

AERC BOD meeting – Louisville, Kentucky – February 22, 2009

President Connie Caudill called the meeting of the AERC Board of Directors to order at 7:45 am.

Present at the meeting are: Jan Stevens, Tom Noll, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Terry Woolley-Howe, Roberta Harms, Mike Maul, John Parke, Joyce Mocilan, John Crandell, III, Dianna Chapek, Sandy Terp, Susie Schomburg, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Monica Chapman, Susan Keil, DVM, Michael Campbell, Maryben Stover (left at 10:45 am), Randy Eiland, Jeff Trinkle, Roger Taylor Patti Pizzo, and Connie Caudill.

Absent: Gail Williams and Bruce Weary.

A motion was made to excuse Gail Williams and Bruce Weary by Joe Schoech and seconded by Susan Keil, DVM. The motion passed unanimously.

Connie addressed the BOD with several suggestions:

- She would like to hold the meetings in a ‘round table’ method, whereas members would have a chance to speak going around the table.
- She would like to refer to committee as much as possible so that there is not as much discussion among the BOD during meetings – committees would discuss issues and make recommendations to the BOD.
- She would like to go back to Action Items that would be compiled by Kathleen and Jan to be listed on the agenda at each meeting.
- Connie emphasized the importance of meeting attendance. The next BOD meeting will be the April conference call. She reminded the BOD that our bylaws state that a person can be removed from the BOD for missing two meetings in a row.
- Connie plans to ask at the beginning of each meeting for things to be added to the agenda, if necessary, and that those additions (along with the agenda) will be approved.
- Connie informed the BOD that Jack Weber, an AERC member from the northeast, will be added to the Mediator list.

The first item for business is the approval of the Committee Chairs. Below is the list of recommendations that Connie has put together.

- Competitions – Kim Fuess
- Education – Stagg Newman
- Election – Robert Ribley
- Executive Committee additional member – Michael Campbell
- Finance – Roger Taylor
- Hall of Fame – Laura Hayes
- International – Hal Hall
- Junior – Kelly Kimbler
 - Scholarship Sub-Committee – Sandy Terp
- Legal Counsel – John Parke
- Marketing/Public Relations – Troy Smith
- National Championship – Terry Woolley-Howe
- Office Operations – Kathleen Henkel
- Protest and Grievance – Mike Marino
- Research – Olin Balch, DVM
- Ride Managers – Randy Eiland
- Rules – Susie Schomburg
- Special Sanctioning – Susan Kasemeyer

- Sponsorship – Randy Eiland
- Trails and Land Management – Michael Campbell
- Veterinary – Jeannette Mero, DVM
 - AERC BOD Liaison to the Veterinary Committee – Bruce Weary
- Technical – Mike Maul
- Welfare of the Horse – Laura Hayes

The motion was made to approve these recommendations by Terry Woolley-Howe, seconded by Laura Hayes. The motion was unanimously approved.

John Parke would like to recommend that the Protest and Grievance Committee look at its membership to make sure that they are geographically spread out.

Stagg Newman, chair of the Education Committee, addressed the BOD with their report.

- Information given to the membership/new members is good
- Plans for future clinics are going ahead with several people trained to give them. All that they need are more clinic managers.
 - They plan to have a list of upcoming clinics posted along with a list of clinics that have already happened.
- The committee would like to offer \$500 to each region to spend on clinics – ‘Beyond the Basics’ using the Education Committees’ reserve funds.
- This money will be given to the ‘clinic manager’ to help facilitate the clinic.
- They are requesting that the regional directors OK the location of the clinics in their region.
- The EC plans on continuing with their monthly articles in *Endurance News*.
- They felt that the ‘mini-clinics’ that they had at the convention this year were well attended and plan to continue this for next year.
- They are working on educational videos – Angie McGee is the person leading this project.

Sandy Terp requested information on where, when, and what the attendance of last year’s clinics were. Stagg mentioned that there are two already scheduled for this year. One in British Columbia and the other being put on by PNER in the northwest.

It was requested by the BOD that the Education Committee provide to Troy Smith a list of the currently scheduled clinics and their location so that it can be listed on the AERC website and in *Endurance News*.

