

New York State Bicycle Racing Association 4Q Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Telecon: 7pm-8pm, Wednesday, 13Sep17

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

Officer/Board Attendees: Jeff Poulin (President), Tom Weichmann (Vice President), Mike Cormier (Treasurer), Dave Beals (outgoing CX rep), Tony Saylor (ex-Junior Rep, now GG and GF Rep), Noel Bonk (Secretary), Liz Marcello (Officials Coord), Gary Toth (Permit Coord; Adirondack Rep), Ben Freer (Member at Large), Ken Hammond (new CX Rep) Rich Scaduto (WNY Rep), Lucia Deng (NYC Rep), Eric Ragot (Hudson Rep), Shane Ferro (Women's Rep), Kelly Neuner (Women's Rep)

Officer/Board Absent: Leona Chin (Junior Rep), Lloyd Campbell (Central), Myles Romanow (LI Rep), Justin Strauss (Junior Rep)

• President's Report (Jeff Poulin)

a. CX Rep:

- i. As previously announced, Dave Beals is stepping down after many years of service. I'd like to publically thank Dave for all his service and support of NYSBRA. Dave is an icon in NY's CX community and has done a huge amount to grow CX. Thank-you Dave!
- ii. NYSBRA had two volunteers willing to try and fill Dave's shoes; Ben Freer and Ken Hammond.
- iii. Thanks to Noel for approaching both Ben and Ken; all agreed for Ken to be the new CX rep and Ben to become a "Member-at-Large."
- iv. Welcome Ken as NYSBRA's new CX Rep!
- v. Welcome Ben as a Member-at-Large!
- vi. The appointments are effective immediately.
 - Dave, please teach Ken (and Ben) what you can!
 - Noel and Tom, please change NYSBRA I.T. permissions accordingly (e.g., to access the CX calendar, Grants spreadsheet, Google group, etc.) and change the PoCs on the web site/newsletter.

b. Junior Rep:

- i. Justin Strauss has stepped down as co-Junior rep. NYSBRA thanks Justin for volunteering as one of NY's Junior reps!
- ii. Leona Chin remains as NYSBRA's Junior Rep for 2018.

c. 2018 LA Agreement:

- i. As per recent emails to the board, USAC is not increasing the amount of the LA rebates
- ii. Instead, they are changing the rebate *model* from \$10/license + .17/racer day to \$8/license plus .31/racer day
- iii. Jeff calculates this change will cost NYSBRA \$1300-\$1600
- iv. Jeff challenged USAC accordingly
- v. USAC has agreed to calculate the rebate both ways in Jan19 and pay NYSBRA the greater of the two methods
- vi. Discussion: NYSBRA does not have many options. NYSBRA remains strongly opposed to

- USAC's increased emphasis on "racer days" because the number of NY's race licenses are relatively stable whereas racer days are at great pressure due to weather, increased costs of putting on races, and rules governing the use of venues
- vii. Vote: Approved. ACTION: Jeff to send USAC appropriate wording on the rebate calculation to include in the 2018 Agreement (DONE) and execute same (due from USAC nlt 31Dec)
 - viii. Note that concomitant with signing the LA agreement NYSBRA must procure \$1m in general liability insurance. The cost is \$275 through USAC. ACTION: Jeff to procure insurance upon executing the LA agreement.
- d. LA Summit: On 20Dec USAC announced either 23-24Feb or 2-3Mar as possible dates for the 2017/2018 summit. Jeff plans to attend.
 - e. 2018 Schedule: Is nearly final and posted as per our annual ritual. Most NYC races are still waiting on NYC Parks Dept for final permits, as usual. The schedule will become "final" at the Annual Meeting on 27Jan18.
 - f. 2018 Championship Races:
 - i. Time Trial: NYS Championship TT hosted by Jeff Poulin of Tioga Velo Club p/b Tioga Competitive Cycling (TCC), Tioga Center, 15Jul18 or 19Aug18 (date is flexible)
 - ii. Gravel Grinder: Finger Lakes Gravel Challenge, hosted by Cory Kuhns of Towpath Bikes, Springwater, 12May18
 - iii. Track: NYS Track Championship hosted by Jim Lyman, New York Velodrome Association (NYVA), Kissena Velodrome; Juniors on 16-17Jun18 and Senior/Masters on 23-24June18
 - iv. Criterium: no bids. Jeff would like to host if he can get the new Empire State Crit going in Binghamton, 26Aug18. Otherwise Tom Weichmann has expressed an interest in Buffalo. Bidding will remain open until resolved. NOTE: Ted Teyber posted a bid for Grant's Tomb on 18Dec, which we will consider
 - v. Road: we had two bids-
 - Bear Mountain Road Race: hosted by Ted Teyber, CRCA, 12May. Last hosted in 2015
 - Bristol Mountain Road Race: hosted by Rick Dalton, Western NY Bike Racing Club, 13May. Hosted in 2010 and 2016
 - Discussion: The board considered the selection criteria as it applies to both events, to include who hosted the race last, the location of other Champ races on the calendar, the proximity to the center of NY and population centers, and experience with past editions of the race
 - Vote: The board selected Bear Mountain for the 2018 RR champs
 - vi. Cyclocross: Bids will open in the spring.
 - vii. ACTION: Jeff to advise winners, add to calendar, and announce on nyrcs (DONE) and Noel to post in the next newsletter and on the website.
 - g. 2017 Officer and Upgrade Official Stipends:
 - i. Percentage allocations for officers are consistent with past years; 25% for President, 15% for VP, 12.5% each for Treasurer and Secretary
 - ii. Percentage allocations for upgrade officials remained the same at 5%, except Lucia for 10% for the additional workload from NYC and I added 5% to Tom Weichmann for covering for me while I was hiking the A.T. this summer
 - iii. Total budget for stipends is \$8k, of which \$8,000k will be paid out
 - iv. Hired positions for permit, officials, and CX coordinator remain the same. These are

