

Meeting Minutes  
Alaska Division – ACC  
Alyeska Race Training Center, Alyeska Alaska  
February 17, 2006

**Roll Call**

Attending : Sparky Anderson, Carl Swanson, Darcy Davis, Martin Stewart, Chris Bataille, Andrew Gannon, Reinhard Neuhauser, Chris Armstrong, Andre Horton, Erin McNalley.

**Approve Agenda** - Approved  
M/S/C – No Objections

**Approve Minutes** – Approved with Revisions – Revise previous meeting minutes – Edit note regarding van drivers to be Matt and Andrew  
M/S/C – No Objections

**Treasurer's Report** - See Attached Treasurer's Report. Darcy reports that there is a lot of FIS travel activity and the books are not quite balanced yet but numbers "look good". Have probably accounted for all Divisional Dues to date and do not expect much more income from dues. Waiting on head taxes from Juneau Races. No further questions

**Officials Chair Report** – Doug reports that it is "quiet on the officials front" in Juneau and just working on getting coaches their basic officials clinics. Carl reports that he has Terry Sherwood about putting on a T&C Clinic – no commitment from Terry just yet. Sparky suggests that we have a "Fall Retreat" and Coaches Clinic for all Clubs and Coaches – also possibly at Summer Camp. Carl asks Sparky to propose some dates.

**Coaches Working Group**

a. JO Qualifying Procedures Update: Andrew reports that JO Qualifying Rules have been posted to the ASC website.

b. Coaches Travel Update – JO Staff: Andrew calls for suggestions on JO staff – discussion follows regarding numbers required at JO's and other series (FIS Tech?). Regarding MT Hood races, Sparky suggests that we may need to wait and see who qualifies before assigning coaches – Sparky and Duffy would like to go, JSC would like to go. Carl asks if CWG is present in the room, can this be decided now so it can be discussed before the ACC. Darcy suggests: Sparky, Duffy, Darcy and Erin from JSC go to J3/J4 JO's. Discussion moves to assignment of coaches to other races. Martin would like to see more advance notice for trips (assignment of proposed coaches?). Andrew points out that this can be difficult since we sometime have to wait for race announcements to come out and they can sometime be at the last minute. Martin suggests that we post the "Boards" for races on the website to provide advance notice to athletes. Darcy states that ACC does not say which coaches will be named, but the ACC does ultimately decide how many coaches will go to each race – she suggests that the ACC approve the number of coaches but not necessarily who those coaches should be. Sparky suggests that we do this tonight – the JO's are coming up and it should be resolved by the (JSC) races. There is discussion regarding the number of coaches for the J1/J2's. Andrew suggests that the trips to date have been "cost effective" when compared to other divisions such as PNSA and Northern, based on his research. Andrew suggests that 2

coaches is not enough for 14 athletes – it can be done, but the athletes do not get what they are paying for – in addition, if an athlete is injured, this leaves only one coach behind for all the remaining athletes – at approximately 14 athletes, one additional coach amounts to an additional \$50 per athlete for the whole trip – most clubs are bringing more than twice the number coaches than we are (for a similar number of athletes?). There is general discussion regarding past trips and ratios. Doug reports that he assisted two coaches at a recent race with 16 athletes. There is general discussion regarding the need to utilize more parents and other outside “resources”. It is suggested that this might be unrealistic at FIS races. Sparky calls for agreement on number of coaches for J1/J2’s and suggests that 3 coaches be required. There appears to be common agreement, but no motion or vote is taken.

c. Divisional Southern Hemisphere FIS Summer Trip: It is suggested that FIS Summer trip be tagged onto Michel Pratt Summer Camp (in August?)– this would offer the chance to share their training space and facilities. Andrew reports that there are some other contacts that he can make.

d. CWG Chair Report: Andrew reports that men’s FIS team is doing well with possibly two Western Regional Automatics. Womens FIS team is doing well too. Andrew suggests that we need to keep the older athletes around as role models and should continue to push to keep older athletes at home and not going outside to other programs.

### **Youth Race Committee Report**

a. Progress report on 12 & Under rules: Sparky reports that Youth Race Committee has met and has good positive meetings, and 12U rules have been drafted for review. (Martin?) asks if anyone in the ACC has seen or read these proposed rules and are they approved? Doug states that there are 10 agreed rule changes and have been approved by the group (Youth Race Committee). There is discussion regarding the need for the ACC to ratify these rules. Martin reads a copy of the proposed rules (10 items)

Motion: Accept Rules as read - ?

