delta in Rome, 30Aug

- ii. Jeff will remind the hosts to clearly indicate the State Champ fields on their race flyer.

2. Selection Process for State Championship Events

- a. The current selection process for State Champ events says "the bidders will work it out amongst themselves," which worked fine when we had to twist arms to host a Championship. Now we have at least 2 bidders for everything (which is GREAT) and rather than depend on the bidders to work it out, I think the board should decide the host (the board is currently the arbiter in case the bidders cannot resolve the decision on their own)

- b. Discussion resulted in that the selection criteria should remain largely unchanged, but the top priority should be to have a high quality event that will draw a large number of riders. The criteria will therefore be revised to include:
 - i. Top priority is to ensure a high quality event worthy of crowning NY State Champions
 - ii. Having the best possible slate of championship events for the riders, to include geographic distribution of championship events each year as well as from year-to-year
 - iii. Selecting an event that has previously been Cat D or higher (excluding TTs)
 - iv. Selecting an event that has previously run and preferably on the proposed course at least once
 - v. Selecting an experienced Race Director putting on the event
 - vi. Selecting a club who has never hosted a championship event (to give others a chance)
 - vii. Selecting a club who hosted longest ago
 - viii. Selecting a club who has waited the longest to host the event, having made a bid in a previous year but did not host the event
 - c. Jeff will modify the selection criteria and send them to the board for approval.
3. 2015 Road Schedule
- a. The schedule is final!
 - b. It is complete except for pending permits from NYC Parks Dept.
 - c. Tom will now update the shared Google NY Road Race Calendar so all riders can have immediate access to race dates on their favorite devices!
4. New NYSBRA Advisory Committee
- a. NYSBRA seeks to provide a means for contributions by non-board members. The rationale is:
 - i. We hate to turn a good volunteer away
 - ii. This is a great way to retain former Board member's expertise
 - iii. This is a great way to groom future Rider Reps and Officers
 - b. The concept:
 - i. The by-laws allow the NYSBRA Board to have up to 7 voting officers (four are currently serving) and 6 voting regional rider representatives
 - ii. The CX and Women's reps currently have votes; therefore, they de facto hold the "vacant" three officer positions. Solution is to call the CX and Women's reps officer positions; in 2015 this would include CX (Dave Beals) and Women's reps (Camie Kornelly and Helen Hatch) as "officers"
 - iii. To include others, NYSBRA can form committees at any time as long as the committee members do not have votes on NYSBRA issues. The goals above; e.g., including interested volunteers to retain and groom good people can be easily accomplished by forming an "NYSBRA Advisory Committee"
 - iv. Candidate approval would require a majority of the Board approval
 - v. The NYSBRA Advisory Committee would be invited to Quarterly telecons and participate (without a vote) in Board discussions
 - vi. Initially there will be no set maximum number of members, although since at some point (more than 5-10 members?) the number of people involved may become unmanageable and the board may find it necessary to set a limit
 - vii. We try this on a one-year trial basis and re-evaluate at the next annual meeting
 - viii. Unanimous vote to approve.
 - ix. Jeff to solicit candidates and forward to the board for approval.
5. USA Cycling News
- a. USAC announced insurance price increases as follows:
 - i. rider insurance is increasing from \$3 to \$3.60
 - ii. auto insurance is increasing from \$25 to \$30
 - iii. general club officer liability insurance is increasing from \$150 to \$200
 - iv. excess liability insurance (required by NY DOT for races on state roads) is increasing from \$0 to

\$550

- v. Riders should expect at least some of these costs to result in increased entry fees
- vi. A number of RDs reported they have canceled events (e.g., TT series in Albany) or started using 3rd party insurance due to the high cost of USAC insurance or the lack of a suitable USAC insurance product (e.g., for weekly “club races”, such as those held in Buffalo)
- b. An RD license is mandatory in 2015 to put on a race; USAC made this mandatory to lower their risk of liability
 - i. Discussion ensued with the consensus clearly being that USAC did an extremely poor job rolling out and executing the RD program since it is out of touch with race direction.

