

October 23, 2016 General Members Meeting

Location: Holiday Inn

Attendance: See sign in sheet.

Tom called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Deb Chapman made a motion to approve the February 21, 2016 general member meeting. Ryan Sebo seconded. It was approved.

State of the Track. There are lots of rocks. We need clay. It does need work. We had some clay by Glenburn but it was used.

Financial. We have \$50,000 in the banks. It is about \$25,000 difference from this year to last year. We paid more purses this year. The crowds were down this year. There were also no rainouts. Deb had sheets if anyone wanted to see them.

Elections. Tom said thank you to everyone who came. Tom asked for nominations for President. Ron Huettl said he would like for those who are running to stand up and tell us who you are and why you want to run. It helps when you can make meetings and work nights. There was one guy who only made half of the meetings. That isn't helping the club.

Who is interested: Dale Nordstrom. He has served on the board twice before. He is retired now and is interested in helping more. He is interested for a 1 or 2 year term. Troy Bertsch has been on boards for the last 30 years. He has been involved in different racing clubs. He can bring those experiences to this board. He is looking for a 1 year term. Robby Rosselli has been around racing his whole life. He has ideas to help out. It doesn't matter on the position. Lance Peterson would like to be the flagman next year. Stu Kragh has been at Nodak every Sunday for years. He has never been on the board and is willing to do it. Dana Brandt will run again. Jami Eklund will run again. Justin Medler isn't seeking re-election. Jason Olsen isn't seeking re-election. Clint Hudkins isn't here. He never resigned. He didn't send a letter to us. But he has missed 3 meetings. He was letting us know he wouldn't be there. That is excused. Do we want to fill that position today? He told someone last night he was done. He told Troy Bertsch. He also told us 2 months ago and he has never given us a letter of resignation. Rick Vondal made the motion to take Clint Hudkins off of the board. Ryan Sebo seconded. It was approved. Deb read the by-laws about it. Deb said we can fill his remaining one year term. Deb and Brandon are the only remaining board members. Tom asked if anyone was interested. Ron said that we could cut 2 positions off of the board. It would help speed the meetings up. But then attendance is critical. Nathan Watne is interested in running but he doesn't have a membership. Can he get a membership on a technicality? What if someone is willing to run but can't make the meetings. Can they skype? No they have to be there. Troy works evenings but is switching jobs to do this. It is a huge commitment to be on the board. Justin said that this is sad. We are in no better shape than Williston because we don't have enough people to run the club. What can we do as a club to make it more enticing? Racers are their own worst enemy. They get a bad call then they aren't helping.

Nominations for President. Robby Rosselli nominated Brandon Beeter for president. Rick Rodman seconded. Brandon accepted the nomination. Tom asked for anymore. Tom won't accept the

nomination. Motion to cease nominations was made by Steve Pierce. Seconded by Dennis Chapman. It was approved. Brandon Beeter is the new President.

Nominations for someone to take over the rest of the Vice President term. Troy Bertsch nominated Stu Kragh. He accepted the nomination. Andrew Bertsch seconded. Dennis Chapman nominated Dana Brandt. Ryan Sebo seconded. Motion was made by Ryan Sebo to cease the nominations. Judy Mock seconded. It was approved. Tom asked for a show of hands. Dana Brandt took over the rest of the Vice President term.

Nominations for Secretary. Justin Medler nominated Jami Eklund. Deb Chapman seconded. Tom asked if there were any others. Motion to cease the nominations by Dennis Chapman. Seconded by Judy Mock. It was approved. Jami Eklund is the Secretary.

Nominations for the 2 year term. Rick Rodman nominated Robby Rosselli for the 2 year position. Robby accepted the nomination. George Lutz seconded. Ryan Sebo nominated Dale Nordstrom for the 2 year position. Dale accepted the nomination. Andrew Bertsch seconded. Motion was made to cease the nominations by Ryan Sebo. It was seconded by Brandon Beeter. It was approved. The vote was by secret ballot. Dale had 24 votes. Robby had 12. Dale Nordstrom is the 2 year term holder.

