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RRB Meeting Minutes

9/17/2026

Call to Order

Zoom meeting called to order on September 17, 2026 at 7:34 P.M. Central by Chair Jessica Toney. Attendees: Bob Sonntag (RRB, RRDC Liaison), Larry Scholnick (RRB, SPDIV RRS, NEC Liaison), Clyde Heckler (RRB, NEDIV RRS), Ed Sain (RRB), Heyward Wagner (RRB, SCCA Liaison), Peter Schneider (SCCA BoD RRB Liaison), Mike Toombs (SCCA BoD RRB Liaison). Absent: Lyn Hodges Watts (SCCA BoD RRB Liaison)

August Meeting Minutes Comments/Approval

- Charles Hanson distributed the edits of the August minutes on Aug. 31st. Finalized by Peter Schneider (Acting Secretary) on September 16th - Approved with 6 votes.
- Jessica discussed the need to find a replacement for Chuck as secretary. The group reviewed the AI's work on documentation, noting some editing was needed. Peter Schneider has only stepped in on a short-term basis. Those present asked to send names of potential secretaries to Jessica.

Standing Committee Reports

RoadRally Planning Calendar for August was distributed on September 5, by Charles Hanson. There is a need for 2027 event dates. As of today, the only 2027 event so far is Jim Crittenden's announced dates for the Colorado/Utah Adventure Rally.

NEC Report (by Larry Scholnick, RRB Liaison)

- Larry reported on the NEC meeting, which covered six items including general instructions for Oktoberally Rally and USRRC events, potential hosts for the 2027 USRRC, and discussions about voting eligibility for the year end awards. Larry noted that the Oktoberally Rally next year will not be in its usual September timeframe.

RRDC Report (by Bob Sonntag, RRB Liaison)

- The RRDC report was shared prior to the meeting with the expectation that it would be included in the minutes. See Attached.
- The group discussed the status of Leg 2 of the RRDC RoadMap documentation, which involves sections 4 through 7 including developing a rally program. Jessica clarified that there is no November deadline for Leg 2 and that the RRDC does not need to work on other legs. Peter suggested that existing documents on writing rallies which are on the SCCA website could be used as reference material. (Note: See additional Comments about steps to improve RRB Communications below in New Business.)

Activity Report/Tours & Course Events (by Ed Sain)

- The event Activity Report was shared via email in advance of the meeting:
  1. TOUR: There have been 18 rally equivalents (5 national, 8 divisional) with an average participation of 13.5 teams per event. The participation allocation was a total of 33 in Class E, 58 in Class G, 7 in Class L, and 74 in Class S (inclusive of 54 novices). There are three more

nationals and two more divisional scheduled for 2026 The number of entries per event ranged from 6 to 30.

2. COURSE: There have been 7 rally equivalents (2 national, 3 divisional) with an average participation of 7.2 teams per event. The participation allocation was a total of 10 in Class E, 8 in Class G, 2 in Class L, and 16 in Class S. There are two more nationals and one more divisional scheduled for 2026. The number of entries per event ranged from 3 to 14.
3. REGIONALS: No update. Still gathering data.

Incident Repotting Update (by Heyward Wagner)

- No new incidents have been reported; but, he understands a minor one occurred (no personal injury) on an event last weekend is pending the formal submission of a report by the event organizers.

Old Business

RRSS Instructors – Revised Roles and Responsibilities – Bob Sonntag/All

- On hold pending finalization of the RRSS Application Process

RRSS Application Process – Bob Sonntag/All

- Bob reported progress on the Road Rally Safety Stewards program, with a draft memo of requirements being reviewed by Ed, John Poulos, and Cheryl Babbe, and planned to send it to the RRB shortly. Per Ed, he will review the final draft (draft 3) of the Road Rally Safety Steward Process sent by Bob and provide comments by tomorrow morning.

