



**Audi**  
Club North America  
Lone Star



## LONE STAR CHAPTER ACNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

22 February 2015, 8:32 P.M. – 9:09 P.M.

Teleconference

### MINUTES

---

The February 22, 2015 meeting of Lone Star Chapter (LSC) Audi Club North America (ACNA) Board of Directors convened at 8:30 p.m. via ACNA Teleconference.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR OFFICER INTRODUCTIONS**

M. Welch welcomed the members to the meeting and introduced the other Board of Directors that were present on the call.

Director information is summarized below:

<b>President:</b>	Matthew Welch	From DFW area, focusing on establishing Lone Star, interacting with national and infrastructure.
<b>Vice President:</b>	Eric Howieson	From DFW area, focusing on social media and volunteer programs for ACLS.
<b>Secretary</b>	Tom Whited	From DFW area, focusing on communications and Web content.
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Aaron Plante	From ATX area, focusing on managing funding opportunities.
<b>Events</b>	Benson Ray Jr	From SA area, focusing on coordinating events across the state.

#### **MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

1. 2015 Board of Director Introductions
2. ACLS & Pirelli World Challenge at COTA
3. 2015 State Meet
4. Excitement for 2015
5. Looking Ahead
6. Member Q & A
7. Closing

30 November 2014

---

### **2015 Board of Director Introductions**

President – Matthew Welch

Matthew is extremely committed in helping take the Lone Star Chapter to its maximum potential. He is currently a director within an IT firm located in Dallas Texas. Matthew has been an Audi owner since late 2004. He was fortunate to be introduced to the Audi brand by friends at the time, and now a fan for life. Over the past 12 years he has had numerous Audi's, starting with a used A8 and most recently a TT-RS. Whether fast or slow, big or small, Matthew love these cars. He has been a member of NTAG since mid 2010. During his time in the club he has participated in events and also played an active role in club leadership. One of the things Matthew enjoys the most about having an Audi is going for spirited drives or trips to distant locations. His absolute favorite thing is going to the track. Driving these cars and taking advantage of the engineering/performance is a great feeling for him. Also, aside from driving, going to events with other like minded Audi enthusiasts is a great experience for him. Matthew believes that in order to be a successful organization, we as a club must focus on the following 3 areas: Raise brand awareness and bring more people into the Audi family; Create an open environment for Audi enthusiasts to socialize and communicate; Provide members the opportunity to enjoy their Audi's to the fullest!

Vice President – Eric Howieson

Eric has been a fan of Audi and Audi Sport for many years. The A5 and S4 models have been parked in his garage over the years and he looks forward to owning future offerings from the four rings. He has been an active participant with NTAG for over 7 years assisting other BOD members with event coordination and development. Sunday drives, monthly dinners, track days, toy drives, and state meets are just a few of the types of events he's attended or assisted with over the years. No matter the outcome, Eric looks forward to continuing to support the improved ACNA Lone Star Chapter, it's events, and its statewide members.

Secretary – Thomas Whited

Thomas has been passionate since an early age with all things that are technologically advance, and fast be it aircraft or cars. So when he first jumped into an Audi he fell in love with all they had to offer so he knew he had to have one. That is when he got his 2013 B8 S4, since then he has been singing the praises of what Audi brings to the sport and luxury car market. His career in aviation for over 35 years has taken him many places, and he currently manages the fleet of aircraft of over 700+ and where they fly daily as well as international operations for a large Dallas based airline. He has experience in sports marketing, as well having launched a professional hockey franchise from the ground up. He has also worked with several racing teams in both IMSA/Continental Tire Series, as well as in the INDYCAR Series with Andretti Autosport. He moved from Orlando, Florida and now resides in Frisco, Texas. He will focus on relationship building with Audi dealerships, club events around the state, marketing and sponsorships for the Audi Club Lone Star chapter, and club member interaction with the racing community.

---

**Treasurer – Arron Plante**

Self-proclaimed Audiophile and motorsport enthusiast, Aaron has served on the board since ACLS's inception in 2013. A long-time VAG product owner and enthusiast, Aaron has been active in Volkswagen and Audi activities for more than 10 years. Based in Austin, he has focused on marketing and communication of chapter functions as well as the organization of our COTA-related events which fits his rabid Audi motorsports obsessions (e.g., watching WEC, DTM, Blancpain GT, TUSC, PWC at all hours). These interactions have fostered relationships with COTA staff, Audi dealerships, and Audi Sport Customer Racing teams that have been a fulfilling part of working in the club. He moved to Austin from Philadelphia in 2009 transitioning out of pharmaceuticals and into software development and currently serves as Vice President at an Austin-based software company leading the operations and driving the company's technology direction. He is passionate about the Audi brand and currently owns two Audis, a B7 A4 APR Stage II+, and a stock Q7. He is an avid supporter of all things Audi and has foregone long walks on the beach for karting, modifying/tracking the B7, and interacting fellow Audi and motorsports enthusiasts. Most recently, he was elected to the Board of Directors of ACNA to foster ACNA's charter and evolution.

