

Minutes of the June 9, 2025 EDRA Board of Directors Meeting

Attendance

- Bonnie Girod, President
- Shayne Russell, Vice President
- Alex Gesheva, Board Member
- Julie James, Board Member
- Jillane Baros, Board Member
- Julie Barnfather, Board Member
- Katie Poe, Youth Representative
- Sandy Cheek, guest
- Victoria Marsh, guest
- Heather Rheingans, logged in for recording purposes

Quorum present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie at 6:08 pm PST.

Approval of Minutes

Julie B. moved to accept the amended minutes from the May 2025 meeting. Julie J. seconds.

The minutes were unanimously approved with the correction of Sue M input regarding the spelling of her name and attendance, and a word change to better represent the current task of the Mary and Anna Youth Fund.

Club Rides

Diamond in the Rough (DITR)

Budget Explanation / Approval

The preliminary budget that had been approved by EDRA BoD is ready for a final, more detailed, version. Actual costs have now been established. The total amount requested is not changing. How those funds are spent is being updated.

COSTS - Vets: increased to 4 vets. Food: unchanged. Portable toilets, feed, facility rental, awards, and permits: Decreased. INCOME -unchanged. Ride is expected to break even.

Julie B moved to accept the revised budget. Alex G seconds, Passes unanimously.

Ride the Loup

Bonnie will revisit the budget for this ride and update / present as appropriate.

No specific updates on other rides.

Old / Ongoing Business

Reciprocity Agreement –

Julie B collected and summarized input from the BoD as to our purpose in pursuing reciprocity. Reasons were generally consistent. Motivations and Benefits: increased ridership, support the sport as a whole, building relationships between organizations, eliminate points of tension, and possible expansion of resources. Additionally, recognizing that enough time has passed since the last time reciprocity was considered that it may be reasonable now. Identified risks included: AERC could view reciprocity as losing face/clout, lack of positive response, could it make EDRA look bad?, would reciprocating miles actually increase ridership?, are there too many rides in our region such that ridership is low at most rides rather than fewer more well attended rides?, ride proximity matters to riders more than affiliation. Additional input included: what can we do to make rides more attractive potential participants and/or why do riders not choose endurance, is dual membership an option that could help reduce membership fees.

It was generally noted that neither group is likely to lose membership over reciprocity. AERC is too large to notice, plus if riders were to move to solely EDRA, they would have to pay an additional (currently \$20) fee at AERC rides. Overall, BoD sees that our membership will continue to attend our rides. The offer of reciprocity is likely to make us look good within PNER simply by offering, whether or not AERC agrees. EDRA would simply be looking to take the “my miles won’t count” barrier away.

The non-negotiable items from BoD input: verification of miles and animal welfare. Plus, reciprocity must be mutual.

This effort is to benefit PNER riders and address how AERC and EDRA are viewed within PNER. Our goals are two-fold. First, to be public that we are open to reciprocity to benefit PNER riders. Second, to achieve reciprocity with AERC.

Regarding the tasks to achieve this (not necessarily in this order)

- 1) To get PNER leaderships ‘thoughts’ about EDRA/AERC reciprocity and clarity regarding what they are willing to do to help this endeavor.
- 2) Obtain an official letter of support from PNER stating how this benefits riders and requesting AERC to work directly with EDRA and to sign an agreement
- 3) Put together a proposal for AERC
- 4) Share with EDRA membership and obtain EDRA membership input
- 5) Current EDRA BoD to connect with former members that approached reciprocity with AERC in the past to understand what they may have done differently
- 6) Reach out to PNER before their June board meeting
- 7) Contact regional AERC rep (Regina Rose)

Julie B presents the following: Bonnie and Shayne have an informal discussion with the PNER leadership that they have already connected with at the PNER convention to determine if there is support on an individual level. If the response is positive, determine what a letter of support could look like while sharing what our letter of proposal to AERC would look like. We are requesting a letter from PNER to

support our letter of proposal to AERC. At what point do we contact EDRA membership? We should connect with membership prior to seeking formal written support from PNER, not prior to informal discussions. We do not need a vote from membership, as they voted the BoD in to make decisions on their behalf. Likely we would look for a vote from membership before final ratification of an agreement with AERC, particularly if AERC makes any concessionary requests.

Discussion in response to Julie B notes that this is an appropriate order of events and that if the informal discussions are not supportive, that we do not go any further. It is likely best to inform and solicit feedback from membership rather than put this out for a vote. As voted in representatives, the BoD can make the decision. If we get past the informal stage, the BoD plans to inform and solicit input and seeks to never blindside membership. BoD is in agreement on this and recognizes that it is a moot point until informal discussions pave the way to move forward. A survey could be an appropriate means of gathering feedback. The goal is to keep information calm and true, rather than gossip-y. As such, we are going to discuss this via phone, rather than forward-able email, with PNER leadership. The importance of connecting with EDRA ride managers was noted.

Treasurer Report

There was no treasurers report at this meeting.

Adjournment

Julie J moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm PST. Bonnie seconded. Unanimously passed.

Minutes Submitted By

Heather Rheingans