RRB 2-5 Year Plan/Mission Statement – Jessica Toney/All

- Jessica, Ed, Larry, Heyward: Continue to work via email on the two to five year plan and mission statement, aiming to finalize it for the next Road Rally Board meeting in October.

Suggested Rule Changes – Member Feed Back / Status update – Clyde Heckler

- The team discussed the lack of responses for member feedback, which had only nine (9) responses. Peter offered to send a reminder email blast via the North Jersey SCCA email system to the RRB Email List, to try to solicit more input.

Errors and Omissions/Status Update – Clyde Heckler

- Clyde reported that the document (updated RRRs) was nearly complete. He forwarded a copy of the draft document to Cheryl after Nikki made the initial pass at the changes supplied, but after a week had not heard back from Cheryl, and then sent back his comments on the document to Nikki for finalization. The group discussed finalizing rule clarifications, with Nikki tasked to provide a final document for RRB approval before incorporating changes into the next rules update. (Note: Per the Ops Manual the RRB is allowed to make Errors and Omission “type” changes to the RoadRally Rules without prior BOD approval.)

2027 USRRC – Jessica Toney

- Jessica reported that both Indianapolis and Southern Indiana regions have declined to host the 2027 USRRC, leaving no potential hosts identified so far. Jessica requested additional time to find a willing region to host the event, with a backup plan of having a volunteer committee organize it remotely if necessary. She expressed a preference to avoid skipping a year as done in the past.
- The group discussed a proposal to make the USRRC a standalone championship event rather than part of the points process for the National Road Rally Championship. Larry confirmed that this topic was considered by the NEC. No final decision was made as there were concerns about significantly reducing the number of national events from eight to five. Peter emphasized that the current dual structure allows competitors to earn jackets in standalone events while also contributing to the series points, and noted that removing the USRRC events, would eliminate three national events for the annual series. The discussion concluded without a resolution, with Heyward acknowledging that the question was worth exploring further.
- The group discussed challenges with hosting the USRRC event, including lack of regional interest and funding concerns. Jessica confirmed that financial assistance programs may be available but noted that no region has shown interest in hosting for 2027 to date. The current event has 16 cars registered with potential for 18, and the group is working to increase awareness of the Women on Track Scholarship.

Quarterly Zoom Calls – Topics of Discussions/Suspend the Zoom Calls? – All

- A short conversation occurred concerning potentially suspending quarterly Zoom calls until there are specific meaningful topics to address. It was agreed that it would be better to have solid topics to discuss vs conducting quarterly meetings just to keep a ”schedule.” Larry mentioned that in the past the calls were used to review changes/education around the Richta app, which is now a well-established tools and the topic has been fully covered.
- Heyward complemented the RRB on their outreach as a Program Board to the SCCA membership via quarterly Zoom calls and email announcements direct from the RRB. The RRB is the only Program Board to conduct that level of communication with their community.

New Business

“Major Event” Scheduling Conflicts

- The Colorado Adventure Rally has moved its date from July to September and is now in possible conflict with POR’s traditional date which is the 1st weekend after Labor Day. Peter who attended the event this past weekend, will reach out to Bruce Fisher (POR Rallymaster) and inform him of the possible conflict.
- It was agreed to let the two Rallymaster address the issue without RRB involvement.

2027 SCCA National Convention

- Per Heyward the 2027 National Convention will be held January 15-20, 2027, and the RRB should plan on a limit of 4 to 5 rally program sessions. For Example: Awards, Town Hall, Program Direction and General Update.

- No need to repeat topics discussed at prior conventions. They were conducted via Zoom and are recorded and available on the SCCA website.
- Over the last several years the emphases has been on sending staff to Divisional Conventions where there is a larger group of individuals/Region Leadership attending.

