

AERC BOD Telephone Meeting Minutes- 6_5_06

In attendance: Stagg Newman, Mike Maul, Nick Warhol, Patti Pizzo, Mike Jaffe, Jennifer Nice, Connie Caudill, Joyce Mocilan, Susan Horne, Jan Stevens, Stan Eichelberger, Tom Dean, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley Howe, John H. Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Roger Taylor, Jeff Trinkle, Barry Waitte, Teresa Cross, Jerry Fruth, Laura Hayes, Robert Ribley, Dinah Rojek, Mike Tomlinson, Melissa Ribley DVM (Veterinary Committee Chair), Kathleen A. Henkel. **Absent:** None

Housekeeping:

Approval minutes from April 3rd 2006 phone meeting – approved unanimously

Membership Update: Kathleen reports for 2006 we have 6190 members to date, last year there were 6218, very close to last year, but a touch less.

Mike Maul reports that ride entries are within 1% of last year, slightly down from last year. Our normal membership growth is about 3% a year. Gas prices maybe an issue, but membership growth is flat right now.

Committee reports: The following committees submitted reports:

Ride Managers, Membership, National Championship, Legal, Vet, Awards, Insurance, Endurance (new committee), Marcom, International, finance, Convention, Rules, Sanctioning, Sponsorship.

New Business:

Awards committee report- Gail W. Tom D and the new Endurance committee will do a base analysis of 100 mile ride trends, Tom to work with Gail to include awards as part of the research. There is a possible new sponsor for Pioneer award- Cheryl Johnson from the SW region may have a possible sponsor, but no further info. Barry (Sponsorship group) to contact her.

Mike M needs a write up for July EN for the new volunteer award. Gail is working on this for publication right away and will get to Mike M. John P offers to help.

AERC international- international committee would like 2 AERC people at the world endurance forum in Malaysia. Offer for a BOD member to attend at their own expense if anyone is interested.

San Antonio Convention financial results: \$22,000 profit, well above estimated budget of \$7,500. Mike to put actual numbers on web site so everyone can access. Stagg is very happy for being able to have a profitable convention outside of Reno. This makes it much more viable to move the convention away from Reno more often.

Patti P- Finance committee- sent out a timeline for the 07 budget process. She needs all committee budgets by June 30th. Patti will begin chasing down committee heads.

Susan H- membership committee- sent out a summary of areas being concentrated on and considered to help generate and maintain membership. Incentives to join or renew. Consider different levels of membership, multi year membership at a slight discount. Different types of membership. EN magazine only option. Idea- non sanctioning director becomes the membership director for each region. Solidify some of these at the midyear meeting. John P suggests again it may be time to spend some money on manpower to do some of this work. If we can spend some money to raise enough members to cover costs it makes sense.

Championship ride committee- Robert R- committee recommend Steph Teeters ride Aug 25th. We would like two days so people can ride both 50 and 100. We need a very quick vote to progress due to the time frame involved. Plan will be for a short BOD call on July 10 to vote on the championship approval and format of the ride(s).

Rules committee- John P outlines plans for a process to modify rules. It was sent out to the BOD today, Stagg suggests BOD read the proposal and discuss on the BOD list.

Santa Fe ride sanctioning update: Sanctioning directors are now working on the event, Roger and Jennifer are taking the lead since the AERC position needs to be consistent between the regions affected. Questions or concerns should be sent to Jennifer via Email by July 5th. Committee feels we don't need a rush approval, wants to involve everyone who is affected. John P recommends we be sure the AERC is covered in terms of policy, IE our involvement.

Sponsorship committee- Thanks to Randy Eiland for getting Adequan as a cash sponsor. (Melissa Ribley helped as well) Barry will act as head of sponsorship group for the rest of the year, Patti P will be in training to chair the committee next year if she is the choice of the next President to chair the committee.

Vet committee report- Melissa Ribley reports:

1- Drug testing procedures- Deterrence policy. Working with Stan to get approval from committee, new policies and procedures should go live next few weeks. Which horses to test: first place from the longest ride, 3 more randomly chosen from whole ride, price paid to vets, vets not associated with ride.

2- Vet certification program- Open book test exam is done, Melissa has given it to a few vets as a trial. It took about 30 minutes for experienced vets, about 60-90 minutes for newer vets who looked through the handbook. It will be sent to all AERC vets in a vet newsletter.

