

AERC BOD meeting • Mid-Year Meeting • Denver, Colorado • August 22, 2009

President Connie Caudill called the meeting of the AERC Board of Directors to order at 7:55 am Mountain Time.

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

Additional AERC Members present: Kathleen Henkel • Executive Director of AERC, Olin Balch, DVM • Chairperson of the AERC Research Committee, and Sue Taylor.

Susanne Kasemeyer moved to approve the agenda with Bruce Weary seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Roger Taylor moved to have the minutes approved for the July 6, 2009 Teleconference Call with Laura Hayes seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Susie Schomburg moved to approve the committee reports (AERC International, Marketing/Public Relations, Office Operations, Technical, Trails, and Veterinary (all attached)) with Kim Fuess seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Henkel reported the BOD on the membership numbers and current AERC ride information:

Membership as of 8/12/08 • 6741
8/12/09 • 6106 (difference of 635)

Rider fees as of 8/12/08 - \$61,104.40
8/12/09 - \$62,362.00

Sanction fees as of 8/12/08 - \$15,225.00
8/12/09 - \$14,620.00

2010 Sanction Fees through 8/12/09 - \$1,825.00

New members as of 8/12/08 • 941
New members as of 8/12/09 • 641

New members as of 7/6/08 • 883
New members as of 7/6/09 • 585

Sue Taylor gave a Power Point presentation to the BOD briefing them on the financial history and current financial projection for AERC. Sue's presentation included an overview of how AERC's form of accrual accounting works. She further explained the difference between our Balance Sheet and our Profit and Loss Statement. Overall, Sue's conclusion is that AERC is a financially healthy organization, however, she emphasized that the BOD needs to focus on whether the

recession is the only cause of the decline in 2009, what needs to be done in the 2010 budget and what is the best long-term solution to maintain the current financial solution.

Historically AERC's main source of income comes from membership dues with our main expense being that of office related operating expenses. Insurance costs have increased from 2006 being 6% of our expenses to 10%. Historically our membership has increased 2-3% each year with the exception of 2009, which has seen a decrease in membership. Another historical trend is that our number of rides has continued to increase over the years with the number of starters increasing as well with the exception of 2008-2009, which has seen a decrease in the number of starts. The convention for 2009 showed a definite loss in revenue compared to the last six years. All of these declines in income and increases in expenses have brought us to our current financial situation.

The 2010 budget that the BOD was given by Sue included membership staying at the 2009 level, no increase in ride starters over 2009, recommendations from the office regarding savings (including the change in the Yearbook), committees spending based on historical levels, no increases in dues or fees, and a \$20,000 profit from the 2010 AERC Convention. Sue emphasized the need to decrease expenses wherever we are able to. She also indicated that we needed to increase the revenue, however, she felt that with the current economic times, any increase could have an adverse reaction by the membership resulting in less income than anticipated. Increasing the revenue can come from several avenues including raising sanctioning fees, membership dues and rider fees. The BOD also needs to look more heavily towards increasing sponsorships and look further towards endowments.

Several proposals were discussed that included increasing the sanctioning fee from the current \$25 for the first distance and \$10 for each additional distance to increasing the fee to \$50/\$20 or \$70/\$30. The Finance Committee provided a motion for this proposal.

Another set of proposals came from the BOD and the Finance Committee that recommended increasing the membership dues. Historically the membership dues have not increased for individual memberships since 1996. Family membership dues did see an increase in 2009 from \$10 to \$15. The Finance Committee provided a motion for this proposal (attached).

Additionally, the Finance Committee provided another motion that increased the starting rider fee by \$2 for a total of \$7 (attached).

Kathleen reported to the BOD the savings that the Office staff has put into action. Noting that substantial savings have been implemented by decreasing the size of Endurance News, using different paper for EN, Troy will be replacing one issue of EN with a modified version of the AERC Yearbook, savings with insurance for the employees, savings with long distance and internet rates, and revamping the use of credit card charges.

The motion to suspend the three-year membership dues was addressed by the Finance Committee (attached). It was noted that although it has been viewed as a convenience for the membership, it is currently losing AERC money in the long run. The motion to suspend the three- year membership dues passed unanimously.

AERC Ride Liability insurance was covered. Kathleen has been in contact with Bob Walsh (acting as an advisor) and Diane Leshner of Equisure, Inc. regarding the projected rates for AERC Ride Liability Insurance. It is estimated that policies of:

\$2 million/\$4 million = \$62,000

\$2 million/\$2 million = \$58,600

\$1 million/\$2 million = \$44,800

\$1 million/\$1 million = \$31,000

\$500,000/\$1 million = \$28,000

John Parke reminded the BOD that this insurance assisted the Ride Managers. He also indicated that there was a need to separate claims against the Ride Managers and AERC. Kathleen indicated that in her discussions with Diane Leshner that by just insuring AERC the cost would be about one half the projected costs. It was felt that it would be important to discuss this further with Diane Leshner, so the BOD requested that Kathleen contact Diane to see if she could come in to speak to the BOD the following morning.

Kathleen requested that the on-line membership renewals be suspended until some of the bugs could be worked through and it be made more user friendly. Mike indicated that he would remove the link so that it could be fixed.

Several cost saving measures for AERC were discussed including reducing funding from the General Fund for Trail Master classes, reducing association fees paid, reducing the amount allotted to the AERC National Championship manager for Veterinary Fees, and ways of saving with advertising expenses and promotional items at convention.

The Veterinary Committee recommended to the BOD that we continue with having USEF manage our drug testing. They strongly believe that AERC sees a low level of positive tests due to its diligence with testing. They would recommend to the BOD that we test at the level of 25 rides per year at a cost of \$50,000. In order to fund this they requested that we follow through on the motion previously made to increase the drug testing fees from \$1 to \$3 (except in California).

The BOD then moved into Executive Session to discuss wages for the AERC employees.