Seconded: Doug

Discussion: Regarding “Tie Break”, is it needed? – not addressed. Agreement that “total time” should break all ties. Discussion regarding wording on number of coaches tickets that host should provide. Agreement that wording should be changed from “shall” to “should”. Motion is modified to reflect these changes.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Introduction – Andre Horton: Sparky introduces Andre Horton to the ACC who is a member of USSA ACC, past Divisional Athlete and former member of the US Ski Team. Asks Andre to make a report to the ACC. Andre reports that he has had many personal commitments and has not been able to attend (recent) USSA Divisional ACC meetings. However, he stresses that it is important that Alaska have a voice and use its vote through him. This vote affects access to funding among other things. Andre has been talking to Walt Evans (USSA) about reducing cost of camps for AK Division. There is a meeting this April (USSA Congress) and wants to work Alaska youth and FIS issues for us. Andre asks the group about Divisional fund raising efforts and possibility for some funding coming from the National Office. Andre stresses the importance of keep athletes “at home” and need for “strategic plan” for our Divisional athletes.

## **Old Business**

- a. High School Ski Racing Update: Reinhard request that head coaches provide High School/Athlete list in order to start a data base. Reinhard hands out info on Summer Camp in Austria – He is still working on the budget, coaches, flights, etc... Would like to know what the possible interest is.
- b. Calendar update: Sparky asks JSC to confirm JO qualifying races. JSC to host (2) GS's, and (1) SL. Team captains meeting at Aspen, Wednesday night before races. Discussion about "lost" SG and consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> GS as a Qualifier. This would only be required for J3's?
- c. JO Jackets: Jackets are in and should cost approximately \$84 each including embroidery.
- d. Summer Camps – Alyeska and Austria 06: ASC is still planning a summer camp for June 10. Austria Camp – See above.
- e. Fairbanks Homologation – FSC reports that they are still trying to get a hold of Paul Mahre. ASC should also make contact with him regarding upcoming needs.

## **New Business**

- a. AWG Selection Procedures – Sparky reports that AWG selections need to take place in the next couple of days and also need to identify the coaches. Erin reports that she is interested. Qualifying for event will be based on WC points and procedures will be posted. Athletes need to decide within 24 hours if they qualify for both JO and AWG. There is discussion of when and how athletes should provide that notification – it is agreed that this should be by noon Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Divisional Van Proposal: (See attached proposal) – Proposal is passed out and reviewed by ACC. Discussion: Bill suggests that it be tried out on a "provisional basis" Martin suggests that the "math" presented would result in a short fall and asks if it is intended for the ACC to "absorb" the difference. Chris asks about insurance requirements – Martin reports that ASC currently covers the insurance on the van and if there is Divisional travel involved then non ASC athletes need to sign ASC liability release form. Discussion returns to the "math" or budget for each trip and should the ACC subsidize cost differentials between the difference between the total "van days" and "race days" shown based on providing "fairness" to athletes depending on which race they do.

Motion: To accept proposal as submitted – Carl

Seconded: Chris B.

Discussion: Further discussion regarding cost, subsidies and other possible savings. No amendment to original motion is agreed upon.

Vote: Passes

- c. Divisional Travel Procedures: Doug suggests that we need more information and more notice when CWG brings issue like the van to the ACC. There is discussion about the van proposal being well intentioned but not presented in a timely manner. Sparky discusses the difficulties getting information regarding athletes intentions to attend outside races and the need to produce procedures that provide a plan and list of responsibilities.

(1) Need to have a selection board 30 days before each calendared FIS event (2) When selection boards are posted, head coach assigned to trip will need to produce a plan and a budget for the trip. (3) Within 48 hours of boards being posted athletes on the board will need to confirm their intentions. (4) Coach to Athlete ratio should be established to reduce cost if quota is not filled.

Motion: To accept above proposal as stated – Sparky

Second: Chris B.

Discussion: Board to be added to website. Motion modified to accept this.

Vote: Passes

d. Chairman – Desire to step down from ACC – Sparky expresses desire to step down from ACC at September ACC meeting.

### **Round Table**

Darcy – JO Jackets to be paid by Athletes or Division. Agreement that this is what already happens?

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting TBA – sometime after USSA Congress

### **Adjournment**

Motion: To Adjourn

M/S/C – All/All/No Objection