

VKA Board Meeting September 8, 2024

Call To Order: President John Copeland called the meeting to order at 8:06pm

Roll Call: Jim KammueLLer called the roll with the following results:

Board Members in Attendance:

John Copeland

Bill McCornack

Jim KammueLLer

Marty Westen

Kurt Bogerman

Lynn Haddock

Louie Figone

Scott Nagel

Skip Owen

Joe Swantek

Board Members Absent:

Sal Palatucci

Bob Barthelemy

Guest:

Rolf Hill

Amy Scoggins

President's Report:

President Copeland stated it's been a busy month since the last meeting with events at Camden and Batavia. Attendance at Camden was up from the previous year, with some new memberships received and a lot of T shirts sold. He stated he has spent a good amount of time at both Camden and Batavia talking to members regarding options weight rules and aftermarket parts like repop chassis and engine parts and hopefully some of that stuff will get resolved tonight.

It was a real treat for him to go to Batavia and see the facility brought back to life and has every reason to expect it to become one of the biggest vintage events in the Northeast.

President Copeland advised he had sent out an email indicating he will be out of the country for the October meeting and asked S Nagel to run the meeting in his absence and B McCornack pointed out the VP is in place for that reason, and L Figone has graciously forgiven his misstep and S Nagel will be running that meeting.

Vice President Report:

L Figone advised he does not have anything at this time, except he has notified the Adam's that there will not be held there anymore.

President Copeland advised the August 2024 minutes were approved via email.

Secretary's Report:

J KammueLLer stated he has spoken with J Donovan regarding filing the non-profit form and will be reviewing it together this week and he will be passing that information along to A Scoggins for the future.

Membership report:

M Westen provided the August renewals and new membership numbers, stating it was a pretty active month.

Total memberships as of August 31st: 504

Northeast with 83

South: 84

Midwest: 276

West: 61

The October renewal cards were mailed out September and the November renewal cards are ready to be mailed out.

The membership list is ready for Delmar. He will be needing some bumper stickers, postcard stamps, membership cards and will be reaching out to D Curts to see where she may have gotten those and will check with a local print shop near him for a pricing comparison.

B McCornack asked if M Westin was still good with membership patches. M Westin stated he believes he was, B McCornack advised that it normally takes about 2 months to receive. J Copeland recommended holding off on the current patch design if new patches were to be ordered with the 25th Anniversary new design.

S Owen provided an example of an issue he had on the website regrading the membership form/ PayPal set up, when entering the birth date, as he was filling out his personal membership.

Treasurer's report:

President Copeland advised the Treasurers report was approved via email.

National Event Directors:

S Nagel advised the year is flying by with only three events remaining.

S Nagel provided an update on Batavia, the facility is fantastic and ready for a major event next year. He is still waiting for the event numbers to come in, and is currently estimating 50 entries, which is good for a new event. Next year they are going to do the full line up, as there was some confusion about what classes were going to be run.

S Nagel thanked all the members who where there and participated to put on the event to make it run very smooth.

Camden was a good event; the facility is great now too. Excellent track and owner.

S Nagle provided an update on the entries for the events to date, with 849 total entries for all events through Camden. Which is the same numbers at this point in the season as last year.

Some of the Tshirts sizes are getting low in count and will be getting those sent out for Delmar and Whiteland.

Discussion took place regarding obtaining Driver weights and the scale to be used. M Westin advised he did receive driver weights at Batavia, and the weights have been provided to L Haddock. L Haddock advised he did receive the email from Marty and asked for a breakdown of the information and M Westin advised he will send it over. L Haddock advised the information from Camden was interesting to review and would like a detail list from Batavia.

J Copeland asked if S Nagel has received a class by class breakdown from Batavia yet. S Nagel advised he will get it and get it on a spreadsheet.

Rule and Guidelines:

L Haddock advised he really does not have anything as of yet. He advised he has reached out to the members of the rules committee regarding participating again and the same group has agreed to participate. L Haddock has been compiling a list of items for them to discuss in their upcoming meeting. One of the things they will be looking at is the participation numbers in each class, deciding if classes need to be, added removed or combined.

B McCornack asked L Haddock if he had received the cylinders from T Dines, and L haddock advised that he had, and he has it ready to discuss under the old business section.

Judging and Shows:

K Bogerman advised he doesn't have anything new to report at this time. At this point in the season, the certificates for the remaining events have been completed and he needs to wrap a few items for reimbursement, but that is about all at this time.

J Copeland asked if K Bogerman will be working with the 25th Anniversary committee regarding implementing the 25th Anniversary log on the certificates for next year. K Bogerman advised he was and is awaiting the finalization of the design for it.