After coming out of Executive Session, John Parke made the motion to accept Kathleen's recommendation for salaries for the employees with John Crandall III seconding the motion. Laura Hayes motioned with Patti Pizzo seconding to include the bonus as Kathleen recommended. Both motions passed with 6 opposing, and 2 abstaining.

After lunch the discussion of the AERC finances and potential savings continued. Many suggestions were made including decreasing awards, consideration of changing our dues structure, charging ride managers for their insurance, looking at the possibility of non-riding memberships, and cutting more on committee expenses. It was decided to table discussion on the matter until later so that members of the BOD could have more time to consider all the possibilities.

Olin Balch, DVM then gave a Power Point presentation on the Research Summit that preceded the mid-year BOD meeting. People in attendance at the summit included: Olin Balch, Trisha Dowling, Hal Scott, Meg Sleeper, Ken Marcella, Pat Harris, David Marlin, Todd Holbrook, Langdon Fielding, and Mitch Leitch. Members of the AERC BOD that attended included: Connie Caudill, Laura Hayes, Roger Taylor, Monica Chapman, Michael Campbell, Susan Kasemeyer, and Susan Keil. In addition, Carter Hounsel and Sid Zarges from the AERC Veterinary Committee attended.

Subjects that were covered during the summit included: endurance horse welfare, the past 50 years of research that involved endurance horses, AERC ride completions and failure to finish records, FEI ride

completions and failure to finish records, discussion on the AERC Post-Ride Veterinary Reports, the AERC ride card study, and AERC ride related horse deaths. The group then broke out into groups to discuss and identify problems. Other discussions included endurance riding around the globe, heart rate and recovery, thermoregulation and sweating, feeding the endurance horse, rehydration and electrolyte supplementation, Pride Project data, and medication use in the endurance horse. Another breakout session was held with groups discussing research priorities. After this the group met back together to identify the outcomes, funding opportunities, and establish a timeline.

All the members of the BOD that attended the summit felt that it was well worth the time spent. They all applauded the Research Committee for recommending creating the summit and for bringing together this group of people who shared their knowledge of endurance horses and the sport of endurance. All felt that they came away with a lot of useful information and felt that our membership was going to see more practical data coming from the Research Committee that would apply to all endurance riders.

Dr. Balch requested that the BOD consider a Mortality Study and emphasized that grant monies could cover the costs related to this study.

Dr. Balch also indicated that the Research Committee was working on a questionnaire that would be given to riders prior to the start of 100-mile rides and given to riders if they did not complete.

Kim Fuess, chair of the Competitions Committee then offered the motion from committee to change the points offered on 100-mile completions from 1.5 point to 2.0 points (attached). The motion received 4 votes opposing the motion, 0 abstentions, and 22 for the motion. The motion passed.

She then offered the motion from the committee to change the points offered for the completion of a 75-mile ride from 1.0 to 1.25 points (attached). The committee amended to current motion to read "Increase the point value of one day 75-95 mile rides..." instead of "...one day 75-99 mile rides..." so that it was in line with AERC rules. The amendment passed. After some discussion John Crandall III made the motion to amend the motion to increase the points offered from 1.0 to 1.5 points with Bruce Weary seconding the motion. The motion to amend failed with 12 voting against, 12 voting fore, and 2 abstaining. The vote was then asked for on the original amended motion (1.0 points to 1.25 points). 23 BOD members moved in favor of the motion with one abstention.

Kim then brought before the BOD the One Day 100-Mile Horse Recognition Program (attached). During her description of the program, Kim explained that the owners would have the option to have a 'number' added to the horse's name indicating what level the horse had completed in one-day 100-mile rides. She handed out samples of the various awards that were going to be given away for the different levels: a personalized lead rope or trailer tie for Bronze Level (horses completing 3 one day 100-mile rides), an embroidered jacket or a personalized lead rope or trailer tie for Silver Level (horses completing 7 one day 100-mile rides), an embroidered blanket or an embroidered jacket or a personalized lead rope or trailer tie for Gold Level (horses completing 10 one day 100-mile rides) and finally there is the Platinum Level (horses completing 15 or more one-day 100-mile rides) will receive an embroidered blanket or an embroidered jacket or a personalized lead rope or trailer tie. These awards will be available at the owner's expense. Owners who have horses that are retired or non-competing have the option to pay a \$10 fee to be enrolled in the program and have the option to purchase awards as

stated above. The one-time set-up fee for this program (computer programming) is expected to be \$130 with the yearly estimated expense to be around \$187.00. Kim informed the BOD that an anonymous donor would fund this program for 2010, including the initial set-up fee, if the BOD approved the program. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan Kasemeyer, chairperson of the Sanctioning Committee, brought forth sanctioning requests for several rides including: Gallop on the Greenway Pioneer, Rio Grande Pioneer, Valle Caldera Pioneer, and the Ride The Divide Pioneer. The Sanctioning Committee has approved all of these events for 2010. The motion passed to approve the sanctioning of these rides by the BOD.

Susie Schomburg, chairperson of the Rules Committee, briefed the BOD on the AERC Releases. Susie indicated that 4513 of the releases have been signed out of 6082 members. The Rules Committee and the AERC Office feel that many of the releases that are were not signed were from people who either joined or renewed their membership by use of the phone and a credit card. Kathleen will send a postcard from the office to those who haven't signed the release requesting that they do so.

Susie also informed the BOD on the Equine Abuse/Rider Conduct rule. Per the BOD request, they presented two rules, one dealing with participant conduct and behavior and another dealing with horse welfare. They will be presented to the Competitions Committee, the Veterinary Committee and the Ride Managers Committee for comment and then be presented to the membership for input.

