

BOD phone meeting minutes August 6, 2007

AERC Board Conference Call Minutes

August 6, 2007

President Mike Maul called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Also on the line for the call: Vice President Connie Caudill, Treasurer Patti Pizzo, Mike Jaffe, Jennifer Nice, Joyce Mocilan, Joe Long, Jan Stevens, Stan Eichelberger, Tom Dean, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley Howe, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Roger Taylor, Jeff Trinkle, Barry Waitte, John Crandell III, Randy Eiland, Laura Hayes, Heidi Smith, C. Mike Tomlinson, Bruce Weary, and Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

It was moved and seconded to excuse Nick Warhol (employment conflict) and Robert Ribley (out of town & out of cell range) from this evening's meeting. Motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to excuse Tom Dean, Joe Long, Joyce Mocilan, and John Parke from the July 2, 2007, conference call meeting. Motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the July 2, 2007 conference call minutes as written. Motion passed.

Membership stats presented by Kathleen as follows:

2007 – Membership 8/6/07: 6757

2006 – Membership 8/7/06: 6425

Starting rider fees:	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	8/6/07	8/6/06
	\$ 63,144.94	\$ 59,341.58

Sanction fees:	8/6/07	\$ 15,454.67	8/6/06	\$ 14,954.04
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It was moved and seconded to accept the International Committee report as written. Motion passed. Committee report is located at the end of these minutes. **

Old Business:

Jan Stevens, Membership Chair, advised she is postponing the multiple year membership proposal until the next call so that she will be able to furnish more detailed information to the board pertaining to the proposal.

New Business:

Treasurer Patti Pizzo advised a correction needs to be made with respect to the Trail Masters expense entries on the draft budget previously furnished to the board for discussion - \$6,500 needs to be added to cover another trail master class.

President Maul asked for a breakdown of all trails activities – Roger Taylor will provide the breakdown before the next conference call.

Connie Caudill, Co-Chair, National Championship Committee, advised the ride will be moving back to the east on the site of the Spook Run Ride in mid October 2008, and the following year, 2009, the site will be the Patriot's Day Ride, in May 2009. Motions from committee for the board regarding these upcoming rides will be presented at a future meeting.

Discussion regarding the Old Dominion petition to award mileage to limited distance participants ensued. Susan Kasemeyer advised she spoke to individuals on the Old Dominion board, advising them she agreed with the addition of a vet check but she cautioned them to grant an Old Dominion completion but could not under AERC rules grant an AERC completion.

All board members voted not to extend the ride time with Randy Eiland and Roger Taylor abstaining.

At 6:24 p.m., the board moved into Executive Session.

The board returned to regular session at 7:13 p.m. Connie Caudill moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jan Stevens. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Henkel, Executive Director

In absence of Secretary Nick Warhol

****COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

AERC-I Prepared by Carol Giles, Chair July 18, 2007 AERC-I Meeting

Conference call meeting July 3, 2007, 9:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Attendance: Carol Giles, Chair

Mark Dial, Vice-Chair

Mike Tomlinson, USEF Technical Committee

Cia Reis – East

Lynn Kenelly – East

Holly Ulyate – Mountain

Martha McMurray – Mountain

Michele Roush – Pac North

Absent: Kathy Brunjes, Advisor

Betty Baker, Treasurer (excused)

Jan Stevens, Junior Committee (excused)

Vonita Bowers, USEF Endurance Director (excused)

Art Priesz, USEF High Performance

Joe Mattingly – Central

Grace Ramsey – Central

Teresa Cross – Pac South

Carolyn Hock – Pac South

Hal Hall – Pac North

Kirsten Kimbler, USEF Youth Council Representative

Samantha Lewis, Recording Secretary

AGENDA

Mark Dial moved to approve the agenda and Lynn Kenelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

MINUTES

Mark Dial moved to approve the minutes as presented and Cia Reis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

Betty Baker was unable to attend the meeting so her report was tabled. Carol reported that next week she and Betty would work on the AERC-I budget for the following year. A draft will be sent to the committee for their approval prior to presenting it to the AERC board. Budget items will include: money for the youth program, convention speaker and reception costs, merchandise costs and the grant program. If any committee member has budget items they would like included they should contact either Carol or Betty as soon as possible.

NEW ZONE REP WELCOME

AERC-I welcomed Lynn Kenelly as zone representative for the East Zone.

LOAN APPLICATION

Carol reported that there is a ride that may submit an application through the AERC-I loan program. It was stressed that the ride manager must understand that it is a loan prior to any application being approved.

EN ARTICLES

Carol suggested that the next article focus on the z-tec and team riding. She and Michele will work on the article. Karen Vilander has also expressed an interested in writing about her experiences team riding.