3- Developing new drug policy- (USEF drug testing outsourcing) The vet and legal committees will work on drafting the new drug rules in order to facilitate the creation of the new policy. The goal is clarification on the use and administration of the rule. It will cost about 2.5 times the current cost of drug testing (outside of California) that the rider will have to pay for. Melissa is looking for an overview from the BOD to make sure there are no major objections before putting in the time and work.

Old Business:

- Stagg proposes adding Susan K to the exec committee from the elected BOD members. John P raises the motion, Jan S second: Motion passes unanimously.
- Governance structure- Stagg proposes Education committee chair report directly to the president. Barry W raises the motion, second Susan K: Motion passes unanimously.
- Barry W offers to be sponsorship chair for the end of the year. Barry will spend time training Patti P to chair the committee if the next president chooses to place her in that position. Stagg also recommends that all Committee chairs think about potential replacements for themselves, and working to train these individuals. Patti P won't be running for Treasurer next year and is looking for someone to think about someone taking over. Connie C raises the motion, Second Robert R: Motion passes unanimously.
- Proposal on Motion on motions: Barry W proposal on the written requirement for motions. This will create a very good written history of motions that will be in a single format. Barry makes motion, second Laura H, Motion passes unanimously. **Text of actual Motion:**

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion
Motion

This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.

Proposing Committee

Executive Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BoD)

May 1st, 2006

Classification of Motion Request (new, change, add, delete, by-law, rule, policy)

This is a new motion to adopt a business practice process for Motions to be presented to the BoD.

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

This motion is to adopt a process whereby a specific Motion Proposal form will be completed and presented for all motions presented by Board Members and/or Committee Chairs to the AERC Board of Directors for discussion, debate and consideration for approval.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving)

Presently motions presented to the Board of Directors are done in a very inconsistent fashion and in some cases with little to no documentation. This has led to motions being presented in a sometimes confusing format that has led to extended discussions between the motion author and the Board in sometimes just determining the basic facts of a motion proposal.

The Motion Proposal form provides a consistent and complete format for the delivery and presentation of all proposed motions. When completed and presented to the Board, the Motion Proposal will assist in supplying a basis of complete information for discussion and decision-making.

Motions presented to the Board for review and approval under this new format will allow for complete and consistent delivery of information and will afford the Board a better understanding of the intentions, background issues and all other practical information concerning the motion at hand.

Rules effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

There is no rules impact of this motion.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

There is no budget impact of this motion.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization

The overall benefit to the membership and the AERC organization is that there will be an improvement of the efficiency of the governance of managing the motion process.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

There is no impact of this proposal to the AERC office.

Committees consulted and/or affected

None

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

This motion to be presented for approval to the Board on April 3rd, 2006. If approved it will be required for all motions to be presented to the Board to use this format.

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets)

None.

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

Vote needed by the Executive Committee

- John P- Motion for rule change for ride managers to submit ride times on LD rides. (From LD committee) John reads and explains actual wording of motion.

Robert R moves to publish the proposed rule change in EN, seconded by Jan S. Roll call vote 8 no 15 yes, passes yes to put in EN. Vote results:

Mike Maul	YES
Nick Warhol	NO
Patti Pizzo	YES
Mike Jaffe -	no vote - not present during the vote
Jennifer Nice	NO
Connie Caudill	YES
Joyce Mocilan	YES
Susan Horne	YES
Jan Stevens	YES
Stan Eichelberger	YES
Tom Dean	NO
Gail Williams	YES
Terry Woolley Howe	NO
John H. Parke	YES
Susan Kasemeyer	YES
Joe Schoech	YES
Roger Taylor	NO
Jeff Trinkle	NO
Barry Waitte	YES
Teresa Cross	YES
Jerry Fruth	NO
Laura Hayes -	no vote - not present during the vote
Robert Ribley	YES
Dinah Rojek	YES
Mike Tomlinson	NO

Text of actual motion: (will be printed in next edition of EN)

Current Rule 5.3

Riding time is the time used by the competitors to complete the course, excluding all hold times, and is the time used for AERC ride results.

Current Rule L5.3

Riding time is the time used by the competitors to complete the course and reach criteria, excluding all hold times. This is the time used for AERC ride results.

Current Rule 8.5.4

Ride results list all completing riders in order of finish along with their division.

Current Rule L8.3

Ride results list all completing riders in order of finish.

Current Rule 12

Ride Results must be submitted to the AERC Administrative Office within two weeks after the ride date and must be accompanied by a starting rider fee. (Fee subject to change. Check with the AERC Office.)

