

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
CINCINNATI MARRIOTT NORTHEAST, MASON, OH  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President, Ted Cradlebaugh called the annual general membership meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and noted the meeting is starting a little late to allow people to sign in to get their ballots. Cradlebaugh welcomed everyone and asked that cell phones be turned off or put on vibrate and when someone has the floor, please be quiet so everyone can hear. He explained monthly board meetings are held at the Hampton Inn in Middletown and he would like to see everyone there.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BANQUET COMMITTEE:** Rick Coombs explained the room this meeting is being held in will be torn down and set up for the banquet at the conclusion of the meeting. He said planning has gone smooth and there should be a good turnout. Ray McKibben thanked the members who provided pictures for the video presentation that will be shown at the banquet. He noted he learned one of the pictures dates back to approximately 1968. McKibben thanked Gary Lutz for providing the time-lapse video. Coombs extended thanks to everyone who helped with set up last evening and the sponsors who supplied some of the prizes.

**RULEBOOK COMMITTEE:** Josh Wagar reported he is working on the final edit of the 2015 rulebook and hopes to have it finished this upcoming week. He said copies should be available at the Swap Meet.

**SWAP MEET:** Ted Cradlebaugh explained the annual Swap Meet is the organization's biggest fundraiser. Doug Benson said the event is three weeks away and flyers are available. He explained about half of the booth space has been reserved which is standard. Cradlebaugh said some people have been worried about the status of Hara Arena. He reported we have been following that and Benson has other places he has been looking into. Cradlebaugh said sixteen volunteers will be needed for three shifts to work the gate area, which is inside. He said he would like everybody to show up. Cradlebaugh noted a representative from Margay is going to be there which will be posted on the website.

**SHOWS & PROMOTIONS:** Lynda Coombs reported plans are in place for the Indy Circle Track Show next Saturday. She explained this provides an opportunity to hand out flyers about the Swap Meet, as well as the OVKA schedule. Doug Benson noted people have shown up at the Swap Meet after hearing about it at this show. Ted Cradlebaugh reported the DARF Show at Lang Chevrolet has changed from a two-day show to a one-day show. Josh Wagar reported there was a lot of interest at the Cavalcade of Customs Show in Cincinnati last weekend. He thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the event: Shawn Bayliff, Don Boles, Angie Calvert, Brandon Calvert, Jeff Calvert, Ori Cohen, Marlene Cook, Lynda Coombs, Rick Coombs, Dylan Cradlebaugh, Heather Cradlebaugh, Ted Cradlebaugh, Emerson D'Agostino, Mike D'Agostino, Paul Krimmer, Ken Kuethe, Brad Schroeder, Dawn Schroeder, Aaron Smith, Reid Smith, Josh Wagar and Rick Wagar. Cradlebaugh noted one of the OVKA Kid Karters, Katelyn Shiveley, had a really sharp display at the Cavalcade Show. He thanked everyone who helped with the event. Cradlebaugh explained OVKA has a trailer that contains all of the equipment for transporting to shows and decals will be installed on it. He asked that people who use their own trailers be sure to return the items to the OVKA trailer.

**TRACK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Gary Gregg explained we are waiting on warm weather to have the track repairs done. Ray McKibben reported in the spring cracks will be sealed and

maintenance completed. Ted Cradlebaugh said these repairs are greatly needed and the board has approved the funds. He explained Charlie Freeburn does repairs for a lot of the tracks around the country and he can take some of the bumps out. Lee McCready inquired about a road through the pits that he has been asked about. Cradlebaugh replied Rick Coombs is working on a quote to extend the road and it is great we have so many people that we need more space. Cradlebaugh pointed out it is a big selling point at shows telling people they can practice all day for \$10 and we are real lucky. McCready thanked everybody who helped with the numbering system and explained some changes will be made to the new map. He encouraged people to talk with him today if they are interested in reserving a pit spot or have questions. Cradlebaugh said the area by the fuel station will be addressed so people can get in there better. Cradlebaugh thanked McCready for his help.

## **BUSINESS:**

**ELECTION OF 2015 OFFICERS:** Mike Brown offered to serve as the board member representative and Dave Brown and Ron Gordon, Jr. as general member representatives for the counting of ballots. Ted Cradlebaugh asked Heather Cradlebaugh to assist. Ted Cradlebaugh explained Ray McKibben and Josh Wagar are running for President and asked Tracy Kuethe to collect the completed ballots. 2015 Officers: President-Josh Wagar, Vice-President-Ken Kuethe, Secretary-Lynda Coombs and Treasurer-Jason Gregg. Ted Cradlebaugh said the President needs the members to be involved and needs their input. McKibben explained there is a link on the OVKA website to email the entire board and it is a great way to reach us.

