

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Josh Wagar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming. He asked that cell phones be turned down or placed on vibrate and side conversations be taken outside. Wagar noted there is a lot to discuss this evening and asked attendees to raise their hand.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Lynda Coombs discussed an email from Brian Schroeder where he said two of his votes at the December board meeting were reported incorrectly in the minutes. Coombs explained upon her review of the roll call, she had them recorded as reported in the minutes. She suggested in order to avoid future issues, she read back the roll call before votes are finalized to which there was no objection. Coombs then made a motion to accept the December 1, 2015 board meeting minutes with the changes to Schroeder's votes, specifically, abstaining on racing in the rain and abstaining on accepting Red Line oil. The motion was seconded by Josh Wagar and passed unanimously. Coombs reported the Hampton Inn agreed to provide the meeting room this month at no cost and the contracts for the remainder of 2016 at the previous rate have been signed and submitted. Josh Wagar discussed conversations that have taken place regarding the content of board meeting minutes. He stated Coombs puts a lot into the content which some people who can't attend feel is helpful and keeps everything transparent. Wagar said there are others who feel there should not be as much and it makes us look bad. He explained the President has typically provided direction about this and when he became OVKA President he told Coombs to continue the same way she had been. Wagar further stated the makeup of the board changes but he is good with keeping everything transparent. Pat Slattery said he is fine with the status quo. Brian Schroeder stated he believes there should be less in the minutes. He explained he has looked at what other tracks do and he thinks sometimes we look foolish. Schroeder further stated he is not saying the minutes are not professional and Lynda does a wonderful job. Wagar responded Coombs informed him of a conversation she had with a newer member who likes all the detail as he lives far away and cannot attend the meetings. Ray McKibben noted the links to the minutes are right up front on the door to our website and we want new karters to look at other things like shows and promotions. Ted Cradlebaugh responded he thinks the minutes are fine and there are times we say to not put something down. He said tonight people are here because they are worried about what they have read. Ken Kuethe stated we're going to discuss this for ten minutes and Coombs is going to write everything down. Cradlebaugh responded she has to pick what is put in and Wagar checks the minutes before they are published. Wagar then asked who wants to change the minutes by having less. Cradlebaugh said he does not want us hiding things. Schroeder stated we are asking a lot of Lynda. Slattery pointed out we used to have the Exhaust newsletter but now it is all open. Wagar said the membership should see the transparency. Brent Warren responded he thinks the level of detail is good but he sees Schroeder's point and there's a good side and others who feel the other way. Consensus was to make no changes to the detailed content of the minutes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** On behalf of Treasurer Jason Gregg, Gary Gregg provided bank balances. Gregg reported calculations for reconciling with G & J Kartway are getting closer.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SHOWS & PROMOTIONS:** Josh Wagar reported the DARF Banquet of Champions held Saturday, December 5, 2016 was fun. On behalf of OVKA, he presented a \$2,000 donation to DARF from our Charity Race. Wagar thanked all of the OVKA members who were a part of that event. Brian Schroeder has workers lined up for the Cavalcade of Customs Show this coming weekend. Don

Boles and Ray McKibben will help with setup and Brian and Dawn Schroeder will tear down. Josh Wagar said a box of 2016 schedules are available this evening for the show and Doug Benson will bring Swap Meet flyers to the show Friday afternoon. Aaron Banfield offered to assist in transporting the flyers to the show if Benson can contact him. Brent Warren offered to assist also. Lynda Coombs reported plans are in place for the Indy Circle Track Expo on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Don Boles, Marlene Cook and Rick and Lynda Coombs will staff the booth. Rick Wagar asked if it is a big show. Coombs responded yes and explained that while it is geared more toward circle track racing, it provides a great opportunity to distribute Swap Meet flyers. Don Boles added there are a lot of car parts at this show. Josh Wagar will coordinate the Great Lakes Expo on February 20<sup>th</sup> with assistance from Jeff Calvert, Gary Huber and Brian Schroeder. Wagar reported DARF knows we will be participating in the Race Cars and Future Stars Expo in March and he will attempt to get us a more prime booth location. Randy Landes and Ted Cradlebaugh will coordinate the Tim's Motorsports Expo on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Ray McKibben asked that people communicate when supplies in the trailer are low.

