

American Endurance Ride Conference
Board of Directors Meeting – Reno, Nevada
March 2, 2008

Call to Order: 7:15 am

Roll Call: Laura Hayes, Monica Chapman, Deanna Chapek, Jeff Trinkle, Michael Campbell, Patti Pizzo, Sandy Terp, Roger Taylor, Susie Schomburg, Jan Stevens, John Parke, Connie Caudill, Joyce Mocilan, Joe Schoech, Susan Kasemeyer, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley Howe, Heidi Smith, Robert Ribley, Mike Maul, John Crandell, Bruce Weary, and Tom Noll.

Absent: Randy Eiland, Maryben Stover, and Mike Tomlinson

Olin Balch (from the Veterinary Committee) informed the BOD on:

- Langon Fielding's study using rider cards – they are still accepting cards from the 2007 season
- Study in California dealing with weed free hay and whether or not horses transfer weed seeds through their manure. This study is not being done under natural conditions, unlike the study being done by Sith (Tom) Gower, and that we should object to the findings of this study.
- Blood study that was done at the AERC National Championship ride. A gift from Stagg Newman and private funding found that those that didn't finish had a lower chloride level.

Sarah Engsberg (Chair of the Trails and Land Management Committee) informed the BOD on:

- Requested to have Sith (Tom) Gower attend the National Trails Symposium in November. She also requested to have part of his expenses paid through the Trails Budget.

Melissa Ribley (Chair of the Veterinary Committee) informed the BOD on:

- The meeting between Trish Dowling, John Parke, Mike Tomlinson and representatives from USEF concerning outsourcing our drug testing with USEF.
 - USEF would provide independent testers, question and answer, and lab services – they would not however, provide legal aid with a positive drug test.
 - Current budget is \$1/starter (outside of CA) with \$17 – 18K coming in.
 - USEF testing would run around \$28K @ 100 samples.
 - There is a necessity to resolve concerns over AERC current threshold levels.
 - They will continue to work with USEF to provide something more concrete at midyear.

John Crandell III (BOD member) informed the BOD on:

- In January John went to Mexico to help with a clinic for developing endurance riding in that country. There were 60-80 riders. They are very interested in working with AERC. Since we are currently working with Canada in their creation of an endurance organization we can utilize what we learn from that to help Mexico with a similar organization.
- Mike Maul suggested that we form an Ad Hoc committee to work with Mexico.

John Parke (BOD member and “Hot Topics” discussion leader informed the BOD on:

- “Hot Topics” sessions – day one dealt with Horse Welfare and day two dealt with Trails.
- Concerning horse welfare the following was discussed:
 - Does the Horse Welfare Committee need to be doing more? Increase it's authority to take in information on bad riders, investigate and discipline.
 - Rewriting of Rule 4.
 - Does AERC need Ride Stewards?
 - Most horse deaths are good horses and good people with a bad day.
 - The Vet Committee is keenly interested in dealing with bad riders as they put them (the vets) in the cross hairs.
- Concerning trails the following was discussed:
 - Celebrated their successes.
 - Discussion went further into everyone beliefs on trail usage.
 - Discussed long-term rights to utilize private lands.

Robert Ribley and Connie Caudill (Co-Chairs of the AERC National Championship Committee) informed the BOD on:

- Presented the motion:
 - Approve the 2008 NC Ride with the requirement changes to:
 - AERC NC 100 Mile Qualifications
 - 500 AERC miles on horse
 - 500 AERC miles on rider
 - Of which at least 100 miles (1 day 100) together horse and rider
 - AERC NC 50 Mile Qualifications
 - 300 AERC Miles on horse
 - 300 AERC miles on rider
 - Of which 100 miles (2-50's or 1-100) together horse and rider
 - It was pointed out that by accepting this motion to change the requirements for the AERC NC ride it would help to make it fairer for all AERC members to qualify due to regional differences in the number of entries in rides (weight divisions are uneven from region to region) and that it would be far easier for the ride manager of the AERC NC ride to be able to determine if a rider was qualified. This motion passed with full BOD support.
- Presented the motion:
 - National Championship Ride Award Definition Change effective for the 2008 AERC NC Rides
 - The National Championship Committee presents the motion for AERC to recognize an overall first place Champion in both the 50 and the 100 mile National Championship Ride. Weight Division winners will also be recognized for their accomplishments.
 - Although there were several who commented and subsequently voted against the motion – stating that they felt that we would be moving towards doing away with the weight division awards/recognition at the NC ride, the motion passed.

