

**Rocky Mountain Nordic**

**May 19, 2017 Spring Meeting Minutes**

**Minturn, Colorado**

Attending:

Mike Elliott, Quincee Cotton (RMN)

August Teague. Shannon Sweeney, (Aspen)

Adam St.Pierre, Beth Egan, (Boulder)

Laura Martineau (Crested Butte)

Evan Elliott, Paul Moore (Durango)

Kendall Butts (Gunnison)

Dan Wieland, Shelly Shanley (Vail)

Olof Hedberg, Peter Haynes, Ksusha Shambarger (Summit)

Brian Tate, Josh Smullin, (Steamboat Springs)

Jessica Jortberg (Winter Park)

1. RMN Spring Meeting called to order 11:30am
2. Rocky Mountain Nordic Voting. Mike Elliott reminded everyone that RMN has had a policy that each RMN Club has two votes. One is the designated coach and one is the designated parent representative. There is not any absentee or proxy voting. To be an RMN Club, there has to be at a minimum of three junior RMN members.
3. RMN Mission, Vision, Goals, and Values. There was a lot of discussion regarding the RMN mission statement. August Teague had recommended more clarity on RMN’s mission. He believes RMN has not had the success it use to have, and some decisions are reactionary. One parent present stated that not all RMN skiers will achieve international level of ski racing. It was decided to form a subcommittee to deal with this subject. Brian Tate, Beth Egan, Adam St.Pierre, August Teague, and Mike Elliott volunteered for serve on this subcommittee and the goal is to have something for RMN to review at the fall meeting.

It was recommended to review the existing RMN by laws and to possibly revise them according to what RMN has become which is different than when Ruthie Brown reorganized the Rocky Mountain Nordic.

1. NNF Status and Drive for 25 2017 - 2018. Hennie Kaskiwa is current Executive Director. NNF provided $1 million in support over the last seven years. NNF received $100,000 in 2013 and by 2016/17 that money is now gone. Dave Knoop has resigned as NNF board member and chairman. Peter Ashley, formerly of Fischer Nordic, is NNF new Chairman.
2. Financial Review. RMN has $67,124.42 in their bank account at Alpine Bank. Thanks to the efforts of Ruthie Brown when she was the President and Executive Director of RMN. RMN now has had a bank account of $50,000 to draw from for Junior National deposits for lodging and/or airline tickets. Rocky Mountain Nordic Angel has $28,633.02 in their bank account. RMN Angel received a request from Hailey Swirbul for $2,000 for the World Junior Championships and they were able to fulfill that request. RMN Angel has also helped in reimbursement of expenses for Noah Hoffman, and Tad Elliott as they competed in National and International events including the World Championships in Lahti, Finland in preparation for the Winter Olympics in South Korea in February 2018.

Financials for 2016-2017 were presented. There is the potential to have a possible positive variance of $8,000 to $9,000 by the end of the fiscal year, July 2017.

2017-2018 RMN budget was presented. August Teague questioned the need for a head tax for RMN JNQ races since revenue from the RMN membership has increased to $11,640 with a positive variance of $2,040 in comparison to budget. Some discussion was held and it was pointed out that there was other expenses and just not the salary for the RMN Executive Director. One thought expressed is to cap the amount of the head tax like USSA does for their head tax. A decision on the head tax for the RMN JNQ races was tabled until the fall RMN meeting.

1. RMN Membership Dues for 2017-18 are due no later than December 11, 2017 and RMN dues will remain the same.
   1. $40 U20, U18, U16
   2. $20 U14, U12
   3. $10 U10, U8
2. USSA & FIS Membership is due by October 15, 2017. After that date there possibly could be a penalty for skiers who were members the previous year. That is not the case for new members. The same is true for FIS membership. Skiers anticipating participation in the U18 Nation’s Cup Scandinavian Trip, the World Junior Championships, or the U23 World Championships, they must have an FIS license. Hopefully they also know they need a passport.