**Events – Benson Ray Jr.**

His story is simple... Benson is a fan of all things Audi. From the expertly crafted vehicles to the reigning motorsports dynasty. Together with his wife, Benson purchased their first Audi while living in NC, a Q5 Offroad Edition and shortly thereafter a B8 A4, in 2010 and the passion surged. Fast forward to today, they have a Q7 TDI and C7 A6 3.0T in their San Antonio stable. Benson is originally from NC and is currently a Clinical Services Manager on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Enough about his cars and home life, this is about his passion, Audi. Benson have been an active member in San Antonio for a few years now, helping coordinate lunches, dinners, hill country drives and even other events with the local dealer. His goals has been focused on simply improving the ownership experience that is already in place with club awareness, owner-to-owner / owner-to-dealer networking, and esprit de corps for Audi. With that said, he is an Audi owner and loves it. If there is anything he can do to improve the Audi ownership experience as a whole, he's all in. Being on the board of directors has allowed Benson the opportunity to work closer with his fellow owners to provide continued support to the entire Lone

**ACLS & Pirelli World Challenge at COTA**

ACLS is happy to once again be supporting the Pirelli World Challenge race as it returns to COTA! For this year event we have worked with both the track and the individual teams to provide extraordinary access to part of the race not open to the public. From pit walks, to driver discussions, and to team pit/truck tours, those who attend will have a greater appreciation for all the hard work that goes into one of these races. With several Audi R8's on the field, it is setup to be a very exciting event and we hope everyone will join us!

**2015 State Meet**

Texas has a long standing tradition of hosting an event each year that is dedicated to bringing owners together from across the state. In 2014 the club combined this dedicated event with the ACNA National Event in Austin and welcomed owners from all across the country. For 2015 it is focusing on the Texas owners and will be putting on a state event for all to attend. ACLS is working to complete the planning, and can inform all that the 2015 State Meet will be based in Houston and take place in early June. This will be the first time that a State Meet is centered in Houston and the club is excited to explore the locale attractions, roads, and interact with fellow Audi owners. ACLS will be posting more information in the coming months along with details on how you can sign up. Until then, plan on being in Houston in early June for the 2015 State Meet.

**Excitement for 2015**

With the achievements from 2014 and the new resources who will be joining the ACLS BoD, 2015 is shaping up to be a very exciting year. The team is working to continue our progress in the areas of member growth across the state and will be holding more events of varying types throughout the year (i.e., dealer tech events, toy drives, expanding social events/venues), and ACLS will be doing more to provide members with the opportunity to get engaged with fellow members. The club is looking for volunteers to help grow by providing input, assisting in planning and executing events, or in any way members find. If you are interested in helping ACLS, please email us at [volunteer@audiclublonestar.org](mailto:volunteer@audiclublonestar.org).

### **Looking Ahead**

The BoD presented several topics that will be the focus of the next quarter and beyond:

- Increasing Club Membership
  - ACLS will use current momentum to increase club membership across the state and ensure a high-quality experience. ACLS will push forward as it continues to raise awareness of the Audi Club and execute our mission.
  
- Event Opportunities for 2015
  - As we discussed earlier on the call there are a lot of exciting opportunities for Audi owners to get involved this year. We will be making announcements on specific events soon, so stay tuned!
  
- Open Registration for 2015 State Meet
  - Stay tuned for information and registration information on the 2015 State Meet in Houston taking place in June!

### **Member Q&A<sup>1</sup>**

- Matt – Is there a recommended or centralized hotel that Audi Members are staying at?
  - ANSWER: Hotel options are very plentiful for the PWC race weekend. Historically Audi Club uses the Aloft/Westin Hotels, but members are welcome to choose a hotel they prefer. Recommend posting question on forum asking other members.
  
- Steve – Has the club ever held an Autocross style event?
  - ANSWER: Other chapters within ACNA have held Autocross events in past. We have several opportunities across Texas to host an event. Up to this point we have not heard member interest but would enjoy hosting it. We will reach out to the member base and see if there is enough interest to host our own Autocross event.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note all names, spellings, and areas are based on information interpreted from call and are meant to capture the spirit of the question and the Board of Directors' response. Any typographical errors or misinterpretations are unintentional. Please contact [info@audiclublonestar.org](mailto:info@audiclublonestar.org) to solicit corrections or clarifications.

**Action Item Summary List**

The following Action Items were created and assigned as follows:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Member</b>
<b>1</b>	Distribute Meeting Minutes to Members (website)	M. Welch

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next ACLS Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **May 31, 2015** at 8:30 p.m. via **Teleconference**.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Plante  
Secretary, ACLS