

MACC – MICHIGAN ALPINE COMPETITION COUNCIL – CALL-IN MEETING 1-8-2020

Minutes of the meeting:

Alex Carrico called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM.

Attendance – Officers:

Gary Bloodworth – P	Shawn Hughes – P	Steve Coatney – P	Mike Hietbrink – A	Jeanette Roberts – P
Mike Sayers – P	Debi Koltoniak – P	Zach Jablonski – A	Drew Hilger – P	Bill Perlmutter – A
Ginnie Uhley – P	Dave Carrico – P	Lou Oles – A	Alex Carrico – P	Jason Kanakry – P
Ryan Bloodworth – P	Kathy Bauer – A	Dennis Parrott – P	Renee Cherette – P	Chuck White – P

Attendance – Team Racer Representatives:

Chip Dayton SW – P	Denise Miller TR – A	Alan Osterdale AA – P	Scott Pyles RN – P	Sue Holmes RN – P
Alfred Cureau JD – P	Gary Konsza SD – P	Mike Jablonski TB – A	Pat Groves TO – P	Rob Reader SD – P
Mick Serafinski TR – P				

General Updates – Alex Carrico – The full 2020 schedule has been posted to the website, and Debi has sent it out in the newsletter. The schedule is the same format as last season, no changes to the courses, classes, or times. If the schedule changes for any reason, the changes will be announced, and everyone will be notified.

Updates from Boyne: Mark Skop said that both FIS and Superbowl are skiable, with the deepest snow near the snow guns. The snow is a little thinner near the tree line, so we should setup closer to the guns. Scott Pyles added that there were a few accidents near the snow guns last weekend, so we should set up netting around the guns, just to be safe. Currently, only the north side start shack is open. The other side may be open if they are able to make enough snow, but for now we should plan on using the north side Saturday and Sunday. The shack with our gates was moved and is now directly behind the tall start shack. The front three windows in the north finish shack have been replaced. The south shack will get needed repairs over the summer. Both start shacks were refurbished with new doors and windows. Tables on the Othmar deck have been replaced. Front door of the Othmar appears to be locking properly. Dennis noticed that our bag of radios wasn't locked up properly in the Othmar. Mark said only Boyne and MACC have keys to those closets, and he will look into how that happened. Lastly, Mark confirmed that we are on the schedule to race N. Boyne for the Super G run on Friday, Feb 7th. Mark is checking to see if we can also use N. Boyne on Friday, March 6th.

Apparel Store Updates: Apparel site is live. We are using Jim's Sportswear and the website is through them. It will be open for 2 ½ weeks and will close on Jan 27th. It will be up for the first two weekends. There are five items in the store: men's t-shirt, women's t-shirt, unisex long-sleeved shirt, unisex quarter-zip sweatshirt, and a beanie hat with pom. Racers will have the option to have their name printed on the back of the long-sleeved shirt for an extra \$5. There is a 20-count minimum on the hats. If we don't sell enough, the order will be cancelled, and all sales will be refunded. All orders default to in-person pick up, but racers will have the option to ship to their home for an additional \$9. This info will all be sent to Debi, to go out in the newsletter.

New Racer Updates: Alex said she was contacted a few months ago by an individual who guest raced a few years ago, and he offered some feedback about his experience. He said he was basically ignored, and it was like pulling teeth to get any kind of answers about our race program. He found that most people were not really inviting, and that it was tough for him to find out basic info, like start order or how the program works. He ended up racing in a class that he shouldn't have been in, and double struck. He then heard other racers badmouthing him for skiing down/cheating. Alex realizes that a lot of our racers have been friends for a long time, and a little trash talking between them is fine. But we must do a better job of recognizing new faces, making sure we welcome them, and answering any questions they may have. We should also make it clear that guest racers race on a course, not in a class. It can also be tough to find the outside starter sometimes due to them being in the warming hut. Regardless of being a guest racer or a new racer, we shouldn't make racers feel bad about winning or doing well, handicaps will sort out the classes and they will end up in the right spot. This isn't really something that can be actively policed with our racers, so Alex would like to suggest that team reps all talk to their racers and encourage them to be as helpful and friendly as possible with new racers. As board members, we should be held to a higher standard, we should be going out of our way to help new racers. Alex and Drew are also working on some new ideas to help with this. They probably won't be ready for the 2020 season, but they include some of the following: a new racer ambassador (someone who wears a unique, identifiable vest and can be easily approached by any new racers with questions), give new racers a unique bib color (this would help them stand out, making it easy to identify and help them), and any other ideas you may have are welcome. Mike Sayers said we should send something out to all the racers reminding them to be welcoming to any new racers. Renee would be happy to be a new racer

ambassador. Shawn Hughes likes the unique bib color idea. Steve said that Jackie Giles used to help new racers inspect the course, and people really enjoyed it.