Proposed Rule 8.5.4

Ride results must list all completing riders in order of finish along with their division. Ride results must state the riding time for each completing rider as determined under Rule 5.3. Ride results must also list all starting riders who did not complete.

Proposed Rule L8.3

Ride results must list all completing riders in order of finish. Ride results must state the riding time for each completing rider as determined under Rule L5.3. Ride results must also list all starting riders who did not complete.

Frankly, I think some of what we want to say is unnecessarily split between rules 8.5.4 or L8.3 and rule 12. The rules will benefit from an eventual complete rewrite which better integrates the various rules on similar subject matters and fills some of the existing holes.

JHP

Other Business:

Mike J is working to further reduce the costs of the meeting conference calls. It is a big expense.

Jerry F reports on the Trail masters class- Gail's class will be next week, the West region in September. PS region originally scheduled for August had to be canceled, It has been moved to Texas, and will be rescheduled for next spring in the PS region.

John P makes motion to adjourn, Susan K second, meeting adjourned 8:17 pm PST

AERC International Committee

Kathy Brunjes, Chair

6/5/06

Conference Call meeting May 31, 2006, 9:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Attendance: Kathy Brunjes, Chair
Mark Dial, Vice-Chair
Mike Tomlinson, USEF Technical Committee
Mary Lutz, USEF Endurance Director
Tom Johnson, Nat'l Chef d'Equipe
Amanda Taylor, Recording Secretary
Jennifer Nice, Electronic Newsletter Editor
Sue Phillips - Central
Betty Baker, Treasurer, Julie Bullock - East
Michele Roush, Carol Giles – PacNorth
Teresa Cross, Tinker Hart – PacSouth
Jan Stevens, Junior Committee
Susan Kasemeyer, AERC Liaison and Educ.Comm
Russell Broussard

Absent: Art Priesz, USEF High Performance
Grace Ramsay - Central
Linda Strelnik, Holly Ulyate – Mountain

Items Discussed: For informational purposes only – one action required by AERC BoD (see item #3 under USEF report).

1. The minutes of April 24, 2006 were approved as presented, with Teresa Cross requesting mailed agendas and minutes until further notice (she is currently unable to access email attachments).
2. Betty presented a written treasurer's report, based on a detailed profit and loss accounting from Liz Bryson. Income to date exceeds expenses and our bank account is healthy. Betty reported that Sue Phillips, Kathy Brunjes and Jan Stevens have AERC-I merchandise to sell at rides in their zones.

Ride management for the Oregon 100 have submitted an FEI Loan Application; FEI sanctioning is pending and ride management is unsure whether or not to proceed with the sanctioning process, due to questions surrounding the need to qualify for a championship-level event in 2007 (since the PanAms will be held in Brazil in 2007, rather than Manitoba). The AERC-I Committee moved to approve the application for \$764.88 contingent on FEI sanctioning taking place.

Betty reported that the AERC office paid half of the total postage for the junior/young rider mailing that took place in April and May. The Committee thanks Kathleen and the AERC office for helping with this project.

3. Mary Lutz presented the USEF update; two selection trials have been conducted thus far, with Ft. Howes being the last trial on the agenda. There have been some late nominations received.

Mary spoke with Ian Williams (May 31) and the FEI World Endurance Forum has been *tentatively* moved to November, 2006 (Malaysia) rather than the September date as previously reported. There will be no competition in conjunction with the Forum. **After much discussion surrounding the Forum**, and review of the AERC-I budget and financials, **the AERC-I Committee recommends that AERC-I fund one person to attend the Forum. AERC-I also recommends that the AERC Board fund an additional person to attend the Forum, as a representative of our National club.**

No date has been reported for the 2007 PanAms (to be held in Brazil).

Mary reported that Art Priesz is working with USEF, exploring the possibility of USEF hosting a Team Challenge (three-star FEI sanctioned event) for Fall, 2007. Being a three-star event, there would be no Certificate of Capability (CoC) requirement. In addition to this, two ride managers have stepped forward to report they are investigating the possibilities of hosting a three-star event in 2007 that would fill the void of Manitoba withdrawing their bid to host the 2007 PanAms. Peggy Brush, representing the Colorama (Wisconsin) ride management joined the conference call at this point, to discuss their plans to investigate the feasibility of hosting either a NAEC or Nations Cup venue in 2007 or 2009; Peggy will report back to this Committee by June 26 with their findings and possible proposal.