Stagg informed the BOD that there are a lot of trainers, but not a lot of people are voicing an interest in them. He emphasized that there is a need for clinics, but it is difficult to get the ball rolling.

Kim Fuess questioned the fees charged for the participants, indicating that making them affordable is the key. She also emphasized that AERC has put its stamp of approval on these clinics and that we needed to make sure that the clinics utilizing the money are using AERC’s approved clinic information.

The subject of insurance for these clinics was brought up. Roger Taylor said that our ride insurance covers these clinics as long as they are held in conjunction with a sanctioned ride.

The motion entitled: Education Expenditure Request from Education Reserve Account 4005 (attached) was presented to the BOD. The motion was amended to remove the section on allotting \$3000 to sending out Educational Information to members and to remove the section on allotting \$500 for conference calls for the committee. This allows for \$4500 to be spent for Educational Clinics in each AERC region (\$500 for each region) to come from the Education Reserve Account. In addition the motion was amended to change the amount for the 2009 budget from \$3500 to \$2000. The motion passed unanimously.

Olin Balch, DVM reported to the BOD about the current plans for the Research Committee. He gave the following report:

Financial contributions specific to the Research Committee during 2008 and early part of 2009

\$1755.82 from Tri County Arabian Club of Reading, PA
\$836 from 2008 membership contributions
\$249 from 2009 membership contributions

2008 research proposal funded in October – Drs. Durando, Sleeper, and Todd Holbrook's \$12,000 research project "Comparison of heart rate variability and echocardiographic measurements in elite and non-elite Arabian endurance horses: predictive value for performance ability and readiness to compete" was funded.

Progress Report:

Last fall, we were able to collect data in Florida from the horses going to the Malaysia competition. In the process we collected data from a couple of horses who went to the NEC that week, (that also fit our group criteria), as they were training in Florida. After the NEC, we were able to examine a couple of the horses who were eliminated.

Unfortunately, because of the timing of notification of funding, we were unable to examine any horses from the elite and bottom group from the NEC that we had planned to. Meg had already committed to go to Malaysia, and UPenn would not allow their ultrasound to be used without her present. The alternate machine I tried to secure was unavailable with somewhat last minute notice, so we could not obtain those horses. However the owners were most helpful and eager to have their horses examined, which was wonderful to know. They seemed genuinely interested in information we may learn from this study, so it at least seemed to have their support.

I also examined a couple of horses as part of group 4, (not in training endurance horses). Winter forced a bit of a hiatus, but we plan to start back up this spring/summer, once rides meeting our criteria are under way, and the weather improves. We still plan to finish collecting data from rides this year (2009).

2007 research continued into 2008 – "Analysis of Vet Card Data study" by Dr. Langdon Fielding

Preliminary Research-Committee Report of the Vet Card Study by Dr. Langdon Fielding

Endurance horses are eliminated from competition for a variety of reasons including lameness and metabolic causes. Significant illness can be associated with some of these conditions and the ability to identify horses at risk for injury would be ideal. The purpose of this study was to analyze data available from the standard ride veterinary checkpoints available on each ride card to identify factors that are associated with failure to finish.

A total of 3562 ride starts were analyzed which included 14,624 veterinary

checkpoints. Data collected included breed, gender, number of previous miles completed as well as physical exam parameters from each checkpoint (pulse rate, cardiac recovery index, gut sounds, etc.). Statistical analysis included comparisons made using a non-paired t-test and Chi-square with calculation of odds ratio and 95% confidence interval.

A total of 704 horses were eliminated from competition. Arabian breeding was protective against being eliminated for metabolic reasons ($p=0.006$), and showed a trend for protection against lameness but was not statistically significant ($p=0.05$). Female horses were more likely to be eliminated for lameness from the ride than male horse ($p=0.02$). Prolonged capillary refill at the pre-ride was associated with failure to finish ($p=0.003$). Decreased gastrointestinal sounds at the pre-ride vet check were associated with an increased risk of metabolic failure ($p=0.04$). Previous miles completed prior to start of the ride and pulse rate at the pre-ride vet check were not associated with elimination. No other pre-ride examination criteria were identified as significant.

