

## MACC – MICHIGAN ALPINE COMPETITION COUNCIL – CALL-IN MEETING 10-14-2020

### Minutes of the meeting:

Alex Carrico called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### Attendance – Officers:

Alex Carrico – P	Drew Hilger – P	Ginnie Uhley – P	Mike Hietbrink – P	Ryan Bloodworth – P
Shawn Hughes – P	Steve Coatney – P	Mike Sayers – P	Jason Kanakry – A	Dave Carrico – P
Rob Reader – P	Bill Perlmutter – A	Dennis Parrott – P	Zach Jablonski – A	Debi Koltoniak – P
Chuck White – P	Jeanette Roberts – A	Grace Patti – P	Kermit Anderson - P	

### Attendance – Team Racer Representatives:

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

**General Updates – Alex Carrico** – We have a lot to go over, please hold questions until asked. Just a reminder that Covid may be a touchy subject, please be respectful. Minutes from last meeting we sent out, any questions? Chip motions to approve minutes, seconded by Rob. Alex nominates Ginnie as director of registration. Rob motions, Dennis seconds. Motion passes. Next item on the agenda is a surprise, but Jason will be missing quite a few racers, so he feels it is unfair to pass off duties for all of those races. Therefore, he will be stepping down as director, and asking Kermit to step in. Alex nominates Kermit as director of course setting. Ginnie motions, Rob seconds. None opposed, motion passes.

The theme of this season is going to be adjusting and going with the flow. We ask that everyone is open to changes that we are going to have to make. Drew and I are doing everything we can to make this season happen. One of our biggest concerns is that we are going to have a low turnout due to various reasons. Budget issues, worries about getting sick, etc. We don't want to open registration and only have 40 people show up. We have decided to send out an email to everyone from last year, with an anonymous survey, asking them if they plan to race this season. Will ask for class and job as well, to give us a good idea of what workers we may have. If potential numbers are really low we can decide on the status of the season before we open registration. If numbers look good, we are hoping to have registration open by December 1st. Sue suggested the possibility of changing the schedule to have both races on one day, so that people don't have to stay overnight. Alex doesn't want to ask that in the initial survey, unless she knows for sure that we would be able to do it. Alex asked for Dennis' thoughts. Dennis says his immediate thought is that it would take some time to plan out and would be highly dependent on the people available. We have been operating right near the edge of having enough people for our normal race model. With a new model, we may have to scramble during each race, but we could probably make it work. Alex added that we have to consider that Boyne only lets us use half the hill for the whole day. Our current model for this year is to have as little change as possible, since we are already being forced to change a lot due to Covid. Kermit added that the suggestion is good if we only get 40-50 people. Then it would be much easier to work it out. We could even run all 40-50 on the same course, then reset for other race. If we had to reset between the first and second race, it would make for a long day. Steve added that we could also consider doing one run races: doing both GS and slalom. Alex added that the survey will be sent from either Alex or Ryan, and will only target racers from last year - not the full e-newsletter list. Drew has concerns for doing both races in one day. Thinking about some of the older racers, making it one long day may make it more difficult. Also having people drive up and back on the same day might make it tough on people. Alan added that if we do one day, a lot of the older racers may not race slalom, so it might not be a big deal.

Alex continued, hopefully everyone was able to look over the return to racing plan sent out with the agenda. We wanted something in writing before the meeting, so we had a base. Alex and Drew talked to Boyne, and at that time, the Othmar was available to us, but will be restricted to 10 people. Boyne will close it to the public on race days from 8-4. Listed officers (Alex, Shawn, Steve, Ginnie, Kathy, and Dennis) will be allowed in the Othmar and need to be. Other directors can go in and out briefly but won't be allowed to stay in there for long. That leaves room for 4 more people, racers or directors. Racers will need to go in, sign up, and get out. It can't be used as a changing room, hangout, or lunchroom. The Othmar will not be open to racers for equipment storage, but the balcony will still be open. Recently, Boyne has raised the limit to 20, but we aren't sure how we would police that, and we don't want it to be a congregation spot. The number could also change up or down before the start of the season. We also talked about opening it up to two different crews (course setters and equipment crew), who are going to be losing their current spots. The Othmar would basically be for crew that are required to be there all day. We do still plan on posting the race results, probably inside the window. Mask would be required as well. Rob asked if we can put tents on the hill to use as a warming place for ski members. Alex said that MACC can't provide that, but the teams can. Just make sure you are mindful of other groups and skiers. Drew added that if the tent has sides it is subject to the occupancy limit. Kermit said if we want to, we can post the results down at the bottom near the lift or start shack. Dave added that the high schools have eliminated all tents, at least at alpine. Alex will confirm with Boyne. Boyne and other ski areas are all going to have closed off areas that will affect all skiers: cafeterias, lodges, etc. Dennis mentioned that the gathering of the troops in the morning, is often

where he is grabbing extra workers if they are needed. Alex said that people will still be coming in to sign up to work. They just have to come in, look for work, and leave.

