

**2/18/2010**

**6:00 pm Pacific Time**

**AERC Annual Convention Meeting**

AERC Board of Directors present: Susan Keil, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Roger Taylor, Bruce Weary, Terry Woolley-Howe, Dianna Chapek, Joyce Mocilan, Roberta Harms, Randy Eiland, Maryben Stover, Gail Williams, Michael Campbell, Mike Maul, Susan Schomburg, Joe Schoech, Susan Kasemeyer, John Crandell III, John Parke, Connie Caudill, Sandy Terp, Laura Hayes, Tom Noll, and Jan Stevens.

Also present was AERC Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

Excusal requests from Patti Pizzo, Monica Chapman and Jeff Trinkle were presented to the BOD and were approved by a unanimous vote.

The new BOD Regional Directors were introduced to the BOD. They included: Lisa Schneider (PSW), Forrest Tancer (W), Kevin Meyers (SW), and Sue Keith (MW).

The BOD was introduced to Jay Hickey from the American Horse Council (AHC). Mr. Hickey spoke to the BOD explaining the job of AHC and highlighted several target areas addressed by AHC.

- AHC represents special interests dealing with the horse industry – over 2000 individuals and 160 member organizations and are important lobbyists in Washington DC.
- He indicated that it was no fun working with the US Congress now due to the partisan division present.
- The Highway Bill has expired, but it has been extended twice. This bill helped provide a lot of funding for trails.
- There is tax credit available for private landowners to allow trails to cross their private land.
- He explained that the access to Federal Lands for riding is decreasing – between 80 and 150 trails have been closed.
- They have lobbied for comprehensive immigration reform that would help to legalize workers who have been on farms for a long period of time.
- They work with issues dealing with the spread of disease by equines. AHC realizes the importance of horses being able to move easily between states and countries. They are proposing that the US Government needs to help fund the testing of horses to make it easier for that movement.
- The Horse Slaughter Bill is very divided. AHC has been neutral on it due to this. It's member organizations are very divided and due to this AHC currently isn't taking a stand.
- National Animal ID Program currently is in limbo.
- Mr. Hickey indicated that AERC's seats on committees (Trails/Recreation and Horse Welfare) are funded by AERC's AHC membership.

The BOD thanked Mr. Hickey for coming to talk to the BOD about the importance of AHC and what it is doing for the horse industry.

Special Sanctioning requests for the following rides were requested:

- The Outlaw and the Virgin Pioneer – MT Region – 9/17-19, 2010 – ride manager: Karen Chaton
- Resolution Ride – SW Region – 12/20/2010 – 1/1/2011 – ride manager: Rusty Toth
- DRAW-A-Rama – MW Region – 9/20/2010 – 10/3/2010 – ride manager: Joslyn Seefeldt
- North American Young Riders Endurance Ride – SW Region – 7/29/2010 – ride manager: Jan Stevens

The motion passed unanimously to sanction the above rides.

Sponsorship Committee Report

- Randy Eiland reported that Patti Pizzo and Sandy Terp were on the committee with him and everyone was working hard, but felt that there needed to be some new blood brought into the committee – fresh ideas.
- Current AERC sponsors include Platinum Sponsors: Adequan, All Around Performance Horse, Arabian Horse Association, Arabian Horse World, BLM, EasyCare, Equine Monitors, EquiPedic, FarmVet, 4c-Spirits (Laurie Anderson), Gulf Coast 4 Star Trailers, and SR Saddle Company. Diamond Sponsors include: Action Rider Tack, Inc and Healthy As A Horse Network. Silver Sponsors are: American Shagya-Arabian Verband, Inc, The Distance Depot, and Long Riders Gear. Award Sponsors is Belesemo Arabian Ranch.

Troy Smith from the Marketing and Public Relations Committee requested to have the motion provided to the BOD in the binder concerning the Non-Member Affiliates membership that will change the original motion from 'free advertising in *Endurance News*' to a 15% discount on advertising. The motion passed unanimously.

The BOD broke for dinner from 7:00 – 8:00pm

Dr. Jeanette Mero, DVM, chair of the AERC Veterinary Committee discussed with the BOD the proposed “30-Minute Rule” (a rule that would change the current 60 minutes to reach pulse criteria at the finish of an endurance ride to requiring 30 minutes to reach pulse criteria).