The results of this preliminary data report suggest there are a number of factors prior to the start of the ride that may help to predict whether a horse will successfully complete. Additional analysis needs to be completed for observations during the ride.

Research publication based on AERC funding in 2004:

Does usefulness of potassium supplementation depend on speed?

Equine veterinary journal. Supplement 2006;(36) by Hess T M; Kronfeld D S; Carter R A; Treiber K H; Byrd B M; Staniar W B; Smith L T; Gay L A; Harris P A

REASONS FOR PERFORMING STUDY: Electrolyte mixtures given to counter sweat loss usually contain abundant potassium. However, increases in plasma $[K^+]$ occur with exercise and supplementation may further increase plasma levels, potentially increasing the risk of neuromuscular hyperexcitability and development of adverse clinical sequelae. This proposition requires study.

OBJECTIVES: To compare effects of a K-rich electrolyte supplement (EM+K) to a K-free one (EM-K) on plasma $[K^+]$, $[Ca^{++}]$ and acid-base status during an endurance incremental exercise test on the treadmill.

METHODS: The test consisted of 3 bouts (simulating loops in an endurance race) of 12 km performed at 6, then 7, then 8 m/sec with 25 min rest stops (S1, S2) between loops on 13 endurance trained Arabian horses (7 EM-K, 6 EM+K). Electrolytes were supplied orally 60 mins before exercise (Pre) and at each stop. Blood samples were taken before exercise and during exercise, each S and 120 mins of recovery (R). Blood was analysed for pH, PCO₂, packed cell volume (PCV), plasma $[Na^+]$, $[K^+]$, $[Cl^-]$, $[Ca^{++}]$, glucose, and lactate $[La^-]$; plasma $[H^+]$ and osmolality (osm) were calculated. The dietary cation anion difference (DCAD) was calculated to be -27 meq/dose EM-K and 109 meq in EM+K, respectively.

RESULTS: Plasma $[H^+]$ decreased during the 6 and 7 m/sec loops, increased during the 8 m/sec loop, and returned to Pre at S1, S2 and R. Plasma $[K^+]$ was higher at 8 m/sec and plasma $[Ca^{++}]$ was overall lower in the EM+K group compared to EM-K. Other findings included higher overall PCV, overall glucose, and $[La^-]$ during the 8 m/sec loop ($P<0.040$) in EM+K compared to EM-K horses.

CONCLUSIONS: EM+K supplementation leads to higher plasma $[K^+]$ increasing the risk of neuromuscular hyperexcitability during exercise. Acute effects of a lower DCAD in EM-K may have led to higher plasma $[Ca^{++}]$. Potassium-rich electrolytes may have triggered the release of epinephrine, contributing to higher PCV, glucose

release and increased lactate production.

POTENTIAL RELEVANCE: Lower plasma [K+] and higher plasma [Ca++] with EM-K supplementation may help reduce the risk of conditions associated with neuromuscular hyperexcitability occurring especially during higher speeds in endurance races.

Solicited 2009 research proposals

September - Announcements of funding available sent to all veterinary schools in US and Canada
Advertised in fall EN
Advertised in fall Vet Quarterly sent to all AERC veterinarians
Three inquiries; chair of Research Committee responded privately to each
No formal proposals by Feb 1 deadline

2009 committee discussions at this meeting

Two-day research summit conference?

Rationale - the AERC research approach is too piecemeal and fragmented.

Proposal -

- 1) The BOD authorize a two-day research summit conference to precede the mid-year BOD meeting. Task force would be authorized to develop investigations and protocols to make the horse safer in our sport but also how to communicate our efforts to our members, the general public, and "horse welfare" groups. This meeting will hammer out a roadmap of specific research proposal and objectives for a five-year plan.
- 2) BOD completely fund or partially fund the participation of task-force members (pay flights and room costs) who will put together a "white paper" on how to proceed for at least the next 5 years. A detailed outline of the proposal would be presented to the BoD at the annual mid-year meeting.
- 3) BOD ask two acknowledged and respected scientists such as Drs Hal Schott and Trish Dowling to be co-chairs for this task force and 2-day summit meeting. Let each co-chairs of the task force each select two more participants who may or may not be AERC members. I would suggest that 3 participants be selected from both the Veterinary Committee and Research Committee. Total working conference participants would number 12. Members of the BOD would be encouraged to sit in as well.

