

8/21/2010

8:00 am Mountain Time

AERC Annual Mid-Year Meeting

AERC Board of Directors present: Susan Keil, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Roger Taylor, Roberta Harms, Sue Keith, Randy Eiland, Maryben Stover, Gail Williams, Mike Maul, Susan Schomburg, Joe Schoech, Susan Kasemeyer, John Crandell III, John Parke, Connie Caudill, Sandy Terp, Laura Hayes, Tom Noll, Patti Pizzo, Monica Chapman, Forrest Tancer, Kevin Myers, Lisa Schneider, Patrick Perkins, and Jan Stevens.

Also present was AERC Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Laura Hayes and seconded by Roberta Harms. The motion passed with no changes to the agenda requested.

Excusal requests from Kim Fuess and Michael Campbell were presented to the BOD. Gail Williams motioned to approve the excusals and Forrest Tancer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the June 7, 2010 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote with the following amendment made by Kathleen:

The sanction dollar amount read as \$16,760 and it should read \$16,475.

The motion to approve the AERC Committee Reports was made by Patti Pizzo and seconded by Sue Keith. The motion passed.

Roger Taylor, AERC Treasurer, reported to the BOD on the current financial situation of the organization.

Roger pointed out to the BOD in the August 16 Balance sheet the Deferred Revenue – he indicated the funds that will go into 2011.

The subject of Grants Payable was discussed. Roger indicated that there are several grants that are quite old and have not been completed. There was a request from the BOD that in future grant applications that there be a ‘timeline’ for completion included.

Roger recommended that the Education Grant for “Beyond the Basics” clinic funding be moved back into the Education Grants fund (4005-2); Susan Keil, as chairperson of the Education Committee, offered to take it back to the committee for their input.

Drug Testing reserves were discussed. Roger reported that the reserve currently sits at \$56,228.98.

Kathleen stated that we have only paid USEF \$12,500 so far this year and that they will bill us an additional \$12,500 unless they hear otherwise. It was originally budgeted to do \$50,000 worth of testing for 2010. If the BOD determined to only do \$25,000 worth of testing in 2010 it would leave AERC approximately \$25,000 + \$56,228.98 in the Drug Testing Reserves.

The BOD then looked at the Profit and Loss comparison of the previous year.

Membership dues increase has helped to offset the decrease in membership numbers.

Total Income is up due to membership fee increase, 2010 AERC Convention income, savings by the office staff, and *Endurance News* savings (no printing the AERC Yearbook instead printing its contents in *Endurance News*). Much of the savings in the Awards category are due to careful purchasing by the office staff.

Accounting fees are up due to finishing work with our previous accountant. Kathleen indicated that the new accountant has been hired.

Credit Card fees are greatly reduced due to help from Sandy Terp and renegotiation with the credit card companies.

Committee expenses have been greatly reduced mainly due to committees not spending any additional money.

Estimations on how much we are going to be ahead for 2010 vary between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

It was noted that the Sponsorship income is actually higher than indicated because some funds were booked

in 2009.

Trail Master line item has been moved from the General Funds into “Other Income/Reserve” funds.

2011 Budget Discussion

It was the consensus of the BOD that when dealing with Trail Master Class funding that funding for them will come from Donations first (4003-3) and then additional funds, if needed, would come from Trails Reserve (4003-2) if approved. It was pointed out that the Revenue from Trail Master Classes is less than the expenses. It was expressed that Trail Grants are for “Bricks and Sticks” vs Trail Master which is for the class.

Trail Grants Income = \$13,000

Expense = \$14,000 Loss of \$1,000

Trail Masters Income = \$4,000

Expense = \$11,000 Loss of \$7,000

Trail Master Class expenses are typically higher than the income – it is better in 2010 because the Trail Master Class organizer, Monica Chapman, is now watching it closer and charging for attendance. The 2011 Budget shows a net loss – it was indicated that AERC is funding this as an investment and commitment into trails for our sport.

Many BOD members expressed that continuing to fund trails and education is an investment in our future.

Susie Schomburg, chairperson of the Rules Committee, presented the motion for a language change for rule 14.2.5 as requested by the Protest and Grievance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

John Parke then led a discussion on the Budget and forecasting for the future of AERC.

Trends 3, 4, 5 years on down the road indicate:

2010 +\$30,000

2011 +\$20,000

2012 -\$20,000

2013 -\$30,000

2014 -\$50,000

This shows ridership/membership being flat with a 3-5% increase in expenses.

We’re seeing a drop in LD and Pioneer Rides this year – around 6% drop.

We must remember that Endurance riding is a “discretionary income” sport.

AERC is truly running out of things to “cut” – cutting the Yearbook for example.

Membership has changed – our family membership is down, why?

There was a lot of misunderstanding, and continues to be, over the dues structure.

The economy is partially to blame – if it turns around we will see people coming back. People are redirecting their disposable income.

Advertising what we offer is the key to getting more people.

What does AERC do for the membership? We need to decide what we are selling and bring it to the people.

The BOD then discussed ideas of how to get more people interested in Endurance and how to provide more for our current membership. It was mentioned that we do not cater to the youth and that is a niche that AERC should spend more time on attracting. The idea of creating teams within AERC was also discussed with several different scenarios suggested.

John Parke thanked Roger for his presentation on the AERC finances and budget, but suggested that Kathleen Henkel, as our Executive Director, should be the one giving the Budget Report and should provide the BOD with the Executive Director’s goals for the organization.

Motions before the BOD:

- AERC National Championship request for additional funding – from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to help offset the costs of hiring vets from out of region. The BOD voted with 23 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstaining. Motion Passed.
- Conference Call date change request. The motion was amended by John Parke to have it read that the BOD will meet the 2nd Monday of the month rather than the 1st Monday – this will help to avoid most holidays. Randy Eiland agreed to the motion amendment with John Parke seconding

- the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Red Hills Ride date change request. The Executive Committee met and approved the late date change request due to weather from the Red Hills Ride in the Mountain Region. The original date was May 1, 2010, however due to weather it had to be cancelled. The ride management requested the change of date to August 28, 2010. The motion passed unanimously to approve the request approved by the Executive Committee.
 - Rock Creek Horse Camp trails donation request was presented to the BOD. They are requesting \$250 for improvement of the Rock Creek Horse Camp. The motion passed unanimously for the funding to come from Trails Grants reserve funds.
 - Western States Trail Foundation requested \$5,000 for improvement at the Auburn Overlook staging area for additional public access. The BOD requested to table this motion so that more information could be attained.
 - Trail Master Donations clarification of funds. The motion is to request creating a sub-category of trails donations specifically for Trail Master Classes under line 4003 (Trail Reserve). Roger Taylor made the motion with Susan Kasemeyer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Update of the AERC Drug Rule from the Veterinary Committee. It was requested by the BOD that there be a deferral on this motion for rewording, specific to #5 adding arnica to Appendix A (Prohibited substances).

The BOD then discussed AERC's involvement in the public relations at the World Equestrian Games (WEG). It was noted that AERC International maybe requesting to help support the viewing of Arabian Silk (an video that promotes endurance riding) at the presentation of the various disciplines at WEG . It was requested of the BOD that Kathleen Henkel look into the details of this.

There was also a request from HRTV of AERC. The request included creating a co-marketing partnership between the HRTV and AERC. They would like to host AERC for a day at their booth at the International Equestrian Festival in downtown Lexington, Kentucky during the WEG. They requested that AERC supply spokespeople, an athlete or two and materials that would help to promote endurance. While AERC sees the importance of promoting endurance, the BOD felt that it needed more information concerning this. Randy Eiland and Kathleen Henkel will contact HRTV to gather more information.

Emmett Ross, discipline manager for endurance at the WEG, requested that AERC provide a banner to be displayed at WEG. Kathleen was directed to look into supplying a banner for AERC.

The BOD went into Executive Session to discuss payroll for the AERC Employees from 1:18 pm until 1:28 pm.

Kathleen Henkel briefed the BOD on the current arrangement with AERC Drug Testing by USEF. After the convention Kathleen called USEF and requested that the amount contracted be lowered to \$25,000 instead of the \$50,000 originally approved due to concerns over the AERC financial situation. It was noted that the Veterinary Committee was not in favor in decreasing the number of rides tested. Kathleen recommends that we stay with the \$25,000 for 2010 with the additional money collected going into the Drug Testing line item. Patrick Perkins suggested that the BOD consider that we continue collecting \$3 per rider start with \$2 going into the Drug Testing fund and the additional \$1 go into marketing of AERC. Laura Hayes commented that she has spoken with several equestrian organizations and they are greatly impressed with AERC drug policy and testing. John Parke pointed out that our drug testing is a deterrent against the use of drugs in our sport. He recommended that we continue with the \$50,000 going to USEF to do the additional testing; stating that the remaining \$25,000 going into drug testing reserve would not be enough to cover the costs if something came up. Roger Taylor remarked that he felt the \$25,000 spent this year was enough, that the extra \$25,000 should go into reserves and that perhaps we should consider charging less for drug testing, whereby doing less testing in 2011. Tom Noll stated that he remembered at the Hot Topics discussion at the 2010 AERC Convention that there was overwhelming the support for continuing drug testing from those polled during the discussion. Jan Stevens pointed out that there are only three months left for this season and only 12 more rides left.

Mike Maul suggested that we continue testing and do as much as we can in the remaining three months.

Kathleen Henkel recommended that the BOD approve a motion that for the remainder of the year (until the end of November) AERC have USEF only test 13 total rides for 2010 and only spend \$25,000 on drug testing. 21 BOD members voted in favor with 4 against. The motion carried.

A motion from the BOD was made for 2011 concerning drug testing. The motion stated that AERC would contract with USEF for the amount of \$50,000 for testing. 13 members of the BOD voted in favor, 9 voted against, and 1 abstained. The motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel and John Parke then briefed AERC Ride Insurance. The history of AERC and ride liability insurance includes the old way of the ride manager getting their own insurance, naming AERC as an additional insured, and sending AERC a certificate stating such. The problems that occurred included AERC not always being sure they were getting a certificate of additional insured and some ride managers having problems getting insurance. Because of AERC being concerned over not being covered, it was determined that AERC would provide insurance for all the rides that they sanction. Our current policy is with Equisure of Colorado. They provide us as a brokerage firm with what we need for insurance. After looking into other policies of similar nature with other providers there are some questions as to some specifics of what our current policy provides and/or covers. Because of this, John Parke is going to review the Equisure and other policies that regional endurance organizations have to confirm what the policies cover and/or provide and report back to the BOD.

