

New York State Lumberjacks Association
Fall Meeting - November 1, 2008
home of Andy & Erica Schreiner- Fulton, New York

MINUTES

Present: Jake Bederian, Kevin Holtz, Stephanie Holtz, Nancy Keech, Tim Keech, Russ McKittrick, Eva Mikloiche, LaVonne Mikloiche, Rick Mikloiche, Steve Mikloiche, Julie Miller, Jason Miranda, Katie Miranda, Andy Schreiner, Erica Schreiner, Holly Waterfield, Nathan Waterfield

President Steve Mikloiche called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Steve gave his report and then asked for reports from the 2008 Officers and Committees. He complimented all of the contest contact people for a job well done, and thanked Tim for doing a great job setting up the heat sheets.

Through the NYSLA eteamz website, we received a request to hold a contest at the Arcade International Speedway in Delevan, NY. Carl Drum is the new owner of the speedway and Steve is working with him on the details. June 27, 2009 is the proposed date, with 10 to 12 events including, axe throw, women's/men's bow saw, women's/men's/jack & jill cross cut, women's/men's underhand, provided stock chainsaw, modified chainsaw and there's also the possibility of single buck, springboard, and open modified chainsaw. Carl does not want any holes dug so in order to do springboard we would have to borrow stands and obtain lots of sandbags. Payout would be around 70-60-50-40-25. Wayne Gloff indicated he might be interested in being the NYSLA contact person to work with Carl. Steve will call Wayne to confirm.

Steve also reported that there might be a NYSLA contest again in Andes, NY. Chuck McIntosh is still the manager at the Bobcat Ski Run but it's under new ownership. Steve will be in touch with Chuck.

Steve read competitor and audience comments:

- too many people are on the field when the events start, audience can't see
- try to be neater during the show, and pick up as we go along
- possibly have a standard pattern (make a map) for set-up so stands etc. always go in the same place, the set-up would depend on the layout of the bleachers/audience seating, but in general, a nice organized layout would be great

Vice President Jason Miranda reported that he was contacted about setting up a contest in Arkville, NY for 2009. He will work on the plans over the winter and have further details at the spring meeting.

Treasurer (and Promotion Committee) LaVonne Mikloiche reported the current NYSLA balance is \$6283.89. She shared information about a lumberjack cookbook that the Pennsylvania Professional Lumberjack Organization (PPLO) is working on as a fundraiser. Contact Elizabeth Simcox if you are interested in submitting a recipe. The PPLO is working on a new web site and they also have proposed new axe throw rules. For the axe throw, contestants will make four throws with no practice throws. The best three throws will count as the score and the 4th throw will be used as a tie breaker.

Secretary Erica Schreiner reported she had sent Steve Farrand an e-mail regarding a NYSLA contest in Woodhull, NY in 2009. She did not hear back from him before the meeting. She will follow-up over the winter and have details at the spring meeting.

Erica also reported that she purchased a new stop-watch case and made sure all the watches are in working order. The new case has a compartment for each watch so the cords don't get tangled as they have in the past.

During the winter of 2007/2008 Erica took all of the NYSLA records and information given to her by former secretary Eileene Vroman and filed any loose sheets of information accordingly. There is now a notebook for each year, 1971 - 1987, and 1993 - 2008. There are no records for 1988 - 1992. The notebooks contain copies of the NYSLA correspondence for the given year, along with entry forms, and the results. Russ McKittrick stated that several years ago Eileene gave him a few boxes of records to store and that maybe the missing years are there. Russ will get the boxes to Erica.

Erica created a new NYSLA brochure. Copies were handed out and the brochure will be reviewed again at the spring meeting. Its purpose is to give a general overview of the NYSLA, list contest dates, and provide contact information for those who may be interested in hosting a contest.

Review of 2008 Contests:

Bath, NY - contact person: Julie Miller

This contest is moving from the month of May and is scheduled for June 20, 2009. Julie reported that for her first time being a contact person, she thought it went pretty well. The group agreed and complimented her on a job well done. Julie will contact Matt Marks about being a co-contact person for 2009.

Deposit, NY - contact person: Jason Miranda

This contest is planned for 2009 and Jason will be attending an upcoming planning meeting in Deposit.