Terry Woolley-Howe brought before the BOD the issue of riders not riding in their correct weight division. She indicated that some riders who sign up, for example, as heavy weight riders then lose enough weight that would qualify them to ride in the lightweight or featherweight division; however, these riders are staying in the heavyweight division. Currently riders can change their weight division before June 1 without any problems, however, after June 1 it requires the office to override the default weight division in the computer after each ride. The office will look into the issue and make a recommendation to the BOD concerning how they would like to deal with it.

A motion was brought before the BOD by the Veterinary Committee to update the Appendices to Rule 13 (attached). The motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen reported to the BOD on what she found out after talking with a lawyer concerning Grant donations made to Private Landowners. She reported that grants to private landowners are not usually recommended because the money donated could benefit their private business rather than just benefit our endurance interests. It was recommended that if we decided to donate the money for improvements to the facility that we specify a time of use (10 years) and that they would allow us to utilize the property for at least two rides per year for free. It was also recommended that they cover the attorney fees for the creation of the contract. Kathleen also noted that all of our grants of this nature are for development for trails usage and should be on lands that are open all year around and are ideally on public lands.

It was pointed out that the motion we passed on the Shanghai Trails at the Pierce Ranch in Texas was dependant on legal scrutiny. Michael Campbell, chairman of the Trails and Land Management Committee, reported that we did have a memorandum of understanding from the landowner but it wasn't detailed enough. John Parke recommended that Kathleen send a copy of the memorandum to the lawyer that we've been working with concerning issues similar to this and see what his recommendation would be and to see what the cost would be to draw up a contract.

Randy Eiland, chairman of the Sponsorship Committee, reported to the BOD that he has signed three additional contracts bringing in an additional \$6,500 to our already \$12,000 in sponsorships for AERC.

The motion from the Finance Committee to increase the AERC Membership dues and expand their definition was brought before the BOD. The Finance Committee agreed to the amendments recommended to the motion by the BOD so that it reads: "This is to increase membership dues as follows: Single Membership \$75.00, Additional riding family member \$50.00, additional non-riding family member \$20.00, additional youth family member \$20.00, youth membership \$40.00, and non-riding veterinary membership \$40.00." Randy Eiland requested a roll call vote and was seconded by Jeff Trinkle. The motion passed unanimously for a roll call vote. The vote was taken and the following voting in favor of the dues increase: Jan Stevens, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Roberta Harms, Mike Maul, Sandy Terp, Susie Schomburg, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Monica Chapman, Susan Keil, DVM, Michael Campbell, Randy Eiland, Jeff Trinkle, Roger Taylor, Patti Pizzo, Bruce Weary, Terry Woolley-Howe, Gail Williams, Tom Noll, Maryben Stover, John Crandall III, and John Parke. Joyce Mocilan and Dianna Chapek voted against the motion. The motion passed.

With the passing of the membership dues increase the Finance Committee withdrew its motion to increase the starting rider fee by \$2.00.

The motion brought forth by the Ride Managers Committee entitled "Outstanding Volunteer of AERC" (attached) was brought to the BOD. It was suggested that it be renamed the Outstanding HERO of AERC with HERO standing for Helping Endurance Riders Often. The motion passed unanimously.

Stagg Newman informed the BOD through President Connie Caudill that he will no longer be able to serve as chairperson of the Education Committee. Connie is currently talking with an individual about taking on the chairmanship.

AERC Trails and Land Management Committee requested the motion for an AERC Trails Award. This award would be given to an AERC member at the 2010 Convention for outstanding work and support of trails development, maintenance and preservation. The nominations will come from the AERC BOD. The Trails and Land Management Committee will fund this award. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion from the AERC Finance Committee to increase the sanctioning fee to \$50 for the first distance and \$25 for each additional distance per day was brought before the BOD. Discussion was held with BOD members voicing many differing opinions including:

- There have already been a lot of savings worked through at the meeting and that we don't need to raise more dues
- Ride insurance costs are increasing and that we're over insured
- We need to raise the sanctioning fees so that we aren't constantly "nickeling and diming" the membership
- We should wait to hear from Diane Leshner tomorrow
- Sanctioning fees are often money out of the ride managers pocket nine months to a year out
- Raising the fees for sanctioning and for membership dues at the same time is suicide
- We need to make it timelier—when does it come into play?
- We already have rides sanctioned for 2010—would we be making it retroactive

- Support raising all three of the fees as recommended by the Finance Committee—we need to look towards the future
 - It would make sense to look at increasing the per rider fee as the larger rides would pay more to cover the cost of insurance than the smaller rides; it would equal out that way
 - It was the appearance that the BOD didn't want to give insurance out to the ride managers for nothing; it would be best to go with the per rider fee to collect the insurance
 - We should wait until the convention to discuss this further since face-to-face is better than over the phone when it comes to subjects like this.
 - We should wait until we hear from Diane Leshner and the other insurance companies that Kathleen has contacted to see what the quotes for the Ride Liability insurance will be for sure.

Due to the nature of the discussion the Finance Committee requested to defer the motion to a later time.

President Connie Caudill suggested that we reconvene the meeting the following morning with a meeting with Diane Leshner from Equisure, Kathleen's presentation of the Policy and Procedures Manual update, and selection of the Education Committee Chairperson.

President Connie Caudill called the meeting back to order at 8:15 am August 23, 2009.

Present at the meeting were the following BOD members: Jan Stevens, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Roberta Harms, Mike Maul, Dianna Chapek, Susie Schomburg, Joe Schoech, Monica Chapman, Susan Keil, DVM, Michael Campbell, Randy Eiland, Jeff Trinkle, Roger Taylor, Tom Noll, Maryben Stover, Joyce Mocilan, John Parke, Gail Williams, and Connie Caudill.

In addition Kathleen Henkel, Executive Director for AERC and Diane Leshner, agent for Equisure, Inc.

Connie requested that the BOD approve Susan Keil, DVM as the new chairperson of the Education Committee. The motion was unanimously approved by the BOD.