**2015 SCHEDULE:** Ted Cradlebaugh explained the OVKA schedule was put out at a time WKA did not have their schedule. He stated if we want to have race dates at New Castle and Circleville that has to be done ahead of time. Cradlebaugh said he has always tried to schedule around WKA and he will work with the new President to make changes. He noted the schedule could extend later into October if needed. Ray McKibben said WKA had four races scheduled with no drops and now he saw there are five races. He inquired about the number of drops WKA will have to which John Horn responded they said with four races there would be no drops but he is not sure about five races. Cradlebaugh said he had to weigh how many people are going to the nationals. He also noted that Shawn Bayliff will have twelve to fourteen going to USPKS. Cradlebaugh asked what people thought about back-to-back races on Saturday and Sunday to which there were affirmations. He said there have been people worried about what happens if their kart breaks and said we will help you. Gary Gregg stated this would help with travel costs. Cradlebaugh said there was a time we had eighteen races. He reported he has had a lot of people wanting more Saturday night races to which there were affirmations from attendees. Bayliff asked if the attendance drops at Saturday daytime races to which Cradlebaugh responded there is some drop but not much. Bayliff said a complaint he heard was two travelling races back-to-back. Cradlebaugh explained all of the equipment is packed is why this is done. Bayliff asked about skipping in between two away races to which Cradlebaugh said he can look at that. Bayliff said he loves the schedule this year. Jeff Powers said he would like to see one double race weekend by having Saturday and Sunday day races. Powers would also like to see the track open for practice before Saturday night races and see tech for the whole year. Cradlebaugh responded our tech helps a lot of new people. It was suggested to tech the night before to which Cradlebaugh said the tech person has to be there. Mike Brown stated this is not going to change the amount of time even if tech is done the night before because you still have to get painted and register. He further stated up until the very last race of the year, there were issues with intrusion bars. Brown said even longtime members forget things. Ron Gordon, Jr. pointed out if tech is done one or two times a year and they forget a safety wire, they will get disqualified so pre-tech saves a lot of them. Frank Tvrdy said if possible, he would like the first third or the last third of the season to schedule back-to-back races. Bayliff asked if the 2015 schedule will change because he schedules Cincinnati Motorsports around it. Cradlebaugh responded the schedule says, "subject to change" and

the reason it would change is to work around WKA. Gordon noted 61% of the people are in school and something like that needs to be during the summer, as well as away races. He explained how possible snow days will put children in school around May 31st doing exams. Cradlebaugh explained the away races need to be scheduled ahead of time and New Castle even offered three races. McKibben reported the Gold Cup will not be going to Circleville. Brown said it is not official and not posted yet. Josh Wagar responded it is on WKA's web site they are going to Circleville. Gordon reported the Circleville kids want to go into the Rookie class and they hate what is going on with WKA right now. Cradlebaugh will work on the schedule and try his best to not hurt anybody if he can help it but somebody is not going to be happy.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**CORNER WORKERS:** Ron Gordon, Jr. expressed concern about corner workers and suggested there be a training like Karting 101 with some kind of certification. Ted Cradlebaugh responded every race day we have to have corner workers and these people volunteer and are there most every week. He further stated they do a pretty good job and things happen quick on the track. Cradlebaugh explained when there are not enough corner workers, our policy is to pull a name and send them to work a turn and they try to do their best. He said more training would be great. Gordon suggested assigning someone who is there a lot to stand with them for one or two races. Rick Coombs asked Mike Brown if WKA has any type of certification for corner workers. Brown said he conducts a training for race officials, corner workers and race directors and it will be held at the Swap Meet. He further stated what Gordon is talking about is a lot less expensive than the certification class and he would hate to see any club members have to fork out the money that he (\$700), Suzi Brown (\$350) and Gordon do (\$175). Brown said he does not think this is necessary at OVKA and he has the materials he could bring into a classroom environment and he could work with the board and President to put something together. McKibben said to add to this, he has worked many years out there and you are watching out for your safety, the karter's safety and the race and there is a lot going on.