- Dr. Mero gave a history on the AERC’s rules pertaining to “Fit to Continue”
- She gave a brief synopsis of the Research Summit held in August of 2009 – indicating that a great deal of the Summit dealt with the proposed 30 minute rule.
- Research studies indicated that horses tested on a treadmill recovered to a 64 pulse within 30 minutes.
- Elevated heart-rate over 30 minutes can indicate: dehydration, overheating, and electrolyte imbalances – these can lead to Ileus – decreased gut motility due to interruption and/or disturbances of blood flow to the gut.
- 80% of endurance horse mortalities result from colic.
- Creditability and Integrity is questionable – do we really mean “Fit to Continue”
  - 38% of endurance related fatalities from 2002-2008 earned a completion.
- AERC Rule 6.2.1 is confusing
  - “...Any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, but these must be provided to the competitors before the ride in written form.” – When does this need to be done? Can it be done at the ride meeting?
- All veterinary criteria we have to date in AERC have not been instituted based on scientific data.

Dr. Gregg Fellers, head vet at the Tevis, then spoke concerning their use of the 30-minute to pulse at the finish at the Tevis. He explained that the Tevis has used this particular criterion since the 1950’s. The average time for horses at the finish of the Tevis to reach pulse criteria is 9.5 minutes and the average pulse at that time is 59.5bpm.

John Parke then explained that during Hot Topics on Friday they would spend the majority of the time going over the theme of this AERC Convention – Trails, there would be time spent on the 30-minute rule proposal on Friday and it would continue over to Saturday’s Hot Topics.

Roger Taylor, AERC Treasurer then spoke to the BOD.

- A new CPA has been hired this year and has finished the AERC taxes on time.
- 2009 expenses were higher than income due to several reasons including the 2009 AERC membership was down 7.2%, the cost of the AERC Convention was a \$6000 loss, and AERC Ride Liability insurance increased in cost by \$14,000 due to the increase in coverage offered.
- Roger then covered the report from the CPA that will go into the March issue of *Endurance News*.
- Roger briefed the BOD on the expenses for the various Trails Grants that were issued from 2002-2010.
- Tom Noll indicated that we can look at all the specific line items and try to figure out where to save here and there, but we need to look to the future – start planning now.

- Randy Eiland emphasized that we need to bump up the membership numbers, which would then ‘increase all the incomes’.

Michael Campbell, chair of the AERC Trails and Land Management Committee, discussed briefly about the various trail funds and the committee’s plans for their meeting.

With there being no further business before the AERC BOD the meeting Terry Wooley-Howe motioned to adjourn at 9:30pm Pacific time, which was sectioned by Susan Keil. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Education Committee report (05 February 2010)**

February 5, 2010

Prepared by Susan Keil DVM, Committee Chair

Committee members by regions: \* = new member recruit by chair

CT – Susan Keil, DVM (chair as of 2009 mid-year meeting); Scott Godwin\*

MW – none

MT – Kerry Greear\*

NE – Stagg Newman (chair advisory role), Dinah Rojak

NW – Terre O’Brennan

PSW – Kim Fuess

SE – Ken Marcella, DVM, Angie McGhee, Joe Schoech, Carol Thompson

SW – none

W – none

Members rotating off from 2009 duties: Joe Long (MT) and Heidi Smith, DVM (NW)

Committee meeting scheduled at NC , 19 February 2010 noon – 1:00 pm; location TBA

“Lunch With the Stars” at the National Convention. This project was initiated by Carol Thompson and Dinah Rojak. Over the lunch hour on 20 February 2010 in Reno, three tables of 6 guests will enjoy a lunch sponsored by our committee. At each table will be two raffle winners (6 total), two raffle winner’s guests (6 total), and two endurance stars (6 total). Lunch goal: gather information from members to be used for reorganizing / revitalizing the mentoring program. The “fee” to enter the raffle is a mentor survey questionnaire (see attached pdf). Questionnaire to be placed in registration packet by office staff and also found at Education booth. Needs to be at booth by 9 am Saturday to be in drawing.

Stars: John Crandell III, Sarah Hunt Engsberg, Becky Hart, Melissa Ribley, Dinah and Steve Rojak

Cost of 18 lunches out of education fund will be \$342 (\$19 per lunch). Committee members may also attend if they purchase their lunch. Total lunch count up to 23 including 5 members wishing to attend. Lunch counts less than 25 plates minimum will incur \$75 charge from convention center. Goal will be to find two more education members wanting to purchase their lunch to eliminate \$75 fee. Lunch tables: decorated by Kerry Greear.