6. 2014 Grant Program Summary (Jeff Poulin)

- a. Mission grants:
 - i. One request in 4Q (Myles Romanow to train a new official, Chris Clark, at SuperCross UCI, \$230)
 - ii. 2014 Mission Grants supported individual riders to elite events (5), rider skills clinics (6), officials clinics (3).
- b. Targeted grants ytd:
 - i. Free Entry for Champions (\$100): 16
 - ii. Junior Development (\$100): 13
 - iii. Motos (\$50): 19
 - iv. New C Official license fee reimbursement (<\$100): 2
 - v. New C Official experience (\$70): 29
 - vi. New Fields for Juniors/Women (\$100): 6

7. Vice President’s Report / Upgrades (Andrew Ross)

- a. Upgrade rule change (USAC rule 1E2).
 - i. Men Cat 5 to 4 upgrades need 10 points from any of:
 - Up to 2 points for finishing a USAC Beginner Racer Program (BRP)
 - 1 point per mass start race
 - 1 point for a NYSBRA pre-approved clinic
 - 1 point for a NYSBRA pre-approved mentored race experience
 - ii. USAC is pushing their new BRP program; coaches putting on clinics may want to get the curriculum and advertise compliance. Riders will want to attend BRPs
 - iii. NYSBRA will continue to grant 1, 2, or 3 upgrade points for clinics in accordance with our guidelines on <http://www.nysbra.com> (whether BRP compliant or not)
 - iv. Note the new rule says that a rider can in theory take 5 BRPs and get a Cat 4 upgrade without ever racing! Non-BRP clinics can count only up to 5 points but there is no limit on BRP-acquired points.
 - v. Clinic organizers (normally USAC licensed coaches) are reminded that NYSBRA offers mission grants to hold these clinics (see grant guidelines).
- b. A maximum of ten points from a weekly series or master races may be used for Cat 1 upgrade; a max of 15 may come from collegiate races

8. Treasurers Report (Rod Millott)

- a. NYSBRA Finances:
 - i. Rod is preparing the 2014 financial reports for USAC
 - ii. 2014 expenses were in line with budget and income
 - iii. Rod will prepare the 2015 budget and distribute to the Board
 - iv. Please Rod asked for suggestions on places that NYSBRA should increase/decrease in the budget

9. Secretary’s Report (Tom Weichmann)

- a. emails to all riders:
 - i. This month:
 - Describe the USAC Insurance fee increases and the impact it may have on entry fees and

smaller events

- ii. Please send Tom suggestions for content and “rules of the month”!

10. Web Site <http://www.nysbra.com> (Tom Weichmann)

a. Content

- i. NYSBRA’s experiment on including MTB did not pan out; NYSBRA will maintain the web page in an inactive state
- ii. Suggestions, please tell Tom!

11. Permit Coordinator (Gary Toth)

- a. 2015 permitting is underway!

12. Officials Coordinator (Alan Atwood)

a. Official’s Assignment Tool

- i. All NY Officials should request races to work using the [Officials Tool](#) (that we use!)
- ii. NOTE: NYSBRA does not use the assignment tool that USAC created; we will continue to use the tool we have been using and evaluate the new USAC tool as it matures

b. New Officials Clinics:

- i. Alan has a list of about 12 people looking to become new C officials
- ii. Based on where they live, there will be clinics probably in March in:
 - NYC taught by Alan Atwood
 - Buffalo/Rochester area taught by Jeff Poulin, tentatively Saturday, 21March
- iii. Anyone interested in becoming an official at these clinics please let Alan know!

c. Policies:

- i. NYSBRA seeks to follow the official assignment guidelines established by USAC Policy IV for the minimum number and qualifications of officials.

13. Cyclocross (Dave Beals)

a. Cyclocross season is still underway!

- i. Dave will seek bids for the 2015 State CX champs in February
- ii. Please send 2015 CX race dates so Dave can build the 2015 fall CX schedule
- iii. Dave is advising promoters in Western NY about how to set up a Western NY CX series next year.

14. Women’s Cycling (Camie Kornely, Helen Hatch)

- a. n/a.

15. Other Business? (All)

a. Official Assignments:

- i. Travel for officials is often a greater expense than the official fees (officials are paid less than minimum wage)
- ii. Chief refs assignments for UCI events are made by the UCI; travel is paid by the UCI
- iii. Chief refs for assignments for USAC national events (NRC, NCC) are made by USAC; travel is paid by UCI
- iv. Remaining assignments are made by the CR or NYSBRA Officials Coordinator; travel is paid by the RD. Assignments are made to satisfy the guidelines of USAC’s official’s assignment policy IV, with the official’s proximity to the event to minimize travel costs being a primary criteria.

- b. Adjourned at 12:00 pm.