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

A. AERC-I Member Packets. They will include a list of the USEF committees and their roles, a USEF organizational chart, the “How-to” article setting forth the various steps necessary to ride FEI, a list of the zone reps and their contact information, a current FEI ride schedule, a list of the high performance web links and AERC-I web links, and a welcome letter from AERC-I chair. It was agreed that these should be sent out to new members and to ride managers hosting an FEI ride as well as AERC rides hosting 100-mile rides.

Carol will compile the materials to be included and will also contact the office to discuss the logistics of having the packets delivered.

B. Revision of AERC-I Procedure Booklet. Tabled since Teresa Cross not in attendance.

C. IHP Rider Grant Program. While the concept of a grant program to financially help riders seeking to ride in international championships is a good idea, a great deal of work is necessary to develop a program that is equitable. Funding is also a major issue. Mike Tomlinson reported that he believes USEF would (1) provide legal review of any proposed program, (2) administer the program, and (3) provide at least some funding (perhaps up to \$10,000.00). Although some of the other USEF disciplines have similar programs, he would not advise using them as guideline programs since they primarily focus on awarding grants to those riders who are currently winning. Michele Roush and Lynn Kenelly will form a subcommittee to work with Mike and Vonita on developing such a program. Carol will ask Hal Hall to also work on this subcommittee.

D. Zone Reps Disseminating Information Regarding the Z-Tec. Carol asked that all zone reps disseminate information regarding the z-tec to all AERC-I members and other interested riders within their zone. Carol will forward the latest information from Jan to the zone reps.

E. Ambassador Program. Carol reported that she contacted Steph Teeter to see if endurance net might be willing to develop a system for listing foreign riders wishing to come to the U.S. to ride, and U.S. riders willing to host foreign riders. Carol felt that endurance net was a more appropriate location than the AERC-I website since more foreign riders are likely to access that webpage. The committee agreed. Steph is interested in assisting with this program, but would like to wait until after the national championship. Carol will follow-up as appropriate.

F. Junior/Youth Funding – Kirstin is to provide AERC-I with a budget for the money that AERC-I will provide to the youth program. This was tabled since Kirstin was not present.

CONVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Carol requested that a subcommittee be formed to work on convention issues. In the past, this has often fallen to the AERC-I chair. Carolyn Hock has agreed to head this committee. Martha McMurray agreed to assist Carolyn. Items the committee will be responsible for include:

- Scheduling the AERC-I meeting and working with the office to assure that the meeting is shown on all convention schedules;
- Arrange for booth space at the trade show;
- Obtain booth merchandise;
- Schedule workers for booth;
- Come up with better way to track inventory and sales;
- Decide if AERC-I will host the welcome reception. If yes, determine the location, food, getting it on schedule, etc. See if USEF will contribute funds.
- Work with Holly and the AERC office to have a presentation at the regional awards for any championship riders, and a slide show of the same;

- Determine a speaker and topic for the convention; work with AERC on scheduling, location, advertising, etc of the speaker.
- Provide a final report to committee on all of above

ZONE REP REPORTS

East - Cia Ries reported that there is concern in her region over the fact that rides are sanctioned on top of each other and are then followed by long periods with no rides. Cia was encouraged to contact and discuss this with the sanctioning director from her region. Cia reports that there appears to be very little interest in the z-tec.

Central and Pac South – no zone reps present on the call.

Mountain – Holly and Martha report no current issues of concern. They anticipate that Mountain will field one team for the z-tec. .

Pac North – Carol reported minimal interest in the z-tec – there will probably be one team attending the z-tec.

ZONE COMMUNICATIONS

Carol polled each zone to see if they have a system to disseminate information to their zone members. Each zone has either a website or an e-mail list. Carol encouraged all zone reps to keep current information available to riders via those mechanisms.

100-MILE RIDES

Carol reported that the Competitions Committee has not contacted her on the 100-mile ride issue. Martha McMurray has agreed to take the job of liaison and will contact the chair of the Competitions Committee to determine if promoting 100-mile rides is still something the committee would like to do.

Carol reported that the Sunriver ride in Oregon decided to offer only a 100-mile ride this year and to cater to the 100-mile rider. The ride drew 54 starters, many of whom were first time 100-mile riders. Carol believes that the success the Northwest has had in promoting 100-mile rides the past several years demonstrates that many riders are interested in doing 100 miles, but lack the knowledge and support to do so. By providing seminars and mentoring, Carol believes AERC-I could help to increase participation in 100-mile rides.