Education Booth (#141) / Convention : AERC office generously donated booth space / expense, Kerry Greer and Carol Thompson to decorate/organize, Kim Fuess planning booth staffing schedule, see attached pdf Road Map sheet to be placed in registration packet and found at booth.

EN Education Upcoming articles: Volunteer for a Free Education by Scott Godwin, Getting Started for 100’s by Kim Fuess, Ocular Disease by Susan Keil, DVM, “Girthiness” by Angie McGhee, Encouraging 100’s and multi-days by Kerry Greer, Overtraining and Rest requirements by Dinah Rojak

Trade show 20 minute presentations: organized by Kim Fuess. Joe Schoech to be presenting an introduction to endurance lecture; others TBA

Mentoring Program: primary committee goal / focus for the next year(s) is to redo / organize this program. A

strategic plan to be initiated at NC meeting. Subcommittee for this project consists currently of Terre O'Brennan, Kim Fuess, Dinah Rojak, and Carol Thompson. Currently, the program is severely lacking in structure. Thoughts: develop / write expectations, qualifications, and objectives for both mentors and mentorees; AERC webpage list of regional mentors needs overhaul (old email addresses/updated); change to one mentor liaison per region (qualifications to be determined), only the liaison's contact info to be placed on webpage (possibly also assistants); liaisons/assistants on website would handle calls/emails, distribute info developed by EC to newbies; the liaison would try to "place" newbie with *appropriate* rider/member for face to face mentoring based on requirements and physical proximity of new member; mentor sub-committee to develop a document spelling out the responsibilities / expectations of both parties, similar to a contract.

Develop short video clips (YouTube-like) to be used for education off of webpage. Examples: thumps, lameness, galls, placement / use of stethoscope, quarter cracks, trailer safety, tailing, sponging, audio file of gut sounds, demo of a vet check.

2010 Education budget: \$1200 plus \$366 in donations = \$1566 with nothing spent this year. Lunch expense for 2010 NC projected at \$342 + \$75 if 25 count not obtained = \$417

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### **Elections Committee Report**

Robert Ribley, Chair

February, 2010

The AERC regional director election was in September through November of 2010. The office advertised the election, received nominations, mailed out ballots and received results from an independent company. Results were announced to the Board of Directors and printed in Endurance News.

The AERC International election process has begun with respect to election of new zone representatives and a report regarding that election will follow upon completion of the election.

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### **Financial Committee Report** – available for viewing at the AERC Office

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### **Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report**

2/10/10 Convention Meeting

Submitted by Troy Smith, Committee Chair

Advertisements promoting the American Endurance Ride Conference will appear in Back Country Horsemen (13K members, four insertions) and The Trail Rider (50K distribution, two insertions), as well as in Arabian Horse World (via our sponsorship agreement). Cost for this 2010 advertising is an extremely modest \$350 for the year. (In 2008 ad expenditures were \$5700; in 2009 it was \$2300.)

Members of the Marketing/Public Relations Committee work individually to promote the sport by writing articles for publications such as Arabian Horse World, Modern Arabian Horse, Trail Rider and Chronicle of the Horse.

The recently opened Arabian Horse Galleries at the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, Kentucky, includes an endurance gallery. Genie Stewart-Spears worked with the museum staff to develop the display, made up of 40 to 50 photographs.

We continue to be mindful of economics and have tried to minimize Endurance News costs by working with our printer to trim costs – for example, we have cut out the use of coated stock in the color section of EN. Incorporating the 2009 yearbook into the March issue of EN will bring substantial savings.

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## **Office Operations**

February 17, 2010

Prepared by Kathleen A. Henkel, Chair

The yearbook edition of the Endurance News will be mailed to the membership while we are in Reno, saving AERC approximately \$15,000. Troy worked some real magic and we are very pleased with the outcome and are hopeful the membership will embrace this new idea.

The new accountant has completed the taxes, putting us approximately one year ahead of previous years in getting the returns completed and sent to IRS. Suzi works well with the new guy and looks forward to a great working relationship.

Personal service is key to keeping the membership happy and Judy continues to excel in this area. Every effort is made to answer all telephone calls and emails in a timely manner.