After Olin gave his report the BOD had several suggestions. One suggestion was that the Research Committee needed to be sure to not just look at research projects that just included elite (International type) horses, rather they would like to see endurance horses as a whole be involved in future research projects. The BOD also requested that the Research Committee attempt to provide information to Troy Smith all of the past research projects and their outcomes be listed on the AERC website. They would also like to see a listing with information on current projects be on the website as well. John Parke also wanted to be sure that everyone understood that payments for research projects are handled by the office as well as contract administration.

Olin will provide the BOD the motion proposal for the Research Conference that will take place before the mid-year meeting in 2009.

Susie Schomburg, chair of the Rules Committee, gave the report on what the Rules Committee has done this past year (see attached). There were three motions proposed to the BOD by this

committee (see attached).

The motion entitled: Consistency in Rules Language passed unanimously.

The motion entitled: A motion to eliminate language duplication in the rule book (see attached) was tabled so that the BOD could review it more in depth.

The motion entitled: Violations and penalties (Rule 15) revision did not pass. John Parke remarked that it was a band-aid on a poorly written rule. After discussion, the board directed the rules committee to rewrite rule 15 and to make the rule pertain to "penalties only" and to write a new rule regarding horse abuse and rider conduct. It was also requested that Troy Smith provide this motion on the BOD list so that the BOD can review it and discuss it.

Michael Campbell, chair of the Trails and Land Management Committee offered two motions to the BOD. The first motion was the Lake Meredith Trailhead Improvement (see attached). The motion passed unanimously with the understanding that the funds will come from the Trails Grants Reserve Fund.

The second motion was the Shanghai Trails Motion (see attached). John Crandell III remarked that we should be using our trails money as an investment rather than as a grant. Tom Noll stated that this motion will set a precedent for Grants in the future indicating that having an agreement like this with a private land owner is monumental. John Parke noted that the contract needs to be worded clearly so that all parties understand that AERC will receive 10 years usage of the property as a basecamp with an option for a 10 year option to renew. John Parke, as AERC Legal Council, will review the contract. The motion passed with two members voting against the motion.

Melissa Ribley, DVM, chair of the past Veterinary Committee, came back to the BOD to represent the motion for outsourcing of the AERC Drug Testing to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) (see attached). Melissa reported that she attended the Hot Topics forum this weekend and presented this proposal with those AERC members in attendance. The membership that was in attendance fully supported the proposal and the additional fee that will be assessed. In order to offset the additional fees required this year to cover the costs (without having to assess the new drug test fee) the \$32,000 would come from the current AERC Drug Testing Fund. A roll call vote was called for concerning this motion (attached). The following BOD members voted in favor of the motion: Patti Pizzo, Roger Taylor, Jeff Trinkle, Maryben Stover, Michael Campbell, Susan Keil, DVM, Monica Chapman, Joe Schoech, Susan Kasemeyer, Susie Schomburg, Sandy Terp, Dianna Chapek, John Crandell III, Joyce Mocilan, John Parke, Mike Maul, Terry Woolley-Howe, Kim Fuess, Laura Hayes, Tom Noll, and Jan Stevens. BOD members abstaining from voting was Randy Eiland. BOD members voting against the motion were Roberta Harms and Connie Caudill. The motion passed.

The BOD then took a break from 10:45 am to 11:00 am.

Roger Taylor then presented to the BOD the differences between the General Net Income in the December '06 – November '07 statement of \$106,039.46 and the final number of \$85,282.81 after the reserve funds from International, Trails, Drug Testing, Education, Donation Revenues, Research Reserve and Weed Abatement Study expenses were removed.

Roger also reported that the projected income from '09 will probably be less than what is projected due to the current economic situation in the United States.

The Finance Committee will provide quarterly reports to the BOD and will have a quarterly report prepared at the April BOD meeting.