Diane Leshner of Equisure met with the BOD to help to answer questions about our current insurance and to discuss what our insurance needs will be for the future. Comments from the BOD to Diane included:

- It was felt that our claims history was very clean prior to us providing insurance for our ride managers
 - It was felt that our policy is too broad
 - It seems like AERC is 'liable' for everything

Diane Leshner commented to the BOD about their concerns stating:

- The \$1 million/\$2 million policy would cover most of the rides because the claim would be against the aggregate (\$2 million)
 - We have a new underwriter now and it is felt that they are going to be more aggressive against claims
 - We currently have member-to-member insurance coverage. Equisure could manuscript what we want if we do in fact not want to cover member-to-member insurance
 - Equisure could create two separate policies—one that would cover AERC liability and one that would cover ride manager liability. If we did this and allowed other insurance companies to insure our rides we would need to have someone in the office that was well versed on reading insurance policies

to make sure that we are covered. USEF allows different insurance carriers to insure their events and has someone on full time to read the various policies

- Two insurance policies (one for AERC and one for the ride managers) would be more expensive, however, there would be more coverage
- Equisure does supply AERC with over 250 additional insureds at no additional cost to AERC
- Equisure will notify the office when a claim comes through if that is what we want
- A claim that isn't allowed doesn't go against our claim history
- AERC needs to keep in mind that we could buy an additional policy at mid-year if we needed it, though it would be very expensive.

The BOD thanked Diane for coming in and answering our many questions. She indicated that she was always available to AERC if we had additional questions.

The BOD directed Kathleen to:

- Report to the BOD on the specifics of what our policy with Equisure covers
- Continue to look at other insurance carriers
- Make a recommendation to the BOD on what policy limits she thinks AERC needs

Kathleen and John Parke will go through the old BOD minutes to create a list of all the policies that the BOD has enacted.

The Phillip Ottinger donation is on hold until John Parke, Roger Taylor and Mr. Ottinger can have a conference call to discuss the specifics of the endowment.

With there being no further business of the AERC BOD Gail Williams made the motion to adjourn at 10:24 am with Joe Schoech seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION PROPOSALS

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Change in Membership Dues

Proposing Committee Finance Committee

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

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) This is to increase membership dues as follows:
Single members \$75.00, Additional Adult Family member \$25.00, Additional Junior Family member \$15.00, Junior only \$40.00, Non-riding Veterinarians \$40.00.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) This increase in membership dues will help pay the additional operating expense of AERC.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) Increase income by an estimated \$84,000 per year.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Revenue from this motion will offset administrative costs.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) The impact will be to change membership dues on all appropriate forms, correspondence and web site.

Committees consulted and/or affected Finance and Ride Manager Committees

Implementation The office will assure collection of the new fees.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)
The finance committee reviewed and approved.

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Change Rider Fees

Proposing Committee Finance Committee

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

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) This is to increase rider fees by \$2 to a total of \$7 per rider start in all AERC distances starting with the 2010 ride season.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) This increase in rider fees is to offset insurance and administrative expense that are a direct result of rider participation.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) Increase income by an estimated \$45,000 per year.

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

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) The impact will be to change ride fees on all ride result forms, correspondence and web site.

Committees consulted and/or affected Finance and Ride Manager Committees

Implementation The office will assure collection of the new fees.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)
The finance committee reviewed and approved.

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Change Sanction Fees

Proposing Committee Finance Committee

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

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) This is to increase sanction fees to \$50 for first distance and \$25 for all additional distances on the same day for all rides sanctioned after December 1, 2009.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) This increase in sanction fees will help pay for the ride liability insurance offered to the ride managers.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) Increase income by an estimated \$8,000 per year.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Revenue from this motion will offset insurance costs.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) The impact will be to change sanction fees on all appropriate forms, correspondence and web site.

Committees consulted and/or affected Finance and Ride Manager Committees

Implementation The office will assure collection of the new fees.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)
The finance committee reviewed and approved.

ONE DAY 100 MILE HORSE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Horses completing their first 100

AERC will recognize all horses finishing their first 100 by listing the horse/rider/owner in Endurance News. This will be done on a quarterly basis. This is an incentive for riders/owners to ride 100s.

AERC will mail a certificate of achievement to the owner of the horse.

This phase of the program will only include horses completing their first 100 beginning in the 2010 ride season or later. Horses completing a 100 prior to the 2010 ride season are considered 1/3 of the way to the bronze level.

LEVELS OF RECOGNITION:

Bronze Level – Horses completing 3 one day 100 mile rides with any rider

The owner of the horse will have the option to add a (3) next to their horse's official AERC name indicating bronze level achievement.

Example: Shaarah (3)

Horse/owners will be recognized in EN. This will be done on a quarterly basis

Owners will receive a certificate of achievement from AERC

Owner will have the option to order an award through AERC at their own expense

1. The awards for the bronze level is a personalized lead rope or trailer tie

Silver Level – Horses completing 7 one day 100 mile rides with any rider

1. The owner will have the option to add a (7) next to their official AERC name indicating silver level achievement.

2. Example: Sharaah (7)

3. Horse/owners will be recognized in EN. This will be done on a quarterly basis

4. Owner will receive a certificate of achievement from AERC

5. Owner will have the option to order an award through AERC at their own expense.

The award for the silver level will be an embroidered jacket, personalized lead rope, or personalized trailer tie

Gold Level – Horses completing 10 one day 100 mile rides (with any rider)

1. The owner will have the option to add a (10) next to their official AERC name indicating gold level achievement.
2. Example: Sharaah (10)
3. Horse & owners will be recognized in EN. This will be done on a quarterly basis. The owner will also have the option to send in a picture and do a short write up on this accomplishment to be published in EN.
4. Owner will receive a certificate of achievement from AERC
5. Owner will have the option to order an award through AERC at their own expense.