The 2012 XP ride that Dave Nicholson discussed with the BOD during the 2010 AERC Convention will apply for sanctioning after the first of the year (2011). A straw vote was taken of the BOD that showed support of AERC supplying insurance for this event, as we have done in the past.

Susie Schomburg, chairperson of the Rules committee, briefed the BOD on the work being done on the revision of Rule 6. She indicated that the ambiguity of the rule has long been recognized as a protest waiting to happen. The Veterinary Committee has concerns over the rule as well. She told the BOD about the reasons for revision of the rule which included fixing the ambiguity of "written notice", clearly authorize "voluntary" use of the 30-minute final pulse down, address the Veterinary Committees' concerns about obstacles to the voluntary use of 30-minute final pulse down, and define when and what form the "written notice" is supposed to be provided. There were several points that were covered.

One problem noted was the timing of the notice of implementing the 30-minute final pulse down. The Control Judges often want it to be the shortest possible time before notification – taking into account the ambient conditions; while the riders have voiced concerns saying that they need to know before they commit to going to the ride. During the discussion that ensued the BOD agreed, through a straw vote, that the majority of them felt that it was up to the ride manager to determine the maximum time to meet pulse criteria because it was more of a logistical decision of what would work for that particular ride. A straw vote was taken that was more specific concerning the notification time to let the riders know that a ride was going to use the 30-minute to final pulse. Five members of the BOD felt that it should be placed on the sanctioning form, thereby having it listed on-line and in the magazine well in advance. Two BOD members felt that a notice a week before the event should be provided. Two members of the BOD voted giving notice 96 hours in advance was ample time. Finally ten members of the BOD felt that 12 hours was sufficient time to provide notice. Moreover, it was also the feeling of the BOD that pulse criteria was more of a Control Judge decision.

It was the feeling of the BOD that what the pulse criteria would be was a Head Control Judge decision. Some additional wording was recommended by the BOD concerning the following portion of the rule:

“...it is recommended that the head control judge set a maximum time to meet pulse criteria of 30 minutes from the finish.”

Some BOD members felt that instead of the word “recommended” that the word “suggested” should be used.

It was also suggested that additional wording might include “Ride managers are allowed to try different maximum times to meet pulse criteria as they believe to be appropriate.”

It was also agreed that some type of wording should be included that would state that the maximum pulse time would be “not less than 30 minutes and not more than 60 minutes.”

The maximum pulse rate was then covered. Currently the revision is keeping the 68 beats per minute. A

straw vote of the BOD was taken and it showed the BOD was in favor of keeping the 68 beats per minute.

Susie will take this information back to the Rules Committee for further work on the revision of Rule 6.

Due to the further work being done on Rule 6, Randy Eiland (chairperson of the Ride Managers Committee) offered to withdraw the motion from the Ride Managers Committee requesting the deferral of the revision of Rule 6.

Ms. Schomburg, chairperson of the Rules Committee submitted a motion adding two new rules regarding equine abuse and participant conduct. John Parke presented a short presentation on the background and philosophy. The motion passed unanimously.

The BOD was also informed that the Rules Committee is going to rewrite the preamble of the AERC Rulebook, which will help to clean up its language.

Kathleen Henkel and Connie Caudill then discussed with the BOD the update of the Policy and Procedures Manual. She indicated that they will be access to all the motions that the AERC BOD has made in the past available on-line and divided by subject. They went onto explain that an example of a policy would be “no photos on the cover of *Endurance News* of a rider without a helmet”, whereas a procedure would be “creation of a Restricted Reserve Account”. The BOD was informed that the Administrative Manual and the Committee Charters have already been drafted and will be sent out soon to the BOD for review.

Kathleen Henkel then reported to the BOD that she highly recommends that the BOD consider having a financial review rather than an audit. She felt this was a good idea since we now have a new CPA that produced our end of year report for 2009. The BOD directed Kathleen to do so.

Roger Taylor then presented to the BOD a recap of the 2011 Budget. After the initial discussion earlier in the meeting Mr. Taylor adjusted the income projected for 2011 by decreasing it by \$10,000 through adjustments in the membership dues, per rider fees, and day fees. The original amounts projected were: \$335,000 for membership dues, \$110,000 for the per rider fees, and \$26,000 for the day member dues. After the adjustment the amounts were changed to \$330,000; \$107,000; and \$24,000 for the funds. Roger also adjusted the AERC National Championship Expense (6123) from \$2,500 to \$5,000 – reflecting the motion to increase the amount of AERC funding to the National Championship ride. Another adjustment that was made was removing \$15,000 out of the Trail Master Course expense and \$4,500 from income for a net lowering of \$10,500. This changed the net general income for 2011 to \$40,250.

Roger also updated the 2010 budget under Drug Testing Program (5050) changing the amount from \$50,000 to the approved \$25,000.

With there being no further business before the BOD, the motion was made by Joe Schoech at 5:15pm Mountain Time to adjourn the meeting with Sue Keith seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Education Committee Report

8/14/10

Prepared by Susan Keil DVM, Chair

1. Committee members by regions:

CT – Susan Keil, DVM (chair), Scott Godwin

MW – Sue Keith

MT – Kerry Greear

NE – none

NW – Terre O’ Brennan

PSW – Kim Fuess

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

SW – none

W – none

Members rotating off: Dinah Rojek

2. “Lunch With the Stars” at the 2011 National Convention. The initial lunch at the 2010 Convention was a fun, interactive success. The participants unanimously supported repeating the luncheon. Three to five tables of 6 guests each will enjoy a lunch while eating with two “Stars”. Luncheon cost to be determined.

Stars: to be determined

3. Education Booth at convention: discussion with committee to review feasibility / benefit ratio. Other factors: booth cost, booth sharing with other committees.
4. Mentoring Program: Subcommittee steering project has changed over last months. Current subcommittee: Kim Fuess, Scott Godwin, Susan Keil, Carol Thompson. Rotating off project: Terre O’ Brennan (chair) and Dinah Rojek. The committee recognizes there will be regional differences in developing a fluid, successful program. Both regional directors and regional endurance groups have been contacted, asking for potential liaison names and potential mentoring names. Limited response has been received thus far. Thoughts listed from 2010 NC report: 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.

5. Angie McGhee has agreed to initiate development of 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.
6. Reminder that at the 2009 National Convention the Board approved a budget of \$500 per region to cover educational seminars approved by regional directors and then the BOD. To date, none of these monies have been utilized.
7. Scott Godwin in the process of putting together an endurance cookbook, both for riders and horses, as a fund raiser.
8. Kerry Greear organizing a silent auction fundraiser to be held at the 2011 National Convention.
9. Attachment: Mentoring survey results from 2010 NC Booth / luncheon survey.

Elections Committee Report

Robert Ribley, Chair
August 2010

Election of Directors-at-Large will take place this year. Nominations close on September 30th and the office has advertised for nominations in the August magazine and the upcoming September issue. A notice regarding nominations also appears on the website. Ballots and statements will be sent to the membership by the first week of November per AERC bylaws. The board will be advised of the outcome of the elections as received by the independent ballot counter.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report, 8/13/10

Submitted by Troy Smith, Committee Chair

Fewer ads are being placed this year to keep the advertising budget down. AERC ads ran in two issue of Trail Rider, several months of classified in Cowboy magazine, a small display ad in each issue of Back Country horseman, a business card size ad in the California State Horsemen's Association in May and June, and a 1/6 page black & white ad in the September USDF Connection – this issue of their magazine will include information on how dressage can help endurance riders.

Ads have also been placed in two Arabian Horse World issues – we receive those as part of our sponsorship agreement with AHW.

Total advertising expenditures for the year to date: \$765.

Press releases have gone out this year about the Big Horn 100, a story on the Yost family, and a story about Heather Van Fosse and Hearts of Harlem appeared in the June 2010 issue of National Show Horse magazine.

Membership Committee Survey Report

August 2010

Prepared by Lisa Schneider, Chair

AERC membership dropped dramatically in 2010 compared to 2009. Several factors could have influenced this including the economy and the change in our membership dues and dues structure. In the interest of discovering the reasons for this decline, the Membership Committee conducted an online survey that was available to about 1,000 individuals who had not renewed their 2010 AERC membership. The survey was open for 30 days and we received a total of 265 responses, which is a good response rate for a survey. The questions were done in a numerical format, least significant to most significant and there was a place provided where they could type in additional comments. The goal of the survey was to understand why people were not renewing and what we could do about it. The survey details, including the text responses, are attached to this report.

The survey questions were:

1. I can't afford the membership dues right now.
Not significant to about 43%, significant for 40%
2. Other activities with my horse are more fun
Not significant to over 75%, they like endurance
3. I'm not currently riding or I don't have access to a horse
Not significant to over 70%, significant to 20%
4. I'm not doing enough rides so I just pay a day fee.
Not significant to 65%, significant to 32%
5. The membership doesn't offer enough benefits for me
Not significant to 60%, significant to 40%

The percentages don't add to 100% because some responses were neutral on the question. We kept the questions to a minimum to encourage people to take the survey.

In general, we didn't find anything surprising. The main reasons for not renewing were:

- Lack of finances
- Not renewing non-riding family members or sometimes themselves even though they could afford it because they thought it was too much money (not enough perceived value).
- Lack of understanding the family dues structure. Some believed that a non-riding family member was \$50.
- Lack of a horse to ride or an injury.
- Lack of a mentor to help them overcome challenges for new members.
- Some members had forgotten and this survey reminded them to renew.

