

2005 Texas Acro Meeting at GAT

The annual meeting of Texas Acrobatic coaches was held at the 2005 GAT Convention in the Renaissance Hotel in Austin on the weekend of September 3rd and 4th. The meeting was held as per the agreement of the 2004 suggestion to show our selves to the Texas gymnastics coaches.

Through Alex Douglas' reaching out to Group Gymnastics clubs in Texas by his attending the GG Nationals which were held in Dallas area June 10th-12th. Jodie Trnck of Byron's Gymnastics had asked Anna Smirnova to lecture at the GAT convention. Anna declined and referred her to Alex instead. So when he met her at the GG Nationals, she invited to speak on behalf of Acrobatic Gymnastics in Texas. Consequently, the goal of exposing the Texas gymnastics community to Acrobatic Gymnastics occurred because of the two lectures that Alex gave.

However, the 2006 schedule was not completed because of the early date and the absence of Brown's Gymnastics. The meeting was held at 11 AM in the San Saba room on Sunday, September 4th. In attendance of the meeting was Alex Douglas (State Director) from Trevino's Gymnastic School, Lancaster; Brandi Lewis from Highland ParK High School, Dallas; Chris Westra (Secretary), Anna Smirnova and Dave Rogers from Texas Sports Ranch, Baytown; Lorna Spellman (Treasurer), Rumen Latchkov and Radostina Latchkova from Boerne Gymnastics Center, Boerne; and Vladimir Vladev from Gymnastics of San Antonio, SA.

The first order of business was to review progress from last year.

- 1) Texas Acro has been officially recognized by the Texas government in Austin as an Association.
- 2) Texas Acro has been given a non profit status by the IRS for the promotion of acrobatics in Texas. This status, however, is not for contributions to send athletes to international competitions. That requires a different tax number. However, all money contributed to TAGA intended to promote the sport - athlete clinics, judges clinics, exhibitions, etc. can be given a tax deductible receipt.
- 3) The bank account has been established and a report from the Treasurer was given.
- 4) The IRS requested that we set up a website. The original domain from freewebs was abandoned when it went offline for a week. An original domain name and website was purchased . The new website is www.txacro.org.
- 5) Group Gymnastics clubs were contacted as Alex had recommended in 2004.

The suggestion was made by Alex to host an athlete clinic/party in the beginning of the season to correct skills and get the new kids familiar with one another. Dave Rogers volunteered Texas Sports Ranch as a host site. A tentative date of Saturday, February 4th was set. Confirmation will be made later when he determines operation costs and fees.

Likewise, a Judges Clinic was suggested. Alex suggested using Brown's Gymnastics if they are willing. The Judges Clinic has been held at Trevinos, then the last two years at Boerne Gymnastics, so rotating to another club seemed appropriate. The tentative date of February 18th was suggested. Confirmation with Brown's Gymnastic and further knowledge on the whereabouts of Linda Ocmant put the suggestion on hold. If Linda, as a clinician is not possible, then Jola Jones would have to be contacted.

A favorable response was made by the Group Gymnastics coaches in their interest in learning acrobatic gymnastics to use in the Show Teams, it was also agreed that another clinic would be held for them. GG coaches later suggested early January before their season begins. No date was set at the meeting, perhaps invitations could be extended to the GG coaches to attend the clinic at TSR.

The calendar did not get set. Rumen pointed out that the State Meet needs to be late enough to hold onto the families that would otherwise quit when it is over. Possible dates suggested for competition given were:

A late March 25th Invitational by TAT. No other invitational meet dates were given.

Perhaps the State Meet May 20th, but no host was nominated. It was agreed that Memorial Day weekend of the 28th was a bad time.

Perhaps the Regionals would be about June 17th, but with Hurricane Katrina having destroyed much of LA acro, no further discussion could be made.

The invitational meet was a point of some discussion. Alex expressed his view of management. It is more efficient to allow local control than rely too much on top down management. Meet directors should have the job of assigning the judge's panel, then give that assignment to R3 Judges Coordinator for review in case there is some other matter to address. Management works best with delegation. The National office delegates to the Regional boards, and the Regional boards delegates to the State and local personnel. The local and state should send to the regional board the decisions for review, just as the regional board should send it to the national board for review as relevant.

Invitational meets should have flexibility and freedom. If a judges panel is approved regionally, the local meet director can invite whom ever, although none should be kept out. Texas is large. To keep costs down, clubs should be able to choose which meets they attend. If the two local requirements can be satisfied in San Antonio, for example, then they need not come to Dallas. The only requirement is that if qualifying scores are obtained in USAG sanctioned meets according to the rules with a regionally approved judges panel, they have to attend the State, Regional and National meets as the rules state.

Since it was too early to set the calendar, it was agreed to hold another meeting October 8th at Texas Sports Ranch in Baytown during the Freedom Cup team selections.

Since exposure to the Texas gymnastics community was accomplished by Alex conducting the workshop and JO lecture, it was agreed that the 2006 meeting would not be held at GAT, but that we would look into establishing some kind of vendor's booth and another speaking engagement, if they offer it again.