John Parke generally gives a New BOD Member Seminar at each AERC Convention. Since this was not done this year due to a limited number of new BOD members who have never

served on the BOD John will be sending (either mailing or emailing) out to all the BOD prior to the April BOD meeting his outline for the New BOD Member Seminar for all of us to review.

Sandy Terp reported that the AERC Junior/Young Rider Scholarship program went very well this year. She indicated that the members of the subcommittee (those who will be selecting the scholarship winner for next year) will be the AERC Vice President, the Chairperson of the Junior Committee, the Chairperson of the Scholarship Subcommittee, and then each one of these individuals will select one person who is not in their region. The Competitions Committee will then recommend an additional person who will represent a region that has not been represented. This will then total seven for the selection of the scholarship winner.

Chairs of the various committees were reminded to provide a list of their committee members by the April meeting.

With there being no further business before the AERC BOD Jeff Trinkle made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Joyce Mocilan seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 11:45 am.

MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name

Education Expenditure Request from Education Reserve Account 4005

Proposing Committee Finance Committee, Education Committee

Date of Motion 8/20/2008

Classification of Motion Request new

Proposed Motion

- \$3000 One dedicated mailing of educational material to AERC Members. Note that in 2008 we tried to bundle AERC educational material with other material in an AERC mailing to save money. An informal survey indicates that this was not effective as many members did not read nor use the educational material. By contrast a dedicated mailing that only has educational material which we have used in the past does grab the attention of AERC members.
- \$4500 Funding for an AERC Beyond the Basics Seminar for each region. Dinah Rojek trained 15 people at the 2008 convention to give the Beyond the Basics Seminar and we have a CD of the material available as course material. We now need to produce seminars that AERC members will attend. The regional directors are asked to work with the Education Committee to facilitate a seminar in each regional. The EC can help find one of the trained speakers. The proposal is to give each region a budget of \$500 to be used at the discretion of the AERC regional directors to produce a seminar. The \$500 could go towards travel

money for the speakers, honorarium of the speakers, or facilities or similar fees according to the judgment of the regional directors. So $\$500 \times 9 = \4500

\$500 Miscellaneous funds to cover phone conferences of the EC.
These funds would cover phone conferences, possible expenses at convention such as the refreshments at a “train the trainers” session like we did this year for Beyond the Basics, etc.

Background, analysis and benefit Provides funding from Education Reserve Account for Education Committee purposed noted above for 2009-2010

Budget effect/impact Removes education committee request for \$3500.00 from the 2009 AERC proposed budget

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Makes Educational Seminars available for many members of AERC.

Impact on AERC Office Executive Director and Accounting manager will implement this thru our accounting system.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Finance Committee, Stagg Newman, Education Chair, Kathleen Henkel Executive Director, Patti Pizzo , Treasurer

Implementation plan Seminars will be set up and bills will be submitted to the AERC office to pay.

The Education Committee would also be responsible for the tracking of these expenses and the balance in their Education Reserve Account The Education Committee will not go over in expenses the amount that is that account or the amount requested to spend without BOD approval.

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

Supporting approvals Finance Committee , Education committee, Kathleen Henkel, Patti Pizzo

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Consistency in Rules Language

Proposing Committee Rules Committee

Date of Motion February 22, 2009

Classification of Motion Request Rule Change

Proposed Motion In rules 2.1.3, 8.1, 11.8.1 through 11.8.3, replace the word “event” with the word “ride(s)”.

Background, analysis and benefit over the years various rules have been added to the rule book. A few rules use different language than that which occurs in the majority of the rule book so this change would create consistency in the language used.