The text comments we received were the most interesting. They included everything from "no rides in my area" to "no reasonable way for newcomers to learn the sport...unless you have found a mentor on the outside on your own...you're screwed". The perceived second class status for LD riders still remains an issue. In closing, here are the committee's comments and some recommendations for action:

1. We are losing 60% of our new members within 3 years and a better mentor program could help retain more of these new members.
2. There's not much we can do about those who are out of work/can't afford it and those who are injured or have injured horses. We hope that they will come back when they can ride again but we need to make sure they recognize the benefits of AERC membership.
3. For those who don't see the value in AERC membership, we recommend sending out a letter saying we recognize they didn't renew and describe the benefits of membership better than we have to date. We need to publicize the benefits of membership much more than we do now using our online home page, Endurance News, and by mailings to non-renewing members. We should send something to everyone who didn't renew this year as well as make sure our present members understand the value of AERC membership.
4. Refer-a-Friend program – the office has decals, pens, and other items that can be used for the reward. Something similar was tried a few years ago, but the "I Got Mine" program name didn't work well for some people.

Attachment A

Summary of 200 responses to Membership survey - See Column charts below responses for visuals.

1. I can't afford the membership dues right now Create Chart Download							
	Least Significant	2	3	4	Most Significant	Rating Average	Response Count
Answer	36.8% (74)	7.5% (15)	16.4% (33)	14.9% (30)	24.4% (49)	2.83	201
answered question							201
skipped question							2

2. Other activities with my horse are more fun Create Chart Download							
	Least Significant	2	3	4	Most Significant	Rating Average	Response Count
Answer	59.2% (119)	12.9% (26)	14.9% (30)	8.0% (16)	5.0% (10)	1.87	201
answered question							201
skipped question							2

3. I'm not currently riding or I don't have access to a horse Create Chart Download							
	Least Significant	2	3	4	Most Significant	Rating Average	Response Count
Answer	65.7% (132)	4.0% (8)	5.5% (11)	3.0% (6)	21.9% (44)	2.11	201

Written responses

1. it is just money right now, i do plan on renewing Mon, Jun 14, 2010 5:09 PM
2. I'm a non-riding spouse. Since we already share the one copy of Endurance News, why pay double for it? Magazine needs to be shrink wrapped. Ours always arrives damaged! Mon, Jun 14, 2010 4:42 PM
3. varying the mileage of rides-something between 25 and 50 miles. 50's are hard for me to find time to train for as I work full time. Limited distance is too short and not competitive enough. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 2:38 PM
4. I live in Japan and have no horse in the US Mon, Jun 14, 2010 2:37 PM
5. I love AERC, I am in a terribly financial bind at the moment. I dream of riding hundreds when I have the time and money to train again. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 1:20 PM
6. Make it cheaper Mon, Jun 14, 2010 12:58 PM
7. The family member fee is way to high, and that it makes more sense for riders that only do 1 or 2 rides a year to just pay the day fee. A fee around \$25 would be much more reasonable, to add a family member to your membership for the year. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 10:17 AM

8. I would like to just get the magazine Mon, Jun 14, 2010 9:26 AM
9. A discounted non rider's fee, something like \$10 I would pay, but otherwise if your not riding why stay a memeber? Mon, Jun 14, 2010 9:23 AM
10. I joined last year because I was planning on competing in my first ride. But both my horses developed problems that prevented the ride. So I haven't even done one ride. I am interested in the sport but I don't really have a horse that would be talented in endurance. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 8:52 AM
11. Lower the membership fees or lower something. The price of a ride is so high, it is so hard to keep up with both membership and ride fees. Also, have the rides in our area were sold out so there really was no advantage to even joining. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 8:40 AM
12. I plan on rejoining as soon as I can afford to ride again. Soon I hope. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 8:33 AM
13. The rides are too expensive for all 3 riding members of my family to participate in. We ride for fun, not to compete and can do endless "endurance type" rides on our own here in the Colorado mountains. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 7:46 AM
14. I am not comfortable with the direction "endurance" has taken; fast times are too big a deal; less care of new riders learning; I just can not abide with a LD rider placing 1st, getting BC because so far ahead of other riders and horse crashing after BC check, spending night on fluids; lack of horsemanship, meaning out of control riders/horses and finally less than positive support of "trails" by the organization. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 7:28 AM
15. I'm not riding because my horse is recovering from high suspensory injury. Hopefully I'll be back next year! Mon, Jun 14, 2010 6:33 AM
16. eliminate print magazine and put content online to save money Mon, Jun 14, 2010 6:04 AM
17. I am really no longer competing and the AERC dues increased. I have joined other organizations that support the activities that I am currently pursuing. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 5:49 AM
18. The majority of members are riding in the 25-30 milers and yet we continually hear that those distances and riders are not real "endurance rides/riders" - but who (at rides and with memberships) are the largest number of participants getting the least return for their dollars - just doesn't make sense. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 5:43 AM
19. My horse is overcoming some lameness issues that prevent me from actively competing at this time. While I do not find the annual membership to expensive when I'm competing regularly, it is a bit high when I am not. Perhaps an option could be to offer a membership without the monthly Endurance News for a lesser rate. Mon, Jun 14, 2010 5:10 AM
20. oh just to let you know when i had my membership my Endurance news mag. didn't come reguraly since some months i didn't get it. just hought it might help. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 10:16 PM
21. with not planning on riding, it was too expensive to join to just get the newsletter to keep up on who's doing what and where. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 10:14 PM
22. The rides themselves might be getting more and more expensive Sun, Jun 13, 2010 9:41 PM
23. I suggest that the veterans of AERC be assigned to a new member for one yr. NATRC veteran mentored me and it was the reason for switching Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:47 PM
24. I am 77 years old and do not compet snymor snd the price for just the magasin is just too high. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:54 PM
25. Not having enough time to condition horse is main factor in not riding endurance so did not renew. Really enjoy magazine. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:14 PM
26. I think you're great, and offer much for your dues. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:50 PM
27. I just don't have the time to train with my horse and do the rides. You have a wonderful organization Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:04 PM
28. Don't have the right hosre for endurance. Going to try Competitive Trail. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 5:48 PM
29. For me, living in the Rio Grande Valley, most of the rides are just too far. Except Bandera of course. Another thing is that I like long distance although I don't care for endurance rides nor would I care of all the "nitpicking judging" that takes place with the NATRC rides. I believe an 8-10 mile ride would be ideal with a bit of jogging included, no cantering. Also, I thought I was a current member until Nov or Dec of 2010. Maybe I'm mistaken. I did go to the website and try to change my horse because I no longer own the horse I did one ride with. Was that the problem, because my membership ran out? Oh, one last thing that I do not like is that my membership was automatically renewed. I would rather renew myself than have my credit card information on record. Anyway, keep up the good work! I hope to join again! Sun, Jun 13, 2010 5:35 PM
30. You guys do a great job and I hope to renew and get riding in competition again soon. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 5:01 PM
31. This is not a suggestion-my husband does not want me to travel. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:50 PM

32. Not necessarily more fun, but less of a time commitment. I am very busy at work this year and can't get away for weekends to do any rides! Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:26 PM
33. Abelino was living here and working for me but has since moved to a place he can't keep horses. otherwise I would have renewed him in spite of the cost because he enjoys the sport. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:21 PM
34. What about instituting a 12-month membership, instead of calendar year? If I could renew now for 12 mths, I would be more inclined to do so. But if I renew now, with mbrship up in Dec, I might as well wait till then to purchase 1 year mbrship. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:21 PM
35. my horse has nuerological problem, new horse is not anywhere near ready. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:15 PM
36. AERC has no Integrity as an organization and doesn't practice fair play but allows a legal hack to openly ignore our rule book and cheat our members. AERC is not a fair acting organization that protects all members rights under the rules, but a elite selfish clique with no integrity. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:12 PM
37. Value is just fine--I will renew sometime later this year. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 3:21 PM
38. Reduced Introductory membership dues - I never made it to a single ride; it is intimidating to the uninitiated. I feel like an outsider, even though I am acquainted with several end riders. the rides also seem quite expensive to try when you don't know what you're getting into..?? Sun, Jun 13, 2010 1:38 PM
39. Any time I have done a ride & placed.....when the results were published I was Suddenly out of the running. Very interesting. Very disappointing Sun, Jun 13, 2010 1:33 PM
40. Make 25 mile rides count. Many of us want to have our horses be useful and healthy for their entire lives and don't want to put the wear and tear on them of a lifetime of hard endurance riding. Discourage the dissing of 25 mile riders by some of the "veteran" riders. More protection for the horses -- too many riders "use up" their horses for their own egos -- the welfare of the horse committee is not doing their job, IMO. This sport is attracting people who think they are Olympians and the attitudes of many are a real turn-off -- why pay A LOT of money and be surrounded by many long-term participants whose attitudes are annoying at best. This org needs to decide if it's going to continue to cater to the veterans and dwindle in size, or reach out to the other horse riders who would love an activity like endurance without the die-hard attitudes. 25-mile endurance rides are a good venue/activity to attract many, many horsepeople. But many new people are so turned-off by the "establishment," that they go on to other horse activities. Why in the world would we pay so much money and get so little in return? And many times we're dealing with arrogant veterans who racked up thousands of miles (and many, many horses in the process) and don't think you are worthy of an opinion unless your "record" shows an appropriate level of accomplishment. We loved the sport at first and expected to be long-term participates. We're so disappointed in the structure of the organization, the lack of concern for the horses in many cases, and the attitudes of many of those veteran riders. I offered this feedback to my region and only a handful of the leadership was receptive -- and it might have been because they were running for an office. My feedback resulted in insults, dismissal because I didn't have an appropriate mileage record, and no support at all from the region's leadship. Very, very disappointing since we really thought we found the perfect equine activity. Good luck and thanks for asking for feedback. I truly believe you will not attract a sustainable number of new members until you make significant changes -- JMO based on my experiences. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 12:16 PM
41. I'd be interested in advertising. I have a 600 acre farm with stalls that I'd love to advertize and rent to AERC members in North Central KY, but don't really see a way to do that cost effectively in the Magazine. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 11:49 AM
42. There is only one ride per year near us. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 11:40 AM
43. Consider some kind of membership fee for riders who may only enter one or two rides a year. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 9:58 AM
44. My horse died on a ride last year and it has not been easy to think about doing AERC and CTR rides. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 9:55 AM
45. It has been my experiance in recent years that the trails for the rides has been more and more reliant on ATV s and other motor powered vehicules for determining the route of the rides. This has become the norm as has been a huge detriment to the quality of the rides. Evidently this method of flagging routes produces a quality of trail that is satisfactory for the current participant . It is the routes that are not open to motor vehicules that present the more technical and interesting trail . I for one am not interested in riding miles and miles of road. In have attended many rides that have been talked up as been these fantastic experiances, and for many I guess they are, but I have been left disapointed by the lack of thought , time and energy put into the laying out of the routes. Racking up miles and placement is not my objective . I want experiance trail, technical challeges and beautiful country. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 9:12 AM
46. Keep up the good work. Hope to be back some day. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 9:05 AM

