



Renegade Miata Club

Annual Election of Directors & Planning Meeting - February 3, 2018

Minutes

- **Attendees:**
Ernest & Karen Grasso, Rob MacAlpine, Alex Moerlein, Carl Williams, Athena DeGangi, Jeff Quateman, Dan Filingham and Ben Horgen (With input prior to the meeting from Tom Fedorka, Derek White & Brian Doherty who couldn't attend).
- **Location:**
The Grasso Residence in Chelmsford MA.

Ernest Grasso called the meeting to order at approximately 12:45.

AutoX Discussion:

The 2017 Season went well and we are looking forward to an Great 2018 Season. We have received tentative dates from Devens for next year. These dates will not be final until we receive the Contracts from Devens, hopefully over the next few weeks.

We started the meeting with the 2018 Tentative AutoX dates:

- **Renegade Events for 2018**

Autocross dates (As of February 3-2018):

1. Saturday, April 14th – Renegade AutoX School
2. Saturday, May 5th – Renegade AutoX 1
3. Saturday, May 26th– Renegade AutoX 2
4. Saturday, June 23rd– Renegade AutoX 3
5. Saturday, July 21st– Renegade AutoX 4
6. Saturday, August 18th– Renegade AutoX 5
7. Saturday, September 8th– Renegade AutoX 6
8. Saturday, October 6th– Renegade AutoX 7
9. Saturday, October 27th – Renegade AutoX 8
10. Sunday, November 11th – AutoX Banquet – LOCATION TBD

NCR Autocross Events (As of February 3-2018)

1. Saturday, April 28th – NCR Porsche AutoX 1
2. Sunday, May 20th – NCR Porsche AutoX 2
3. Sunday, June 10th – NCR Porsche AutoX 3
4. Saturday, August 11th – NCR Porsche AutoX 4
5. Saturday, September 29th – NCR Porsche AutoX 5 (last)

The AutoX committee will get together during the AutoX School on April 14 to go through and inspect all the equipment, radios, tents, computers etc. to make sure everything is in good working order. Most of the equipment is now stored in the storage unit at Devens and we don't expect any problems with it. The electronics is

kept at Rob & Sheryl's house, such as radios, computers and timing equipment and should be fine.

Radio Replacement Batteries:

The big issue continues to be the Motorola Spirit and Spirit GT Radio batteries. The AutoX Committee will purchase more, but the last couple of orders have not held the charges. The radio itself is long out of production, so no "new" manufacturer batteries are available. Mark Chambers will contact Digikey and Carl Williams will contact Maxpack to see if either of them can make "good" replacement batteries. If they can, we will likely order some through these sources.

Eventually, if we continue to have battery trouble the club will have to purchase additional replacement radios. Ernie recommends that if we have to go that route – Motorola CP 185 radios have LCD Battery screens, can be programmed to utilize our frequency and are among the cheapest out there for about \$215 each. These radios, while slightly larger than our Spirit GT Radios, do feature Lithium Ion Batteries that should hold up better, plus we could get spare manufacturer produced batteries that should work better than replacement batteries.

Timing Equipment & Software:

For the 2017 season, we utilized a new timing system that was purchased last winter. The system worked extremely well with only very minor hiccups that we were able to solve quickly. The only issue is that we currently can't record the info into a computer. Therefore, we still manually write all the info down and then Rob MacAlpine goes through after each event to figure out standings and two fastest times for each participant. We need to find and purchase a program that will self populate the times into an editable spreadsheet. Currently, the leader in this area is Axeware, which is extremely expensive (\$500 for basic limited software) and from what we understand finicky. We'd like to find a program that will take the output from the Timing Equipment without costing a fortune.

Costs: The 2018 Deven's contract is yet to be received, but historically, increases run about 3% and we expect a similar increase this year. The only other cost could be for a 3rd Port potty next year. We are hoping that the Port potties are emptied prior to events this year regularly. That is primary reason for this charge is to empty them and last year they were clearly not emptied or cleaned for at least 4 events. We did register complaints with Devens on this concern, especially considering the fact that we pay \$180 per event for the Porta Potties and dumpster – they should be clean and serviceable.

Derek had raised a question via email wondering if we could start the AutoX's at 9:30am vs. 10:00. This was discussed and because each course is set up for that day, we try to start before 10am, but can't commit because there is a lot of set up and organizing to do. Setting up the course, setting up the timing, lights, tents, board, FM Broadcaster, work assignments etc. The AutoX committee will try to start earlier, but we'll keep the official start time as 10am.