Santa Fe Ride Discussion (Roger Taylor, Laura Hayes, and Deanna Chapek) informed the BOD on:

- This ride is requesting special sanctioning and BOD approval due to:
 - Two multi-day rides occurring during the event.
 - Required to have separate insurance.
 - Requesting to have 2 parallel Pioneer rides occurring within the event – one for the riders who are entered in the Santa Fe ride and one for open riders.
 - Requesting to have 2 parallel rides occurring on the last day of the ride – both 50 miles in distance. One will allow anyone to enter while the other will be closed to those riders who are entered in the 10-day Santa Fe ride.
- It was noted that the request for special sanctioning for this event did not go to the special sanctioning committee – it was felt that any discussion could be held at convention.
- After much discussion over the parallel rides issue, it was removed from the above request and tabled until the next BOD meeting.
- A motion for a roll call vote was presented by Robert Ribley and seconded by Connie Caudill – motion passed unanimously.
- The motion on the Santa Fe ride sanctioning passed with the following abstaining from voting: Connie Caudill, Robert Ribley, Laura Hayes, John Parke, Sandy Terp and **Dianna Chapek.**

Jan Stevens (Membership Marketing chairperson)

- The concept of offering the membership a personal liability package was addressed by Roger Taylor. It was determined that more information on this needed to be supplied
- Presented the motion:
 - The Membership Marketing Committee would like to propose a policy change that would allow AERC to offer to the membership a three-year membership plan. The three-year membership plan would allow a member to join/rejoin for \$55 per year for three-years for a total of \$165 (regular yearly membership rate is currently \$65 for a total of \$195). Family memberships will increase to \$15 for each additional family member for both the three-year membership and for a single year membership. The three-year membership is to be paid in one lump sum when they join and/or re-join AERC. This policy change will become effective for the 2009 membership year.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Maul (President)

- Requested excusal of the following BOD members from meetings this weekend:
 - Maryben Stover – Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday
 - Randy Eiland – Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday
 - Mike Tomlinson – Sunday
- The motion passed unanimously and all were excused.

Joyce Mocilan (Competitions Committee Co-Chair) informed the BOD on:

- Goals of the committee include finalizing of the 100-mile horse recognition program, reducing the size of the committee, and completing the weight division survey by Joe Long.
- The Junior Sub-Committee is researching competing junior members vs competing junior day members. They have also requested to go back to being a 'stand alone' committee of AERC.
- The LD Sub-Committee is concerned about the number of rides that do not include an AERC Best Condition for the LD rides. They are working on several ideas to help convince ride managers to offer LD BC – including possibly having BC judging at the finish (instead of waiting an hour), making an addendum that focuses on high vet score and/or possibly removing the time factor in LD BC judging.

Mike Maul (President) informed the BOD on:

- **The State of AERC:**
 - No growth in 2006
 - Membership 6924, up 4.4% in 2007
 - Largest entries recorded 23,000
 - Multi-day attendance up 9.4%
 - LD entries greater than one day 50 mile rides
 - More than 1 million miles started in 2007
 - More than 870,000 miles completed in 2007
 - 100 Mile entries are up 4 % compared to 2006
- **AERC Committees have:**
 - Rewritten the Drug Rule and the Protest and Grievance Rule
 - Trails Committee has allocated \$9,500
 - Trails Masters Courses were successful
 - Vet Certification continues
 - Marketing and Public Relations has had numerous articles in other publications
 - Research Committee is moving ahead with the Weed Free Western Study

John Parke (Legal Committee & Rules Committee Chairperson) informed the BOD on:

- Endowment funds and the necessity of AERC looking forward concerning this issue.
- Discussion on this topic included: the Ad Hoc Endowment Committee needing to be made up of people who are VERY familiar with endowments and the necessity that that a member of the BOD who is on the committee be very familiar with endowments, it was suggested that we utilize an outside source to handle the endowments, it was pointed out that the BOD needed to be educated on what we would be voting on concerning the endowments, and it was indicated that we need to look closely at the By-Laws to see how this would affect them.
- John Parke has offered to have a presentation of an endowment structure prepared for the mid-year meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mike Maul (President) closed the meeting with:

- A Special Thanks to:
 - Kathleen Henkel and the office staff for their hard work.
 - John Parke for his presentations at Regional Awards and Hot Topics
 - Bruce Weary and Patty Steadman for their presentations at the National Awards Banquet.
 - Mike Jaffe for his work at the National Awards Banquet with the electronics.

Kathleen Henkel (Executive Director) reported on the convention:

- Attendance was up overall.

- Vendors were down by 4 to 5.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Parke and seconded by Jeff Trinkle. The motion passed unanimously.