47. I'll be back, just having a funky year personally! Thanks. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 9:03 AM
48. Membership fee that does not include the magazine. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:50 AM
49. It would be nice for each region to suggest good training rides & locations. I moved to CO just two years ago and am just now finding some of the better riding areas. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:33 AM
50. Sorry, just forgot! Thanks for contacting us with this survey, I have gone online and renewed Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:29 AM
51. Lower the membership fees instead of raising them in tough economical times! Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:21 AM
52. I'm out of work and out of money Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:16 AM
53. revise cost of family membership. too high for benefits. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:08 AM
54. I have been paying and not doing any rides due to work injury and many many surgeries , I will be renewing as soon I am better hopefully by sept 2010 Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:07 AM
55. My husband rides a few 50's a year to help me prepare for big rides. Raising the add-on family member fee makes no sense for us. If it was \$20 or even \$25 we'd pay it but its cheaper to pay day fee's as it is now and since he doesn't care about points or miles the membership really had no other benefit for him. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:05 AM
56. As with any business model, a significant change in the pricing model, without a significant change/increase in service, you are going to lose customers. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:04 AM
57. my husbands horse training business took a direct hit from the recession. our membership in the past was for putting on rides, but when the recession hit, we weren't getting enough entries to cover our expenses and make a bit of a profit. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 8:01 AM
58. I will renew for next season when I can afford it and will be able to compete again. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:57 AM
59. I can't renew this year, but really appreciate that I am still allowed access to the AERC Members forum - this gives me a link to AERC. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:43 AM
60. I am recovering from a surgery and selling our home in California and moving to Arizona. So I will be back next year once all the disruptions are resolved. Please keep up the good work in the meantime. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:24 AM
61. More benefits for crew, people who can't ride Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:12 AM
62. I didnt renew w/ my spouse as those dues went up Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:07 AM
63. I had four of us on a family membership - two of which will probably not do rides. So, when the fee was raised to \$50 per member, I did not renew those two memberships. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 7:04 AM
64. Membership is high for someone like me that only did three rides last season. Loved the magazine, but not enough to pay dues this year. I've taken the year off to train my mare, and start my three year old filly under saddle. If I compete next year, I will likely pay only the day fees. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:56 AM
65. The main reason I'm not rejoining is that my mare is injured and under rehabilitation. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:42 AM
66. I need more hours in a day to do all I have to do before riding! Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:23 AM
67. Have always enjoyed AERC. For me, it's my age and my horse's age to be competitive. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:19 AM
68. Used to live in Central Region where more rides were offered. Now live in Midwest, and have to travel way too far for every ride. Not worth it. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:14 AM
69. I switched from a family membership to an individual membership because my husband does not ride many rides and when he does we will just pay the day fee for him. The increase in family fees made it such that it was not feasible for us to continue with the family membership. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 6:13 AM
70. The family membership is simply too expensive and this year with tough times we just renewed our daughters membership eliminating me from doing any rides, there needed to be a question for international members as the Canadian dollar makes it even more expensive as well as the additional mailing fees, and we hardly have any rides north of the border ...not as much bang for the buck! Sun, Jun 13, 2010 5:48 AM
71. you're missing it in this survey.....the reason is that there is no reasonable way for newcomers to learn the sport. Unless you have found a mentor on the outside on your own. You're screwed. Those who are experienced don't want to mentor, it slows them down. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 5:29 AM
72. AERC is doing a great job Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:47 AM
73. Board is not controlling the income stream. Way too many awards for the LD - 25 miles is NOT endurance Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:42 AM
74. No great group just broke at the moment (Lg vet bill) we be joining soon Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:42 AM
75. I will be renewing in a few months, didn't have a horse for 2 years, now have another and hoping to go to

biltmore this fall Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:37 AM

76. There just aren't many rides near me. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:35 AM

77. I had a baby in March so not doing much at the moment, missing the mag though. I'll be back next year if not before. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 4:25 AM

78. My primary issue is I can't afford the ride fees and related travel expenses. not able to ride often enough to condition my new mount. Sun, Jun 13, 2010 3:54 AM

79. expand your list so we can explain the REAL reasons of our not renewing Sun, Jun 13, 2010 3:50 AM

80. the increase this year was way too much for me in a very difficult financial year...probably would have joined if cost was less or a family membership was offered... Sun, Jun 13, 2010 12:23 AM

81. Let those of us that have been unemployed make two or three month intsalment on our membership, I have been unemployed for over a year now. Sat, Jun 12, 2010 10:57 PM

82. Family membership went up to high Sat, Jun 12, 2010 10:55 PM

AERC National Championship Committee

Mid-Year 2010 Report

Prepared by Jan Stevens, Chair

This year our National Championship will be at The Sand Hills near Patrick, South Carolina with the 100 Mile ride on the 14th of October and the 55 Mile ride on the 16th of October. The committee is excited about this opportunity for the ride to be held in the SE Region.

At the April 5, 2010 AERC Teleconference meeting the AERC BOD approved the 2011 AERC National Championship site in New Prospect, Wisconsin. The proposed date is September 23-25, 2011.

Currently the committee is reviewing the AERC National Championship Application form prior to sending it out in search of rides for 2012 and beyond.

The Committee will then review the current AERC National Championship Contract for hosting the event.

Office Operations Committee Report 8/21/2010

Submitted by Kathleen A. Henkel, Chair

The office is changing a bit. Judy Hall has decided to semi-retire. She is currently on vacation and plans to return on September 1st, and will begin working only two days a week at that time. Margie Georgis, Judy's daughter, will be taking up the slack during the days Judy does not work. Judy trained Margie before she left for vacation and Margie has been in the office several days and is doing a superb job. She is already well-versed in ride result entry, member entry, online membership and ride result entry, etc. We are very lucky to have her as part of the staff.

Four different insurance companies, including Equisure, Inc., our present carrier, have been contacted for quotes with respect to ride liability. Quotes received from Equisure and Global Insurance appears in the binder. One company advised me they are unable to quote as their underwriter would not sign off on the proposal submitted.

The theme for the next convention will be "Family" – it is important to get the younger set involved and get them out on the trail and keep their interest up and some families are very successful in this regard. It is our hope that more parents will bring their junior riders to the convention in 2011. The room rate will remain low like last year so that is an incentive to get people in the door.

Judy, Troy, Suzi, Rho, and Margie continue to be valuable instruments to AERC through their everyday office skills and people skills when dealing with the membership and prospective members over the telephone or email. AERC is fortunate to have a very dedicated staff of employees. The office continues to offer the very best of customer service to the membership and that will remain our number one priority.

2010 AERC Research Committee

Mid-year August 21, 2010

Prepared by Olin Balch DVM, Chair

A. The results of the Research Summit were reported to the general membership at the 2010 National Convention and the veterinarians at their annual one-day CE meeting. In particular, analysis of the 61 AERC fatalities over last 8 years was discussed. Attached is a one-page summary that was distributed to ride veterinarians via the veterinary quarterly but not to the general membership.

B. Previous veterinary and research committee member Langdon Fielding's paper "Risk factors for the elimination of endurance horses from competition (3,493 starts)" has been accepted for publication by the flagship veterinary journal JAVMA. This work was coordinated with the Research and Veterinary Committees over the past several years.

C. A preliminary paper for EN clarifying the issue of gastric ulcers and their treatment in endurance horses has been constructed. From the standpoint of permissible and nonpermissible drugs used in endurance horses during competition, omeprazole is arguably the most controversial event-day drug currently banned by the AERC but permitted by other endurance organizations. We are coordinating with the Veterinary Committee to publish a companion paper explaining the rationale for their current decisions on the drug.

D. Last fall, the Research Committee looked carefully at the findings of the Research Summit and elected to pursue the questionnaires of 100-mile horses to determine risk factors for disease and death. In accordance, no new research projects were solicited from academic and veterinary practitioners last fall. At the annual convention, the Research Committee dissected the 16-page questionnaire and "beat it" into a more-rider palatable 13 pages.

1. Over July 4th weekend, at "Ride over the Rainbow" held in Merritt, BC. questionnaires were submitted to seven 100-milers to complete. At this time, I have received 3 completed questionnaires.

2. On July 23, at the Tevis Cup 100 mile ride, questionnaires were passed out to self-selected riders, who signed a statement that they agreed to complete and submit the questionnaire. At this time, I have received 20 of 27 (74%) completed questionnaires. A higher rate of success may be associated with 1) a person at the ride whose sole, dedicated responsibility was to answer questions and pass out questionnaires, 2) a simultaneous research project being conducted by Drs. Magdesian and Langdon titled "The Role of Inflammation in 'Failure to Complete' and Muscle Injury in 100-Mile Equine Endurance Competition" which asked for participation at the same time, 3) A free 2011 Tevis Cup entry to a randomly chosen completer of the questionnaire graciously provided by the host organization (thanks to Dr. Greg Feller, head control judge), and 4) stamped, addressed return envelopes provided with the questionnaire.

E. A motion to defer "pulse criteria changes for completion" until more data is collected and

scientifically analyzed has been proposed for the mid-year meeting. Inexplicably, the Research Committee was not even listed as a committee consulted and/or affected. The short period of notification (literally days) and lack of a request from the Ride Managers Committee makes it impossible for the Research Committee to comment as a committee.