**PARTICIPATION CREDITS:** Ron Gordon, Jr. reported some people called him about the participation credits and they are really upset. He said when a kid has a ballgame, it makes them have to be there. Gordon asked if this was a board thing. He stated they said the board dropped it to two Ps two years ago and it seems like this came out of the rules committee. Josh Wagar said the rules committee came up with it and sent it to the board and there were zero complaints. He further explained all suggestions come to the committee and the board said for the committee to come up with a policy and not one person had a complaint. Gordon stated the Kid Kart parents are affected most because their kids play softball and they will get two tires instead of four. Wagar explained in the past two Ps could be used to bump up a racer's participation level and instead, the drawings will be based on what they raced and worker Ps will be separate. He noted there are still two drops and Gordon asked if you run twelve races, will you be in the 100% to which Wagar said yes. Lynda Coombs responded that is not how the new policy is written and asked for clarification stating she is responsible for keeping records for the credits. Ted Cradlebaugh said you are rewarded for being there 100% as it should be. Gordon responded the Kid Karts are the biggest class and the parents want tires. Wagar said in the future, the parents need to let us know. Gordon said the problem is, Kid Kart parents are told to come see him to which Wagar responded that is not necessarily true. Coombs read the new policy, "Level 1: 7 to 11 events=Lowest level prize and 1 grand prize drawing ticket. Level 2: 12 to 13 events=Middle level prize and 2 grand prize drawing ticket. Level 3: 14 events=Highest level prize and 4 grand prize drawing tickets." Gordon said what the parents are saying is they are working for nothing. Coombs responded they receive volunteer credits. Tom Swindling said it sounds like you need to go back to what he and Nick Ouwerkerk did with 100%, 75% and 50% that made it simple. Ken Kuethe stated he has mentioned it the past couple of meetings

that he strongly recommends members of the club help out and it seems like the emails are always people wanting to get something back. Gordon asked Kuethe if tires are important to him to which Kuethe said, yes, but he does not expect them to be given. Aaron Banfield said this really doesn't have to do with how many tires you get. Wagar explained the number of tires given out depends on the tire contract and how many people are in the levels. Cradlebaugh stated if you come to every race, you will probably get four tires to which Gordon stated next year you won't.

**DRIVER ACKNOWLEDGED:** Ron Gordon, Jr. explained Nick Snell started racing in 2012 in the middle of the year and last year won the Kid Kart Nationals, WKA and Great Lakes. Gordon said for the 2015 season as a good gesture as he does bring a lot of people, to make Nick Snell Racing the Kid Kart sponsor. Ted Cradlebaugh discussed how this has not been done for others to which Gordon responded they haven't won all three. Gordon explained last year Rylie Myers and Nick Snell were given a free race entry for running the Kid Kart Nationals and he thinks they forgot. Mike Brown noted it was offered to them at a driver's meeting. Lynda Coombs asked that Gordon let them know to mention it at registration and it will be taken care of.

**HELMETS:** Mike Brown said he would like to remind all members their Snell 2005 helmets are good until 2016. Brent Warren asked if we are following WKA to which Brown explained the numbers are not WKA assigned but SFI and Snell assigned.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mike Brown, seconded by Josh Wagar, made a motion to adjourn at 3:13 p.m.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS:**

- Indy Circle Track Show – Saturday, January 24, 2015, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN
- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 3, 2015, Hampton Inn, 2880 Towne Boulevard, Middletown, OH, 45044 (west side of Interstate-75)
- OVKA 2015 Swap Meet – Saturday, February 7, 2015, Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road, Dayton, OH
- DARF Race Cars and Future Stars Show – Friday through Sunday, March 13-15, 2015, Centre City Mall, Piqua, OH.

#### **SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS:**

- Mike Brown – Work with the Board and President to put together training for corner workers.
- Lynda Coombs – Take care of free entry for two Kid Karters.
- Josh Wagar – Complete final edit of 2015 rulebook.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Boles, M. Brown, R. Coombs, T. Cradlebaugh, G. Gregg, K. Kuethe, R. Landes, L. McCready, R. McKibben, J. Roberts, and J. Wagar.

**MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT:** A. Banfield, R. Beaman, D. Benson, C. Bogan, D. Brown, S. Brown, J. Calvert, O. Cohen, M. Cook, L. Coombs, D. Cradlebaugh, T.T. Cradlebaugh, R. Creighton, S. Fancher, D. Fiehrer, J. Horn, G. Huber, G. Lutz, D. Pierson, R. Gordon, Jr., R. Gordon, Sr., J. Grimes, B. Hammersmith, R. Harris, S. Harris, S. Helton, J. Hendricks, D. Hughes, E. McCready, T. Melton, R. Mueller, J. Powers, S. Powers, L. Roberts, A. Roman, B. Schroeder, D. Schroeder, S. Slattery, L. Smiley, C. Swindling, T. Swindling, B. Trent, F. Tvrdy, C. Ulm, J. Ulm, R. Wagar, B. Warren, K. Warren, S. Young and one illegible signature.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 1/27/15.