Zone Reps were asked to continue reviewing the selection models as presented in April in order to be ready to proceed with team selection for a yet-to-be decided venue in 2007. Sue Phillips stated that Central is advising their riders that they should continue to seek their CoC's and meet basic mileage qualifications in anticipation that there will be a 2007 event; the Committee commented on that all Zone riders should be notified that there are alternatives to the 2007 PAC being worked on at this time.

The USEF mid-year Board meeting will be held in July.

4. Jan Stevens reiterated that the mailing polling AERC junior members, has taken place; the AERC Office has reported that approximately 60 questionnaires have been received back thus far. Jan reported that the response to the questionnaire has been very favorable, with several parents (AERC members) volunteering their services (including a centered-riding instructor). Jan stated that she did limit the initial mailing to AERC junior members who were considered "older" (i.e.: mid-teens). The next step is to collate the responses to determine real interest, and then start planning on how to provide a ride specifically for these young riders.

Kathy will contact Kathleen re: shipping long-sleeved t-shirts to Jan to start distributing to junior riders entered in the Ft.Howes 100.

5. Jennifer Nice is working on the next issue of the electronic newsletter, and hopes to have it ready to send out after the Ft. Howes ride. She has been forwarding press releases she has written re: the two WEG demonstration rides.
6. Articles for upcoming *Endurance News* issues will report on the issues that will be part of the FEI World Endurance Forum and selection to the WEG endurance squad and then an in-depth report of the WEG.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Awards Committee Report

Gail Williams, Chair

6/1/06

The Committee will be working on the following projects:

1. Definition of the Super Volunteer Award
2. Recognition of 100 mile riders and horses
3. Possible new sponsor for the Pioneer Awards
4. Possibly review all the current awards AERC gives out and check to see that we (AERC) is still in line with the original intent for that award. (Remember the confusion about the age for the Bill Stuckey Award)
5. What type of difference do we want between the LD awards and the rest of the AERC awards for year end? Different color, same award---or different awards--or--same awards--different embroidery???

Rules Committee Report

John H. Parke, Chair

June 5, 2006

The Rules Committee now consists of Kim Fuess, Roger Taylor and me as chair. With only three members, I can patch in everyone from my office without going through the bother of setting up a conference call. Roger and Kim both have fairly flexible schedules so it should be easier for us to have frequent, short and focused telephone conferences.

Our general goal will be to clarify our rules and relevant policies. It is up to the Board to make policy and there is no reason for the Rules Committee to usurp that role. I just want to be sure that any rule up for discussion is written professionally so that the Board can focus on the underlying concept. The Board shouldn't have to figure out what some

proposal means because it is ambiguously worded. For that matter, the membership deserves a clear, fully integrated set of rules which don't require endless debate over meaning. Accordingly, we will work both on drafting in concrete form concepts either the Board or other committees bring to our attention and on redrafting the rules and related policies as a whole.

We will prioritize our work based on various factors, including perceived importance and urgency and whether or not the rule proposal is already pending before the Board. When another committee requires Rules Committee involvement to make progress on a matter, it will receive a higher priority than it would otherwise. A matter will not go to the top of the list, however, just because it has become the internet topic of the week. We realize that some projects will take a long time and that all deserve our careful consideration. We would rather concentrate on one item and finish it than try to work on all items at once and never finish any.

Current work includes:

- 1) Revision of the rules relating to reporting ride times. This work is high priority because there is a proposal from the LD Committee pending before the Board. This work is essentially done unless the Board asks for more changes.
- 2) Revision of Rule 14 regarding protests. This rule requires updating and the Board has already committed to this process. The Protest and Grievance Committee has already sent me a redraft with their thoughts. I will communicate back to that committee our comments and suggestions before bringing it up to the Board. Revision of Rule 14 is part of a larger process for the review of all policies and procedures for the efficient and fair handling of protests. This is considered a higher priority matter because another committee is waiting on us for action and because these reforms will potentially affect all AERC members. We expect to have a final revision of the rule and associated policies ready for complete discussion by the Board at the midyear meeting.
- 3) Revision of Rule 13 regarding prohibited substances for our horses. This is also a higher priority matter because the Vet Committee has been considering it for almost a year now and it affects all AERC members and the public image of our sport. I pointed out some of the deficiencies of the current rule and asked for its revision more than two years ago. I made powerpoint presentations on its revision at the midyear Board meeting last year and at one of the Hot Topics workshops for the membership at our last convention. Our most recent protest decision directly relates to the rule and its administration. Melissa Ribley as VC chair has put a lot of thought into all aspects of the revision of this rule and I look forward to working with her to finish up this project so that the Board will have our final recommendation for discussion at the midyear meeting. The Board will be kept advised of our efforts in the interim so that we know what direction to take and the Board will be generally familiar with the subject before it receives our final proposal.
- 4) Identifying potential rules to address the question of minimum rider age. This issue doesn't really involve that many members directly but has engendered a great deal of controversy over the years. As I have communicated to this Board in the past, it might be wise for us to come up with a clear solution once and for all just to avert civil war over the issue, whatever its intrinsic importance. We intend to write up three alternative rules just to give the Board, other committees and the membership something concrete to work with. One alternative will impose minimum age restrictions, one will take the opposite tack and outlaw them and one will be somewhere, somehow in between. The idea is to refine the debate, highlight critical underlying issues such as what is the legitimate role of the AERC and see if we can achieve progress towards reaching common ground. Kim Fuess has written some posts to the AERC Members Forum with fresh thinking on this topic and has already started working out these alternatives. Although we will be working on this as we go along, it is a lower priority item than the first three items.
- 5) Coming up with language for the proposal I presented at last year's midyear meeting about non competitive rides in designated wilderness areas. This will address whether it is possible to fit our activities into wilderness areas given the prohibitions under Forest Service Manual sec. 2323.13h and the BLM regs at 43 CFR sec. 6303.1(i) and sec. 2932.5. It somewhat relates to the so-called Nicholson proposal concerning tightening regulation of high profile races. This is important for particular rides and potentially important for the growth of the AERC but does not have the time pressures the first three items have, so it is a lower priority item. I expect Roger and ultimately Jerry Fruth to work with me on evaluating how to approach public agencies on this topic.
- 6) Revision of our rules as a whole. Sorely needed but a big project which will have to wait for some of the other items. Kind of like choosing between fixing the immediate leaks or re-caulking the entire ship. At some point you have to do the whole overhaul or the ship won't float.

7) Identification, review and revision of all so called policies. This is also a sorely needed. Roger has already started gathering existing policies and has reviewed them with our staff to some degree. Since we need to do this to improve the efficiency and consistency of the operation of both our Board and the organization as a whole, we will probably focus on it before rewriting the rule set but after working up the first three items. This effort will involve a progressively broader group of board members as we progress and will ultimately lead to discussion and hopefully adoption of a complete, codified policy manual by the Board.

I look forward to questions at the next telephone conference or board meeting.

Technical Committee Report

Mike Maul, Chair

5/30/06

1. Ride managers web interface for ride results input partially complete.
2. Volunteer trail hours worked application partially complete.
3. Working with office on non-IT Disaster recovery plan. First is list of documents that office presently keeps, how long, why, and format kept in. Once this is complete, Bob Morris will work with office and local company to come up with agreed on plan for what's needed in addition to this, how to do it, and cost in equipment and staff hours.
4. Reduction in cost of Conf. calls still open

Programmer - Russ Humphrey has increased work load in day job so Items 1 and 2 are slow.

Trails Committee Report

Jerry Fruth, Chair

5/30/06

We have had in the past an issue with students who sign up for the class and who at the last minute decide for what ever reason not to go. This has made it a management nightmare trying to keep on top of it and to keep the classes full. At this time we ask the students to pay \$111 which is the cost of the clinometers and they pay when they show up at the class.

I've taken the issue to the trials committee and have under discussion the idea that when the student signs up, they forward their \$111 which would be non-refundable. That should make those who do sign up a more reliable student as far as showing up.

Roger Taylor has Las Cienegas back on track and the project is moving forward.

I'm not in the loop on Rock Springs and have nothing to report.

Our trip to Virginia went well except for me loosing Big Red. I have a report going to the Old Dominion Board on the possibilities of the site we visited.

The TMC for Southern California was cancelled and Terry Silver is putting into place a class in Texas. Our sponsor in Texas said she felt like she won the lottery when the class became available. A nice compliment to the project and those who make it happen.