1. In an email to the Research Committee, Dr. Hal Schott of Michigan State University did address this issue:

"Second, although data is limited (and the matter clearly controversial), a 30 minute pulse down to 60 criteria to be implemented at all rides was recommended but it is my understanding that this suggestion has been stalled. AERC members at the Convention called for more data but as a scientist I emphasized that, because death is fortunately a rare event, such data will not be forthcoming in a matter of a year or 2, if ever. However, we have known for 50 years that horse that fail to pulse down are in trouble - for a variety of reasons. Thus, removing horses that fail to pulse down within 30 minutes from competition makes good old-fashioned common sense for those of us that put the welfare of the horse as the number one priority. Members of the research summit considered this change as a "no brainer" to limit the risk for competing horses."

2. At first glance, the research proposed would require unprecedented co-operation from the ride managers and control judges as well as considerable funding. In 2009, only 43% of the Control Judge and Veterinary Treatment Reports (101 reports out of 235 rides) were actually submitted to the office; traditionally ride managers forward this information. Deferring this motion until the recommending committee can provide greater research protocol details and objectives, procedures to elicit greater cooperation from Ride Managers and Head Control Judges, and a request for specific funding would seem appropriate.

3. From a research perspective, changes in finish line completion criteria over the last 20 years (maximum pulse rate from 72 to 68 bpm, sound at a walk to sound at trot, and "be sound enough to continue" from recommended to required) have never been based on specific scientific evidence. Comparing the finish-line completion rules from 2 decades ago to today reveals profound changes in criterion and expectations not based on scientific study but rather evolving expectations of what constitutes appropriate treatment of endurance horses and better understanding of equine sports physiology.

AERC Horse Fatalities from 2002-2009

by Olin Balch, DVM, PhD and Hal Schott, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Originally presented at the 2010 AERC Convention (Reno, February 20)

The AERC has cast a very wide net to identify all fatalities at endurance rides for nearly a decade. In some cases, deaths were included that occurred weeks or even months after the ride if the originating event could be definitively traced to a ride.

Table 1. Starts, fatalities, and endurance-related fatalities for years 2002 – 2009

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Starts	20,880	20,859	22,830	22,628	21,586	22,951	22,417	21,268
All fatalities	7	11	6	8	10	9	6	4
Starts per fatality	2,983	1,896	3,805	2,829	2,159	2,550	3,736	5,317
Endurance-related Fatalities	4	9	2	5	9	5	5	3
Starts per endurance-related fatality	5,220	2,318	11,415	4,526	2,398	4,590	4,483	7,089

From 2002 to 2009, the AERC recorded 175,427 horse starts and 61 fatalities for that 8-year period. Those 61 fatalities can be separated into two groups – endurance-related deaths associated with metabolic disease induced by the exercise demands of endurance riding and non-endurance-related deaths that could occur while "backcountry camping" and trail riding. The non-endurance-related 19 fatalities included but was not limited to falls off trails, vehicle collisions, night-time corral escapes, sudden exsanguinations, and an enterolith obstruction of the colon. Admittedly, this distinction is somewhat arbitrary, but it may help guide the internal efforts of the AERC to identify and treat the most serious disease caused by the strenuous exercise of endurance riding. However, transparency and accountability require that the AERC acknowledge and investigate all fatalities at rides even if the deaths are not directly associated with the exercise demands of the sport.

Table 1 presents all fatalities and endurance-related fatalities for those years.

The endurance-related fatalities were slightly more than two-thirds of all fatalities. Of those 42 horses, 80% were colicky, 80% were euthanized, 50% underwent post-mortem examinations, 15% were confirmed gastric ruptures, 12% were associated with laminitis, 19% were associated myositis, and 5% were confirmed acute renal disease.

Many fatalities were directly related to financial constraints. Owners/riders of 8 horses (19% of the endurance-related fatalities) declined fluids, referral to surgical facilities, or surgery when recommended. It is highly likely that at least some horses would have survived if treated aggressively.

Fifty-five percent (23 horses) of the endurance-related fatalities were pulled or stopped at various distances within the ride. Forty-five percent (19 horses) finished the entire distance of their selected ride. Of those 19 horses, 16 (38% of all endurance-related fatalities) actually received completions, having met pulse criterion,

judged metabolically and musculoskeletally sound, and evaluated fit to continue.

Regional differences for starts and endurance-related fatalities were evaluated and are shown descriptively on Fig. 1.

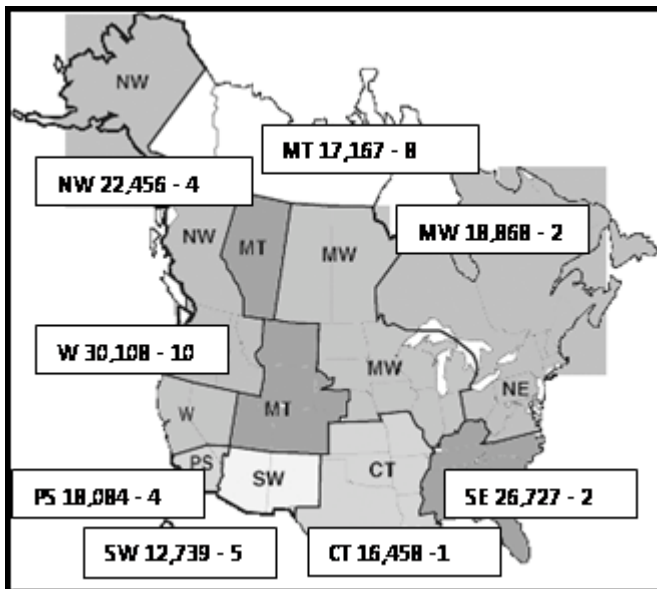
Numbers of fatalities are so small and the regions are so numerous to make statistical analysis questionable. When numbers of starts per endurance-related fatality were compared across regions, horses in the Central and SE regions appear at less risk, while those in the Mountain, NE, SW, and West regions appear at greater risk.

Fig. 1. Starts and fatalities per region from '02 – '09

Effects of the lengths of the rides on endurance-related fatalities were also evaluated; results are displayed in Table 2.

Table 2. Effect of length of ride on fatalities					
	All rides	LD's	50 milers	75 milers	100 milers
Starts	175,427	65,287	99,597	2,987	7,556
All fatalities	61	10	34	0	14
Starts per fatality	2,876	6,529	2,929		540
Endurance-related Fatalities	42	8	26	0	8
Starts per endurance-related fatality	4,177	8,161	3,831		945

Competing in limited distance rides is a relatively safe equestrian sport



. While fatalities numbers are quite small, the longer the distance the greater the relative number of fatalities. Comparing the numbers of starts per endurance-related fatality, 50-mile fatalities are more than twice those of the LDs, and 100-mile fatalities are more than eight times those of the LDs.

Rules Committee Report

August, 2010

Prepared by Susan Schomburg, Chair

The Rules Committee continued to work on a list of goals related to revising and re-writing portions of the AERC rule book. 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 and the P & G committee to replace the “Violations” section of rule 15. The draft was presented 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 was sent to the Veterinary Committee, the Ride Managers Committee and the Competitions Committee for input. The Rules committee discussed the recommendations from these committees at our meeting at the convention in Reno. The proposed rule changes were explained in an article in the most recent Endurance News . The committee will be asking the BOD for approval of these two rules at the midyear meeting.

As a result of the discussions at the meeting in February , regarding Rule 6 and the setting of completion criteria, specifically a 30 minute criteria, the BOD directed the Rules Committee and other committees to develop a new rule for 2011. The Rules Committee began work on a draft rule change. The draft was presented to the Veterinary Committee, the Research Committee and the Ride Managers Committee. The draft has been approved by the Veterinary Committee, and Research Committee and will be discussed at the mid-year meeting.

The committee has also continued to respond to questions from members and ride managers regarding rules interpretations. We also have provided technical advice to other committees regarding rule revisions .

Sponsorship Committee Report

Midyear August 2010

Prepared by Randy Eiland, Chair

The 2010 AERC Sponsorship Committee has been very busy, and productive, in the most down economy in

memory. The amount of CASH Sponsorship in accounts receivable for the AERC 2010 Year will be approximately \$25,300.00. The really nice part of sponsorship income is it is almost completely net income to AERC because the committee does not charge AERC for its expenses. New Sponsors signed this year are indicated with one * and older sponsors will have ** by their name. In addition to the below list of Cash Sponsors, we also have product sponsors who provide a product such as saddles, etc that AERC gives out as National Awards. In the case of saddles and other like products, we try to make sure more than one item is included in the sponsorship and that additional item is part of a raffle program that raises additional sponsorship income.

Per Sponsorships - AERC has commitments this year for the following Amounts:

- **Adequan \$3,000.00
- *Equine Monitors \$3,000.00
- *FarmVet \$3,000.00 (paid as membership drive sponsor)
- **Gulf Coast 4Star Trailers \$3,000.00
- **Belesemo \$1,300.00+/- (pays for Pioneer Sheets +\$500.00) Figure used is same payment as last year
- *Action Rider Tack \$ 500.00
- *American Shagya Verband \$ 500.00 (Paid \$500 in 2009 for the 2010 season)
- *Distance Depot \$ 500.00 (Paid \$500 in 2009 for the 2010 season)
- *Long Riders Gear \$500.00 (New sponsor – contract not yet signed)
- *EasyCare \$10,000.00 (based on payment of \$5,160.75 made in July & should be at least that much at end of season)

CASH ESTIMATE year end \$25,300.00 (does not include raffle income)

- *Specialized Saddles - three saddles donated - one each for 2010 & 2011 National 100 Mile Champion, one for AERC Raffle.
- **Arabian Horse Association - trade out in advertising
- **Arabian Horse World Magazine - 6 color full pages each year to use or sell as we wish
- **BLM - PR
- **4-C Spirits/Laurie Anderson - Hof
- **Healthy as a Horse - Product Donation

We also continue to include BLM as a Sponsor but without donation - this is a positive PR for AERC and we don't place a value on it.

Sponsorship is a professional position that requires creativity, sales ability, expertise with contracts and negotiations. It can be time consuming and expensive for those who work on this committee, but the results are very beneficial for AERC. The board should plan on having qualified volunteers ready to take this position over in the future when the present Committee decides it is time to move on.