USEF UPDATE

Technical Committee. Mike Tomlinson reported that the committee is busy trying to coordinate officials for next years FEI rides and coordinating the FEI rides so that they will be spaced appropriately and will not interfere with AERC rides. The mid-year USEF board meeting was recently held and endurance asked for \$35,000.00 in funding to be used for non-high performance programs. At this time there is no indication whether that request will be granted or not.

High Performance Committee. Tabled until Art Priesz is present.

Active Athletics. Tabled until Julie Bullock is present.

Endurance Director's Report. Tabled until Vonita is present.

USEF Youth Council. Tabled until Kirstin is present.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mark Dial reported that there might be two new additional FEI rides for next year. Mike requested that Mark have the ride managers get their paperwork in as soon as possible.

Mark reported that he attended a 120-kilometer ride in Europe where the race was deemed completed 30 minutes after the 1st place horse completed the ride. It made the ride more spectator friendly, but the majority of the riders did not like it since 1/2 of the riders were unable to complete the ride due to the mandatory cut-off time (97 started and 13 finished).

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. eastern time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

****AERC-I Prepared by Carol Giles, Chair, 8/7/07**

Conference call meeting August 7, 2007, 9:00 p.m. (Eastern)

- Attendance:**
- Carol Giles, Chair**
 - Mark Dial, Vice-Chair**
 - Mike Tomlinson, USEF Technical Committee**
 - Kathy Brunjes, Advisor**
 - Betty Baker, Treasurer**
 - Cia Reis – East**
 - Holly Ulyate – Mountain**
 - Martha McMurray – Mountain**
 - Michele Roush – Pac North**
 - Joe Mattingly – Central**
 - Grace Ramsey – Central**
 - Teresa Cross – Pac South**
 - Carolyn Hock – Pac South**

Absent:

Jan Stevens, Junior Committee

Vonita Bowers, USEF Endurance Director

Art Priesz, USEF High Performance

Lynn Kenelly – East

Hal Hall – Pac North

Kirsten Kimbler, USEF Youth Council Representative (Excused)

1. AGENDA

Kathy Brunjes asked to amend the agenda for the August 7th meeting to include a discussion regarding the USEF Youth Sportsman Award. With this amendment, Carolyn Hock moved to approve the agenda and Kathy Brunjes seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

2. MINUTES

Carol Giles made a correction to item 7 A – the list of items to include in the packet of material sent to new AERC-I members should include the AERC-I Procedure Booklet. With this correction, Martha McMurray moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Grace Ramsey seconded. The motion was approved with Joe Mattingly, Kathy Brunjes and Carolyn Hock abstaining from the vote because they were not present at the July meeting.

3. TREASURERS REPORT – Betty Baker

- Our current profit/loss for the year-to-date shows a loss of \$250.00. Because we are expecting reimbursement for two items (USEF reimbursement of reception costs and Robin Groves airfare) the committee is in good financial condition.**
- The proposed budget submitted to AERC was reviewed. Based on the amount spent last year, she increased the amount set aside for convention costs. She decreased the amount for merchandise because the committee purchased a substantial amount last year that remains to be sold.**
- As directed by AERC-I \$25,000 of the committee's funds were used to purchase two CDs. \$10,000.00 was placed in a 6 month CD and \$15,000.00 went into a 9 month CD. The budget reflects that the anticipated interest from these CDs and the remaining AERC-I monies will be ear-marked for the Youth program.**
- Based on the proposed budget AERC-I would show a profit of around \$300.00 for the next fiscal year.**
- Kathy Brunjes reminded Betty that the AERC Education Committee agreed to pay \$250.00 per speaker toward our convention speaker fees. Betty will determine if these fees were credited to AERC-I.**
- Betty noted that one of the line items in the material she received from AERC was a \$1,500.00 debit to AERC-I for "ride insurance". She asked whether this was an actual AERC-I expense. Grace asked if this could be a loan program distribution to a new FEI ride manager. Although the loan program remains in place, there have been no loans granted by the committee. Consequently, the committee believes that this**

might be either a debit incorrectly attributed to AERC-I or a debit that is merely incorrectly categorized. Betty will follow-up with the AERC office.

- Joe Mattingly made a motion to approve the AERC budget as submitted to AERC. Mark Dial seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. USEF UPDATE

Technical Committee. Mike Tomlinson

The committee is still working with ride managers to coordinate the FEI ride schedule and the officials that will be used at those rides. Some misinformation led many of the ride managers to believe that USEF was going to tell them when they must hold their ride and what officials they would use. This is not the Technical Committee's intention and it is working with ride managers to clarify the role of the Committee as a facilitator in the process.

i. The Biltmore International Festival is working to find a date that will not conflict with the 2008 National Championship, which is anticipated to be the Spook Run held on the 25th of October.