paid from the administrative budget.

v. Vote: Approved. ACTION: Mike to distribute checks (DONE).

• **Vice President’s Report / Upgrades (Tom Weichmann)**

- a. Upgrade metrics review: See charts below. TAT= Turn-Around-Time; our standard is <=7 calendar days. Note that the “Max TAT” is usually caused by NYSBRA waiting on the rider to provide the required supporting documentation.
- b. Well done to Lucia Deng for doing 457 upgrades with an average turnaround time of less than 18 hours! Wow!

	Total Processed	Average TAT	Max TAT
Adirondack	58	1.62	8.90
Central	75	1.06	5.00
Hudson Valley	101	1.43	10.60
Long Island	86	2.66	10.80
New York City	457	0.73	14.20
Western	116	1.17	11.20



YEAR	TOTAL REQUESTS	LONGEST WAIT	AVERAGE DAYS FOR CAT CHANGE	% WITHIN 3 DAYS	% APPROVED	% UNAPPROVED
2017	898	14 Days 3 Hours	1 Day	88%	73%	27
2016	844	127 Days 14 Hours	3 Days	82%	76%	24
2015	841	168 Days 0 Hours	3.5 Days	72%	74%	26
2014	962	118 Days 3 Hours	3.5 Days	62%	74%	26
2013	867	51 Days 22 Hours	4 Days	67%	74%	26
2012	869	56 Days 19 Hours	4 Days	67%	72%	28

- c. CNY upgrade coordinator. Tom solicited an upgrade official as the central rep does not process upgrades, with Jeff Poulin, Rich Scaduto, and Lucia Deng all offered to do it. Tom has elected to continue doing the upgrades
- d. Upgrade Rule Change requested by NYSBRA:
 - i. Jeff and Lucia prepared a formal letter to USAC requesting a rule change to 1E2(g) that was approved verbatim. The rule change assigns upgrade points in mixed fields more fairly to lower category riders by placing them against other riders in their category rather than by their raw finish; e.g., a Cat 4 rider in a Cat 3-4 field gets upgrade points based on the rider’s

finish against other Cat 4 riders without counting the Cat 3s.

- ii. The rule takes effect for 2018.
- iii. Much discussion ensued; recognizing that this rule change fixed problems with the current rule it also has downsides. Please monitor the affects for possible future improvements.

- **Secretary's Report (Noel Bonk)**

- a. Road/Track/TT Race Schedule: [Add the NYSBRA Google Road/Track/TT Calendar to your own Google Calendar](#)
- b. Newsletter: Newsletter is due out next week following this Quarterly meeting
- c. Newsletter ideas:
 - i. New CX rep
 - ii. Champ races for 2018
 - iii. Link to draft 2018 RR schedule
 - iv. Remind juniors to apply for their \$100 junior grants!
 - v. BikeReg / NACS publicity (logos) as always.