Membership Marketing Committee Report

Susan Horne, Chair

6/3/06

Incentives to join/renew:

1. Multi-year membership: 3 years @???. Saves on issuing cards and on use of staff time; assures that member stays for 3 years. Lower price for multi-year? By lower price, I'm talking about perhaps 3 years at \$60 per year. AERC loses \$15 over three years, but gains a member, who might choose not to renew, for two additional years.
2. Different levels of membership: full riding and voting membership; non-riding and voting membership; non-riding and non-voting membership. All levels will receive Endurance News and have continuity of membership. Cost of membership to be determined. Currently there is a single membership at \$65, a family membership at a discounted rate since the family only receives one EN, a junior membership at a reduced rate, and a veterinary membership for \$20. The \$40 a person pays to receive EN only is not a membership. Shouldn't we change that?
3. Membership cards could indicate a person's first year as a member ("Loyal member since "xxxx", similar to what AAA does). All persons, no matter what type of membership, will receive recognition in EN at each 5 year anniversary. Randy commented that a discount might not be a good thing, based on historical precedence. I defer to his experience!
4. Bumper stickers for trailer or vehicle indicating membership anniversaries for every 5 years.
5. Develop a recognition program for non-riders based on points accrued for volunteering at rides (manager, ride secretary, vet secretary, etc.). Point value for each activity to be determined. This is not the same thing as nominating a Volunteer of the Year (which is a good idea as well).
6. All of the above give non-riders and previous riders, who can either no longer ride or who are taking a break from riding, a reason to stay as members.

Strategies for attracting new members:

1. Person to person contact, with current members recruiting new members. Give it a catchy name, provide an incentive or recognition for the member who does the recruiting.
2. Develop AERC membership goals, both long and short term, and challenge each region to develop a plan to achieve an attainable goal determined by that region in consultation with the AERC BoD. There should be no penalty for not meeting the goal, but there should be recognition for regions that do meet their goal. This may not be popular, but without setting attainable focused goals, membership just limps along. If we are going to attract major sponsors, we must increase membership and be able to demonstrate to sponsors that we have a plan with measurable goals.
3. Right now one regional director from each region serves as the sanctioning director. Consider have the other regional director be the membership director. Primary responsibility would be to develop and implement the plan for growth in the region, both through retention of current members and recruitment of new members. We need to develop a position description, so that the membership director knows exactly what is expected.
4. Recruit new members by developing relationships with local riding clubs, local Arabian horse clubs, 4-H clubs, pony clubs, etc. This should be done on a region level, and within each region, on a state by state level.

Retaining current members:

1. We lose approximately 60% of members within three years of joining AERC.
2. Providing new members with a positive first year experience is the key.
3. Develop a system of identifying new members that makes them highly visible at a ride: a green bandana with the AERC logo (brand identification) sent to each new member with their first ID card, asking them to wear it when they come to a ride.
4. Send a list of new members, complete with information, to the region membership director (or another designated person). That person should arrange a way to contact the new member and follow up with them several times during the first year. Face-to-face is best, phone contact works well, and email is acceptable, but not nearly as effective.
5. Consult with the Ride Manager Committee to develop a way to introduce and welcome new members at each ride.
6. Consult with the Education Committee to develop the most effective way to match up mentors with new members, who need them.
7. Follow up, follow up, follow up. Don't lose these new members!
8. If a new member chooses not to renew, find out why.

Problems:

1. A number of these suggestions are labor intensive in terms of volunteers, and we all know how difficult it can be to find volunteers to take on these extra jobs. My efforts so far have met with mostly negative responses.
2. Most people I have approached have a definite local attachment to endurance riding, but seem to have little attachment to AERC outside of their enjoyment of EN. They are willing to volunteer at local rides and at regional club events, but are not willing to donate their discretionary hours to benefit the national organization.

3. Several of the items will require changes that need to be presented to the national membership; e.g., changes in types of memberships, new recognitions. All of this will take more time than I imagined.

National Championship Committee Report

Robert Ribley, Chair
June 5, 2006

The National Championship Committee recommends for the 2007 National Ride site to be held in Idaho on Aug. 25, 2007 with Stephanie Teeter as ride manager.

We would like approval of this site from the BoD, as soon as possible, subject to an acceptable written agreement with the ride management.

The committee has also been considering recommending to the BoD that the AERC National Championship Ride have one National Champion and one Reserve National Champion for each ride, Top ten and Wt Division winners would also be recognized. We are still having on going discussions on this subject.

The committee also received another bid from the Midwest Mountain Quest Ride with Romona Radtke. This was received in May and we have not had time to discuss the ride but would like to consider it as a future site as it is located in the Midwest region and we have not held a NC Ride in this region yet.

Protest & Grievance Committee Report

Michael D. Marino, Chair
6/1/06

I. This year the P & G Committee membership was deliberately formed with Non-Board Directors in order to remove potential conflict that could arise upon the appeal of a P & G decision to the Board.