Budget effect/impact Would be included in the next version of the rule book which would be published for the 2010 ride season.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Cleans up inconsistencies in the rule book

Impact on AERC Office Would be part of the larger rulebook revision, limited impact on the office staff

Committees consulted and/or affected Rules Committee

Implementation plan Would be included in the 2010 re-print of the rule book

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Motion to eliminate language duplication in the rule book

Proposing Committee Rules Committee

Date of Motion February 22, 2009

Classification of Motion Request Rule change

Proposed Motion A motion to streamline the rule book by eliminating duplicate language and to create three sections which contain General Rules, Limited Distance Rules and Introductory Ride Rules

Background, analysis and benefit When the Limited Distance program was introduced in AERC, new rules were created that were specific to LD rides. The rule book was revised to include these LD rules. The current structure of the rule book includes an Endurance section, a Limited Distance section and an LD & Endurance section (rules that apply to both types of events) and an Introductory ride section. There are several issues related to the current structure. For instance, the LD section includes rules that also apply to Endurance and vice versa but they are not included in the LD/Endurance sections. The other issue is that because the distinctions in LD are often “buried” in the endurance language that is duplicated in the LD section, new riders may miss the distinctions and be unaware of the differences in two events (ie. Completion

requirements) Creating sections which distinguish between general rules (rules everyone should know and follow), LD rules (distinction between endurance and LD competitions) and Intro rides should make it easier for members to learn and follow the rules that apply to the distance they choose to ride. It will also make the rule book smaller and cheaper to reproduce.

Budget effect/impact The changes will appear in the scheduled 2010 reprinting of the rule book which is a yearly budget item. The cost of the reprinting should decrease since the number of pages will decrease.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Revising the rule book should make it more “user friendly” to the membership particularly those who ride different distances.

Impact on AERC Office

Committees consulted and/or affected Competitions, Ride Managers

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Scheduled for inclusion in the 2010 rule book

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name: Violation and Penalties (Rule 15) Revision

Proposing Committee: Rules Committee

Date of Motion: February 19, 2009

Classification of Motion Request: Rule change

Proposed Motion: A motion to adopt the changes to rule 15 as proposed below:

15. Violations and Penalties

When assigning penalties, the Protest and Grievance Committee and the Board will take into consideration such things as severity of the infractions, intentional infractions, repeated infractions, and multiple infractions.

15.1 Individual violations. Violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Infraction(s) of AERC Rules and Regulations.
- b. Acting, or inciting any other to act, in a manner contrary to the rules of the AERC, or in a manner considered otherwise illegal or un-sportsmanlike.
- c. **Harassment, abuse or physical assault upon a person, including ride officials, volunteers, control judges or ride participants.**
- d. **Cruelty to and/or abuse of an equine.**

e. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the AERC.

15.2 Individual penalties. If found guilty, the party will be subject to such penalty as the Protest and Grievance Committee, or the Board, may determine, including but not limited to (more than one penalty may be applied to an infraction):

- a. Send a letter to the accused which may contain a warning without further penalty.
- b. Censure. A censure penalty makes the reprimand public information and serves to warn the guilty party that further violations will subject the defendant to heavier penalties.
- c. Forfeiture of completion and/or placement in a competition and/or forfeiture of any awards or prizes won in connection with the offense committed.
- d. Suspension of such person for any period from competing. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the decision from: holding or exercising any office in the AERC; participating in any way whatsoever in any AERC sanctioned ride.
- e. Suspension **or termination of** membership in the AERC **per AERC by-laws**.

15.3 Ride/**Ride Manager** Violations. A sanctioned ride/**ride manager** is subject to penalty for, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Failure to conduct a ride in accordance with AERC Rules and Regulations.
- b. Failure of a ride to pay its indebtedness in the AERC or to report ride results within 30 days of ride date.
- c. Failure to honor agreements with any ride officials or employees.
- d. Knowingly permitting a suspended person to participate in any manner.
- e. Permitting acts which are contrary to the rules of the AERC.

15.4 Ride/**Ride Manager** Penalties. A sanctioned ride/**ride manager** found guilty of a violation will be subject to such penalties as the Protest and Grievance Committee, or the Board, may determine, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Censure. A censure penalty makes the reprimand public information and serves to warn the ride and its management that further infractions will subject the ride and its management to heavier penalties.
- b. Fine(s).
- c. Suspension for any period from the privilege of being sanctioned. This may be applied to the ride and/or ride management.

Background, analysis and benefit: The P&G Committee asked the Rules Committee to revise Rule 15. In light of the fact that there have been some rather serious infractions by riders in recent years, the committee also requested that the penalty options be expanded to cover such serious infractions. The committee also recommended that the list of violations include these more serious infractions.