We have about 200 members of the club and only 36 are here today.

1 year term. Troy Bertsch, Robby Rosselli and Stu Kragh. Do we want to leave Clint's position open? The board can fill in Clint's position later. Is there anyone else willing to step up? Rick Vondal? No he has no time to do it. He is busy during the summer with fireworks. The board will work with you also. Ryan said why don't we leave it open until February and worry about it then. Can Nathan Watne purchase his membership today? After June 1st the board needs to approve any memberships. He can't purchase one today. The board can appoint him later. Nathan said that like Rick he is busy with farming and can't make all the Monday meetings. He called every meeting that he wasn't going to be there though. Rick Rodman made a motion to fill the 3 – 1 year terms with Troy Bertsch, Stu Kragh, and Robby Rosselli. Deb Chapman seconded. It was approved. We will let the board handle the last position.

Tom said congratulations to the new board. The next meeting will be determined by the new board. The new board is asked to meet up front and they will go from there.

Ron said understand that we were down about 20% attendance wise. We are down about \$30,000 from last year. We made money 2 years ago. Last year we didn't make any money. We have no money to make any purchases. Need to quit blasting Nodak on Facebook.

Rick Rodman wondered about a suggestion box for the grandstand. We can check it every week.

When did the attendance fall? What about the 7:00 pm start time? Average attendance this year was 950. Car count is usually 10 fans per car. Average cars was 100 a night. 2 years ago it was 1150 average attendance and 120-130 cars. When we lost the b-mains we lost the fans and car count. We need to get car count back.

What about what drivers think could be better? Yes but we may get bashed. But we may get ideas also. We have tried a suggestion box in the past. The only people that help are the same 4-5-6 people or the board members. Need helpers during the week. Tom was there 2 weeks straight.

Can we mandate that everyone comes to a general meeting? We need their ideas and we want them to voice their opinion. People use to have to apply to become a member. They use to want to be a part of the Nodak Speedway. We need to ask everyone to see their memberships. We know its hard to do but it should be done.

Ron spoke with someone on the airplane and they said they couldn't stand the noise. In the spring we should discuss mufflers. The cars are very loud in the new grandstand. What about free ear plugs? We did that. There are about 800 people coming. We need 300 extra people to come.

Rick Vondal asked about letting the kids in for free. We use to do that. What about tickets to all the schools. We may get 25% that come. If we hand out tickets to the kids maybe they will get excited to go and drag their parents. We got very few back when we did it last time. What about all kids free? The total gate would be about \$10-12,000 lower is all. What age do we start? Not sure there.

Robby Rosselli's sponsor is Mi Mexico and even handing tickets out there when he has his car there is big.

We are competing for the entertainment dollar. We have no control over food. What about a family pass? We have tried that in the past. What about meeting with M&S? They may not care.

Troy Bertsch is wondering about seeing the average numbers from 2008 and 2009. 2010 is when the old grandstand came down. The car count is about the same.

The average kid out of college can't afford a race car.

Do we move to a different day? That would kill attendance. We tried other days and they don't work. Ron said that Sunday hurts car count. Thursday and Friday are not good nights. Maybe if we were scheduled Friday it would be different. If people go to the lake on the weekends they won't drive back Saturday for it.

Rick Rodman said that the kids are the key. They will bring their parents and grandparents. Good racing is key also.

6 and under are free. Down south its 14 and under but they get their concessions. We do it free Memorial day for military. What about later in May doing that 18 and under get in free. If we hook 10% of them they are able to drive to the races.

What about coupon books? We are in some different coupon books. The best nights are at the beginning of the year. What about a booster night? The first night get in for free and no pay. Bruce said they use to do it that their first night no matter when was no pay or half pay. It would still be a points night. If we manage enough we shouldn't need a booster night. Sponsor's should be easier for Kari this year. She has a better grip of it.