The award for the gold level will be an embroidered horse blanket/cooler, an embroidered jacket, personalized lead rope, or personalized trailer tie

Platinum Level – Horses completing 15+ one day 100 mile rides (any rider)

1. Horses will be recognized at this level at 5 -100 mile intervals. So they would be recognized when they reached 15-100s,20- 100s-25-100s
2. Example: Sharaah (15), Sharaah (20), Sharaah (25)...
3. Horse and owner will be recognized in EN and have the option to send in a picture and short write up on their horse.
4. Owner will receive a certificate of achievement from AERC
5. Owner will have the option to order an award through AERC at their own expense

The award for the platinum level will be a blanket/cooler, an embroidered jacket, personalized lead rope, or personalized trailer tie

Implementing the 100 mile horse recognition program

We would like this program active for the 2010 ride season. To be automatically enrolled in the program, horses must have competed in the 2009 ride season. Horses will enter the program at the level they are currently at. For example, a horse that completed his 9th 100 in 2009 would be listed as silver level (7).

We will feature the new program in the November issue of EN so riders are aware before the start of the 2010 ride season.

Russ Humphrey indicated that the new award program report will be added to TC as a new menu item - the office would need to indicate where they'd like the new listing put.

With this program report, the office will have a list of all horses which qualify for recognition.

When the office mails a certificate of achievement, they will include an order form which gives owners the option to add the level of achievement to their horse's name. There is no charge to the owner for this. This form will also include what award the owner is qualified to purchase. If the owner chooses to add the level of accomplishment to the horse's name and/or purchase the award, they will mail the form back with payment. If the owner does not want to change the horses name or not purchase the award they do nothing. That horse will still be recognized (listed) in EN and will have received a certificate of achievement.

100 mile achievement will be published in EN quarterly. Format could be similar to mileage recognition in EN. I feel this decision should be left to Troy

Retired or non competing 100 mile horses: Owners will have the option to pay a \$10.00 fee per horse to AERC to enrolled their retired 100 mile horse in the program.

Awards: Sending certificates, listing the horse/owner in EN, and adding the achievement level to the horses name will be at no charge to the owner. If the owner chooses the option to purchase an award lead rope, jacket or cooler/blanket, he will be responsible for the cost of award as well as shipping costs.

Cost to AERC:

The following table lists the number of horses that have reached the proposed recognition levels over a 5 year period from 2003-2007.

Achievement Level	# of 100s	# of horses (2003-2007) 5 years	Average # per year
	1 – 100	614	123
Bronze	3 – 100s	167	35
Silver	7 – 100s	31	6
Gold	10 – 100s	2	0.4
Platinum	10+ - 100s	9	1.8
TOTAL		823	166.2

Because of the relatively small numbers this will not be a burden to the office staff. The volume per quarter may vary depending on when 100s are offered during the ride season. Anything estimated at no cost has been approved by Kathleen.

Based on 167 horses per year – This would be recurring costs to run the 100 mile program	Estimated yearly expense
Cost of certificates (\$20-\$25 per 100)	\$45.00
Cost of order forms (cost of a ream of paper)	\$ 4.00
Ink	\$5.00
Postage costs to mail certificates/forms (167 x current postage rate) Estimate - \$.80	\$133.00
Endurance News article (4x per year)	0
Office Labor costs (not including adding retired horses) Adding recognition level to horses name (name change) Printing certificates and forms Ordering awards	0
TOTAL	\$187.00

One time expenses to set up program - labor	Cost
Adding/creating the new award report form (about 2 hours of Russ' time at according to Kathleen)	\$130.00
Researching award costs including any embroidery and postage.	No cost
Setting up achievement certificates	No cost
Creating a form to order awards and/or change name	No cost
Setting up format for EN recognition	No cost
Initial labor to add all horses competing in 2009 that have reached a recognition level of Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum.	No cost

When this program is started, there will be a one time material cost. The figures below are based on the number of horses which completed three or more one day 100s over their career and competed in any distance in the 2008 ride season. We are using the 2008 100 mile horse numbers for the cost estimate as this will be closest to the 2009 number we will be using to implement the program.

There are 465 horses which have completed 3 or more one day 100s and competed at an AERC ride (any distance) in 2008.

Initial Material Costs

Cost of certificates (\$20-\$25 per 100) 465 X \$25.00	\$115.25
Cost of order forms (cost of a ream of paper – 500 sheets)	\$ 4.00
Ink	\$10.00
Postage costs to mail certificates/forms (465 x current postage rate) Estimate - \$.80	\$372.00
TOTAL	\$501.25

Some of the initial costs to set up the program may be off set by the \$10.00 per horse fee for retired/non competing horses that have reached the various recognition levels. When the program starts, a form for these horses will be available in EN, on the website, and at the office. It is difficult to estimate how many owners will want to retroactively add their retired/non competing horse in the system.

Using the figures above, the initial start up for the 100 mile program will cost \$501.25 (office labor and material)

\$130.00 (Russ' fee to add new award report form)

\$183.00 (The estimated yearly expense)

The total cost estimated for 2010 will be around \$814.25

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Increasing the point value for one day 100 mile rides

Proposing Committee Competitions committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) August mid year board meeting

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) To change the point value of a one day 100 from 1.5 to 2.0

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

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) According to Russ Humphrey, It will cost \$240.00. (\$180 to do the development and \$60.00 to test that the particular point adjustments are correctly done and they are not done on rides prior to the 2010 ride season). This estimate includes changing the points for both the 75 mile distance and the 100 mile distance.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization : In the December AERC news, the competitions committee put forward our goals for 2009. We asked the membership for their input and comments. All responses for increasing the point value for the 100 mile ride was positive. We did not receive any negative responses to this goal.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget): There should not be any additional workload for the office once Russ makes changes to the software.