Safety Briefing – Peter Schneider/Heyward Wagner

- Heyward proposed developing proactive language for competitor briefings to encourage safe decisions, particularly regarding changing road conditions and resolving disputes while driving. ie: Possible Standards for Pre-event Safety Briefing
- Larry suggested emphasizing the use of Emergency Speeds section in the regulations as a potential solution for changing conditions, though noted implementation challenges with automated scoring vs Open Controls prior to GPS scoring applications.
- Peter suggested an additional example of an item to be discussed at a Safety Briefing would be instructing the teams not stop in unsafe locations along the route. Like the middle of the road or just after a blind curve.
- The group discussed with the increased risk of possible litigation related to insufficient communication at events, standard guidelines would be useful.

Improved Communications from the RRB – Peter Schneider/All

- The group discussed scheduling a meeting (or two) in October to bring together the relevant Advisory Committees (RRDC, NEC) and the DRRSs to explain the new hierarchical structure. Heyward noted that October would be a better time for meaningful discussion due to current scheduling challenges associated with the Run-Offs and other championship events. Bob agreed to communicate the plan for an October meeting to RRDC.
- Peter agreed to send an email reminder blast via North Jersey SCCA's Constant Contact account in the next day or two to about submitting rule change comments/questions by the end of September, USRRC registration, Incident Reporting Technical Bulletin, and information about the Women on Track Scholarship for USRRC. Peter also stated communications of this type should not be dependent of the resources supplied by a local Region, but should be addressed by National office. Peter will include this as an item in the “Wish List” topic which will be discussed as an agenda below.

Wish List for possible additional Support from National Office/Staff

- With the 2027 national staff budget process about to begin after the Championship seasons, Peter suggested that the RRB brainstorm/discuss what the Road Rally Board would like the national office to help with next year (wish list), and to revisit at the next meeting. Peter is asking RRB members what national office support they would value if given a blank check.
- Key discussion points included improving communications, particularly addressing communications with the 2,000+ people (Note: 3,818 effective Jan 2020) who have expressed interest in rallying when they joined SCCA, whose contact information is not currently available to the RRB. While the current information may not be currently reliable, it might be a good idea to send out an email and ask the membership to valid it by updating their membership profile.
- The group agreed that these should be realistic support requests.
- Jessica and Heyward agreed this can be done over the next couple of weeks via email and might be included in the RRB 2-5 Year Plan/Mission Statement.

Adjournment

- Ed noted that the next meeting needs to address rules changes for November approval by the BOD.
- The next RRB meeting is 10/15/2026 at 7:30 P.M. Central via Zoom.
- The meeting was adjourned on 9/17/2026 at 8:42 P.M. Central

RRDC Meeting Summary
September 3, 2026
Overall Update

The RRDC reviewed the status of several ongoing initiatives, regional rally development efforts, Adventure Rally activity, Road Rally Safety Steward training, convention planning, and communication with the Road Rally Board (RRB).
A recurring theme was the lack of clear direction and communication from the RRB. The RRDC has not received substantive follow-up on its work, particularly regarding Leg 2, and members discussed returning to the initiatives and priorities established earlier in the year while continuing work that is already underway.

Regional Rally Development

- Buccaneer Region canceled a rally after determining that the planned location was not workable. The region intends to rewrite the rally so that it begins elsewhere and reaches the desired roads.
- Red River Region canceled a rally because of low attendance. Cheryl has followed up with the region to determine whether there are underlying issues the RRDC can help address.
- A former NER rally participant has expressed interest in reviving a rally created by his late father, including recovering the family's archived rally materials. Mike will follow up with him.
- The Colorado/Utah Adventure Rally is being planned for September 2027. Current plans call for a four-day event beginning in Grand Junction and ending in Durango, with approximately 30 cars and a practice rally at the beginning. Participants from Colorado Springs and Denver expressed interest in helping with future local rally activity.
- The Adventure Rally concept appears to have generated interest in additional local rallying. Chris reported receiving multiple expressions of interest from participants who would like to become involved in local events.