The Committee is also working to set up official's courses for next year

The Committee is working to fund the Developing Rider Program.

Developing Rider Program. At the last AERC-I meeting, Michele Roush, Mike Maul, Hal Hall and Lynn Kenelly agreed to work on a program to identify and assist AERC riders that have the potential to become competitive FEI riders.

Michele Roush reported that, in its initial draft, the program has two phases. Phase one is to identify potential talent within AERC. It is anticipated that this would be determined using an objective numerical criteria based on a rider's ride record. Phase two would be to expose these riders to an FEI ride. This exposure would include some coaching in the differences between riding FEI and an AERC ride and the concept of team competition. Following this initial exposure, the program would continue to help educate and coach those individuals who express an interest in continuing to ride at the FEI level.

It is anticipated that the program would provide some funds to riders to offset the cost of obtaining a passport for their horse and entering their first FEI ride. If we can show some success with the initial program, it is hoped that additional USEF funds could be obtained to broaden the numbers of riders and for continuing rider development.

1. Individuals who could apply to the program would include riders who had not yet completed an FEI ride. The rationale behind this is that we wish to capture the rider who has not yet considered riding at the FEI level. It is recognized that novice FEI riders may also need additional support to develop their talents and it is hoped that additional funding can eventually be obtained to include these types of riders in phase two of the program.

High Performance Committee. Tabled.

Active Athletics. Tabled.

Endurance Director's Report. Tabled.

USEF Youth Council.

Budget for AERC-I funds - Tabled

Kathy Brunjes reported that many of the various breed/discipline groups are providing an item to be placed in a welcome bag to be presented to the youth who attended the USEF Youth Convention. It is anticipated that there will be 50 welcome bags. Carolyn Hock moved that Teresa Cross and Kathy Brunjes examine the AERC-I merchandise and provide a suitable item to USEF for the welcome bag. Teresa Cross seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2. Kathy Brunjes reported that nominations are now open for the USEF Youth Sportsman Award. Additional details regarding the award can be found in this month's EN. Nominees must be 17 or younger and be a current member of both AERC and USEF. They need not have ridden FEI in the past. Interested youth should submit their nomination to AERC-I which will select the finalist. AERC-I will then submit the name of the finalist to the AERC Board with a recommendation from AERC-I that AERC submit the name of that individual to USEF. Nominations must be made to USEF by October 31st. It was agreed that Carol Giles will obtain from Jan Stevens or Vonita Bowers a list of endurance youth that are members of USEF. Carol will screen the list to determine those individuals that meet the age requirement and will forward to the zone reps the names of endurance youth in their region who are eligible to nominate. The zone reps will contact those individuals and encourage them to nominate. Zone reps will collect the nomination forms and forward them to Carol who will distribute them to AERC-I. At the next meeting AERC-I will choose the finalist.

5. EN ARTICLES

i. The next EN will run the article on team riding written by Karen Vilander and Carol Giles. For next month's article, Kathy Brunjes will write a report on the Canadian Spirit of Excellence Ride. If additional material is needed, Carol will begin using the material prepared by Becky Hart for her speak at last year's convention.

ii. Carolyn Hock suggested that future articles might examine some of the endurance practices of other countries. This could include a wide range of topics such as how they identify and train their international riders.

6. GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

AERC-I Member Packets. Carol Giles reported that she has spoken with the AERC office and is currently collecting the materials to be distributed to new AERC-I members.

B. Revision of AERC-I Procedure Booklet. Teresa Cross and Kathy Brunjes will begin work on this. All committee members are asked to review the booklet and provide feedback to Teresa and Kathy regarding any item they identify that needs clarification or correction.

C. Ambassador Program. Carol reported that she and Steph will begin work on this program once the National Championship is completed.

7. CONVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Carolyn Hock indicated that the convention will be a significant topic for next month's meeting. As head of this subcommittee, she asks that all AERC-I members assist in one or more of the tasks assigned to the subcommittee. Carol Giles asked that all members begin thinking about potential topics and convention speakers.

8. ZONE REP REPORTS

None of the zone reps had any points of interest or concerns to report.

9. 100-MILE RIDES

Martha McMurray reported that she has contacted the chair of the Competitions Committee. They are discussing ways to encourage riders to do 100-mile rides. Some suggestions include featuring new 100-mile riders in EN and providing some sort of award for riders who have completed 10 100-mile rides. Carol Giles asked that Martha let the AERC-I know if there is anything specific it can do to promote 100-mile rides/riders. Carol noted that one thing AERC-I might consider doing is featuring in a year-end EN international column all those riders who did their first 100-mile FEI ride.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION

None

Without further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. eastern time.