As you know, the members of P & G are as follows:

Michael D. Marino, Esquire, Chairman
Vonita Bowers
Dr. Arthur King, DVM
Timothy Woodward, Esquire

II. The P& G Committee's first task was the drafting of revision to Rule 14. After considerable discussion and numerous proposals, a final proposed Rule change was submitted to the Rules Committee for approval. We are awaiting their determination.

III. At this writing, the P&G Committee has decided the V Bar Protest of July 2005. By the end of this month, a formal written decision will be forwarded to AERC for publication.

Ride Managers Committee Report

Connie Caudill, Chair
June 5, 2006

- We have been discussing what to include in a pre ride briefing checklist to be included in the ride packet from the office. This should help all RM remember what to include in their ride meetings.

-We have been discussing our "new ride managers consultant group." This is still being put together but should help new ride managers when they need assistance in putting on a new ride.

- We have discussed the number of entrants to the rides this year especially in the 100 mile rides.

-We have joined in discussions in the new ride managers forum, which we all have given advice as well as learning some new ideas through this site.

Insurance Committee Report

Roger Taylor, Chair
June 1, 2006

Bob Walsh joined our committee and he is a great asset, answering many insurance questions. We continue to get insurance questions from ride managers, members and BOD members. Kathleen and I have an agreement with Equisure that whenever there is an AERC question directly to them, someone from Equisure will let us know so we can follow up to see that everyone is informed correctly. We would ask that the BOD members ask everyone to direct their questions to Kathleen or I. The committee continues to check on agencies willing to quote against Equisure. It seems we have a very good company and should develop a long term relationship with them. So we may just recommend renewal.

Junior Committee Report

Jan Stevens, Chair
5/30/06

June 2006 Junior Committee Report

- Susan Johnson is working with Mike Maul and the AERC Office to update the Junior Webpage on the AERC Site.
- Kelly Kimbler is working with Karen Chaton to update the list of AERC Members who are willing to Mentor Junior Riders.
- Alina Vale is compiling of list of Frequently Asked Questions for the AERC Junior Webpage.
- Karen DiCamillo and Cindy Mendoza have been requested to look into planning Junior Activities at the 2007 AERC Convention
- Jan Stevens and Tracy Webb are working with AERC International in regards to finding Young Riders (ages 14-21) who are interested in International Competition.
- Planning for the brochure is under way.

MarCom Committee Report

Jennifer Nice, Chair
6/1/06

The MarCom committee began the new term by defining its function, which is to direct all AERC business and projects pertaining to marketing, communications, media and advertising, as follows:

1. 1. Promote AERC, its programs and efforts through the various media
2. 2. Promote AERC, its programs and efforts through advertising
3. 3. Assist in providing editorial material to Endurance News
4. 4. Act as liaison between AERC and the media

Several MarCom committee members have been successful in querying various magazines about endurance-related articles. Genie is writing for Arabian Horse World and The Chronicle, Pamela is writing for several publications, including a new worldwide endurance website called EWOL. Bobbie is writing a series for Equus and Jennifer is writing for AHA, USEF and The Trail Rider.

To date, the committee has produced and sent out five press releases to the AHP news wire and other equine publications. The committee will continue to produce press releases on a regular basis. These releases go out to approximately 200 equine-related media sources.

The committee reviewed its current advertising campaign and approved a three-time advertising agreement with AHA's Arabian Horse magazine. The agreement is for a full page ad in the Aug/Sept and Oct/Nov issues and a 1/3 v ad in the Dec/Jan issue, which will be upgraded if the budget allows.

The committee has developed several advertising and promotional campaigns to target specific groups:

1. 1. Selling AERC as a family sport to the organized recreational trail rider
2. 2. Promoting AERC as a "personalized" sport
3. 3. Promoting the international arm of AERC by increasing awareness of FEI competition in the US

Initial promotion for the NC will begin in June. Expect to see the first of a series of media releases on the event in the upcoming week. The committee plans to put considerable effort into promoting the NC, and several publications have already expressed interest in getting coverage of the event.

The committee is working on a plan to have a media office at the NC.

The committee is currently working on a plan to develop a system for tracking exposure that AERC gets in the media.

MarCom Committee
Jennifer Nice, chair
Genie Stewart Spears
Pamela Burton
Audrey Pavia
Bobbie Lieberman
Randy Eiland
Mike Maul

Education Committee

Dinah Rojek, Chair
May 30, 2006

Newbie Briefing is finished the final review and is ready for distribution

Article on how to give the briefing in EN (Susan K.)