**SPONSORSHIP / PIT SPOTS:** Lee McCready reported things are going good with pit spots and he appreciates everybody who has let him know their intentions. He explained commitments have been made so far for seventy spots and people are standing in line for some spots that have not yet been committed to. He asked that people let him know so he can pass that along to those who are waiting. Wagar said there will be some other spots coming open and Ted Cradlebaugh noted they are prime spots. Wagar asked McCready to contact people who are waiting to see if they are still interested and if not, move down the list.

**TRACK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Josh Wagar reported Ray McKibben is repairing and painting the lineup board. McKibben thanked Gary Huber for providing a table saw.

**SWAP MEET:** Josh Wagar reported he has talked with Doug Benson and everything is moving along for the Swap Meet. Brian Schroeder is coordinating gate workers. Wagar explained due to scheduling conflicts, a tech seminar with Steve Baker will not be able to take place. Wagar reported Jeff Roberts said there are other ways he can get the training. Ted Cradlebaugh inquired about the status of having the event at Hara Arena next year. Wagar responded as of this time, the facility says they will be there. He further stated he and Benson discussed having a plan B. Pat Slattery mentioned Cincinnati Gardens.

**RULES COMMITTEE:** Josh Wagar reported there was email communication with Marie Borsuk with WKA about their age rule. He explained the rule only applies to national and regional events so there will be no change to our rules. Wagar said a lot of people are here for discussion tonight about racing in the rain and he asked to keep from side conversations. Wagar stated last month it was very quickly voted to race in the rain and within a day, he received phone calls and emails from a variety of people. He further stated he feels we rushed into this decision. Pat Slattery responded he thought we voted it in to which Wagar said we did but per our bylaws, someone on the winning side can bring it up. Slattery said Wagar is against it and doing everything in his power to change it. Wagar responded he is not in favor of it but he will live with it. Ken Kuethe stated he voted yes and is bringing it up as we need more discussion. Ray McKibben asked to keep this civil and not personal or disrespectful. Slattery responded he is not being disrespectful and asked what if people bought rain tires. Reid Smith said he read the minutes and this jumped out. He stated there needs to be more notice to the membership for people who don't run nationals and there is a whole other layer. Rick Wagar inquired about average entry totals last year and what percentage have raced in the rain. Josh Wagar responded perhaps fifteen to twenty drivers and Kuethe added closer to twenty. Rick Wagar said that is 80% of the drivers with no rain experience and we're going to have 80% out in

front of 20% when we have pea-pick races. He further stated he thinks it is a safety issue not to mention the potential damage, maintenance and rain tires. Brian Schroeder suggested conducting a poll at the banquet when people sign in. Josh Wagar explained there would need to be a motion to reconsider this month. Slattery said Rick Wagar is talking about pea-pick being dangerous so if we race in the rain, we should qualify. Josh Wagar responded the rulebook says the Race Director reserves the right to change the configuration. Slattery stated our racers are not babies and they adapt. Kuethe asked Slattery what the advantage is to racing in the rain. Slattery responded we don't have to wait three hours and the day is already too long and it would be shorter. Kuethe asked for more reasons to which Slattery said time and experience. Marina Walters added no rain points. Jeff Roberts discussed how a lot of racers from far away wonder if it is going to rain and might not come because we don't race in the rain. Slattery agreed. Don Boles said for the average person, it will cost about \$500 for tires and rims to which Slattery said maybe Boles should get out of racing. Ted Cradlebaugh explained he was one who voted in favor because for people who live far away and decide not to come, it takes them out of the championship. He noted we have made rain dates and we need to decide earlier so we can get out of there. Cradlebaugh stated there is a cost to it but he doubts it is \$500. He further stated he does not want to put used rain tires on as there will be a disadvantage. Derek Hughes responded they don't have to be brand new tires and he ran used tires at a national race. Cradlebaugh added while he voted yes, he thinks we should get an overall consensus. He thinks qualifying would be a good thing if you are going to race in the rain. Rob Helton discussed the cost being the main concern as he has two kids and himself racing. He said this is a club and if you want to race in the rain, go to nationals. Helton suggested not having points at rain dates. Cradlebaugh responded the people it will hit the hardest are those with more than one kart. Eben Smith discussed the experience he and his daughter had at a race in Pennsylvania when it rained the whole time and the people next to them helped them so much. He said if we decide to race in the rain, we can reach out and help each other. Smith added he learned a lot and his daughter loved it. Brent Warren explained that typically with WKA, once there is a rain announcement, you have fifteen minutes to change tires. Kuethe responded he has had tire changes four times. Slattery stated if you want to go out on slicks, go out on slicks. Warren responded if it's wet enough, they'll make rain tires mandatory. McKibben reported he contacted Comet Kart Sales about pricing everything new to race in the rain and it would be about \$500. He said we did not put stipulations on how many sets of rain tires you can use. Slattery responded you're not going to put on more than one set. Kuethe said he could not disagree more and he has put on two sets by the end of the day. Slattery stated when you're racing two or three karts it's going to cost you money. McKibben pointed out it was mentioned we are a club and he is trying to keep the cost down to which Slattery said we are. McKibben discussed the need for people to learn how to properly clean the kart. On behalf of Tom Melton, McKibben said Melton is fifty-years-old and has to go to work in the morning and does not want to be out in the rain when it is fifty or sixty degrees. Hughes said he would be happy to put on a seminar how to set up the kart and noted the closest club to us, KRA, races in the rain. Hughes asked Gary Gregg if he has any restrictions for practicing in the rain to which Gregg said no. Jeff Roberts discussed how back in the day, they did a lot of travelling and he always had to have a set of rain tires in his trailer just in case. He said he finished seventh on three to four-year-old tires and it was a blast. Roberts further stated it's hard to judge until you've done it and it does make you a better driver. Warren noted a lot of people have brought up having to buy rain tires and said you have to have something to race on anyway. Kuethe said it has been brought up that everybody has wheels which he does not. Warren stated some people here are making it a bit scarier than it is. Schroeder said he is hearing yes's and no's and he does not think we can make a decision tonight and we need feedback from the members. He said if it is decided to ask at the banquet, he volunteers to sit and ask people when they check in. Wagar explained the by-laws require if we are going to do anything to reconsider, it has to be done tonight. Helton responded he made his point about money and asked what about safety and are there going to be more bags to go

