

The Vintage Karting Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 14, 2008

Present

Board Members: Carl Weakley/Carl Billington/Bob Lapke/Brad Fultz/Mark Havery
Terry Ives/Jeff Campbell/Bill McCornack

Absent: None

Guests: Bryan & Dottie Thomas/Jack Murray/Dean Kossarass/Ernie
Fisher/Tom Thorin/Carl Buchanan/Jeff Brown/Michael Edick

Call to Order

The regular, monthly, teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 pm PST by President, Carl Weakley, who acted as chairman and secretary of the meeting.

Carl W welcomed all and stated that where he was at with the VKA is that he just wants to get on a track and buzz around a few laps. His management style is for each Board Member to have set responsibilities and, within their area of responsibility, each Board Member takes care of his section, meets once a month, we have a Board meeting, discuss things and keep the meeting short and sweet, it is a volunteer effort and we go on with life.

Secretary

Carl W asked if everyone had received the minutes of the prior meeting (which had been emailed to the board previously) and asked if there were any revisions/questions, and with no objection, the minutes were approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Lapke, Treasurer, said the treasurer's report had been previously emailed to the board. The month started with a balance of \$11,012.86 and \$195.00 was received in member dues and \$15 from sales of back issues of the newsletter. Checks were issued for website-\$11.95 and \$386.29 for a new membership pocket guide leaving a balance of \$10,738.62. Carl W asked if there were any revisions/questions and with no objection, the treasurer's report was approved by the board.

Membership Report

Brad Fultz, Membership Director, reported that membership was at #331. He presented a history of paid members: 2004-59, 2005-155, 2006-172, 2007-246, 2008-282. He reminded all that dues are no \$30/yr. Bill asked if a renewal notice was in the newsletter. Carl W said no, and it is too late to do so. The Feb issue needs to have the notice. Brad said that a membership application will be mailed to all members.

Tom Thorin asked if his new membership pocket guide will be mailed with the application. Carl W answered that it would be mailed with the renewal stickers. Tom offered advice on producing the renewal stickers. Carl B asked if new cards would be issued like the WKA. Tom said the plan was to use the renewal stickers. Tom warned

that the stickers would not hold-up with an inkjet printer. Carl B suggested Brad contact the card manufacturer for advice on the stickers.

Carl W suggested that discussion of the purchase of a card maker be tabled until next month.

Newsletter

Mark Havery, Newsletter Editor, discussed the layout for the Dec issue. It will go to the printer on Monday. Carl W told the Board that Mark has done a fantastic job and will be missed.

Safety

Terry Ives, Safety Director, advised that he has responded to several safety equipment inquiries and referred everyone to a recent NKN issue devoted to the subject. At least one sanctioning body will be requiring Snell 2005 helmets in 2009 and the Board needs to consider specifying a helmet to be used at events. Carl W remarked that a majority of participants appear to have good helmets and tabled the subject for the rules sub-committee to address next year.

Website

Jeff Campbell, Website Director, advised that a new software version was coming.

Executive Director

Bill McCornack, Executive Director, advised that the national track listing was mailing the first of the year. Bill is sending his mailing list to Faye to use in promoting Riverside.

New Business

Carl W wants the Board to consider a daily membership fee, ie, do what Riverside does. He asked the Board to think about it. Bill asked how much. Carl W said that the VKA is doing a daily membership of \$10 and the annual membership is \$65. Carl W said the intent is not to penalize but to build membership. Bill said that \$10-\$15 isn't a problem. Carl W said that with no daily membership fee, a participant would arrive at the track, not think about membership anymore, the day goes by and the participant doesn't join. A daily fee would prompt more people to join. Carl W asked Bill to look at it, see how Riverside does it and re-visit the subject at the next meeting.

Carl W wants the Board to explore membership benefits, ie, maybe a T-shirt, baseball cap or vendor discounts with Hertz, etc. The T-shirt/baseball cap would tie to our marketing effort and asked to re-visit the subject next month.

The website forum was discussed. Carl W asked that the Board discuss objectives, procedures and discipline and keep the discussion on a business level discussing the history, usage and competing clubs. The discussion was led by Jeff who asked that a website subcommittee be appointed with two other Board Members joining him to reevaluate the objectives of the forum, seeing where procedures should be better defined, easily viewable by users and disciplining of users. Many similar clubs, like the WKA

and IKF do not have forums. Jeff said that a forum is good and needed. Statistics are that there are 237 users. 136 users have posted a message at least once. Half have never posted a message. 60 are active users with 47 posting more than 10 messages. A small number of users are active and a small percentage of them are VKA members. Jeff has put a line in the member profile to define VKA members, but estimates that only 2/3 of users are VKA members. Carl W asked Jeff if he could report at the next board meeting and Carl W asked for volunteers to join the sub-committee. Carl Billington, VP and Dean Kossarass, past VKA Board Member volunteered. Mike Edick, VKA Member, asked that the website be posted as to what is being done. Jeff said the minutes would be posted as usual.