Committees consulted and/or affected – Rules committee

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) 2010 ride season,

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name 100 Mile Horse Recognition Program

Proposing Committee Competitions committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) August mid year board meeting

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) Add a 100 mile horse recognition program to AERC

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) – This is a way to

honor the lifetime achievement of horses competing in one day 100 mile rides. This will also be an incentive to ride the 100 mile distance.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) See attached

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization -See attached

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget): See attached

Committees consulted and/or affected – Rules committee

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) 2010 ride season,

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Increasing the point value for 75-99 one day rides

Proposing Committee –Competitions Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) – August mid-year board meeting

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) – Increase the point value of one day 75-99 mile rides from 1.0 points per mile to 1.25 points per mile

Background, analysis and benefit: By increasing the point value of the 75 mile distance, the AERC is acknowledging that a horse/rider team has put in more effort, training, and time to prepare and successfully complete a ride that is 25 miles longer. Many times in 75+ mile events horse/riders must have additional skills such as negotiating trail in the dark, managing metabolic stress/hydration of a longer competition both in duration and mileage, dealing with tack issues that may occur with more hours in the saddle. Horse/rider teams should be recognized for the additional challenge. At the present time AERC in no way acknowledges the accomplishment of the 75-99 mile distance. As far as recognition goes, this distance is treated exactly the same as a 50 even though this distance is 25 miles longer.

Adding point value will be an incentive for riders to move up from a 50 to the 75+. A lot can happen in that extra 25 miles and riders/horses should be recognized for taking on the extra challenge of the longer distance. By increasing more interest in the 75+ mile distance by increasing the point value, we may get more riders willing to go another 25 mile and complete a one day 100.

In the December AERC news, the competitions committee put forward our goals for 2009. We asked the membership for their input and comments. All responses for increasing the point value for the 75+ mile ride was positive. We did not receive any negative responses to this goal.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) According to Russ Humphrey, It will cost \$240.00. (\$180 to do the development and \$60.00 to test that particular point adjustments are correctly done and they are not done on rides prior to the 2010 ride season). This estimate includes changing the points for both the 75 mile distance and the 100 mile distance.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization : AERC members may have more incentive to move up from 50s to the 75+ distance. This actually fits in nicely with how AERC is presently structured. 25-49 mileage only, 50-74 1-point, 75-99- 1.25 and 100+ 2.0 (proposed change). Points are more evenly distributed in relation to the difficulty/increased distance.

This is also a very economical way to add another level of recognition/accomplishment for AERC members with very little financial impact to AERC. After the initial cost for Russ to change the program (\$240.00) there will be no additional costs to AERC.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget). There should not be any additional workload for the office once Russ makes changes to the software.

Committees consulted and/or affected : The rules committee will be effected.

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) – The committee would like this implemented for the 2010 ride season.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name **“Outstanding Volunteers of AERC”**

Proposing Committee -Ride managers

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) Aug 21, 2009

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

This is recognition of all outstanding volunteers that are nominated by appreciative AERC members. It would be acknowledgement (not an award) for as many people that are nominated by AERC members, having their names, with hopefully photos, sent into the AERC office along with an explanation of the time, effort and work they have done. At the convention there would be a posters boards on walls that has photos of the volunteers and a few words about each of them and how they have helped, throughout the years. The EN will list the names and do feature stories about the people, throughout the year.

This person could be anyone, member or non member, (many of our volunteers are not members but have family that are members). They could be involved in numerous activities including timers, vet scribes, trail marking crews, water fillers, vets, ride managers, trail maintenance workers, or just about anyone that helps the riders or the rides run smoother. It is not for the average volunteer but for the workers who show up year after year and for the workers that are devoting numerous hours in volunteering.

The nomination fee of \$5.00 per person will go toward the mailing of a certificate or pin or whatever the office thinks should be given.

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

Gives a chance to show appreciation for all the people out there who are our unsung hero's.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) NONE

A \$5.00 nomination fee for every volunteer that is nominated, this will be used to buy either a volunteer appreciation pin, certificate or whatever the office feels would be appropriate. The fee would also pay for the mailing of this.

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

Would give our members an opportunity to recognize our volunteers who devote time and energy to our sport. We believe it would be good for the volunteer morale.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) Very little

Committees consulted and/or affected Have checked with the office committee as they will be affected some, we have their approval - Office

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Would like to offer this recognition starting the convention of 2010. We would write an article for EN explaining the program

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) Ride Managers, Office

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Suspension of three year Membership Dues

Proposing Committee Finance Committee

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

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) This is to stop offering the 3 year membership.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) The current experience is a very large loss of dues and with low interest rates this will be a loss for the next two years.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) This will offset the continued loss due to offering this membership discount.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization No continued loss of revenue.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) The impact will be to eliminate the 3 year membership dues on all appropriate forms, correspondence and web site.

Committees consulted and/or affected Finance Committee

Implementation The office will implement changes as needed.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)
The finance committee reviewed and approved.

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name

AERC Trails Award

Proposing Committee
Trails and Land Management Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD)
August 22, 2009

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

The Trails and Land Management Committee proposes to provide an award to an AERC member at the 2010 convention for outstanding work and support of trails development, maintenance and preservation.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving)
This motion is proposed in line with the Trails theme of the 2010 convention.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)
None. The Trails and Land management Committee will provide the award.

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

This award will benefit AERC and membership by supporting the theme of the convention and one of the primary goals of AERC listed in AERC bylaws.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)
None.

Committees consulted and/or affected
Trails and Land Management

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

The Trails and Land Management Committee will provide the award and select the recipient from nominees.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)
Trails and Land Management Committee

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Updates to AERC drug rule appendices

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee

Date of Motion August, 2009 (AERC midyear board meeting)

Classification of Motion Request Rule change

Proposed Motion To update the appendices of Rule 13 with the following changes:

- 1) Add to Appendix A, Prohibited Substances: ashwaghandha (an herbal substance from the nightshade family that has anti-inflammatory properties along with other properties such as antioxidant properties)
- 2) Clarify Appendix A, Prohibited Substances which currently lists gamma oryzo. To read: gamma oryzo other than naturally occurs in equine feeds such as rice bran/rice bran oil.