Updates – Drew Hilger – Drew will be focusing on building culture this year and taking over maintaining our sponsor list. If anyone knew anyone that would like to be a sponsor or anyone that would like to assist with finding sponsors, he will gladly accept the help. He will also be continuing with the “Rules Corner.” We also need to be ready for the anticipated snow fall this weekend – extra slipping may be needed if we get a lot of snow.

Finances – Mike Hietbrink – Not present, no updates.

Awards – Zach Jablonski – Not present, no updates. Dennis said he has the awards in his car and will have them ready for this weekend.

Registration - Jeanette Roberts – We have 105 registered racers. Of those, 101 registered online. We currently have 55 listed for course 1 and 47 listed for course 2. Jeanette transferred \$11,851 today to the back account from PayPal.

Timing – Shawn Hughes – Timers, starters, and announcers are all ready for this weekend. Purchased a new hotspot to connect MACC’s race computer to Live-Timing. Went with a Karma Voyage Hotspot for \$50. Plans are \$3/mo + \$10/GB and can be started and stopped any time.

Computers – Steve Coatney – Ordered two new computers. Working on getting them ready for the first weekend. Will need to get together with Dennis to exchange old equipment. Renee asked if she would be able to use one of the old laptops. Steve said one of them should probably be retired, but the other one still technically works, even though its quite old and slow. Alex said Renee can have that one if it still works.

Equipment – Dave Carrico – Everything is good. Dave will be up Friday morning to everything ready on his end. Steve said he will be up Friday night to set up everything on his end, since Dave will have everything on his end setup.

Course Setting – Jason Kanakry – We are good on drills. Some of the newer lithium batteries aren’t charging all the way to full. They are currently running a full discharge. Hopefully this fixes them, if not, we may need new batteries. Course crew as of right now is Jason, Kermit, Joel, Nick, Paul, and Sherrie. With only 4 courses each weekend, we don’t currently need more people. Alex said that Heather sent an email to some of the directors about no longer being on the course crew. Drew followed up with more details. He said that she was concerned about how she was cut and would like to continue being on the crew. She is very certified and a good course setter. She feels that personal reasons led to her no longer being on the crew, and she asked us to look into it. She also wondered if this was board approved, and Drew explained to her that it wasn’t a board decision. Alex and Drew wanted to bring it up to the board for full transparency. Drew offered her other jobs at MACC, but she is really only interested in course setting. More than likely, she will end up leaving MACC if she is unable to course set. Jason said that he made this decision due to a few reasons. With only four courses a weekend, we don’t need 9 people course setting. There are other people who also won’t be back on the crew this season. Also, Jason, Nick, Joel, and Kermit do every aspect of the course setting. They setup and tear down, where Heather only places gates. There has also been some negativity and comments between course setters, which has been causing problems. Pat commented that she enjoys knowing that there is a woman putting input into the courses. Rob mentioned that he is concerned that the board is getting involved when this seems like a case of a director putting his best crew forward. Drew said that while this isn’t a board decision, we just wanted to make sure to be fully transparent with this issue. Drew will try to reach out to Heather, and hopefully work something out with her to retain her as a racer, worker, and friend. There were no other questions or comments.

Course Officials – Rob Reader – No real updates, as we haven’t had any races yet. There has been an email conversation about pacesetters. We will bring Chuck into the conversation and continue it, to make sure we are using our pacesetters optimally. Alex asked for the pacesetter schedule to be sent out to Alex, Drew, Jeanette, Shawn, and Ryan once it’s ready.

Course Operations – Dennis Parrott – There are usually some pacesetters that work on the course crew as well. Dennis tries to schedule them on the opposite day of their pacesetting. Crew size is down from 2019. We have 3 new people, but we are still at a point where if we lose a few people, we will be in trouble. We currently have enough crew for this weekend and the schedule has been uploaded to the cloud account. While going through the equipment, Dennis found about \$430 worth of old chargers and batteries. We can sell them on eBay to pay for some new radios that the course crew needs. Any extra funds can go into the general fund. No questions.

