

AHRMA Board Meeting
July 14, 2014 (Second 2014 Board Meeting)
New Jersey Motorsports Park, Millville, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 8:03am by AHRMA's Chairman of the Board, Mark Hatten.

In attendance were Executive Director Dave Lamberth, Communications Directors Matt Hilgenberg and Ginger Hilgenberg, and Trustees Carl Anderson (Treasurer), Jerry Grakauskas, Fred Guidi, Mark Hatten, Dave Janiec, Fred Mork, Debbie Poole, Rob Poole (Secretary), Pat Riley and Beno Rodi.

Trustees Corky Root and Kelly Shane were unable to attend; their proxies were held by Guidi and R. Poole, respectively.

The meeting began in open session, with Hatten outlining the tasks ahead and the general procedures for the day's meeting.

Approval of Sonoma, CA minutes

Guidi moved to approve the minutes of the first 2014 Board of Trustees meeting, held May 3, 2014, at Sonoma Raceway, as written, and Janiec seconded. The final vote to formally approve those minutes was 12-0 in favor.

The Trustees and staff then introduced themselves to the AHRMA members in attendance; those members were Hanni Berger, Allen Brown, Kevin Burns, Chris Carr and Art Deaton.

Treasurer's Report

Anderson reviewed the information published in the July 2014 *Vintage Views*, and reported that little had changed since that time. Hatten – who had served as Treasurer for the previous three years – mentioned AHRMA's choices in racing at more-prestigious roadrace venues, which adds to expenses, but are an investment in the future. He then outlined for members the events which followed AHRMA's bankruptcy – including the failure of the insurance company which held AHRMA's Errors & Omissions Policy, the subsequent sale of AHRMA's interest in that company's settlement, and the effects of that sequence of events.

It was noted that the final paperwork for reinvestment of monies would soon be completed.

Executive Director's Report

Lamberth delivered the ED Report; highlights included:

- At meeting time, the operating cash account balance was \$39k.
- Although 2012-2013 were difficult years, financially, 2014 is much better.
- Membership stood at 3239 current members, as of July 13.

- AHRMA's peak membership was approximately 5600, in October, 2006. However, that number included lapsed members.
- The offer of the One Event (weekend) Membership has had a negative affect on overall membership numbers. Example: 97 One Event Memberships were taken at the Unadilla (NY) off-road events May 30-June 1.
- The soft economy has also affected membership and race attendance, although roadracing is producing greater numbers than in 2013.
- Through the recession, AHRMA's attendance has held steady compared to other organizations.
- Lamberth presented the Board with the Actual-to-Budget Comparison figures.
- The Event Attendance Summary was reviewed. Janiec asked about riders who competed in both vintage and post vintage motocross; Off-Road Director Guidi said there is a lot of crossover. Asked the same about cross country events, Lamberth said there are a few riders who do both.

2015 Rules Proposals Review

The review and preliminary decision discussion began, regarding member-submitted 2015 rules proposals (see separate document). Due to the number and length of the submissions, only a summary is normally published. It was suggested that members be invited to ask AHRMA staff for additional information if they feel more details would be of assistance with their feedback to the Board.

The meeting went into recess at 9:59am.

The meeting reconvened at 10:04am.

Member Open Comment Session

Burns began the session saying the New Jersey Motorsports Park (NJMP) roadrace was a great event, with a challenging track. He said that productive discussion about AHRMA roadracing had been taking place in an online forum which suddenly shut down. In Burns' opinion, viable, professional-level current motorcycles do not belong in AHRMA racing, outside of Sound of Thunder.

He said that modern-bike riders would like to see growth in AHRMA, but a class such as Next Gen Middleweight might be a possibility, rather than more modern classes.

Burns wanted to see action to ensure the Suzuki SV650 would remain competitive in Battle of Twins. Anderson opined that in modern-bike racing, machines sometimes become obsolete as time moves forward.

On the subject of illegal machines, Burns commented that he'd like to see bikes which fall outside the rules be eliminated. He suggested that tech include legality inspections, and that Supersport regulations make policing very difficult, due to the internal-modification restrictions. He also commented that tech could possibly be reorganized to include class-eligibility inspection. Mork responded that, due to the diverse range of machinery that participates in AHRMA, it would be very difficult to have any one person be familiar with, and be an expert on, every motorcycle in the paddock.

Burns closed in saying that AHRMA should be taking action to reduce sound levels from racebikes, including “parking” participants who had been warned, but took no action to rectify the situation. Hatten agreed.

Brown spoke next, concerned about a decline in participation in vintage and post vintage motocross. He suggested using AHRMA’s demographics to determine locations for future events; Guidi noted that AHRMA was visiting several new venues in 2014 in an effort to grow certain regions. Brown also thought AHRMA could provide assistance to event promoters in marketing their events; Janiec responded that the Board is currently working on a 1-3-5-year plan, including marketing strategies. R. Poole stressed that he felt the key to motocross event attendance is to run on suitable tracks; D. Poole added that land is often available for scrambles-style racing suitable for short-travel MX bikes, and can be located by networking with fellow enthusiasts.

The Member Open Comment session concluded at 11:05am, and the rules discussion resumed.

The meeting went into lunch recess at 11:49am.

The meeting reconvened at 12:19pm, and the rules discussion resumed.

The meeting went into recess at 1:50pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:55pm, and the rules discussion resumed.

Janiec left the meeting at 2:56pm for business travel; his proxy went to Mork.

The meeting went into recess at 3:48pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3:59pm, and the rules discussion resumed.

Rules discussions concluded at 5:35pm.

New Business

A new AHRMA Document Retention Policy was presented to the Board for review for final approval at the October meeting.

A section of the bylaws, entitled Trustee Performance of Duties was handed out to the trustees to be reviewed in relation to assembling the conflict of interest policy. The discussion of this conflict-of-interest policy is to be placed on the October meeting agenda.

Hatten reminded Trustees to focus on the long-term health of AHRMA. A “road map” should be developed so that any time changes are made, those decisions are keeping the organization headed in the desired direction. He asked that the Board have at least a one-year plan ready for the October meeting, to give Lamberth a direction for operations.

Lamberth noted that there is never enough time at the three annual Board meetings to properly address the subject of long-term planning, and that the Board and staff should consider meeting specifically on this topic. Hatten said broad planning could be done by email, and Mork suggested that details could be worked-out by conference call. Rodi recalled that, in the past, Trustees would at times gather the evening before a Board meeting to get groundwork completed in a casual setting; this could happen again, saving time at the formal meetings.

Mork reminded the Board that marketing vintage motocross as “a new sport” could be a very productive angle, and that a YouTube video is one way to share this with prospective participants.

Grakauskas left the meeting at 5:48pm.

Discussion ensued regarding holding a Board meeting in a teleconference format. This idea was ultimately shelved due to the expense (not enough savings), the lack of quality technology, and the fact that members would not be able to attend.

Due to on-track events at the previous weekend’s NJMP event, and feedback from members, Anderson asked the Board to discuss the possibility of allowing tire warmers in Vintage Superbike Heavyweight. Hatten listed a number of reasons the Board has not allowed tire warmers in the past, and noted that no 2015 rules proposal was received; no further action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm. Motion made by Anderson and seconded by Guidi.