Background, analysis and benefit

As part of the revision of rule 13 in 2007, the veterinary committee was tasked with reviewing and recommending necessary updates to the appendices as needed on an annual basis. As substances and treatments come up that are either new or have been previously overlooked by the veterinary committee, these will be added to the appendices of rule 13. The recommended updates to the appendices have appeared before the membership in the August issue of Endurance News.

Budget effect/impact

Little effect on the budget is expected. However, as more substances are added to the prohibited list, this increases the possibility of rule violations which could impact the AERC financially by way of increased laboratory costs and potential litigation costs.

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

Reviewing and updating the appendices will result in a current drug rule.

Impact on AERC Office

Rule will need to be updated in print and on the website

Committees consulted and/or affected

Implementation plan

Implement updated rule 13 at the beginning of the 2010 ride season on December 1, 2009

Supporting materials

Current rule 13

Supporting approvals

Veterinary committee, rules committee

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Office Operations

8/17/09

Kathleen A. Henkel, Chair

The office is on board with budget reductions and have cut things as much as possible in the office with respect to the magazine, supplies, postage, and are making every effort to save dollars regarding utility charges. Sandy Terp assisted the office with lowering costs for AERC's credit card fees – a large savings for AERC. Mike Maul provided information regarding internet and conference call companies that offer rates a bit lower than our present places. I had just negotiated with the telephone company regarding our internet and long distance service so we will stay with what we have for now – at a bit of a lower rate. It was also my choice to remain where we are with respect to the conference calls. The system the present company provides works well and they have offered a few extras that will save AERC some money.

The office continues to provide excellent personal service to the membership via phone and email. We try to process all online ride results, sanctions, memberships, and equine registrations as quickly as possible. We do run into issues with all three and at times must contact individuals via phone or email or both. The standard long-hand version of U.S. Mail received ride results, member applications, sanctions and equine registrations are still quicker for us to process. The process in the office is easy and quick when we are in charge of the data.

Judy is a whiz at all things membership and convention trade show related. She handles the entry of all ride results and our members (with overflow handled by Troy and me during busy times), and mails out all the necessary information to the membership – member cards, release forms, magazines, new member info, etc. Judy also handles phone and reception duties in the office. Judy also handles the trade show exhibitor sign-ups and that is underway – she has touched base with prospective exhibitors and is getting excellent response. Judy also takes care of the awards for the convention - coordinating all levels of the awards, in addition to working other aspects of the convention as needed.

Troy works diligently every month to produce great publication that the membership enjoys reading and as the official publication of AERC, puts forth a fabulous image of the sport of endurance riding. She manages the Marketing/Public Relations committee, sends out press releases, writes articles for the magazine with respect to the convention, puts forth many ideas for articles of interest for the magazine, and coordinates all the ads and columns with a cheerful attitude. She coordinates all of AERC's forms and announcements for the convention and within the office. In addition, she maintains

many facets of the website, working with Mike Maul, Technical Committee Chair, as necessary.

Suzi works closely with AERC's Treasurer, Roger Taylor, and me. She handles all of AERC's deposits, check-writing, balancing of the accounts, data entry, etc. She turns out the reports for the board as needed and handles member and board questions as necessary regarding finances. Suzi handles all the money for the convention, along with assisting at the registration desk as needed when not working the AERC raffle. Suzi assists in the office as needed with overflow work with respect to membership, etc.

Rho is our go-to gal with respect to all our mail issues – AERC's business is primarily a mail business – the magazine, membership cards, awards, etc. all are handled through the U.S. Mail and keeping our membership lists up to date is of the utmost importance. Rho works directly with the company that handles the mailing of the magazine and also works closely with the U.S. Post Office. It is important to keep the addresses current and correct – each time a piece of mail is returned to the office, AERC is charged a fee by the Post Office – a fee that is necessary so that we can keep on top of things – checking with the Post Office and/or member directly for proper addresses.

A new accountant was interviewed and we are in the process of getting things together for the new gentleman and are hopeful the 2008 taxes will be handled in a rather timely manner for this coming year.

Regarding raises for the coming year, I am perfectly happy to give mine up for the good of AERC. I do think it is important for my workmates to receive a raise, however, Judy has expressed her feelings to me and she is also willing to forego a raise for the 2010 season. Troy also advised me she will give up a raise this season. I would like to request that bonuses remain for this year.

Also, the office is willing to go to a 4 day work week – on one day a week, the office would be closed completely. It would not save on office rent, but would save on utility costs and we can also reduce salaries as needed. An alternative for the board to consider.

Technical Committee Report 2009 AERC Midyear Meeting

Mike Maul, Chair

Goals and Achievements for the 2009 Ride Year * Improve the Ride Results Input Program working with the Ride Managers Committee - Done *Added credit card payment *Improved selection of horse/rider w/o M/H *Calculate BC results for ride manager *Input by either ride time or finish time *Updated manual *Display weight divisions *Improved Excel input *Reduce costs of conference calls - Done Provided contacts and information to office to reduce conference call costs by \$700/year. * Updated the AERC website - In progress *Home page done working with Troy Smith and Stace Moss *Template for remaining pages developed *Roll out in progress * Develop a standard ride manager program to support rides onsite *Working with Eric Reuter on an Access based program to run at the ride *Manual in progress with Terre O'Brien *Testing in

progress with selected ride managers * Implemented tracking of 3 year membership in TC - Done *
Miscellaneous bug fixes for the office in TC and letter generation - In progress

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report, 8/7/09

Submitted by Troy Smith, Committee Chair

Much interest was generated by a office-generated press release concerning Les Carr's horse Tulip becoming the first AERC 20,000-mile equine. Magazines and websites from as far away as New Zealand used the story and photos. A second press release on the 35th running of the Old Dominion, submitted by Beth Leichti Johnson, was also very well received. We hope to continue this cost-effective method of publicity.