All skiers participating in a National Ranking List, NRL, and JNQ races must be competitor members of USSA. USSA membership pricing is a part of these minutes as an attachment.

1. USSA Congress. Attending the USSA Congress from RMN was Quincee Cotton, Mike Elliott, Adam St.Pierre, Molly Susla, Brian Tate, August Teague, and Dan Weiland. As a result of the Congress Dan Weiland is a member of the USSA Cross Country Coach’s Committee, August Teague is a member of the USSA Cross Country Sport Committee and is also on that committees executive committee, Adam St.Pierre is a the Chairman of the USSA Junior Sport Committee, and Quincee Cotton is a member of the Cross Country Official’s Committee and she was also appointed the Rocky Mountain Technical Delegate Coordinator.
2. Warp-Up JNs Lake Placid, New York. Those attending the JNs in Lake Placid gave high praise for the organizing committee and how the events were conducted especially considering the organizing committee had to change venues because of the lack of snow from Mount Hovenberg (1980 Winter Olympic Cross Country Venue) to the course around the Olympic Jumping Complex because of the lack of adequate snow. The parents present at the meeting expressed interest on hearing the feedback on the JN experience from athletes and from parents. Recommendation was to pay close attention in the future to the quality of the food being provided for the RMN JN Team.
3. RMN Summer Camp Opportunities:
4. June 17 – June 24, 2017 Western REG Park City, Utah. By Invitation only
5. July 10 – 23, 2017 SSWSC Summer Testing Camp. Contact Josh Smullin or Brian Tate. Information on the camp is attached as a part of these minutes.
6. July 21 – 26, 2017 AVSC Volume Camp. Contact August Teague.
7. USSA U16 National Camp Sun Valley, Idaho July 23-30, 2017. By Invitation Only
8. August 11 – 13, 2017 Boulder Nordic Junior Race Team Intensity Camp. Contact Adam St. Pierre
9. November 18 – 26, 2017 West Yellowstone, Montana (FIS race on Saturday November 25, 2017)
10. Discussion was held on the RMN JNQ race schedule for the 2017-2018 winter season. A draft copy of the schedule for the RMN JNQ races and RMN U14 Championships Nordic Festival and other events are attached and a part of these minutes. At the time of these minutes, the schedule is still tentative waiting for final approval by Crested Butte Nordic Council and Crested Butte Head Coach Molly Susla, who was not present at the Spring RMN meeting, for an RMN JNQ race at Crested Butte the Sunday and Monday of weekend of Martin Luther Holiday January 14 &15, 2018. (RMN heard from Molly Susla on Tuesday May 30, 2017 that Crested Butte is definitely willing to host those dates and to count Crested Butte in on that schedule}.

1. All RMN JNQ races need be NRL races. FIS points will only be used in seeding RMN JNQ races if they are combined with College races. Otherwise USSA points will be used for seeding then RMN points.
2. JNQ Race Registration. USSA made a presentation at the USSA Cross Country Divisional Summit regarding clubs and skiers registering for the RMN JNQ races through the USSA. J.J. Ehlers made the presentation and RMN Club representatives present liked the process. USSA is formulating where club coaches can register their whole team for a race with a bulk registration. It is possible to view the process by visiting the USSA Web Site, [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org). Then click Nordic; Member Services; Athlete Event Registration. It allows for a late fee to be charged and publishes the USSA points and what to expect in the head tax fee. More research and training needs to take place for RMN and will be discussed further at the Fall RMN meeting.
3. A short review of next year’s Junior National Champions that will be held in Soldier Hollow, Utah. USSA Junior Committee is deciding on the actual dates at the time of these minutes. The USSA Cross Country Sport Committee has given the Junior Committee the approval to reduce one day for the traditional schedule. The tentative dates are March 6 – 11, 2018. RMN will be driving to Soldier Hollow and Midway with an arrival of Sunday March 4. Adam St.Pierre is the USSA Junior Committee Chairman and requested a straw poll of what schedule the RMN Junior Competitions Committee. The results were a Tuesday March 6 classic interval start, Wednesday March 7, classic sprint, Thursday March 8 off, Friday March 9 freestyle mass start, Saturday March freestyle relay (everyone participating). Final decision is to be made by no later than June 11, 2017.