- **Web Site <http://www.nysbra.com> (Noel Bonk)**

- a. Changes to website: No major changes this quarter
- b. Web Traffic Update: Noel installed JetPack to get snapshots of site traffic.
 - i. 10,143 visits in April-May-June-July (i.e., 2,536 per month)
 - ii. 3,039 visits in August
 - iii. 7963 views in the last quarter (2,654 per month)
 - iv. top visited > Home page and CX schedule
 - v. top clicked link is to usacycling.com (138 times)
- c. Newsletter stats:
 - i. Open rate (averaged 180 days) - 19.3%
 - Compared to Health and Fitness 21.93%, Hobbies 28.46%, Sports 25.41% (source mailchimp.com)
 - ii. Clicks (180 days) 2.872%
 - Compared to Health and Fitness 2.57%, Hobbies 5.13%, Sports 3.19% (mailchimp.com)
- d. Results of my "Sponsor Ad" request
 - i. 14 total clicks (via three separate links)
 - ii. Outside of the headhunter for a "Global Marketing Manager for Cannondale," I have had no others contact me about running an ad. I'll add his job listing to the newsletter and FB page if it is still available. NYSBRA will get a commission if the job is filled as a result of our ad
 - iii. Mike Cormier plans to sponsor an ad in the December newsletter.

- **Treasurers Report (Mike Cormier)**

- a. Financial Update (Mike): NYSBRA is financially sound with ~\$40k in the bank; this will be ~\$30k after administrative costs and stipends. Grant requests are down slightly this year, especially from Juniors.
 - i. Mike will complete the year-end financial report and sent it to the board at the end of the year
 - ii. Mike noticed several juniors did not cash their grant checks; Jeff will follow up with their coach. ACTION: Jeff (DONE). Mike resent checks to their coach (Doug Toback).
- b. NYSBRA Partners and other Revenue Sources:
 - i. USAC rebates for 2017 (4Q16-3Q17): \$25,504.91
 - ii. Bikereg rebates for 2017: \$2,353.50

- iii. BikeReg sponsorship has been “huge” for NYSBRA to close the gap caused by the eroding USAC rebates so we can continue our outstanding grant program. Please support BikeReg!
- iv. NACS rebates: \$246.40
- v. Amazon Smile: \$23.44

- **Grant Program: (Jeff Poulin)**

- a. [Current Grant status on Google Docs](#)
- b. Continue the “A” Race Grant in 2018?: The current recipients are Rochester Crit, Rochester CX, and SuperCross. I expect Harlem Crit to also apply. Given budget constraints, could we better use the \$1,500 for smaller events starting next year?
 - i. The pros for this grant involve supporting top-tier racing in NY because “A” races get a lot of non-cycling people exposed to cycling and are therefore a good investment in growing the sport, as per the NYSBRA Mission
 - ii. The cons for this grant are that whereas \$500 is a small part of an “A” race budget, that money has a much greater impact on small races and therefore the money could be better spent on several small races to grow the sport, as per the NYSBRA Mission
 - iii. However, some big events like Rochester Crit do not provide races for amateurs. In addition, these events are also eligible for all other NYSBRA grants, making the total NYSBRA contribution to a single “A” event from \$700-\$1000.
 - iv. Options are:
 - Option 1: Continue the grant with no changes. Potential 2018 cost= \$2k.
 - Option 2: Continue the grant but only to “A” level events that provide a “full suite of amateur fields.” A “full suite” would allow every cyclist at least one opportunity to race either by category (e.g., Cat 2, Cat 3, Cat 4, Cat 5) or by age (e.g., Juniors 15-16, Masters 45+, Masters 55+). Potential 2018 cost= \$1000-\$1500.
 - Option 3: Eliminate the grant. Potential 2018 cost=\$0.
 - v. A discussion ensued; with no apparent consensus Jeff took the action to package the discussion for email and vote within the next week.
 - vi. Vote concluded with decision to cancel this grant. ACTION: Jeff to update grant documents (DONE) and Noel to post

- **Permits (Gary Toth)**

- a. Permit Status: The new USAC IT system may not be correctly forwarding permit requests to Gary. Gary will follow up with Jared
- b. Permits pending: As per NYSBRA policy, Gary does not approve permits for the next year until NYSBRA finalizes the applicable schedule. This allows all events an opportunity to schedule events while avoiding conflicts whenever possible
- c. Precedence of Flyers: The flyer on file at USAC has priority over BikeReg or any other publication. Issues arise when two sources conflict; e.g., BikeReg does not have the same information as the flyer on file at USAC. We encourage Race Directors to put the information ONLY on BikeReg then PDF the BikeReg page and send it to USAC as their “flyer.” The change becomes official once the change has been accepted by USAC (with hopefully only a short time lag)
- d. Discussion: we discussed how best to resolve the issue of riders not reading the official flyer, or any of the actual rule book for that matter.... Not an easy issue to solve. Reality is that most people only look at the registration page on BikeReg
- e. Putting link to USAC from BikeReg page: Gary could recommend such a link be include on BikeReg registration page