Gate Storage Shack – Boyne has had plans for a while to turn the gate storage shack into a mobile ski patrol office. Covid has pushed them to finally do it. The gates will still be stored there, but we won't be able to use the shack as a warming hut. Start shacks - Limited to two people at a time, with no racers allowed in to keep warm. Only the inside starter, outside starter, chief of course, or directors. Non inside starters must go in, do what they need to do, and then leave. Finish shack – limited to two people. Drew, Alex, and Shawn have talked about it and can agree that a course can be timed with two people. Shawn will talk about it more later. Equipment crew has used the finish shacks before to get ready, but that won't be allowed this year. Finish shacks at the start of the day usually have a lot of people in and out, so those three directors need to coordinate so that there are only two people in there at a time. Shacks have a lot of shared equipment, so we will supply sanitizer wipes to clean headphones, keyboards, etc.

Awards – The Snowflake is no longer going to be a bar; it will be a restaurant. This means we will not be allowed to have our awards there. Awards will be held outside at the bar at the base of the 6-man. There will be a bar and a fire pit. This is going to likely change the type of award we will distribute, and we will talk more about that when we get to Zach. Banquet – We aren't deciding anything right now; we have a while before we have to start planning. We may be able to use the Vienna room, but we don't want to promise anything yet. And just because we can, doesn't mean that we should.

Shawn said for the timing procedures, he will be meeting with the timing supervisors about how we can do it with two people. The first thing to go is usually the announcing. We can probably still announce finish orders after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runs. The two workers will just have to work together to make it work. This may mean there is more time between racer starts, if needed. This might not make a difference in overall time if our numbers are down. We will still announce sponsors and pre-race info (delays, workers, etc.), but we will probably have to drop any play-by-play announcers. Will still have two timers, so not expecting any major problems. Dave asked about using live timing? Alex said that she believes we are paying for a live timing subscription, but at a minimum we should plan to announce the top 3 for each run. Live timing could show them exact times though if they want. Steve added that he thinks the biggest issue will be the start shack setup in the morning. Quite a few people work to get it setup in the morning. Alex said you will need to do your best to only have two people in there, as that rule is set by Boyne.

2021 Schedule – Currently, the classes have been taken off of the 2021 schedule, because we may have to adjust quite a bit based on registration numbers. We may have to move classes to different courses, and we don't want to announce something that we might have to change. Schedule has also been updated to show the awards are outside.

Apparel Store – Last year, we made a couple hundred dollars. We do plan on doing the store again. Please reach out to your racers to ask if anyone would like to submit a design. We will also post on social media to see if anyone would like to submit a design. If anyone has suggestions for the types of items, please email Alex with suggestions. There will probably be 5-6 items, similar to last year's price points.

Ski Trip – The ski trip was rescheduled to this year. If Covid shuts everything down, we will try to get a refund. We are not currently accepting more people, but there may be an opportunity for more to sign up if others drop out. We will not be planning more trips for MACC. We are a racing league, and the trip caused more trouble than it was worth.

MDSC Rep – We have had a representative from MACC attending MDSC meetings. They do not promote us at all. Lou has been attending meetings, and Alex asked him if it was worth staying in, and he said no. There isn't anything to gain from them. The only real benefit is going on other club trips. Lou mentions the race dates and they pass them on, but it never yields results. Mike agrees and added that a lot of our clubs are MDSC members, so they could get any perks on their own without MACC also being a member. Alex will let them know that we won't be paying dues and Lou doesn't need to attend future meetings.

**Updates – Drew Hilger** – First up is rule changes. Our general theme for the year is to limit changes as much as possible. Looking through notes, first proposed change to bylaws, which adds responsibilities to Chuck and removes from Rob. Second change is adding clarification to the helmet rule, which says it must be designed for snow sports and in good working order. We can vote on these next meeting. As for sponsors, historically our sponsors have been great, but they don't contribute financially during the year, just the banquet. Our plan is to continue with current sponsor structure, putting expansion on hold until we know exactly what the season will look like.

**Finances – Mike Hietbrink** – Shared a report on screen. We have just under \$5000 in the bank. We spent just under \$1500 last season. At the end of the day, it comes down to income vs expenses, and we are simply spending more than we make each season. Raising dues \$15 for 100 racers would cover the loss. Alex added that our plan for this season is to hold off on spending as much as possible until we know more about our registration numbers this season. This is not a great year to raise prices, but we will probably have to. We have put it off for a long time, but we can decide during next meeting. Kermit added that MACC is easily the cheapest racing in the country, anywhere else is 40-80 a day. Mike added that cutting awards down could also help

keep costs down. Alex also noted that she asked Mike to hold off on filing for non-profit IRS status, since it costs \$600 and we might not even be able to have a raffle.

**Registration – Ginnie Uhley** – Not much of an update at this point. We have enough bibs for this season. She will get emails from last year's racers to Alex.