up around guy wires. Kuethe and Wagar discussed there have been national and regional races in the rain and it was not a concern. Reid Smith suggested if the vote to race in the rain had been for next year, he would have a whole year to come out and practice. Brennan McIntosh said he is looking into running nationals and maybe it's a safer place to learn at the club. Cradlebaugh stated some people will fail and some will exceed and do well; it's a blast but it's tough. He added he thinks it is a great idea to wait until next year as it gives people time. Walters asked if drivers would get to vote at the banquet. Wagar explained it will be a poll and will be one per membership. Schroeder added this is to just give us an idea. Walters said why wait and push it back a year when you have four months. Randy Landes stated he voted yes primarily to push it along and he raced in the rain at Mid-Ohio finishing fourth and it was fantastic. He further stated regarding safety, you don't have the same amount of speed and a lot less energy is dissipated. Slattery added the wrecks are almost in slow motion and it is safer in the kart in the rain than on a dry surface. He stated the Race Director has control over whether to race and it is usually done in fine or light rain. Slattery said he hated to race in the rain when he first started. Boles stated this is a pretty big decision for us and he likes the idea of putting it out to the members to vote. Cradlebaugh responded it is up to the board and they could be here. Wagar said he is willing to have a poll at banquet registration. Having been on the prevailing side, Kuethe made a motion to reconsider racing in the rain and take a poll at the banquet to be discussed at the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Wagar. Kuethe said just talk to the members and he is embarrassed. Slattery asked which slant you are going to use. Wagar said he was ready to race in the rain then a number of people contacted him. Slattery said there are people here who want it. Kuethe responded you, your crew and Eben want it and we don't have a lot of other support here. Wagar explained the board will have to vote on it. Cradlebaugh stated he wants to delay it a year. Landes said he does not want to wait a year as he does not know if he will be here. Reid Smith stated he can live with it if there is due diligence and a process of gathering information. Dawn Schroeder asked when this will be discussed to which Wagar responded at the next regular board meeting in February. Gary Gregg said approximately twenty-five years ago we voted to have club tires and spec fuel and everybody said no. Now we have to have both of these. Kuethe responded those weren't decided in fifteen minutes to which Gregg said it was over three years. Wagar explained the poll will not be counted that night and Schroeder said it needs to be sealed. Wagar said it will simply say are you in favor of racing in the rain. Slattery asked aren't we supposed to make these hard decisions and what if we raised the price? He added do away with the board. Lee McCready responded you're turning it into a democracy open up to everybody. Wagar said it will be a poll. Kuethe stated you guys are so sure you're right on this. He said nobody was aware we were going to discuss this and it came up with pit spots. Cradlebaugh amended Kuethe's motion that we do race in the rain but not until 2017 and everybody gets time to get ready. The amendment was seconded by Kuethe and failed with seven opposed and five in favor (roll call: Calvert-yes, Cradlebaugh-yes, Gregg-no, Kuethe-yes, Landes-no, McCready-no, McKibben-yes, Roberts-no, Schroeder-yes, Slattery-no, Warren-no, Boles-no; roll call verbally confirmed). Kuethe's motion was then voted on and passed with seven in favor and five opposed (roll call: Cradlebaugh-yes, Gregg-no, Kuethe-yes, Landes-yes, McCready-no, McKibben-yes, Roberts-no, Schroeder-yes, Slattery-no, Warren-no, Boles-yes, Calvert-yes; roll call verbally confirmed). McKibben stated the purpose of this is to get the opinions of the membership.