New Class Request – Jeanette Roberts – This year, some of the E2 women requested a vet class. Currently, there are 4, maybe 5, women interested. That would leave one racer in E2, with one racer potentially upgrading from A to E2 at some point this year. Someone asked why we would want to take 90% of the racers out of a class, leaving almost nobody in the open class. They also asked why the vet age must be the same across all classes, could we set the vet age so that we end up with two equal sized classes? Alex added that we could talk about that over the summer, but the rule (7.1.3) defines the age ranges for all vet

and super vet classes. We currently have the numbers to make a new class and a few of the women have been asking for a vet class for quite a while. If there are no objections, we can vote to make the class. Steve won't have any problems making the class and getting it on the start sheet. Gary Bloodworth commented that we should not be creating a class that forces one person to race alone. Dana had to do it last year and it was awful. Alex said she understands the concerns, but those are not necessarily the way that all racers feel. Ryan voiced some concerns about the small number of racers in the open classes, specifically E2 and A being a deterrent for new racers coming into the program. Dennis said that these women have wanted this class for a long time, and the solution to the MACC getting smaller should be to recruit more racers, not deny the current racers their class request. Renee agreed that we need to network and grow the group. Someone added that when we split classes, we should see value in it, and it should give more people a chance to place. But when you make a class size of one, it can suck for that person, but you are making a bunch of other people happy. Mike added that we have all the classes on the sign-up sheets, and it is something that can be decided last minute. We can merge or split classes at any time, it's not something that we need to decide on now, and it's not something the board usually votes on. Gary Bloodworth added that he raced in non-vet for a long time, because if his handicap is the same as the other racers, then why does it matter how old anyone is. He went to SV due to injuries but would much rather race against young racers. Jeanette and Dana will stay in the program, but he doesn't think we are doing them any favors by taking away their competition. Dennis motions to create the new class and Alan seconds. Alan (AA) votes yes. Gary (SN) votes no. Chip (SW) votes no. Rob (SD) votes yes. Gary (SD) votes no. Mick (TR) votes no. Ginnie (TR) votes yes. Dennis (TB) votes yes. Debi (TO) votes no. Pat (TO) votes yes. Votes are tied 5 to 5. Alex breaks the vote with a yes. Motion passes to create a VE2W class.

Race workers – Bill Perlmutter – Not present. Dennis gives a quick update saying that sign-upgenius is up and running, and that people have been signing up.

Publicity – Debi Koltoniak – Debi will send out newsletter tomorrow morning. She will mention that we are racing both races on FIS. She will look for a link from Alex for the apparel store. Drew just sent a rules corner update to Debi. Debi will also mention that we have 105 racers with 2 new racers, and that we need to work on recruiting more.

Handicaps and Statistics – Chuck White – Chuck is starting to look for volunteers for a handicap committee, anyone that is interested is welcome. He would really like to get some younger racers that have an interest in how it works. In addition to looking at handicaps, they also want to look at potential pacesetters. Last year, Mike wrote a technical memo explaining how the system works. They would like to continue to work on that, creating a knowledge base. Any interested parties should let Chuck know. Someone said that we have a list of potential pacesetting candidates, but we don't have a solid criterion defined. Alex – Race reps should reach out to team members and reach out to Chuck if anyone is interested. Renee – How many pacesetters do we need? How many do we run? Steve – We try to get 3 on each course. If we have less than that, then if they are having a bad day, it can greatly affect everyone's handicaps. With 3, you can drop a pacesetter, if they are having a bad day, and still have enough data to get good results. We have had up to 4, but usually that's a mistake where we accidentally schedule too many. Or we run 4 on course two so that we have more info to tie both courses together.

Webmaster – Mike Sayers – The website has some documentation about pacesetters, if anyone would like more information. The MACC contact page has been updated. Info has been put on the front page for schedule, registration, and work assignments. There is also a link to the timing sign up and the gatekeeper sign up. Dennis – Every time Bill publishes a new link you get a new URL. Last year, Dennis was dropping in the new one each time, but this time he hasn't been. Bill should be taking over that page and contacting Mike with updates. Alex contacted bill and told him to send Mike the info each weekend. The website should also be updated so that gatekeeping questions go to Bill, not Dennis. Mike will not be at Boyne this weekend, not quite skiing ready, but he will have email/phone if website needs updates. Dennis will be going into the site to clean up anything related to old gate keeper info. Alex will send Mike, Debi, and Ryan an updated schedule with the new class. She will also send a clothing link to Mike tomorrow morning.

Trip Planning Committee – Renee Churette – Renee learned that we can add 1-2 more condos before the 20th, but after that, it will go up in price. At this point she isn't sure how much the price will go up. We also have one condo that cancelled on us midway that we would like to fill. She is also working with the lodge directly, making sure we can add more as we progress. Ginnie updated the pricing on handouts, that we will have at the races. Alex – Can you get the information to Debi, tonight or tomorrow, so she can add info to newsletter. Dave requested the info be sent to him as well.

Secretary – Ryan Bloodworth – Approval of minutes from the November 13th meeting. No questions. Ginnie motions to approve, Rob seconds. None opposed, minutes are approved.

Ginnie motions to adjourn meeting, Alan seconds. Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Next meeting will be a call-in meeting on 1/22/20.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Bloodworth, Secretary.