Divisional Rally Development

The RRDC discussed the effort to encourage established regional rallies to become divisional events.

- There is still a perception among some organizers that divisional events create additional administrative burdens and attract competitors who may complicate the event.
- Debbie Siegel is working on information explaining the differences between regional and divisional rallies.
- The RRDC believes increasing the number of divisional events is preferable to simply expanding the number of regional events included in the national championship.
- Tyler noted that, from the perspective of an active Rally Master, the current divisional structure does not necessarily provide enough benefit to justify the additional cost or requirements.

- The group discussed the need to better communicate the benefits of divisional events and dispel misconceptions.

Leg 2

The RRDC's proposed solution for Leg 2 has been submitted to the RRB, but the group has not received substantive feedback.

- The RRDC previously worked together on a compromise/proposal and submitted it to the RRB.
- The response received acknowledged that the RRDC could not complete Leg 2 by November but did not address the alternative approach presented by the RRDC.
- The proposal has apparently not yet been discussed by the full RRB.
- John and Mike had not yet been able to reconnect on the current Leg 2 materials, and Mike was looking for the latest version of the documents.
- The group expressed frustration that the RRB has not provided a clear response or direction.

RRDC Initiatives / Project Tracking

John has updated the master initiatives document to better distinguish between:

- Current/open initiatives
- Completed initiatives
- Items that have effectively gone dormant
- A "parking lot" for projects that may still have value but are not currently active

The completed section now captures significant work from the past several years, including convention presentations and revised rules. The parking lot provides a way to preserve worthwhile ideas without allowing inactive projects to appear as current priorities.

Communication With the RRB

The group discussed the continuing difficulty in determining what the RRB actually expects from the RRDC.

Members noted that there has been little substantive communication for approximately four months. Bob requested a clear list of projects the RRDC believes the RRB has actually asked it to undertake, along with the projects the RRDC is currently working on.

The group discussed bringing the various groups together for a meeting rather than continuing communication through intermediaries.

The general direction was to continue work already underway unless the RRB provides different direction.

Safety Steward Training

The group received an update on the Road Rally Safety Steward training process.

- Training is expected to be available to anyone.
- Anyone completing the Road Rally Safety Steward Training will receive the license.
- The remaining question is how to distinguish an instructor credential from a standard Safety Steward credential.
- The current concept is that instructors would be Safety Stewards who are willing to mentor less-experienced Safety Stewards.
- The group discussed whether a separate instructor license is necessary or whether a list of willing mentors would accomplish the same goal.

- The need for mentoring remains important because simply obtaining a license does not necessarily provide practical experience.

The group also discussed identifying newly licensed Safety Stewards and connecting them with divisional contacts or mentors.

Foundation / Promotion Project
Tyler is developing a grant proposal centered on a YouTube channel/documentary-style project surrounding the 2027 USRRC. Chris indicated that the SCCA Foundation could be the most appropriate funding avenue, particularly if the proposal is framed around education and increasing awareness/involvement in Road Rally rather than simply promotion. The recommendation was to finish the proposal, submit it to the Foundation, and ask what additional information or changes would be needed.

Convention Planning
The RRDC discussed potential divisional convention involvement rather than taking responsibility for the national convention.
Ideas included:

- A divisional Road Rally Championship component.
- A presentation or session highlighting different forms of Road Rally.
- New approaches to promoting regional rallies rather than relying on traditional promotional methods.
- Using examples such as Tyler's rally zine, Cars & Coffee outreach, postcards, photography/game-based activities, and other accessible promotional tools.
- A possible session focused on promoting non-time-speed-distance rally formats and introducing attendees to other types of Road Rally.

Key Takeaway
The RRDC is continuing to develop projects and regional outreach despite limited direction from the RRB. The immediate emphasis is on continuing productive work already underway, organizing the committee's project list, improving communication between committees, supporting regional/divisional rally growth, and developing Safety Steward mentoring and promotional initiatives.