Plans are underway to add a monthly e-newsletter, "Endurance News Update," to AERC's publication roster. It will be sent out via e-mail in the middle of each month, and will include new ride listings, ride stories and member profiles. The update will generate member interest and will perhaps let the office be able to gauge interest as well as trouble-shoot for sending Endurance News via e-mail by request in the next year or so.

This year our advertising budget was solely focused on Trail Rider magazine, with three 4-color ads appearing in the March, April and May issues for a total cost of \$435. One ad appeared in Modern Arabian Horse in early 2009, at a cost of \$599.

We are continuing to seek ways to keep Endurance News' quality high while keeping costs as low as possible. AERC members' appreciation of the magazine is indicative of its importance as the official publication of the organization.

Veterinary Committee Report

Mid-Year BOD Meeting

August 2009

Dr. Jeanette Mero DVM

- I. Accomplishments in 2009 to date
 - A. Have written 8 monthly Vet Forum articles for EN
 - B. Published 2 quarterly AERC Veterinary Newsletters
 - C. Continued the AERC Veterinary Certification Program. A total of 215 veterinarians have been certified to date.
 - D. Are working on two fatality reports.
 - E. Drug tested 3 rides: No positives on 2 rides, no results for 3rd to date
 - F. Provided a resource to riders, veterinarians and board members for questions and concerns regarding AERC veterinary matters.
 - G. Submitted Motion Proposal for the clarification of prohibited substances – gamma oryzanol and ashwaghandha.

II. Future Goals

- A. Find new sponsor for and plan veterinary continuing education program for the 2010 convention.
- B. Continue evaluation of implementing a 30 minute maximum post ride pulse criteria. Encourage greater voluntary participation of rides.
- C. Consider designing secondary Veterinary Certification Program for treatment vets.

Trails and Land Management Committee Mid-Year Report 2009

The Trails and Land Management Committee of the AERC has had a busy and productive year:

--Ten Trails Post articles in Endurance News.

--Trails Committee members (3) provided informational interviews on The Horse Show with Rick Lamb (5-16-09) and on RFD-TV (8-13-09).

--Trails Grants:

- Lakeview Trailhead, Carson City, Nevada--\$5,000 approved;
- Shanghai Trails trailhead, Pierce Ranch, Texas--\$10,336 approved by BoD pending legal approval;
- Lake Meredith Trailhead, Texas--\$8,000 approved;
- Old Dominion basecamp, Virginia--\$13,000 approved;
- Weiser River Trail, Presley Trailhead, Idaho--\$2,000 approved.

--National Affiliations and activities in support of Trails Issues. Amanda Stewart attended the American Horse Council Recreation Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. This committee is working on Right to Ride legislation, currently developing a data base of examples of the negative impact of trail closures. Our affiliates, Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) and Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) are also working in support of this effort. Amanda will be back in Washington later this year to meet with agency and department heads in order to maintain a supportive working relationship with them on this and other legislative matters as well as agency regulations.

AERC efforts spearheaded by Jerry Fruth resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between AERC and the BLM to “identify appropriate partnership opportunities for equestrian recreation education programs and jointly pursue such projects.”

AERC supported the successful BCHA effort to influence the USFS trails classification process such that trails are classified to allow recreational and sport riding in U.S. forests.

--Trail Master Training:

- Withlacoochee State Forest, Florida, December 2008;
- Ft. Stanton, New Mexico, May 2009, includes mechanized;
- Hillsdale Lake, Kansas, September 2009, includes mechanized;

--Folsom Lake, California, October 2009.

--Website. The Trails Committee updated its portion of the AERC website.

--State Trails Advocates. Chris Eickleberry updated the State Trails Advocates list, adding new members and deleting inactive names on the list. State Trails Advocates are included on the Trails Committee list serve.

Goals for 2010:

- 1) Maintain current articles of interest on the website;
- 2) Continue Trail Master training, 4-6 classes;
- 3) Establish a cutoff date procedure for Trails Grants and Trail Master classes;
- 4) Develop an AERC institutional strategy for accessing federal and state money for Trails Grants and Trail Master training through programs such as the Recreational Trails Program of the Department of Transportation;
- 5) The Trails Committee is working with Mike Riter to establish National Training Centers for Trail Master Training in fixed locations to reduce Mike's travel charges to AERC. Currently, we are looking at Ft. Stanton, New Mexico and Commerce, Georgia as designated Training Centers for future Trail Master training;
- 6) Continue Trails Grants activities;
- 7) Provide assistance/support in planning the National Convention;
- 8) Increase active participation in local trails projects by State Trails Advocates.

Proposed Budget for 2010:

Association expenses = \$13,050

American Horse Council = \$5,000

Equestrian Land Conservation Resource = \$300

Southeastern Equine Trails Conference = \$1,500

Back Country Horsemen of America = \$750

Ohio Valley Equine Trails Symposium = \$1,500

National Trails Symposium = \$2,000

Travel expenses for Jerry Fruth and Amanda Stewart = \$2,000

Trail Master Classes = 4classes @ \$7,150 = \$27,700

Instructor fee = 40 students @ \$300 = \$12,000

Jackets and hardhats = \$4000

Shipping = \$500

Instructor expenses = 4 classes @ \$2,800 = \$11,200

C. Total = \$40,750

(As a committee, we may be able to offset some of these expenses for TM classes by a) increasing the charge to AERC members from \$120 to \$150, b) offering hardhats and clinometers for sale to participants but otherwise maintaining AERC ownership for repeated use, and c) only offering classes at the National Training Centers. I would guess that these limitations would reduce expenses by \$5,000.)