Budget effect/impact: None

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Provides broader options for assessing penalties for serious behavior/rule infractions by riders. Further clarifies violations that could result in sanctions. Helps protect members from the few “bad apples” by expanded punishment options.

Impact on AERC Office: Would be included in the 2010 printing of the rule book.

Committees consulted and/or affected: P&G

Implementation plan: Begin implementation with the start of the 2010 ride season.

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Lake Meredith Trailhead Improvements – Trail Grant

Proposing Committee Trails Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) 22 February 2009

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) The Trail Committee moves to approve the Lake Meredith Trails Grant for \$7,000. This grant is to be funded from the Trails Contributions and Trails Reserve. The funds are to be used to purchase the necessary parts for a solar well system with storage tank, wildlife drinker and water valve in the trailhead.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) The Park Service is improving the trailhead at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area. The Park Service has already install restrooms at the site. There are two additional major improvements need to complete this project: gravel road in and around the trailhead and a water system. The Park Service is improving the gravel road and road around the trailhead. In order to have water at the site, a well needs to be drilled and a solar pumping system with a large tank needs to be installed. This portion of the trailhead improvements can be done with participation of volunteers and this grant.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) This trails grant will come from Trails Reserve funds and does not affect the AERC general fund.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization This project enhances our relationship wit the Park Service and provides water at a trail head that is used as a base camp for the Llano Estacado Challenge endurance ride.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) Only work for office is to pay the invoices that come in.

Committees consulted and/or affected Trails and finance Committees

Implementation Approve Trail Grant. Park Service to complete paper work. Well-drilled. Grant money used to purchase parts. Volunteer labor to install.

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets)
All well materials will be purchased wholesale thanks to the support of Southwest Director Jeff Trinkle.

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) Trails Committee, Finance Committee

MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Shanghai Trails

Proposing Committee Trails and Land Management

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) 2-22-009

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

New Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

The Trails and Land Management committee moves that the AERC BoD approve the award of \$10,336 from the Trails Grants funds to Pierce Ranch, Wharton County, Texas for specific improvements (trail markers, crushed concrete parking lot, gates, trail development) with the proviso that Pierce Ranch commits to a 10 year binding agreement for AERC access to the ranch at least twice a year for the purpose of Endurance Riding events of one to five days each and an option to renew for 10 years.

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

The Pierce Ranch has held endurance rides in the past but found the parking space inadequate under rainy conditions. The ranch management is interested in improving the parking area, trails, and trail access as well as develop new riding trails on this 32,000 acre ranch.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) This motion requires the expenditure of \$10336 from the Trails Grants funds.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization This motion benefits AERC by preserving a historic riding location and providing access to a 32,000 acre ranch for endurance riding for the next 10 years.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) Minimal impact: paying invoices.

Committees consulted and/or affected Trails and Land Management Committee

Implementation Mr. Laurance Armour, ranch owner, will be responsible for implementing improvements and affirming the agreement for ten years access and ten year option to renew. Ms. Cindy Kovalchuk, AERC member, will monitor progress on the improvements. Mr. Armour and Ms. Kovalchuk will provide the letter or contract of access agreement for approval by John Parke, AERC legal counsel

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets) The Trail Grant application is attached.

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) The Trails and Land Management Committee reviewed the proposal and unanimously approved it on 2-20-09.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN PIERCE RANCH PIERCE TX
AND AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE (AERC)

1. PURPOSE:

This MOA reflects the desire of Pierce Ranch to provide access for endurance rides, and the decision of AERC to support this endeavor through their Trails Grant program.

2. BACKGROUND:

Pierce Ranch had its first experience with an AERC endurance event on February 16, 2008, when Ride Manager Cindy Kovalchuk rented the ranch facilities to put on the Shanghai Trails Endurance Ride. The ranch has ample land (32,000+ acres) and great potential to be a premier equestrian trails destination. However, much work is needed to accommodate the number of trailer rigs and to access/develop the miles of trail required for endurance events. A trails grant request was approved by AERC in February 2009 to assist in developing Pierce Ranch as a ride site for endurance events.