2010 Technical Committee Report

8/15/10

Prepared by Mike Maul, Chair

In an effort to keep costs low for the AERC budget, less chargeable work has been done in 2010 than previous years. AERC website * New Frequently Asked Questions(FAQ) page for the AERC website Ride Results Input online/Online Sanctioning * Fixed identified bugs on excel input * Worked with office to add additional text to clarify options Ride Management program to replace the EasyCare program Program is identified as ERIC. Program runs on laptop at ride site * Worked with developer of program Eric Rueter to add features * Provided debug assistance for early and present versions * Provided Helpdesk support for program Member's Page * Modified so that after April 1 - only current members have access Online Services * Provided Helpdesk services for all online services including Online ride results, Online Sanctioning Volunteer Hours Reporting Member's

Trails and Land Management Committee

Mid-year Report 2010

Prepared by Michael Campbell, Chair

The Trails and Land Management Committee has had a busy and productive year marked with success and some failure.

The AERC convention theme was “Trails”—a mixed blessing. The theme drew members’ attention to the importance of trails in our sport. But the convention apparently did not make much money and the keynote speakers presentations were scheduled in conflict with other meetings. At the banquet, the Committee awarded Dierdre Monroe with the Trails Advocate of the year award for her work with national and local land managers developing multiuse trails near Santa Fe.

The Trails budget was cut to \$10,000 (with \$4,000 added later) but the Committee (with coordination by Monica Chapman) still managed to sponsor a Trail Master class with another possible in the fall.

The Committee is working with local endurance organizations to cosponsor Trail Master training in several areas.

AERC was represented at the Southeastern Trails Conference (SETC) by Trails Committee members Monique Vincent and Helen Koehler.

The Committee submitted 10 Trails Post articles for Endurance News.

The Committee awarded Chris Eickleberry the Trail Master of the Year Award.

The Committee completed a local MOU with the Santa Fe National Forest Service for use of trails in and around Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Committee was represented on conference calls with the Equine Land Conservation Resource on several occasions throughout the year.

The Committee was represented by Sandy Terp at a state meeting of land managers at the state and local levels. Sandy’s talk was well received and she had several land managers ask her for assistance in providing Trail Master training to their employees.

The Committee was represented at the American Horse Council annual meeting (Recreational Trails Committee) in Washington D.C. and in meetings with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Forest Service (NFS).

The Committee developed a national MOU with the NFS for approval by the AERC BoD and the NFS. The status of the agreement is that it is pending approval of both organizations. A copy of the MOU is attached.

The Committee was represented in meetings with NFS in east Texas in a successful effort to keep trails open to AERC rides in the Davy Crockett Forest

The BoD approved \$6,000 for Trail Master training at Ft. Stanton. This project was successfully completed with 6 BLM land managers, 1 FS land manager, 2 AERC members, 1 Americore trail manager, 2 Wellness coalition conservation members, 5 Eco Servants. The latter non AERC members supervised youth to work on the trails.

The BoD approved the Big South Fork Base Camp Improvement project which is in progress.

Budget Request:

The Trails and Land Management Committee requests budget approval for \$21,000 for the year 2011 to provide three Trail Master classes (at \$6,000 each) and \$2,000 for travel and awards and \$1,000 AHC membership.

Trails Grants:

The Committee has received two requests for Trails Grants. They are attached with recommendations.

2010 AERC Trail Master Class Review

Two AERC Trail Master Classes were held in 2010. With an approved budget of \$10,000, (originally coming from the AERC General Fund) coming from the Trails Reserve General Fund 4003-2 put into the Trails Reserve Trail Master Fund 4003-3, AERC graduated 11 new Trail Masters along with 2 Forest Service personal. The class was held in Washington State with Gail Williams hosting the class. PNER is the regional endurance group in that area that sponsored the tuition for the AERC members. We were striving to get a third class together in Oklahoma this year but it didn't come to fruition. There is a chance we could still get a class together before the end of the year.

The Trail Master Classes started a new format this year in how the expenses were going to be handled. A class is required to have a min. of 10 students and maximum of 16 students. AERC now requires the student to pay \$150 tuition. The Trail Master Jacket and Clinometer are available to purchase to the student. AERC will also pay for two local land managers to attend the class. This creates goodwill towards the land managers who most times allow us to use their classrooms, trail tools, and facilities for free.

A breakdown of expenses for the Washington class is as follows:

Income \$1650 tuition paid for 11 students from PNER

Expenses \$3900 tuition paid to Trail Design Specialist for 13 students

Expenses \$1429.79 paid to Trail Design Specialist for airfare, hotel, car rental, etc.

Total Cost \$3679.79

As of now there is still enough money in the fund to still schedule another class if we need to.

The second AERC Trail Master class was held in Ft. Stanton, NM. It graduated 2 AERC members and 14 Land Managers. The Ft. Stanton Class was granted \$6000 to spend from the AERC Trails Reserve General Fund 4003-2 put into the Trails Reserve Trail Master Fund 4003-3.

Income \$2720 tuition and lunch funds from students

Expenses \$5100 tuition paid to Trail Design Specialist for 17 students

Expenses \$893 paid to Trail Design Specialist for airfare, auto, hotel, meals.

Expenses \$1680 lunch & clinometers expenses

Total \$4068

Beverly Ryan

Pacific NW Endurance Riders

19805 NE 163rd Ave.

Battle Ground,

WA 98604

360-907-7001

bvryan9@aol.com

Request \$100.00

The Bells Mountain Trail out of Rock Creek Horse Camp

The DNR will match any funds the various volunteer groups can raise. The Washington Trail Riders Association and the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Mt. St. Helens Chapter have formed a cooperative trail maintenance committee to coordinate with land managers and other user groups to repair and maintain their local trails.

(I think we should award them \$100 towards their project as it is a very small amount....reaping much more in good PR for AERC and paving the way for future rides in the area. HK)

KATE RIORDAN

Development Director

Western States Trail Foundation

"The Tevis"
Post Office Box 118
Georgetown, California 95634
530.333.2002
530.333.2032 fax
530.210.4667 cell
Kate@TevisCup.org
Request \$20,000

MOU with the Auburn Recreation District to make improvements to a staging area.

(I got a copy of the western states trail magazine...the foundation has \$460,000 in their endowment fund....and I assume there are other monies as well. My recommendation of 5K still sounds reasonable to me. HK)

SERVICEWIDE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE
and
The AMERICAN ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), and the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC).

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to develop and expand a framework of cooperation upon which mutually beneficial programs, projects, training, and other recreational activities may be planned and accomplished on National Forest System (NFS) lands by the FS and the AERC.

B. AUTHORITY

The FS's authority to enter into this MOU is the Organic Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C. § 551. The AERC's authority to enter into this MOU is in accordance with the AERC's Bylaws of Incorporation.

C. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND BENEFITS

The FS is a federal agency dedicated to the management of NFS lands for a variety of uses and activities, including outdoor recreation. The FS is interested in providing a variety of diverse recreational opportunities that are environmentally sensitive and educational and that support community objectives to contribute to local and regional economies and improve the local quality of life.

The AERC Mission Statement: To promote the sport of endurance riding and to encourage and enforce the safe use of horses in demonstrating their endurance abilities in a natural setting through the development, use and preservation of trails. Further, the AERC's mission is to ensure that all sanctioned events are conducted in a safe, fair and consistent manner, and to actively promote and conduct educational efforts and research projects that will foster a high level of safety and enjoyment for all horses and riders.

D. THE FS WILL:

1. Subject to availability of funds and personnel and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, land management plans, and FS policies, work with the AERC and its affiliates nationally, regionally, and locally to identify appropriate cooperative opportunities (such as trail design, construction, maintenance and trail preservation projects; recreational use studies; and educational programs) and pursue these projects with the recreation community in general and the equestrian endurance community in particular.
2. Encourage local FS officials to work with the AERC office staff, representatives, affiliates, and members in the development of mutually beneficial projects (trails, in particular) and educational activities.
3. Where appropriate and feasible, make available to the public the AERC's interpretive and educational information regarding outdoor ethics and equestrian and recreational opportunities on NFS lands.
4. Consistent with applicable laws, regulations, land management plans, and FS policies, consider the goals and concerns of the AERC in connection with access to NFS lands for equestrian and equestrian-related activities.
5. Include the AERC on public involvement lists for proposed projects and land management plan revisions and amendments that would impact access or opportunities for equestrian and equestrian-related activities on NFS lands.
6. Provide information to the AERC on how to conduct hazard analyses and safety training for projects conducted under the MOU.

E. The AERC WILL:

1. Work with the FS at the national, regional, and local levels to identify appropriate cooperative opportunities (such as trail design, construction, maintenance and trail preservation projects; recreational use studies, and educational programs) and pursue these projects with the recreation community in general and the equestrian endurance community in particular.
2. Encourage local AERC affiliate organizations to work with local FS staff in the development of mutually beneficial projects and educational activities (in particular the AERC Trail Master program).
3. Make available to the FS program, educational, and interpretive materials developed by the AERC.
4. Develop and maintain a communication network for equestrian users through the Trails and Land Management Committee of the AERC.
5. Notify the FS of available technical assistance in connection with equestrian projects, educational activities, opportunities, and management on NFS lands.
6. As appropriate, provide outdoor ethics education (LNT), Trail Master training, and instruction to AERC members and the public in connection with AERC programs and activities on NFS lands.
7. Before conducting approved projects or rides on NFS lands, complete a hazard and preservation analysis that addresses anticipated hazards associated with these activities and measures that should be taken to reduce the hazards.
8. Conduct safety training prior to engaging in approved projects on NFS lands.
9. Inform the FS of threats posed by invasive species to recreational activities on NFS lands and educate AERC's members and the public regarding these threats; encourage adoption of best practices and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and FS policies in connection with preventing the spread of invasive species on NFS lands; and work with the FS at the local level to develop mutually beneficial projects to prevent the spread of invasive species.

F. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BY THE FS AND AERC THAT:

1. This MOU shall take effect when it is fully executed and shall expire five years from its effective date.
2. Modifications to this MOU shall be made in writing and shall be signed and dated by the FS and AERC.
3. Either the FS or the AERC any withdraw from this MOU after 60 days written notice.
4. The principal contacts for this MOU are:

FOREST SERVICE	COOPERATOR CONTACT
Jonathan Stephens	Kathleen Henkel
Trails Program Manager	Executive Director
USDA Forest Service	American Endurance Ride Conference
RHR (4CEN Yates)	P.O. Box 6027
1400 Independence Avenue, SW 1125	Auburn, CA 95604
Washington, DC 20250-1125	
Phone: 202-205-1701	Phone: 866-271-2372; 530-823-2260
FAX: 202-205-1145	FAX: 530-823-7805
E-Mail: jstephens02@fs.fed.us	E-Mail: aerc@fothill.net

The FS and the AERC certify that the individuals listed as principal contacts are authorized to act in their respective areas of responsibility on matters related to this MOU. The local contacts for the FS are District Rangers, who may enter into subsequent agreements as needed to implement this MOU.

5. The FS and the AERC shall handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing the objectives enumerated in this MOU.
6. In implementing this MOU, the FS will be operating under applicable laws, regulations, and policies, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.
7. Nothing in this MOU authorizes the FS to obligate or transfer funds. Specific projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property between the FS and AERC require execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon the availability of appropriate funds. These activities must be independently authorized by statute. This MOU does not provide that authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of these agreements must comply with all applicable law.
8. Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the FS's statutory and regulatory authority.
9. Nothing in this MOU restricts the FS or the AERC from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
10. This MOU does not create any substantive or procedural rights that are enforceable at law or equity against the United States or its officers, agents, or employees.
11. Any information furnished to the FS under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §

552).

12. No member of or delegate to Congress may benefit from this MOU either directly or indirectly.

13. By signature below, the cooperator certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the cooperator are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

DATE

DATE

Veterinary Committee Report

August 2010 Midyear Meeting

Prepared by Dr. J. Mero DVM,

I. Accomplishments in 2010

- A. Have written 8 monthly Vet Forum articles for Endurance News
- B. Published 2 quarterly AERC Veterinary Newsletters
- C. Continued the AERC Veterinary Certification Program. A total of 234 veterinarians have been certified to date.
- D. Have drug tested 9 rides in the 2010 - all tested negative for prohibited substances.
- E. Have conducted two conference calls.
- F. Started new web list serve for AERC Veterinarians.
- G. Have written 1 fatality reports, discussed in depth a second fatality that occurred well after a ride. It was decided the fatality was unrelated to the ride given the extended time after the ride that the fatality occurred and given the necropsy findings of gastrointestinal parasites. No report was submitted on this fatality to the BOD but it was examined and discussed at length by the Veterinary Committee.
- H. Have worked with the Rules Committee on the suggested rewrite of rules 6.2.1 through 6.2.1.2.
- I. Have discussed at the request of Rules Committee procedures related to drug testing specific horses at rides.
- J. Have discussed at the request of the BOD potential changes to the current Drug Testing Program, including a request by the Chair of Office Operations to reduce the number of rides drug tested in 2010. It was voted on by the Vet Committee unanimously to not support a reduction in the number of rides drug tested in 2010.
- K. Have started the revision of the Head Control Judge Certification Exam.
- L. Provided a resource to riders, veterinarians and board members for questions and concerns regarding AERC veterinary matters.
- M. Reviewed articles for Endurance News that related to horse health.
- N. Updated the appendices to Rule 13, the AERC Drug Rule.
- O. Worked with USEF on the AERC drug testing program.

II. Future Goals

- A. Continue to work with involved committees to implement a more wide spread voluntary use of a 30 minute completion criterion.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Finish design of “Treatment Vet Cheat Sheet” and distribute to entire AERC Veterinary corps.

Motion Proposals

John Parke amended the motion regarding the conference call schedule to move the meetings to the 2nd Monday of each month and that is the motion that passed.

The Western States Trail Foundation motion was deferred until the September meeting.

The Updates to AERC drug rule presented by the veterinary committee was deferred due to language.

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name : CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE

Proposing Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD): Midyear 2010

Classification of Motion Request (new, change, add, delete, by-law, rule, policy): CONFERENCE CALL POLICY CHANGE

Proposed Motion (use exact wording): BEGINNING WITH THE 2010 AERC CALENDAR YEAR, THE MONTHLY AERC BOD CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE WILL AVOID MEETING DATES THAT ARE ON THE SAME DAY AND TIME AS THE NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL GAMES, ANY NBA OR NFL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL GAMES (SUPER BOWL), TO INCLUDE ANY OTHER CONFLICT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF BOD

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

WHEN WE HAVE CONFERENCE CALLS THAT CONFLICT WITH NCAA, NBA, OR NFL CHAMPIONSHIPS THERE IS AN OCCASIONAL LACK OF CONCENTRATION AND OCCASIONAL ABSENCES OR THE DIRECTOR WILL CALL IN BUT THEN REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM THE MEETING AND/OR PUT THEIR PHONE ON MUTE AND NOT PAY AS MUCH ATTENTION TO THE MEETING AS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONFLICT. THE BENEFIT OF MOVING THE CONFERENCE CALL DATE TO A DAY LATER OR EARLIER, OR ANY OTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE ALLOWS FOR A BETTER FUNCTIONING MEETING.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)
NONE

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

MORE FOCUS ON ISSUES WITH LESS DISTRACTION

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) NONE

Committees consulted and/or affected NONE

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) SIMPLY SCHEDULE THE MEETING ON A DIFFERENT DATE

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets) NONE

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) NONE REQUESTED

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name AERC National Championship Support Request

Proposing Committee AERC National Championship Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) August 21, 2010

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) The AERC National Championship Committee is requesting that the AERC BOD consider increasing the amount provided to the Ride Manager of the AERC National Championship the sum of \$5,000 to cover veterinary charges which will help offset the additional costs of managing the AERC National Championship for the 2010 ride and subsequent AERC National Championships. Due to the vigilance of the board and the office during the 2010 year, AERC should be positive at the end of the year and with that in mind, it is the hope of the National Championship Committee that \$2,500 can be awarded management for the 2010 season as well as a show of support for the ride.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) The AERC National Championship Committee feels that AERC should show continued support of its National Championship with additional funding. In years previous the AERC BOD has approved up to \$7,500 in funding to help offset the costs associated with managing the AERC National Championship. Due to budgetary constraints the amount was reduced to \$2,500 for 2010. We feel that it is AERC's obligation to help increase the financial support to the Ride Manager of the Championship Rides.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) Increase in amount budgeted for the 2010 AERC National Championship from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and subsequent years for use in paying veterinarians working the championship rides.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization It would show positive support of the AERC National Championship

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) None

Committees consulted and/or affected AERC AERC Finance and AERC Office Operations

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Additional support for the 2010 and subsequent AERC National Championship

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets) None

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

Office Operations approves of this expenditure for 2010 and future years as funds are available.

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Revision of Rule 6 – Post ride completion criteria

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee, Welfare of the Horse Committee, Research Committee, Rules Committee

Date of Motion August, 2010

Classification of Motion Request Rule change

Proposed Motion Revise rule 6.2 to read:

6.2 Each AERC sanctioned ride must have a post-finish line control check, which the equine must pass for a successful completion. The post-finish-line control check is where the final criteria for completion must be met; an equine has not completed the ride until it has passed this check. The post-finish-line control check also serves as a safety check to monitor for late-developing problems (so that they can be treated if necessary) as well as extending veterinary control over the last leg of the ride. Because an equine at the finish line is not, in actuality, going on—and not going into the wilderness far from veterinary aid—the standards for completion need not be as strict as those on the trail, but they must meet the minimum standards below. See the Control Judge's Handbook for more information.

6.2.1 The minimum criteria for the post-finish-line control check are as follows. The head control judge of any ride may adopt more stringent criteria, including pulse criteria and the maximum time to meet pulse criteria, as part of the setting of the judging parameters under Rule 2.1.6.1. Notice of any more stringent criteria for the post-finish line control check must be provided to competitors by written notice posted in a conspicuous location at the ride camp at least 12 hours prior to the start of the ride. In addition, any more stringent criteria for the post-finish line control check shall also be presented by the ride manager or head control judge at any pre-ride briefing or meeting. Notwithstanding the general requirement in Rule 6.2.1.1 below for an equine to meet all completion criteria within one hour of crossing the finish line, it is recommended that the head control judge set a maximum time to meet pulse criteria of 30 minutes from the finish.

6.2.1.1 Each equine must pass the post-ride control check within one hour of crossing the finish line. If the head control judge has set a maximum time to meet the final pulse criterion shorter than one hour from finish, each equine is required to pass the final pulse criterion alone within that shorter time period but shall have the full hour from finish to pass other completion criteria. After meeting the final pulse criterion, riders may present their equines for the final examination for other completion criteria at a time of their choosing during the one-hour period. An equine that does not meet the established pulse and completion criteria shall be disqualified. Once a competing equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

6.2.1.2 The equine must reach a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions. The maximum pulse criterion is 68 beats per minute; however, the control judge(s) may allow a higher pulse criterion in documented extreme weather conditions.

Background, analysis and benefit AERC has defined its standard of 'fit to continue' throughout the ride as a horse that has met judging parameters including a reasonable heart rate recovery within 30 minutes. The finish line criterion is currently inconsistent with that definition as rule 6.2.1.1 sets as the standard a 60 minute time period for horses to meet heart rate criterion. The AERC Guidelines for Judging AERC Endurance Competitions (pg. 10) states "Pulse recovery with rest has become the main objective measure of 'fitness to continue.'" The AERC Rider's Handbook (chapter 11 part 2) states: "Any equine that takes more than 15 minutes to recover may well be headed for trouble, and by AERC rules any equine that takes over 30 minutes to recover is disqualified as "not fit to continue." The 'fit to continue' standard is in place throughout the

ride in order to improve the safety and welfare of the horses during the ride. This same standard should be in place at the finish to improve the safety and welfare of the horses that have finished the ride as well as to extend control over the last portion of the ride. By not following our own standards of 'fit to continue' throughout the entire ride, including the finish line control check, we are diminishing established, proven safeguards for our horses.