The new system instituted by Rho regarding ride manager and vet packets has taken off and is working beautifully. Rho continues to keep our filing up to date and does it with a smile.

Please feel free to contact the office with all questions. Every effort will be made to handle your needs quickly.

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## **Protest and Grievance Committee Report**

Michael D. Marino, Chairman

February 1, 2010

The Protest and Grievance committee for the year 2009 received two protests.

1. Vicki Hudson-Hog Scramble Ride 5-09-09.
  2. Shannon Constanti-AHA National 50, 10-30-09. This protest is pending.
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## **Rules Committee Report**

January 25, 2010

Prepared by Susan Schomburg, Rules Committee Chairperson

The Rules Committee continues work on a list of goals related to revising and re-writing portions of the AERC rule book. The committee has completed some of these goals and is continuing work on others.

The bulk of the committee work has revolved around the development of two new rules regarding equine abuse and rider conduct. These rules have been drafted at the request of the board to replace the "Violations" section of rule 15. The draft was presented for input to the board of directors at the mid-year meeting in Denver. Since that time the committee has made some revisions in language and the draft has been sent to the veterinary committee, the ride managers committee and the competitions committee for input. The rules committee will be discussing the recommendations from these committees at our meeting at the convention in Reno and then the proposed rule will be put before the membership for comment. It is the goal of the committee to have these two rules ready for action by the board by midyear 2010.

The committee also completed several other tasks this year including:

\* completing our work in cleaning up language inconsistencies in the rule book and also eliminated duplication and repetition of rules in the limited distance and endurance sections. A new version of the "new and improved" rule book was printed for the 2010 ride season.

- aiding ride managers and riders in interpretation of rules
  - assisting the vet committee with questions regarding proposed rule changes
  - collaborating with the office regarding the liability release implementation
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## **Technical Committee Report**

Prepared by Mike Maul, 2/4/2010

2009 Technical Committee Report AERC website \* New home page for AERC website \* Improved capabilities for web site editor for office use Ride Results Input online \* Improved recognition of rider/horse numbers \* Improved display for ride manager use \* Added BC calculation for ride managers Online Renewal \* Improved family membership process to reduce errors \* Improved member login for renewal to reduce errors \* Updated renewal to reflect new dues schedule Online Join AERC \* Updated to reflect new dues schedule \* Added tracking for problem credit card renewal

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## **Trails and Land Management Committee Report**

February 2010 Convention Meeting

Prepared by Michael Campbell, Chair

I. This report is a summary of the activities of the Trails and Land Management Committee for fiscal year 2009.

II. Public Relations.

A. The Committee and its representatives provided eleven Trails Post articles.

B. Helen Koehler represented AERC with a booth at the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference.

C. Terry Silver and Jerry Fruth (Committee members) were interviewed by Rick Lamb on The Horse Show on 5-16-09, a nationally broadcast program affiliated with RFD-TV. Jerry and Terry explained the sport of endurance riding and emphasized the importance of maintaining and protecting our trails.

D. Michael Campbell participated in three national meetings hosted by the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource throughout the year.

E. The committee proposed money saving reciprocal membership program which the board passed.

F. Michael Campbell and four other Trail Masters met with USFS rangers and developed an agreement which allowed two rides to be held on USFS land. These rides had been cancelled by the USFS prior to this meeting.

III. State Trails Advocates. Christine Eickleberry coordinates this program which includes 35 volunteers representing 26 states. These volunteers organize and work trails. They attend meetings and support the development of trail systems in their respective states. All are committed AERC members who care about the trails we ride.

IV. Trail Master Classes. Monica Chapman coordinates this program succeeding Terry Silver. Both of these women have done outstanding jobs in organization and facilitation of the classes. In 2009, Trail Master Classes were held in: Florida with 6 AERC graduates, New Mexico with 3 AERC graduates, Kansas with 11 AERC graduates including 5 graduates of the mechanized class, and California with 12 AERC graduates. Two classes were cancelled in New Jersey and Washington at the request of the hosts. Expenses for these classes were \$26,364.68. Income from these classes was \$4,755.00. These figures represent a savings of \$16,535.32 of the \$42,900 that was budgeted at the 2009 BoD meeting.

