

Texas Region SCCA Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024
7:00pm Black Walnut Cafe

Regional Executive

Matt Lucas

AREs

Ron Bashor (Asst Race – not present), Sam Graff (Street Survival - not present), Taylor Burnidge (Time Trials), David Powers (Solo), John Poulos (Rally), Sitara Wilson (Race)

Directors (4 is a Quorum)

Nolan Eberl-Cole, Paul May (Chairman), Bob Neff, Phil Osborne, Sue Anne Rische, Ethan Wiseley (not present), Art Tapley, Tammi Enriken

Officers

Sherrie Ledbetter (Treasurer), Danny Bullard (Secretary)

Guests

Brian Brooks
Buck Enriken
Ralph Siebert
Andrew Palmer

Meeting Opened at 7:05 PM

What's Happening?! — Matt Lucas

- Andrew Palmer is our new Merchandise representative.
- Quorum is present and Bob Neff motioned to approve the minutes from the November 2023 and December 2023 minutes. The motion passed with no objections.
- Discussion ensued about Sitara taking on the Membership ARE role along with Race as Danny could not be Secretary and Membership ARE at the same time, per the bylaws. Matt motioned that Danny be approved as Secretary for 2024. The motion passed with no objections. The Region will need to recruit a new Membership ARE.
- Matt reminded everyone that our next meeting (February) is on Zoom and that the March meeting will be somewhere in the southwest metro area. The schedule/locations may get shuffled depending on conflict/needs.
- Matt encouraged everyone to sign up for the online National Convention. If not able to attend the live sessions, it allows you to access the recorded versions right away.
 - John Poulos will be doing a Rally presentation.
 - Bob Neff will be conducting a session on Stewards.

2023 Awards Party

- Tammi updated us on the party scheduled for February 3, 2024:
 - The coasters are enroute!
 - Bags will be provided by Hagerty.
 - 25 registered so far.
 - Need to provide the headcount by the 20th.
 - We've sold 8 additional drink tickets and 1 additional door prize ticket.
 - Linda Cardenas and Jerry Jeter have volunteered to handle the door.
 - Matt floated the idea of bringing old race tee shirts and merchandise to display at the party (he has a ton of that stuff!). He'll send out a "What's happening?" email on this.

What's Happening?! — Matt Lucas (continued)

- Matt advised that we are still looking for nominations for:
 - Driver of the Year
 - Worker of the Year
 - Ass Buster
 - Member of the Year
- Sitara suggested that we post a request for nominees on the website.

2024 Budgets by Discipline

- Matt offered that approval of the budget needs to be delayed as we are still resolving the Solo budget.
- David advised that Lone Star Park (LSP) is in conversations for a big contract and we might not be able to use LSP until after November 2024. No information is coming out of LSP at this time. He added that Eagles Canyon Raceway (ECR) is too expensive – we lose around [considerable money] on each Solo event at ECR. Frederick (OK) is not off the table to fill in. But everything is still on hold until LSP replies.
- Bob reminded us that we need to approve the budget even if just one Solo event is included. Matt acquiesced to having the BOD approving the budget minus the Solo budget.

Treasurer's Report

- Sherrie asked that if you have any expenses from 2023, please get them to her as soon as possible.
- Overall, the following expenses have not been accounted for in the report presented:
 - Sitara has SOWDIV (trophy) fees not accounted for so far.
 - There were a few additional expenses we missed.
 - Another [smaller amount] from Solo
 - Altogether, once accounted for, we'll be book at a [significant] deficit

- Time Trials has a big deficit – not to include the transponders (capital expenditure). To offset that for 2024, Taylor will be raising entrance fees by \$20 to \$30. He will also be cutting expenses:
 - No longer incurring the cost of third-party transponder rentals.
 - Transponder rental income will stay with the Region.
 - Sponsorships will be a regular item for 2024 Time Trials. Nolan has secured Hagerty sponsorship for the year.
- Bob warned that the BOD needs to monitor the bottom line closely. We can no longer lose money on events as we keep reducing the Region's cash reserves every year. Matt added that to remain a going concern (from a study 10 years ago), we need [significant] cash reserves. Probably more now. Bob offered that costs are a national problem with tracks increasing pricing by 15%-25%. Workers are a challenge as well. Matt reminded us that cash flow is also a problem for Road Race. Sitara underscored that by stating that we have made a down payment for all Road Race events for 2024. Sherrie mentioned that the \$deposit for Time Trials needs to be added and that National SCCA raised the Weekend Membership fee to \$15.

Discipline Updates

Rally

- John advises that they have been “micro-profitable” in 2023! He added that he has no problem with venues, but suburban expansion causes problems. His biggest problem is that he needs rally masters. This is not easily solved as a rally master needs experience.
- The 2024 plans:
 - 2/24/24 is the Shortest Distance Map Rally
 - Three other rallies planned – John might have to do most of the work.
 - Maybe one instructional rally additionally

Road Race

- Sitara advised that the NOLA race preparations are going pretty well. They are requiring Assistant Chiefs for all major roles, which is a good thing in Sitara's opinion.
- However, workers are a big problem and will eventually be our downfall unless something changes.

Solo

(From earlier conversations from within the budget discussion)

- Site problems – a few attendees present discussed the aforementioned problems with Solo sites:
 - Matt – the challenge is suitability, but the bigger challenge is relationships (with lot owners).

- Bob – First priority is to identify suitable sites. Additionally, we have a better story (than others in the market for sites) and better insurance. Also, we need to call on National SCCA to help us find sites.
- Matt – National has a site acquisition package complete with demographics.
- Bob – SCCA has 60,000 members nationwide and that should be worth something to site owners. He reminded us, however, that Frederick, OK is not in SOWDIV.
- Matt formed a committee for site identification and vetting including the following volunteers:
 - Tammi Enriken
 - Sue Anne Rische
 - David Powers
 - Andrew Palmer
 - Buck Enriken
- David – He wants to make it more attractive to become a member through advantageous pricing as opposed to a weekend member who can attend a number of events and pay relatively the same. However, we need a 2024 schedule first.

Time Trials

Taylor had nothing additional than what was already discussed during the budget discussion other than he was now ordering trophies.

Street Survival

No report/update.

Membership

Membership is trending down from 1,188 to 1,176.

Round Table:

- Sitara thanked Andew for stepping up to handle merchandise.
- Nolan gave a brief description of how Spotify works and how its scalability is a perfect fit for the Region's merchandise.
- Bob reminded everyone to sign up for the National Convention, especially if you run a discipline. He also added that there will be a Divisional Meeting at the NOLA Super Tour:
 - Voting on budgets
 - Discussing race groups
- There is a new company managing the SOWDIV website.
- Bob is now the SOWDIV President and Executive Steward.
- Taylor was emphatic that (for Time Trials, at least), workers need to be paid before they leave the event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 12, 2024 on Zoom.