Kreg Brandvold said the attendance is down to dust and poor racing. That is what he heard. People wondering why water truck isn't moving. People are sick of wrecks. They want to watch good racing. We know we have track issues. The track is getting rough and tearing up cars. It is a balancing out between rough and choppy. The dust is another huge issue. We know that. It is a dirt track. The noise and dirt are part of it. We get the track semi decent and then the fair happens and we have to start all over again. We need consistency in the track. We tried some things and some failed. The board is still learning.

Hot laps made it worse. The first couple of weeks in May ok.

Judy Mock said that 3 years ago Tom and Rick worked that track all week long. She thinks we need to go back to the 6:00 pm start time. Not a lot liked the 7:00 pm start time. Robby said if we get the cars then the fans will come. The drivers liked the 7:00 pm start time. It helped for the drivers that were racing Saturday night.

Estevan raced at 3:00 pm opening weekend. It was nice. Going to get home early. Jamestown hurt us. People from Mandan go there. It has been a steady decline in attendance. People don't have the money like they did before to do it. Everywhere is down. Rick Rodman liked the 6:00 pm start time. In 2013-2014 we started at 5:00 pm and had the biggest attendance then. Earlier in the day there is more dust. Ron said that yes we race at 5:00 pm and get to go home early but the track can't stand it. What about improvising and starting at 6:30 pm.

We had way more nights in 2016. 2013 raced 12, 2014 raced 13, 2015 raced 15 and 2016 raced 18. There were no rain outs this year.

Maybe we want to take a couple nights off in 2017. Attendance always bad in August. We fought so hard to get that extra week in August but do we want to give it back? The fair would be thrilled to get it back. What about a demo derby the first night after the fair or something. The slope of the front straight would make a demo hard to do. What about an Enduro once a month? Weekly enduro racing will turn into no one willing to go.

Motor Magic. We had more people there Sunday for the Enduro then Friday nights races. Mini Vans were a hit the first time they ran. The cat walk was full the first time they ran. This last time not as many people watched them.

Trailer races? We would need 100 volunteers to help clean up. School bus races? No help. Can't do ourselves. Sport Compacts? We could alternate with slingshots. The only growing class is the Hornets at Supernationals. The Hobby and Sport Mods are entry level classes.

Enduros have gotten back. They have faster laps then the hobby stocks. Half of the hobby's are parents or grandparents backing them.

Hornets. Do we want to add a full class? We could alternate with the slingshots. The kids got in for free. They got a trophy and t-shirt. We need to do now if we are doing for the Sport Compacts. We could do it as a trail basis. 3-4 times a year. You need to race 6 times a year to crown a champion. It may be an option. We can try them out to see. Do we want to team up with Mandan? Is it too many classes? That's why we got rid of the Legends. Do we need to have a general meeting to talk about the possible change of classes? What about having the meeting last night? During the banquet. People were drinking last night. Brandon said that he wondered about moving the banquet to the car show in February. We would still do elections in the fall. Need to come to the meeting to get your funny money. We may gain attendance and save costs.

Kari is meeting with the Holiday Inn.

Ask drivers. What do we need to get them more involved?

Is February the right month for the car show? Yes. It's a good time for it. It helps get everyone excited for racing. People call it Wild about the same cars. Troy said he has a collectible car that he isn't bringing out in February in the mud and slush. What about 2 weeks before the races having a car show then? The cars that race March-June aren't car show ready.

What about getting kids at the car show? We tried to get the boy scouts pinewood derby to it but it hasn't worked out.

What about hot wheels during intermission? We want to get the kids involved. What about starting it at Wild about Wheels. We could do it points weekends. That may get them to come to the races. They would bring their parents and grandparents.

Robby said he wants kids involved more. We use to get rides on the cars. It is an insurance thing. Kristi will check on that. If we want to add a class it has to be done by December 15th by the general members. Do we want to add one on a trial basis? See how many we get and if it grows? They have to go race 6 nights to get championship points at a track.

The sprints usually make us money. They didn't this year though. What about getting NOSA up here.

Kerg said thanks for the pizza.

February will be the next general members meeting. Do we want to do more general meetings.

Ron Huettl made the motion to adjourn. Dana Brandt seconded. It was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.