**BANQUET COMMITTEE:** On behalf of Rick Coombs, Lynda Coombs reported they met with the sales manager on December 29<sup>th</sup> to finalize plans for the banquet. Due to issues with cold food at last year's banquet, the facility will be providing complimentary soda throughout the evening, a pasta dish and cookies. The Marriott has extended the date for the reduced room rate to January 15<sup>th</sup>. Coombs reported a photographer has been lined up. Ray McKibben asked for people to provide him with pictures from the 2015 season for the slideshow.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TECH TOOLS:** Jeff Roberts is working on engraving tech tools and will determine what additional tools are needed.

**DECODER BOX:** Lynda Coombs reported pricing for a decoder box is \$2,950 plus shipping. Gary Gregg is willing to split the cost with OVKA. Coombs explained once a new decoder box is all set up and tested for functionality, she would like to send out the old decoder box to see if it can be repaired. Josh Wagar made a motion to appropriate up to \$2,000 for decoder boxes with Gary Gregg splitting the cost. The motion was seconded by Brent Warren and passed unanimously.

**2016 OFFICERS:** Josh Wagar reviewed officer nominations that took place at last month's board meeting as follows: Josh Wagar for President, Ken Kuethe for Vice-President, Lynda Coombs for Secretary and Jason Gregg for Treasurer. Officers will be officially elected prior to the banquet.

**CLASS STRUCTURE:** Josh Wagar discussed last month's votes to change weights on two TaG engine packages, the ROK and Leopard. He said the next day he questioned the votes due to all of the abstentions. Wagar said our by-laws have a couple of conflicting things where one says there is no effect and one is questionable. Main motions require a majority of all board members present. He said in looking at Robert's Rules, an abstention will have the same effect as a no. Ted Cradlebaugh responded they abstained. Rick Wagar said it means there weren't enough votes to pass. Brian Schroeder said a by-law change needs to be an abstention is a no. If not, it goes by the majority; you count your yes's and no's. Randy Landes added if it is something important, we need a majority. Cradlebaugh said abstained means you have a conflict or don't have enough information. Ray McKibben stated that many abstentions should mean it gets tabled. Rick Wagar responded that is not our rule and this came up out of the blue and the question is should it have passed? He said it seems to him we have an area in the by-laws that is not clear and it says the majority of board members present so by abstaining, they made a vote to not vote and you had a majority. Rick Wagar added at some point, the language in the by-laws needs to be clarified pertaining to the votes. Josh Wagar responded he plans to do that at some point, possibly in February or March. Cradlebaugh said these weights have been voted on and at the first race the Race Director or Tech Director can watch and see if the weights need to be changed. He added right now they are all 375# and it was 365# for the Leopard, 375# for the X30 and 385# for the ROK. Cradlebaugh said the Leopard people will have to put more weight on and he does not believe lowering the ROK is fair and the X30 will run better. Josh Wagar asked Cradlebaugh if he wants to make a motion to reconsider to which Cradlebaugh responded to leave it and look at it at the first race. Ken Kuethe noted in WKA the Leopard and X30 are the same and asked why they won't lower the X30. Pat Slattery responded the Leopard is becoming obsolete the same as the Sonik and you won't be able to get parts down the road.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**RACE DAY:** Brian Schroeder asked if there is a way to speed up the first race day and if any of it can be done for an hour or two the night before. Josh Wagar responded he plans on it. Schroeder said there are twenty-five people there the night before. Wagar said he and Lynda Coombs can talk about if early registration is doable. Coombs responded it is not a problem to do this the night before. Rick Wagar said he plans to be walking around doing pre-tech the night before. Don Boles pointed out Karting 101 is the day before the first race so people could come up then. Josh Wagar plans on being there Saturday evening and will make it happen.