Old Business:

J Copeland advised first item he has is Billet engine and parts and asked L Haddock to take over the conversation.

L Haddock advised he had received the cylinder from T Dines and J Copeland and he looked at it at Camden and took some measurements. And then he brought it home and took more dimensional checks at his shop to compare dimensions on an original and it is very very close to the original article. He does not feel that the item he held in his hand is going to change the orbit of the earth, as it is very similar, and does not think it will cause a problem. But the concept of allowing/accepting a repopped cylinder or crank cases or anything else, but that maybe the danger and harm to what is already in the field. L Haddock provided some information he found from 1970s to the board (fully billet open engines) and feels that there currently is not an issue, and the best stance to take in nothing, until there is an issue. Today we do not have a problem, so why try to fix something that is not a problem? And if it becomes a problem down the road the door is still open to make the decision that needs to be made.

B McCornack asked L Haddock if the same situation applies to the SUDAM engine ? L Haddock advised that the reason that engine was not allowed, was strictly a matter of dollar and cents and availability. The problem with the SUDAM, not unlike a full-blown Billet engine is they cost a small fortune. The Billet engine is going to take a little bit more time, as so for now there are not many are out there, but a lot of SUDAMs out there.

L Haddock advised he doesn't think any action needs to be taken at this time. The board agreed, no action to be taken.

L Haddock advised the board that the question SUDAM are on the item list to discuss within the rules committee.

J Copeland asked if he could get a progress report from the 25th Anniversary committee. K Bogerman advised that they have received responses from five board members regarding the design of the designs submitted. He is not sure if that means people don't like the concepts that were presented or if they haven't had to look at them? He feels that they are up against a wall and time is running out to get the design completed and in place to get the items printed.

B McCornack advised that he has a tally of those who have voted and provided that information and currently six members that have not voted. R Hill advised if anyone has any input on what they would like to see on the design of such a kart, or number 25, please let them know the request. L Haddock suggested the committee putting together the list of the top three that has already been submitted on and send it out to the board for review. R Hill advised the committee will get together and get something sent out to the board for review. J Copeland asked those who haven't done so yet to please respond back to committee their votes. He has also reached out to K Windom to get a quote on the items they are looking at in order to get a projected budget together.

J Copeland advised that he skipped over the regional reports and would like to discuss this at this time.

Regional Reports:

Midwest-

B McCornack advised that he has entered the Camden numbers into his report. B McCornack he was not at the Camden event and asked S Nagel to provide an update. S Nagel advised that the event went really well with 124 entries. Track is awesome and paved with good grip, perfect weather and overall good event. B McCornack advised that he is concerned about the safety going on at the event and the driving and will be pushing safety out to the promoters as some bad wrecks have been happening. Discussion took place amount the board on some penalties that could be assessed if reckless and dangerous driving occurs at an event.

B McCornack stated that the last two events are coming up with Delmar happening Sept 12-14th, and Whiteland Sept 26-28th.

He will be rewriting the promoter's agreement for next season. He and S Nagel will be working on writing the promoter's package documents and the promoter's agreement.

R Hill asked B McCornack he would like to see in the agreement for next year, to allow for a 15-20 min something/ presentation promoting the 25th anniversary. B McCornack agrees that the promoters should, but maybe not include that in the agreement and have a separate conversation about it with the promoters.

Northeast-

S. Palatucci is currently not on the call. He provided the following report via email prior to the call:

Overall Batavia went over as well as we hoped: no major errors & one relatively minor accident that drew the ambulance onto the track. The driver continued to run in his class as did the other driver after fixing a tie-Rod.

The owner seemed pleased with everything and he may have talked with every single person on the property.

Rain hit on mid afternoon on Friday but we reversed Fri-Sat schedule and got in our two heats. But the ongoing forecast of rain on Saturday caused many attendees to leave after Friday.

Weather casualties were the kart show (which has never happened in our region before), the 50/50 raffle and the modified "regional competition.

On the other hand we've never had so many members helping to run our own event:

Sam Polito was the organizational leader for everything that happened on the track. Totally indispensable and entertainment show on its own.

Rolf, Linda Vasa, Bruce Risto & Natalie Bogerman handled all the scoring.

Skip & Karl put the classes together and verified the finishes as the racers left the track.

Bert Archer was our camera/videographer volunteer and you should start seeing his work on FACEBOOK soon.

On the flip side our biggest mistake was me not adding one sentence to the list of classes: "All VKA Classes accepted.) I'm told it could of cost us 20+/- entries. I won't make that mistake next year. On the other hand my goal this season getting the VKA's brand on 4 NE events after what happened in 2023 and with all our members help that was accomplished.