As mentioned we have tentative dates for the 2018 Season. These will be CONFIRMED over the next couple of weeks.

AutoX Set UP and Breakdown

As Renegade Miata Club is a volunteer based club, it is important that all participants at our evens "pitch in" to help set up the event, run the event and breakdown and put away equipment at the end of an event. As we collectively

adjust to utilization of the Storage Container, the AutoX committee can't be in all areas at once. Therefore there was a lot of discussion on ways to make it easier for Volunteers to help. The AutoX committee will label the inside of the container and shelves as to where things belong. Typically, when breaking down after an event, equipment needed for the next event is put on carts to make set up easier. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the club would benefit from regular workers who help direct the volunteers unloading and eventually re-loading the container at each event. One person should stay at the container and help direct which equipment to go to the tent area, while the other two help set up the tents, timing equipment, timing boards, set up corner buckets etc. At the end of the day, one of these folks would stay at the container helping to ensure everything is put away properly, while the others help break down the tents & equipment. Three event Set Up coordinators were identified and all agreed to take on the roll:

New Event Set Up Personnel: Mark Chambers, Carl Williams and Derek White.

2018 Meetings & Events:

March 3rd – (Saturday) Quarterly Meeting, Beer Tasting & Pot Luck at Rob & Sheryl MacAlpine

March 31st (Saturday - Rain or Shine) – Club Meeting - Photo Scavenger Hunt and 1st Quarterly Meeting – Rob & Sheryl MacAlpine – Meet at Home Depot Marlboro @ 10am

April 11th (Wednesday after work) – K-1 Carting in Wilmington MA - Ben Horgen & Jeff Quateman

June 16nd – (Saturday) Quarterly Meeting and BBQ in Chelmsford. (Noon - BYOB & BYOG), Ernest & Karen Grasso - Chelmsford

August 4th (Rain August 25th) – Quarterly Meeting @ Neiman's in Newfields NH.

September 21-23rd – 3-Day Maine Lighthouse Tour – Rockland ME – Grasso's

November 11th – AutoX Banquet @ Location TBD.

November 17th – Wine Tasting Day Trip to Rhode Island – Athena DeGangi & Carl Williams.

EXPENSES:

2017 Expenses – We purchased new Timing equipment (approximately \$1600) and a Storage Container (\$2000). The only purchased currently anticipated is for Walkie Talkie batteries. We'll purchase approx 10-15 at \$20-30 each.

New cones were purchased two winters ago so we should be set with them and everything else we expect to be OK.

For comparison the Devens Contract for 9 dates in 2018 is expected to run approximately \$7,600 (Includes site, porta potties & dumpster fees – due March 1st) so there should be no issue this year. Fees per *event* work out as follows - \$485 for the site, \$180 for Porta Potties & Dumpster, plus \$10 for each car over 40. At many events we ran approx 60-70 cars so we incurred an extra \$200-300 per event. Total cost per event is approx \$800-\$860.

Rule changes? – None needed or suggested.

Insurance

- Insurance through the same company we used before Northwest Insurance Center of Mercer Island WA. Alex will assist in setting it up with the same company we've used for the last couple of years. He has been in touch with the

Insurance broker and is waiting for final rates, however he doesn't expect large increases.

- UPDATE: [2/7/2018] Base Rate is \$485 (up from \$480) plus \$180 per event (up from \$178).

- **Minimal Cost Changes at this time for 2018.** If Devens and/or Insurance goes up significantly the cost will rise in a \$5 increment to cover the changes. No changes in fees – we made a little money last year. Basically, utilizing the fees we cover our expenses and end up a little ahead. There are no significant changes in Insurance or Devens as things stand now.

- \$25 membership (No changes needed at this time)

- Renegade AutoX

- Members: \$30 pre-registered, \$40 the day of the event
- Non-Renegade Members: \$35 pre-registered, \$45 the day of the event

Memberships

- **Current membership:**

2017 – 95 active members (137 including household Members) as of 2-3-18

2016 – 120 active members as of 1/28/17

2015 – 125 active members as of 12/31/2015

2014 – 107 active members

2013 - 120+/- members

2012 - 100+ members

2011 - 89 members

2010 - 89 members

2009 - 85 members

2008 - 73 members

Board of Directors/Officer Election:

Ernest Grasso announced the Election of Officers and briefly reviewed Officer Responsibilities for each position. He then asked members if there were any volunteers or discussion.