Rocky Mountain currently has reservations at Zermatt Resort. Also staying at Zermatt with be New England and Intermountain divisions. RMN planned to arrive two days prior to the first competition since they are driving to Soldier Hollow and Midway and they are very familiar with the courses and waxing for Soldier Hollow conditions. It was recommended to have some RMN wax techs to arrive three days prior to the first race in order to have the waxing trailer set up and to start testing for the training and race day waxes.

RMN has had the same RMN JN uniform for the last 13 years. A recommendation was made previously to change the RMN JN uniform when the JNs returned to Soldier Hollow. Three possible designs with Podiumwear was presented and one design received the most votes. Some changes were recommended in order not to look like an existing RMN Club race suit. A final decision will be made at the fall meeting. RMN will not carry an inventory in JN uniforms and RMN JN skiers will order directly through Podiumwear. Only the race suit would be new for 2018. Warm up jacket would remain the same for 2018.

1. RMN Waxing Protocol. Everyone thought the RMN waxing protocol worked well. A suggestion was made that RMN maintain a pure flouro wax box for specific conditions at a JNQ that might help skiing conditions. No decision was made and further discussion would be needed. Mike Elliott will contact Polly Tucker to see what the offer might be from Swix and Toko for 2017-2018 winter season.
2. RMN JN Selection Criteria 2018. A proposal to change paragraph 8B to read, Second year U20 skiers must qualify in the top ~~nine~~ six of the combined U20/U18 classes in the final RMN final points list to be eligible for the 2018 RMN Junior National Team. The RMN vote was to change from top nine to top six for second year U20.

Another change was proposed for paragraph 8E. For RMN there is an exception for college skiers who pre-qualified for the JNs but who did not meet the requirement of Paragraph 3. RMN is happy to include those college skiers to the RMN JN Team as longs as they meet the criteria of rule 76.4.1. However they will not be included in the alternating policy explained the first paragraph 8E of the RMN Selection Criteria.

1. Senior Nationals are scheduled for Anchorage, Alaska January 2 – 7, 2018 or January 3 – 8, 2018. Joey Caterinchio is researching with her organizing committee in Alaska to see what dates will work. This is where junior skiers ranked in the first 20 men or the first 20 women on the final ranking list at the Junior World Championships Team trials are automatically qualified to enter the JNs as a part of the RMN JN Team and are not counted against the RMN quota (USSA Rule 70.1.2). RMN skiers who qualify for and attend the USSA Nations Cup Trip (formerly Scandinavian Cup) with the U.S. Ski Team are automatically qualified to enter the JNs as a part of the RMN JN Team and are not counted against the RMN quota (USSA Rule 70.1.3). Same is true with the World Junior Championships.
2. RMN Web Site. Mike Elliott will be working on getting the RMN Web Site up and running and keeping it current with appropriate and germane information for RMN.
3. RMN Select Teams for 2017-2018 are attached as a part of these minutes.
4. John “Zeke” Zedechlik Memorial Award. Rich Jortberg submitted a draft copy for a John “Zeke” Memorial Award. The consensus was to continue to refine the criteria for the Zeke award and present the final product at the fall meeting. The draft copy is attached as a part of these minutes.
5. Meeting Adjourn at 5:20pm

Also Attached are:

1. RMN By Laws
2. USSA Membership pricing 2017-2018
3. SSWSC Summer Test Camp
4. Draft Copy of RMN Event Schedule 2017-2018 for JNQs and U14 Championships
5. RMN JN Selection Criteria 2018
6. RMN Select Team 2017-2018
7. John Zeke Zedechlik Memorial Award