Guests include John Copeland, Gary W, and Scott Nagel. If I add up all their driving miles to join us, it was wouldn't be as big as their generosity coming to arguably our regions most important track.

Owner Mike Lauterborn seemed pleased. He got his 1st (go kart) racing organization experience in the books. We honored him with two mementos and numerous applauses.

Kurt presented him with a fantastic framed kart show certificate that looked like you'd pay \$400 if you had it made. But of course Kurt did it all. Mike insisted that Kurt sign it.

We also presented Mike with a large Banner everyone signed that Gary paid for. Mike was thrilled and asked he could sign it even though his name was on the top of it. (I know have a good idea of what to send him for Christmas from the VKA!!)

I'm not sure of the exact numbers yet but it looks like we had 46, three day drivers (\$150) and 68-75 entries. There was a surprising drop in rear engine karts. Why I'm not sure why yet, although the weather was a big factor - which on the other hand didn't seem to affect the sidewinder guys the same 🤔)

WHATS NEXT~

If the board/MidWest region can find a way to carve out a 3 week opening on each side of wherever we can place Batavia next year, the track can be a member generating monster for the VKA as big or bigger than our current top drawing events.

It's situated in the most accessible spot on our race map: Ohio-NE states and Canada. And short of Delmar nothing compares to sheer elevation and twists and turns as Kelly's Motorsport Park does. Not a single member left not awed.

South-

B Barthelemy is currently not on the call at this time.

J Copeland advised that he had a meeting with R Gilmore and he may be interested in promoting an event at North Carolina Motorsports Park and is working with B Barthelemy on that.

West-

L Figone advised the VKCA event is coming up in Medford in a week and a half and that is all he has at this time.

L Haddock asked if L Figone has heard about how people feel about making the trip to Tucson next year and what happened to the concept of trying to do something in Santa Maria. L Figone advised that J Swantek and Terry were looking into it and decided to look into Tucson due to a lot of rain around Santa Maria area at that time. He has heard from several people that they are planning on coming to Tucson with some groups coming. He advised it seems there was some substantial interest in Tucson. There is still some talk regarding Santa Maria= for an event later in the year.

J Copeland advised he would like to go back to old business

Old Business:

R Hill asked if they could revisit the 25th Anniversary section for a moment. R Hill advised there had been some discussion regarding coming up with a special 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award at the event. J Copeland stated he has reached out to a company and is waiting for a price quote.

J Copeland advised he would like to discuss driver weight. J Copeland advised he had sent out a proposal for the board to review prior to the call, that suggested the outline for the weight proposal that any class that has more than 12 or more entries be split. The split is to be done based on the medium driver weight. Drivers weighing less than 150lbs must make up the difference and will note at registration how much weight the driver is required to add. Light and heavy division will run together, but for separate trophies and light drivers will start in front of the heavy.

B McCornack stated he would like rear engine classes excluded from the weight requirement. As he feels putting additional weight on a rear engine kart can be challenging. Discussion took place among the board.

L Haddock advised he would like to make the motion for J Copelands proposal in hopes someone will second it. But table it for the vote in order to capture the data for the last two events in order to get a clear and accurate picture with more data in place to make the appropriate decision. Discussion took place among the board.

Motion made by L Haddock to accept J Copelands proposal: any class that has more than 12 or more entries be split. The split is to be done based on the median driver weight. Drivers weighing less than (weight to be determined) must make up the difference and will note at registration how much weight the driver is required to add. Light and heavy division will run together, but for separate trophies and light drivers will start in front of the heavy.

Seconded by B McCornack

Discussion took place among the board. J Copeland asked if anyone opposed tabling the motion until the data from the last two events can be collected and included in the data. No one objected.

New Business:

J Copeland advised he has an item from B Barthelemy to impose a total kart weight of 370lbs for 4 cycle classes in the south region. J Copeland suggested tabling it until B Barthelemy can be on call. B McCornack advised that it was his understanding that this would just be for those classes in the south, Barnesville and Jacksonville.

B McCornack stated that the membership dues have remained the same the last few years and would like everyone to consider it for next month's meeting, moving it from \$35 to \$40.

L Haddock advised he has been getting some complaint/comments from members regarding some of the larger races being short staffed and some incidents that have happened and not having enough people out on the track waiving flags to caution or stop a race when an incident occurs and provided a detailed example of an accident he witnessed. Discussion took place among the board.

Scoggins asked if the board could discuss how many parade laps need to be run before the green flag is thrown, as sometimes they are having make 8-10 laps waiting on people to fix their engines or other items on their kart to line up. Discussion took place and L Haddock advised that should be brought up in the competition committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:33pm EST.

Respectfully submitted by: Kelly Frazier