Clarkson, NY - contact persons: Mary Dooley and Kevin Moynihan

As far as we know, this contest will take place. Steve will contact Kevin to see if he still willing to be a contact person. Nancy mentioned that the power supply is always an issue at Clarkson and that we should be sure and address this with Paul Kimball for 2009. Also, we should be sure the contest starts on time and care should be taken to coordinate the proper start time with Paul and also the contest announcer.

Macedon Center, NY - contact persons: Kevin Holtz and Tim Keech

This contest is planned for 2009. Everyone liked the attention Kevin put on keeping the contest area neat and tidy.

New Business:

Nathan reported that the USAA will be working on rules for championship events (where first prize is \$1000.00) over the winter and may have a copy for the NYSLA members to view at the spring meeting.

Julie has the old NYSLA PA system. She volunteered to sell it over the winter using an online auction service.

LaVonne will check on prices for new NYSLA stickers as we have less than 10 left. She also suggested getting pencils or some other small hand out item to promote the NYSLA. Erica volunteered to print up business cards to have available for potential sponsors.

There was general discussion about offering a mileage reimbursement for those who haul the NYSLA trailer. As an example, if the Federal reimbursement rate is .50 per mile, the NYSLA would reimburse .25 per mile. This topic will be placed on the agenda for the spring meeting. As more people drive small vehicles, it might be advantageous to offer reimbursement to those who have to drive a truck in order to haul the trailer.

Kevin Holtz suggested contacting Kevin Moynihan about purchasing the underhand cradles and springboard dogs that K. Moynihan uses at the Clarkson contest. Steve will contact K. Moynihan to see if he is willing to sell the items to the NYSLA to be stored on the trailer for use at all contests. Having a set of underhand cradles will help with our desire to have a neater, more uniform contest arena.

Julie reported that some items on the NYSLA trailer are in need of repair. General discussion followed and it was decided clean out the trailer at the spring meeting and have volunteers step up to be in charge of making the necessary repairs. This is tentatively scheduled for noon (or one hour before the meeting starts) on the day of the meeting.

Julie suggested creating a schedule for the trailer as far as who is hauling it to and from each contest. Prior arrangements were not made for getting the trailer from Deposit to Clarkson.

Having to haul the trailer should not be sprung on someone at the last minute.

Kevin invited NYSLA announcer Mark Gregoire to attend a Stihl Timbersports Series event with him in 2009. The purpose of this would be for Mark to see how the announcing is done there and possibly pick up some new tips to incorporate when he announces for us. General discussion followed and everyone agreed this would be a great experience for Mark. Kevin suggested the NYSLA pay for Mark's plane ticket. Kevin will contact Mark to find out if he would want to attend and if so, then Steve will contact the NYSLA officers and board for approval to provide a ticket for Mark.

General discussion took place about increasing the amount we pay to the announcer and other positions, and/or offer some sort of mileage reimbursement. This topic will be placed on the agenda for the spring meeting.

LaVonne suggested using a wood numbering system of 1 - 200 (or however many blocks are present). Having the same number for more than one block can be problematic. (i.e. someone takes springboard block #9, when it was really their underhand block that was #9). Tim and Nancy will use this new numbering system for all contests in 2009.

Russ brought a beautiful hand made axe box with him and donated it to the NYSLA. He made it 20+ years ago out of cherry and walnut that he milled. He never found suitable hardware (handles, etc.) for it and so it was never finished. Everyone thanked Russ for his donation and it was agreed that raffle tickets will be sold throughout the 2009 season with the winning ticket to be drawn at the last NYSLA contest of the year. Erica will do a write-up about the box. LaVonne took photos of the box and will make a display board. She will also purchase a roll of two-part raffle tickets. Eva volunteered to be in charge of selling tickets.

Nathan suggested having a central location for lathe turning and storing blocks of wood. He also suggested having a couple of wood turning weekends over the winter to create a wood supply. This could eliminate the need for multiple work days throughout the contest season when everyone is busy. It might also be easier for the lathe owners to drive to one or two locations instead of several locations. General discussion followed. One item of concern is having a truck large enough to haul all the blocks. Nathan will research the topic some more and provide information at the spring meeting.

The spring meeting will tentatively be held at Michael and Julie Miller's in Branchport, NY on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Anyone who wants to help clean out the trailer should arrive at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Schreiner