**Handicaps and Statistics – Chuck White** – Thank you to everyone in the committee for helping out this summer – Alfred, Dennis, Mike, Steve, and Alex. The two main things we looked at in terms of handicap was balance between slalom and GS and then the overall trend of handicaps over time. Stats are shown in a presentation. For any given weekend, about half the racers had better slalom or GS, which is exactly where we want to be. No adjustments are currently needed. When you take into account the vet classes, the distribution of speeds is pretty balanced. Currently, not recommending any adjustments to the classes themselves, but we did look at the drift. It shows a downward trend of handicaps over time. We created a database over the summer to play around with the actual race time data. It showed that handicaps have gone down over last 12 years, resulting in more racers with lower handicaps. We can tweak the numbers a bit to make sure the numbers stay steady. We can also make changes to automatically kick out pacesetter numbers if they are outside the expected range. Team points look good, recommendation is no changes for now, will continue to monitor over time.

**Course Operations – Dennis Parrott** – Gate Keeping - Over the summer, we discussed ideas for changing the gate card. First thing was to rearrange the panels so runs 1 and 2 were next to each other. Our recommendation is to go to a USSA-style card. Gatekeeper would draw out gates, faults, and add notes. This will require some education on our part to update gate keepers, we will also need to spend some money to print cards. We will take text heavy portions and laminate cards to use as directions.

Course Ops Assessment – Dennis sent out a survey to course ops, asking them their feelings on the next season. Most people replied that they are in. Dennis is currently cautiously optimistic, but there are still a lot of factors to consider. The biggest thing will be making sure we have a full crew for each race. The standard crew is five, but a bad day can exhaust workers. May need to mandate slips between runs. Expecting some expenses for new cards, possible expenses for radios. Drew asked if there was room for sponsors on the card. Dennis said space is tight, but we might be able to make it work. Should talk offline about it.

Website Redesign – Alex said the website redesign has been pushed a bit. One less change for us to make this year. Gate cards don't need a vote, so Dennis has approval to move ahead on them.

**Course Officials – Rob Reader** – Thanks Alex and Drew. No updates since we haven't raced all summer.

**Course Setting – Kermit Anderson** – Alex started by saying she talked to our sponsor about gate panels, and the sponsor will put logo on one side. MACC was going to pay to print other side, but due to avoiding non-essential spending, it won't be happening this year. It is currently on hold unless Nichols is able to get them printed on both sides. Kermit said not much will change for course setting. Feedback is welcome, but we will plan on keeping everything similar to previous years. Without the warming hut, we are thinking about setting a time where we will change course. Alex said that as long as the course is done in time for inspection, we are good. But to be aware that leaving it up with too much time, may lead to people skiing it (racers or general public). It might not be practical this year, but it is something we will have to think about before our next meeting. Kermit agreed. May need a new drill battery. No other updates.

**Equipment – Dave Carrico** – We will get by with what we have, we'll make it happen.

**Computers – Steve Coatney** – Will cost a little less than a thousand dollars for timer software licenses. We could save some money if we only have one computer setup, but it's risky if we don't have a backup. Will look into other options.

**Timing – Shawn Hughes** – No other updates.

**Race workers – Bill Perlmutter** – Not present, no report.

**Awards – Zach Jablonski** – We will be outside for awards, so not sure if glassware will be the best option. If anyone has any cheap suggestions, please send them my way. As for the amount, it will have to wait until we have estimates on registration numbers. Alex said we could also look into medals or pins. We could do a medal ribbon and then give out pins to pin on the ribbon. Dennis asked what our cost target is? Mike said glasses were about \$2 a piece last year. Zack said we ordered about 640 glasses last year. Alex finished by saying we should look for cost savings where we can, but we also want to focus on outdoor friendly awards.

**Publicity – Debi Koltoniak** – This year Debi is going to have an assistant, Grace. She is very knowledgeable in social media. This will help with communication in and outside of our group. Facebook page will be used for updates and critical info. We will also have a Facebook group where anyone can add content. Alex added that the pre-registration survey is almost ready and we will send it to all the racers from last year, not the full e-news list. The Covid plan will also go out on all social media and in

the newsletter. Registration fees haven't been decided on yet, as they may need to be increased. It would be good to send out a newsletter with info. Let racers know the Covid plan and that we are still planning on a season. Debi said she will draft it, and share it with Alex before sending out. Grace asked everyone to ask their team members to like our Facebook page. We will be posting this in the group, but if it comes from the race reps it will be helpful.

**Webmaster – Mike Sayers** – For website updates, Alex requested that Mike removes Lou from MDSC rep, and then updates the roles for Ginnie and Kermit. Also, put up the 2021 schedule, without class times. Mike noted that we should also put important info on website homepage as well as social media, for those that don't have Facebook. Alex agreed, we just want people to know that there are two Facebook pages. Any links on the website to Facebook should go to the page, not the group. Page is official, managed by MACC. Mike concluded by saying that as we get closer to race days, any info can be sent to him to put on the homepage of the website. Also, day of updates, like weather, etc.

**Secretary – Ryan Bloodworth** – No updates as minutes have already been approved. Definitely approves of having meetings via webex, helps a lot with tracking attendance and who is talking.

Alex – Thanks everyone, our next meeting will be via webex on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. We will talk about registration fees and plans.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07PM

Next meeting will be a call-in meeting on 11/18.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Bloodworth, Secretary.