- f. Rule of the month: Gary to write an applicable “Rule of the Month” for a spring newsletter.
ACTION: Gary
- **Officials Coordinator (Liz Marcello)**
 - a. Official(s) needed for NYC: Liz is working this with Jeff. ACTION: Liz (with Jeff)
 - i. Persons qualified to be CRs are especially critical
 - ii. Jeff and Liz are working to propose a weekly schedule of races at FBF, Prospect, and Merrick Crit that Liz can staff with NYC officials (IN PROGRESS)
 - iii. Liz is considering a telecon or survey of officials to improve collaboration, communication, and comradery.
 - b. [Officials need to request races they want to work in our Officials Assignment Tool!](#)
- **Cyclocross (last time for Dave Beals, first time for Ken Hammond)**
 - a. CX Schedule: [Add the NYSBRA Google CX Calendar to your own Google Calendar](#)
 - b. CX Championships: Were at [Cider Cross in Lafayette, 5Nov.](#)
 - c. New CX Rep: Dave has been transitioning to Ken. Good luck, Ken!
- **Women’s Cycling (Kelly Neuner, Shane Ferro)**
 - a. Retention in CX: Shane wants to work on retaining women in CX. Ideas are welcome. Travel is a big barrier; car rental is very time consuming and expensive.
- **Junior Cycling (Justin Strauss, Leona Chin)**
 - a. Communication: Junior teams' coaches and managers more information and communication between and with NYSBRA and the other junior teams. Leona will do what she can to keep the information flowing
 - b. Additional funding: Leona is researching healthy lifestyle grants for NYSBRA
 - c. Junior Grants: Leona is reaching out to families to apply now for the updated junior grants
 - d. New Junior Teams: two racers are interested in forming junior teams
 - e. Kissena Repairs: We may get some Velodrome track repair after new City Council is sworn in in January.
- **Gravel and Gran Fondos (Tony Sylor)**
 - a. Proposed Standards for Gravel Grinder State Champs: To be added to the “NYSBRA Champ Policy:”
 - i. Overview
 - ii. The goal of the NYSBRA Gravel Racing Championship is to provide a competitive gravel race with multiple categories as a championship event. Please keep in mind that although many gravel events across North America are non-competitive, and/or are structured as endurance events of 100-300 miles, the purpose of the NYS Championship is to hold a road race style event on gravel.
 - iii. Format
 - iv. Must be a sanctioned as a race by NACS or USAC event
 - v. Must be a competitive race under road race rules as per sanctioning body
 - vi. Any exceptions to road race rules should be noted on registration page and included in bid proposal
 - vii. Fields:
 - viii. Note: Only the fields below will be award NYSBRA State Championship Jersey. Race may include other fields (i.e. fat bike) as non-championship fields.
 - Elite or 1/2/3 (men’s and women’s)
 - Intermediate or 4/5 (men’s and women’s)
 - Masters 50+ (men’s and women’s)

- Junior's (boys and girls)
- ix. Courses
 - x. Course must be at minimum 60% gravel roads.
 - xi. Recommend course distances include: Elite: 50-75 miles, Intermediate/Masters: 25-40 miles; Juniors: 25 or less.
- b. State Championship Grant: Shall the \$500 "State Champ" grant be extended to gravel?
 - i. Our gravel events are drawing around 200 amateur racers (in a one-day race where riders cannot do multiple races like cross or crit). These events are as big or bigger than many our other championship events that get that grant as well as A Level events that do not provide amateur fields or provide limited amateur fields.
 - ii. 2017 State Championship Race Numbers
 - Road = 185
 - Gravel = 194
 - Cross = 205 (includes racers who raced more than once)
 - Crit = 291 (includes racers who raced more than once)
 - iii. Discussion will be done by email.
 - iv. Vote will be done by email following the discussion. Approved! ACTION: Jeff to update documents (DONE). Noel to post updated documents.
- c. Battenkill: Jeff spoke with Race Director for the organization that bought Battenkill from Dieter Drake. We discussed working with NYSBRA to include the possibility of sanctioning and becoming the NY State GG Championships.
- **Other Business? (All)**
 - a. Upcoming business:
 - b. Annual Meeting (telecon): 3-7pm, Saturday, 27Jan
 - c. Next Board Quarterly Telecon: to be scheduled by Jeff for the middle Wed of March, June, September, and December. ACTION: Jeff (DONE)
 - d. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.