Carl W indicated to all that Member Input is a section of the agenda. The first topic was the website administrative action affecting a member. Jeff advised that administrative action and de-activated a member from the website to decide disciplinary action. Without getting into details, numerous complaints over the last twelve months had been received on the member from Board Members, emails, phone calls, etc. All accumulated causing Jeff to make the painful decision to de-activate the member from the website forum and present the situation to the Board at this meeting. Jeff said that he had been involved with forums for six years via REAR/VKA and never personally de-activated anyone. He didn't do it on a whim or due to a lack of control. It was based on a long thought-out process and simply thought it was appropriate to do. Carl B asked for an example. Jeff declined while Carl W asked that the Board not get personal on the issue and keep it on a business level. Carl W indicated the member had given him input by email, but Carl W had trouble getting his mind around the problem, but he trusted Jeff to make the decision. Ernie Fisher, VKA member, remarked that the forum is how he keeps his finger on the pulse and serves a valuable service. The subcommittee can come up with how to warn an individual. He would like to see the de-activated member re-activated then issue procedures not drop a bomb. Jeff said the intent was for the Board to decide on the penalty, but he has total control over the website. It is the Board's decision. Ernie indicated that others have needed to be taken-off the internet but weren't. He believes that we have to put up with the bad for the good. But, at some point, somebody needs to be black flagged, but he tries to warn them first. Ernie did not think that de-activation was appropriate. If warned, de-activate. Michael Edick, VKA Member, asked if the member was warned to curb his tone. If a member is warned, then he's gone. The punishment in this situation does not fit the crime. He asked where is the crossing point? Jeff said that no one should be surprised if warned several times. No one said the de-activation is for life. Next logical step would be suspension then a permanent decision. The member in question was warned several times. Michael concurred that was his understanding, too. Jeff Brown, VKA Member, commented on the situation and said that he looks at the forum every evening. With regard to this situation, everything was negative and everyone reading the forum is saying why do I want to be involved? Jeff Brown said the website is awesome otherwise. Carl W summarized by saying the subcommittee will report at the next month's meeting. Carl W indicated that Jeff Campbell did go to the Board in advance of the de-activation and canvassed for opinions and that nobody wanted the situation but was resigned to its necessity. Carl W said that Jeff is committed to the program, he is doing what he thinks is best and that is wonderful.

Carl W indicated that George Sellen, VKA Member, also emailed him on the subject and his conversation revolved around everything that is being said. Michael said the subcommittee is a good positive step and wanted to see if Jeff's actions were over the line or justified. Carl W said that in his opening remarks that his management style is to give everyone a free hand to do their job the best way then know how and as far as he is concerned, we are going to let the subcommittee come back to us next month, and we will talk about it next month and that's it as far as any further action unless the board has further input at the moment. Dean asked if the WKA has forum rules. Jeff said that WKA doesn't even have a forum. Dean said the forum is a great tool for discussing parts, motors and karts but keep the politics out. If someone has an issue with the VKA or its rules, contact a Board Member. He said a disaster happened before on the original website and said that the VKA has come so far and this foolishness on the internet gets out of hand. If you misbehave and are derogatory on the website, the VKA should lock that person out. All agreed.

Old Business

Carl W said that the next order of business was to elect officers for 2009. Carl W presented the following slate of officers for 2009:

President-Carl Weakley
Vice President-Carl Billington
Executive Director-Bill McCornack
Secretary-Brian/Dottie Thomas
Treasurer-Bob Lapke
Membership-Brad Fultz
Safety-Open
Newsletter-Jeff Troy
Website-Jeff Campbell
Certification-Jack Murray
Archives-Al Klusman

Discussion followed including Dean indicating that he or Mark Shepherd would gladly serve as Safety. Bill asked if we could get a CA person to take Safety. Terry/Carl W indicated they had some CA candidates. Carl W conducted a voice vote on the above slate, and it was unanimously approved. The officers' term will begin 01/01/09 and be for a year. Carl W thanked everyone for their vote and support. He said he couldn't get everything done in one year and will get it done in 2009.

Carl called for stand subcommittees to be: budget, rules, certification and website forum.

Jack Murray, Certification Director for 2009, indicated that he and Tom are working on a draft and will present it next month.

Carl W indicated that he had insurance quotes, will summarize and email. He needs to clarify some issues with the agents.

Ernie said that the IKF President wants vintage karts to appear again at the Reno Grand Nationals. He will do it and likely do a demonstration heat. It is great publicity.

Carl W remarked about marketing. The VKA is in the WKA tech manual (\$75) but did not make it into the IKF tech manual (\$300). Carl W is still looking at advertising in NKN and will be at Kart Expo but not Kart Fest. Carl W will try to be at Midwest Swap Meets and will likely be at Daytona. Carl W asked Ed Sahagianian, VKA Member, for his support at Daytona.

Carl W remarked about the Ambassador program. Ernie, Tom Brian/Dottie and Carl W/Brad have appeared at car shows and other events. Carl W wants to get the word out that the VKA will put together a promotional package for individual members to use as Ambassadors at events.

Terry said the IKF Tech book is going digital and advertisements can be inserted now.

Carl W indicated that there is no reason that the VKA's membership can't grow from 300 members to 3,000. Vintage karting is less expensive and is a cost effective way to go racing. Terry asked why we call it racing. Carl B said that the VKA was created as a racing organization and it turned into a demonstration event with just practices sessions. Carl W said that he is a racer at heart and apologized for still using the term "racing" and told a story about fighting to start at the end of the pack at Springfield IL last spring because no one in his event wanted the pole position.

Adjournment

Carl W wished everyone a Merry Christmas, hoped that everyone enjoyed the holidays with their families and to be safe. The next meeting will be the second Sunday of the next month, 01/11/08, at the usual time, 5:00 PST.

The meeting was closed at 6:20 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted, Carl Weakley, President and Secretary Pro-Tem.