Alex Moerlein has expressed a desire to step down due to a growing family. Alex was willing to stay on, however if anyone else was interested in taking on the responsibility of Treasurer/Membership he was fine with moving on. During the AutoX Season, Chris Welbon had expressed an interest in possibly taking an Officer roll. Derek or Ernie will reach out to Chris to confirm his interest and availability.

Discussion on Treasure & Membership. Discussion as to whether to separate responsibilities or leave together. Alex said that the two together seems to make sense and work well. If someone wants to take on a roll, it would be fine to separate, however he felt it makes sense to keep it together.

Ernie then asked if there were any other nominees or discussion on the Club Officers. None was offered.

Voting for the officers progressed as follows:

- President – Tom Fedorka

- Nominated by Derek White (via email), Seconded by Ernest Grasso – Unanimous
- Vice President – Derek White
 - Nominated by Rob MacAlpine and Seconded by Alex Moerlin – Unanimous
- Treasurer & Membership – Chris Welbon (Pending his acceptance, otherwise, Alex Moerlin will continue in the roll)
 - Nominated by Ernest Grasso, Seconded by Athena DeGangie - Unanimous
 - Update: Chris will accept the position 2-7-18
- Minister of Minutes – Ernest Grasso
 - Nominated by Rob MacAlpine, Seconded by Mark Chambers – Unanimous.

Non Elected Club Positions (No Change):

- AutoX Committee:
 - Rob MacAlpine – Chairman (Nominated by Alex Moerlin, Seconded by Jeff Quateman – Unanimous)
 - Sheryl MacAlpine
 - Ernest Grasso
- Director of Philanthropy – Athena DeGangi
- AutoX Set UP Coordinators – Derek White, Carl Williams & Mark Chambers
- Social Media Coordinator – Derek White
- Sponsorship – Thomas Fedorka

Club Status as Non-Profit and Tax Status:

During the summer of 2016, E. Grasso & D. Bustin worked to file the necessary paperwork and pay the associated fees to Re-establish our Non Profit Status. In September 2016, the Club was reinstated as Non-Profit Organization in Massachusetts.

E. Grasso will file the Annual Report required to maintain this status for the next year. (Annual Filing anticipated Mid-February 2018).

However, the Club has not been able to update the Club's Tax Status with both the IRS and the MA Department of Revenue. This is not an area that any of the Officers are familiar with. Brian Doherty has recommended that we utilize a CPA that is currently used by SCCA to file their taxes and maintain Non-profit status. The members discussed and agreed that no one has the expertise to bring the Club up to date. Ernie will reach out to Tom Fedorka and discuss the matter once he is back in town. Ernie will also reach out to members of the NCR Porsche Club to see if members there, who are CPA's may be able to assist.

- **Sponsorships**

Amount: \$200 - Same benefits? Yes this will stay the same for 2018.

Tom will reach out to Flat Out Motor Sports, Main Street Garage, Fast Track Alignments and others.

Mazda NA also came through in the Fall of 2017 with various items, including Hats, Shirts, Key chains and other swag, which was given to members at the

AutoX Banquet in November 2017. This was a very generous gift and we hope Mazda NA will repeat this gesture in 2018.

- **Website**

Suggestions for changes or improvements?

General discussion took place and members felt the Website has been running very well and Derek White has done a great job of keeping it current and posting pertinent information in a timely manner.

- **Other Business**

- **Social Media Coordinator** - Derek White will continue in this roll, which he established a couple years ago. As the club grows many folks get their information and updates through Facebook and other sites. Derek has done a great job keeping these sources current. It has been working well over the past 3 years – Thanks!

Giving Back to the Community - Philanthropy Director –

Athena Degangi – has agreed to function again for 2018 in this function.

However she noted that collecting during the AutoX events has yielded less and less, while the donations received as part of the Registration process makes up 70-80% of the donations. Therefore, she recommends that we discontinue the event fund raising efforts, 2) maintain the Registration Donations, 3) develop a 50/50 Fund Raiser during the Annual AutoX banquet. She will run the fund raiser during the banquet where people can buy a chance for \$5 or \$10 and the proceeds will be split 50/50 between the Winner and the Charity.

Renegade Miata is recognized by the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry as a Bronze Donor.

Athena Degangi received a Plaque and a Letter of Appreciation form the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Ayer MA for the Club's 2017 Donations!!!

Congratulations to All Renegade Miata Drivers and Guests who made Generous Donations to help less fortunate folks through Loaves and Fishes of Ayer!!!

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 3:20pm.