**RED LINE OIL:** Brian Schroder reported he had talked with a gentleman with Red Line who offered some money and banners to put up and was looking at a fourteen race season. Since Burris sells Red Line, this person does not want to step on anyone's toes. Ted Cradlebaugh suggested asking if he would provide something for our banquet. Josh Wagar said since learning Burris is a distributor for Red Line he is going to see if they will donate some.

**2016 SCHEDULE:** Dan Fiehrer asked if there is going to be a change to the race schedule. Josh Wagar responded the only change might be to add a rain date on a Saturday when we have a race scheduled on Sunday. He said he left one rain date on the schedule in case of a monsoon or lightening. Wagar added the weekends are set.

**CHARITY RACE DONATION:** Lynda Coombs read a thank you note from the First Brethren Church of Gratis for the donation made by OVKA and G & J Kartway.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ray McKibben, seconded by Josh Wagar, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Cincinnati Cavalcade of Customs Show – Friday through Sunday, January 8-10, 2016, Duke Energy Convention Center, 525 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH, 45202
- OVKA Annual Membership Meeting & 2015 Banquet – Saturday, January 16, 2016, Cincinnati Marriott Northeast, 9664 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason, OH, 45040
- Indy Circle Track Show – Saturday, January 23, 2016, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN, 46205
- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Hampton Inn, 2880 Towne Boulevard, Middletown, OH, 45044 (west side of Interstate-75)
- OVKA 2016 Swap Meet – Saturday, February 6, 2016, Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road, Dayton, OH, 45415
- Great Lakes Racing Expo 2016 – Saturday, February 20, 2016, Full Throttle Indoor Karting, 11725 Commons Drive, Springdale, OH, 45246
- DARF Race Cars & Future Stars Expo – Thursday through Sunday, March 3-6, 2016, Miami Valley Centre Mall, 987 East Ash Street, Piqua, OH, 45356
- Tim's Motorsports Expo – Friday and Saturday, March 25-26, 2016, Allen County Fairgrounds, 2750 Harding Highway, Lima, OH, 45804

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

- Don Boles – Assist with setup at the Cavalcade Show, volunteer at Indy Circle Track Show.
- Jeff Calvert – Volunteer at the Great Lakes Expo.
- Marlene Cook – Volunteer at the Indy Circle Track Show.
- Lynda Coombs – Coordinate the Indy Circle Track Show, order new decoder box.
- Rick Coombs – Volunteer at the Indy Circle Track Show.
- Ted Cradlebaugh – Coordinate Tim's Motorsports Expo with Randy Landes.
- Gary Huber – Volunteer at the Great lakes Expo.
- Randy Landes – Coordinate Tim's Motorsports Expo with Ted Cradlebaugh.
- Ray McKibben – Assist with setup at the Cavalcade Show, prepare banquet slideshow.
- Jeff Roberts – Determine what additional tech tools are needed.
- Brian Schroeder – Assist with tear down at the Cavalcade Show, volunteer at the Great lakes Expo, coordinate Swap Meet gate workers, assist with racing in the rain poll at the banquet.

- Dawn Schroeder – Assist with tear down at the Cavalcade Show.
- Josh Wagar – Address booth location for the DARF Race Cars and Future Stars Expo, coordinate Great Lakes Expo.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Boles, J. Calvert, T. Cradlebaugh, G. Gregg, K. Kuethe, R. Landes, L. McCready, R. McKibben, J. Roberts, B. Schroeder, P. Slattery, J. Wagar and B. Warren.

**MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT:** A. Banfield, A. Calvert, B. Calvert, M. Cook, L. Coombs, D. Cradlebaugh, D. Fiehrer, B. Helton, R. Helton, S. Helton, G. Huber, D. Hughes, B. McIntosh, M. McIntosh, V. Oatts, D. Schroeder, E. Smith, R. Smith, R. Wagar and M. Walters.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 1/20/16.