V. Trails Grants. Lucy Bagot has been the coordinator of this program. She has provided competent advice to applicants and recommended helpful modifications to the website and application materials. Trails Grants approved for fiscal 2009 are: Lake Meridith (\$8,000), Lake View Trailhead (\$5,000), Weiser River Trail (\$2,000), and Old Dominion Base Camp (\$13,000). Total Trails Grants for 2009 equals \$28,000.

VI. Trails Finance. February 17, 2009, the AERC BoD approved a budget of \$46,250 from the General Operating Fund. This included committee expenses, Trail Master Classes and association expenses. Treasurer Roger Taylor reported actual expenditures of \$27,253 after deducting income from Trail Master Classes of \$4,755. This left \$23,752 in the General Operating Fund that had been allocated to the Trails and Land Management Committee. For fiscal year 2010, the BoD has budgeted \$10,000 which the committee expects to use primarily for Trail Master Training. Trails Grants are made from a dedicated fund which has an available balance of \$43,756 as of January 2010.

VII. The information above is a summary. The members of the Trails and Land Management Committee have worked hard to provide effective representation of AERC and keep expenses to a minimum.

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## **Veterinary Committee Report**

Convention – February 2010

Prepared by Dr. J. Mero DVM, Chair

### **I. Accomplishments in 2009**

- A. Have written 12 monthly Vet Forum articles for Endurance News
- B. Published 3 quarterly AERC Veterinary Newsletters
- C. Continued the AERC Veterinary Certification Program. A total of 218 veterinarians have been certified to date.
- D. Have written 4 fatality reports
- E. Drug tested 12 rides, broken down by region:  
Central – 1 Midwest – 2 Mountain – 1 Northeast - 3 Northwest – 1  
Southeast – 3 Southwest – 0 West - 1 No positive test results
- F. Planned the veterinary continuing education program for the 2010 convention, including arranging for a new sponsor for the program.
- G. Have worked with the Research and Horse Welfare Committees on a motion proposal for a 30-minute pulse time criterion at finish.
- H. Have worked with the Research Committee in participating at the 2009 Research Summit, with discussions on implementation of some of the recommendations from the Summit.
- I. Have discussed at the request of the AERC President clarification regarding allowing stapling/suturing of wounds while in competition.
- J. Have discussed at the request of Rules Committee/BOD draft rule regarding equine abuse.
- K. Provided a resource to riders, veterinarians and board members for questions and concerns regarding AERC veterinary matters.
- L. Reviewed articles for Endurance News that related to horse health.
- M. Updated the appendices to Rule 13, the AERC Drug Rule.
- N. Worked with USEF on outsourcing the AERC drug testing program.

### **II. Future Goals**

- A. Revision of Head Control Judge Certification Exam.
- B. Design Certification Program for Treatment Veterinarians.
- C. Plan and implement the veterinary continuing education program for the 2011 convention. This includes obtaining a sponsor. Develop a continuing education program for endurance control judges and treating veterinarians for major veterinary CE meetings such as the AAEP.
- D. Continue to educate and advise for use of 30-minute pulse time criterion at the finish.
- E. Work with Research Committee to implement and obtain better statistical ride information – including pulse time to recoveries, pull rates, mortality data, and more exact treatment data. Consider revising Post Ride Statistical Report.

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## **AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL**

### **Motion Name:**

Modification of Motion for Non Member Affiliates

### **Proposing Committee:**

Marketing & Public Relations

### **Date of Motion**

February 1, 2010

**Classification of Motion Request:**

Change

**Proposed Motion:**

Modification of 1/4/10 motion to exclude free advertising in Endurance News from the Partners Program. Instead, AERC may offer 100-mile Endurance Partners a 15% discount on advertising.

**Background, analysis and benefit:**

Six quarter-page ads in EN are valued at \$1170, more than the \$1000 in cash, goods or services which would be paid by potential 100-mile Endurance Partners.

**Budget effect/impact**

Lessens the negative financial impact on Endurance News.

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

Offers a benefit to Partners that doesn't negatively impact AERC and Endurance News.

**Impact on AERC Office**

None.

**Committees consulted and/or affected**

Office Committee.

**Implementation plan**

The office staff will produce materials to send out to Partners outlining the three benefit levels and work together with AERC members who are coordinating with potential Partners.

**Supporting materials**

None.

**Supporting approvals** (proposing committee, participating committees)

Office Committee.