3. CONSIDERATIONS:

- a. Pierce Ranch appreciates the AERC Trails Grant contribution as an investment in the future of AERC rides at this site.
- b. Pierce Ranch will use grant funds and provide matching labor/equipment to develop and improve site conditions for accommodating endurance events.
- c. Pierce Ranch invites Ms Kovalchuk and other members to put on multiple (two or more) AERC events per year for the next ten (10) years or longer.
- d. Pierce Ranch will extend the same or similar terms and conditions for future rides as are presently in place for Shanghai Trails Endurance Ride.
- e. Event dates may be requested any time during the off-season period (February – October).

PIERCE RANCH TX
 AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE

DATE

**AERC Board of Directors
 MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Outsourcing the AERC drug testing program to USEF

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee

Date of Motion 2/22/09

Classification of Motion Request Policy change

Proposed Motion To outsource the AERC drug testing program to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) drug testing program.

Background, analysis and benefit The AERC drug testing program serves several functions: to protect the safety and welfare of our horses, to provide a level field of competition and to demonstrate to those outside of AERC that we are an organization that monitors the use of prohibited substances. The current drug testing program is administrated by a combination of volunteer veterinarians, AERC office staff and a lower cost laboratory that uses insensitive testing methodologies. The benefit to AERC in outsourcing our drug testing program to the USEF drug testing program whose purpose and expertise is solely in administrating drug testing programs would be to provide a quality testing program that does not rely on volunteers and would therefore help ensure a consistent testing presence at rides with qualified and insured testers and reliable laboratory analysis. An additional distinct benefit is to reduce the potential legal and therefore financial impact of our current drug testing system of which we have little legal recourse. Our exposure would in part be transferred to the USEF if we contracted with them to administrate our drug testing program.

Budget effect/impact The cost to AERC riders annually, through an annually renewed contract is \$50,000. The drug testing program is funded through rider fees. This is an increase from an average annual budget of \$18,000.00

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization A quality drug testing program using trained testers and a quality laboratory protects the integrity and credibility of the drug testing program. Using a reliable testing program decreases the liability and legal cost risks to AERC. Our legal exposure would, at least in part, be transferred to the USEF if we contracted with them to administrate our drug testing program. The proposal and discussion of outsourcing the AERC drug testing program went before the membership for input in a recent Vet Forum article in Endurance News.

Impact on AERC Office The workload on the AERC office would be significantly decreased as drug testing program responsibilities such as scheduling rides, ordering test kits, arranging testing veterinarians and billing/invoicing from the laboratory would be eliminated.

Committees consulted and/or affected Finance committee, legal committee.

Implementation plan Implement outsourcing when the contract has been signed by both USEF and AERC, no later than April 1, 2009. Funding for the program would be provided through either an increase in rider fees to \$3.00/rider (for riders outside of California) for a projected budget of \$54,000.00 or through a combination of the current rider fees (\$1.00/rider) which would provide a projected \$18,000.00 along with the remaining funds of \$32,000.00 to come from the reserve drug testing program funds of which there is currently just over \$60,000.00 available.

Supporting materials Vet Forum article in Endurance News on drug testing programs, contract with USEF

Supporting approvals Veterinary committee

Rules Committee Report

February 2009

Submitted by Susan Schomburg, Chair

In March of this year the Rules Committee began work on a list of goals related to revising and rewriting portions of the AERC rule book. The committee has completed the following:

- Worked with the P & G Committee and completed a revision of Rule 14 (Protests)
- Worked with the Vet Committee and completed the revision of the rule book to include a definition of “control judge”
- Worked with the RM Committee and rewrote Rule 4 (Refusal of Entry)
- Worked with the Legal Committee and Executive Committee and developed a release liability form for AERC

The final goal of the committee is nearing completion. The committee has been working on cleaning up language inconsistencies in the rule book and also eliminating duplication and repetition of rules in the limited distance and endurance sections. Proposed changes will be submitted to the Board of Directors for discussion at the next board meeting. Following BOD input, the changes will be submitted to the membership for comment. The goal is to have these changes in place for the 2010 ride year.