- Upcoming Articles: May issue: Dr Ken Marcella, DVM on how seasonal change effects on electrolyte balance and June: Kim Fuess on AERC awards.
- Clinics
- Basics Clinic status

Basic Clinic leader video in copying stage.

Video clips from vet video in the works

Layout of topics underway

- Beyond the Basics Clinic PowerPoint prototype finished by the end of June '06
- Final Mentor Liaisons in the works

Mentor Liaisons have been requested to send in names of appropriate people to be added to the list

Endurance Committee Report

Tom Dean, Chair
6/2/06

This is a new committee without a pre-existing agenda. I have attempted to seek out new committee members, one from each region that have not had previous AERC BoD/Committee experience. I also attempted to enlist members with varying levels of experience. I have had lengthy conversations with each member and believe this is a strong and diverse group that represents a cross-section of our sport.

Our committee members are:

Joyce Mocilan:	Midwest
Ron Sproat:	Northwest
Cindy Bell:	Southeast
Ann Goolsby:	Central
Sally Abe:	West
Kim Fuess:	Pacific Southwest
Linda Sherill:	Southwest

In general we would like this committee to examine larger significant issues, but be flexible/responsive enough review and recommend solutions to the smaller problems that are brought to the BoD by individual members.

Our first two projects will be:

1. Take a fresh examination of the down turn in 100 participation. In my conversation with these members, I have heard new and fresh thoughts that I have not heard on the Forum or in other conversations. We will be working with a member of the International committee, Carol Giles, to coordinate efforts.
2. The committee will review Dave Nicholson's proposal and will prepare comments to the BoD.

Finance Committee Report

Patti Pizzo, Treasurer, Chair
6/1/06

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE JUNE 5 ADGENDA

The Finance Committee is reminding everyone that all bills for expenses that they expect to be paid in the current year must be presented to the office during that year. All bills presented later than the current year will be charged to the year the bill is received. This will allow the office to accrue the expense in the proper year.

The last issue of Endurance News included for the membership the 2005 year end Treasurers Report.

The 2007 BUDGET

All committees should send their budget requests to their group leader who will review them and forward them to Patti by June 30.

Once compiled the new detailed budget draft will go to the BOD. This will include the operational budget lines including inflation numbers that Liz, Kathleen, and Sue have determined for 2006 after reviewing 2005 and 2006. Estimated income for 2007 will be conservative. The BOD will have the full draft budget mid July.

This will be approximately 2 weeks before the August conference call which the Finance Committee requests a large time slot be allotted for budget discussions. During August the Finance Committee will take all comments for review and/or updating of the 2007 budget. A revised budget would be sent to the BOD.

The September conference call the BOD should then vote on the 2007 budget. The new 2007 Budget then would be placed in the November issue of the Endurance News .

June 30 - all committee budget requests sent to Patti from their Group Leaders at Piz220@epix.net so she can forward them to the Budget Committee

July 14 - the draft 2007 budget is sent to the BOD

August 7 Conf Call budget discussions/questions and then updating of the draft and update then sent to the BOD

September 11 Conference Call - BOD vote on the 2007 Budget

November EN final 2007 budget published .

Convention Committee Report

Robert Ribley, Chair
5/31/06

- 1) The committee will be recruiting ideas for speakers/topics for seminars in the July issue of EN. The committee also welcomes ideas from board members on ideas for speakers/ topics for seminars.
- 2) A committee member who is also a vendor will be attending the Horse Expo in Sacramento June 10,11 which attracts major vendors. He will be letting vendors know about the convention through an information sheet on the convention specific to vendors.

Welfare of the Horse Committee Report

Laura Hayes Chair

6/1/06

In the first half of the 2006 season, the welfare committee has fielded several informal complaints, and have been busy talking, writing and mentoring riders who may be putting their equine partners at risk.

Finishing up the 2005 death reports has become priority one, with three reports by three different members yet to be completed.

In a recent telephone conference, the committee agreed to replace Jim Mitchell with Gary Hall of California. A original member of the committee, Jim has gotten busy with family and work, and asked to be relieved. We will miss Jim and thank him for his participation. Gary is on the Tevis board and the husband of AERC office employee, Judy Hall. We look forward to working with him.

The committee is discussing recommendations to the BoD concerning the health and welfare of the horses in our sport. Those recommendations will be presented in written form in the next few months.