Budget effect/impact Cost of reprinting the 2011 rule book

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Benefit to riders: Riders will be riding with the mindset and strategy of knowing their horse will be expected to meet the same pulse criterion time requirement at the finish that they have at all other control check points and may adjust their riding accordingly as they have throughout the entire ride. This will serve to decrease unreasonable and unfair competition at the end of the ride; riders that have chosen to ride their horse beyond its capability, to the point the horse does not recover within standards defined as 'fit to continue', will not be recognized and rewarded as completing the ride. The rewards to those riders who have ridden their horse within its capability will not be diminished by those who have not. Benefit to the organization: AERC will continue to be regarded as "the preeminent authority and leader in the development and promoting the sport and past time of endurance riding" by improving methods of protecting the welfare of our horses. Our status as a "preeminent authority" is jeopardized when our rules are not consistent with the best universally accepted equine sports medicine.

Impact on AERC Office Reprinting of the 2011 rule book

Committees consulted and/or affected Veterinary, Welfare of the Horse, Ride Managers, Research, Rules, Education

Implementation plan To be implemented with the 2011 AERC ride season.

Supporting materials AERC Veterinary Committees (1985 – 2009); Guidelines for Judging AERC Endurance Competitions; AERC Rider Handbook; C. Robert "Use of the recovery check in the long-distance endurance ride" Equine Exercise Physiology; Altken MM, "Factors influencing deceleration of heart and respiratory rates after exercise in the horse." Equine Vet Journal; Geor RJ "Heat storage in horses during submaximal exercise before and after humid heat acclimation" Journal of Applied Physiology; M. Sleeper "The 30-minute proposal: a vet's view". Endurance News, January 2010;

Supporting approvals Veterinary Committee, Welfare of the Horse Committee, Research Committee, Rules Committee

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name

DEFER "PULSE CRITERIA CHANGES FOR COMPLETION" IN RULE 6 AND ITS SUB-CATEGORIES

Proposing Committee

RIDE MANAGERS

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD)

8-21-2010

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

NEW POLICY TO DEFER PROPOSED REVISIONS OF RULE 6 AND ITS SUB CATEGORIES

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

DEFER CHANGES TO RULE 6 AND ITS SUB CATEGORIES RELATED TO PULSE CRITERIA FOR COMPLETION AT THE FINISH UNTIL MORE FACTS AND "VOLUTARY USE AT THE RIDES EVIDENCE" SUPPORT THE CHANGE.

Background, analysis and benefit

The recent 30 Minute to meet Pulse Criteria at the finish has been, and continues to be, a divisive issue in AERC. Since the Annual Convention and BOD Meeting support for the idea has become more divided among ride vets, and there is no unanimous or even majority support for the change. Our riding membership has shown no majority support for the idea. There has been no substantive studies or scientific data that supports changing our current finish criteria as an improvement to the methods currently used to judge equines for completion. The AERC Ride Managers Committee would like to have more information available that supports the implementation of a change from "60 minutes" to the proposed "30 Minutes to reach Pulse Criteria". The RMC believes there are more pressing issues that could protect our members, human and equine, such as safe finish lines that are well out of camp, 2 hour safety check after the end of the ride, education of riders, etc.

The RMC believes there needs to be data collected from those rides currently using the 30 Minutes to reach Pulse Criteria. The data should include scientific analysis and comparison to determine if the 30 Minutes to reach Pulse Criteria is superior to the current method used to judge for completion. Items to be considered should be, but not limited to, the difference in percentage of equines found to be in trouble at 30 minutes vs 60 minutes; ease of implementation; logistics; acceptance by riders; can it be employed at all rides so there are no loopholes; as well as other issues.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

NONE

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

THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DIVISIVE IN AERC, A REVISION OF OUR RULE 6 AND ITS SUB CATEGORIES TO INCLUDE "IT IS RECOMMENDED (OR SUGGESTED) THAT 30 MINUTES BE USED" MAY EXPOSE RIDE JUDGES, AND/OR VETS, AND/OR RIDE MANAGEMENT TO POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTIONS IF A RIDE DIDN'T FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OR SUGGESTION. RMC WANTS TO FULLY EXAMINE AND UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE REVISING THIS RULE.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

NONE

Committees consulted and/or affected

RMC, SANCTIONING, RULES, VET, COMPETITION

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

IMMEDIATELY UPON APPROVAL BY BOD

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

NONE PROVIDED TO SUPPORT THE ORIGINAL PROPOSED CHANGE

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Equine Abuse Rule

Proposing Committee Rules Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) August 21, 2010

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) A motion to add the following rule to the AERC rulebook

4. While the welfare of an equine participating in an endurance ride is the primary responsibility of the rider, it is also the responsibility of everyone participating in an endurance ride whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, control judge or spectator to protect the welfare of equines at the ride.

4.1 No one participating in an endurance ride shall abuse an equine present at a ride.

4.1.2 Abuse of an equine includes but is not limited to:

- a. Beating, striking, excessively whipping, or otherwise inflicting cruelty upon an equine.
 - b. Recklessly overriding an equine or riding in a manner likely to cause harm or injury.
 - c. Failing to provide adequate care or otherwise neglecting an equine.
 - d. Conduct towards an equine which is prejudicial to the sport of endurance riding and puts the sport in a negative light.
-

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) The P & G Committee recommended separating rule 15 into 2 rules-one dealing with violations and the other dealing with penalties.. At the request of the BOD, 2 new rules were drafted to deal with equine abuse and ride participant conduct. These rules have been drafted at the request of the board and the P & G committee to replace the "Violations" section of rule 15. The draft was presented 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 was sent to the Veterinary Committee, the Ride Managers Committee and the Competitions Committee for input. The

Rules committee discussed the recommendations from these committees at our meeting at the convention in Reno. The proposed rules have also been presented to the membership via the Endurance News.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) The new rules will be included in the new printing of the rule book which is scheduled for the 2011 ride year.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Sets the standard for the protection of equines within our sport and makes it clear to outside forces that equine welfare is a priority to AERC and its members.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) Will require renumbering of the rule book.

Committees consulted and/or affected P & G

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Begin implementation with the start of the 2011 ride season.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) Veterinary Committee, Horse Welfare Committee, Research Committee, Rules committee

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

<p>This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.</p>
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Motion Name Language change to Rule 14.2.5

Proposing Committee P & G

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) August 21, 2010

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) Change the words “ The Chairman of the Committee... ” in rule 14.2.5 to “The AERC office...”

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

Rule 14.2.5 currently reads – “Respondent’s Opposition. Upon receipt of a properly initiated protest, the AERC office shall immediately transmit the complaint form and all supporting evidence to the Protest and Grievance Committee. **The Chairman of the Committee** shall serve the respondent by first class mail with written notice of the filing of the protest and with a copy of the complaint form and all supporting evidence. . . .

Bill Taylor, Chairmen of the P & G would like the typing in red (above) changed to **The AERC office** shall serve the

He advised this makes more sense since the office does transmit the complaint form and all supporting evidence to the Committee.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) none

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Reflects actual practice

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) Office currently transmits the complaint form and supporting evidence to the committee

Committees consulted and/or affected P & G, Rules

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Make change in 2011 version of the Rulebook, Online version of the rule book can be changed immediately

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) P & G, Executive Director

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Participant Code of Conduct

Proposing Committee Rules Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) August 21, 2010

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) A motion to add the following rule to the AERC rulebook

5. It is the duty of everyone participating in an endurance ride whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, ride volunteer, control judge or spectator to act in a manner which does not disrupt the ride or reflect poorly on the sport of endurance riding.

5.1 No one participating in an endurance ride shall engage in abusive behavior towards any other participant or member of the public at an endurance ride.

5.1.2 Abusive behavior towards people includes but is not limited to:

- a. Verbal abuse.
- b. Physical assault.
- c. Causing or threatening injury.
- d. Unreasonably endangering the safety or life of others or their horses.
- e. Damaging or trespassing on property.
- f. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- g. Conduct prejudicial to the endurance ride or to the sport of endurance riding.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) The P & G Committee recommended separating rule 15 into 2 rules-one dealing with violations and the other dealing with penalties.. At the request of the BOD, 2 new rules were drafted to deal with equine abuse and ride participant conduct. These rules have been drafted at the request of the board and the P & G committee to replace the "Violations" section of rule 15. The draft was presented 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 was sent to the Ride Managers Committee and the Competitions Committee for input. The Rules committee discussed the recommendations from these committees at our meeting at the convention in Reno. The proposed rules have also been presented to the membership via the Endurance News.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) The new rule will be included in the new printing of the rule book which is scheduled for the 2011 ride year.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization Replaces the laundry list of violations listed in the old rule 15 and sets a standard of conduct for all participants in an endurance ride

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) Will require renumbering of the rule book.

Committees consulted and/or affected Rules, Competitions, Ride managers,

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Begin implementation with the start of the 2011 ride season.

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) Rules committee, Competitions Committee, Ride Managers Committee

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Trail Master Donations

Proposing Board Member Roger Taylor

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD) 2010 Mid-year meeting

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) Designate sub-category of trails donations specifically for trail master classes under line 4003 – Trails Reserve. If the board discontinues its practice of supporting trail master classes in the future, any funds remaining in this donation category will automatically revert to line 4003-1 trails member donations fund.

Background, analysis and benefit (describe the problem this motion is solving) I currently have 3 separate AERC members that have, or are going to, donate funds in support of Trail Master courses. Each of the donors have specified that if the classes are not longer supported by AERC then they would like their funds to support other AERC trails efforts. By creating a specific category of donation and defining what is to be done with those funds if there are no longer trail master classes, I can assure the donors that their funds will be used as requested.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) Trails donations remain in the trails reserve account and do not impact general finances.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization The members donating funds for a specific purposes can be assured that the funds will be used for that purpose.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget) none

Committees consulted and/or affected none

Implementation Office manages funds as directed

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees) I have discussed this approach and have concurrence with Kathleen and the specific donors.

AERC Board of Directors MOTION PROPOSAL

This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.

Motion Name

Rock Creek Horse Camp

Proposing Committee

Trails and Land Management

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD)

August 21, 2010

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 that the AERC BoD approve an grant of 250 to the Washington Trail Riders Association for improvement of the Rock Creek Horse Camp.

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

This organization, in cooperation with the land manager of the State Park wishes to re-route trail around a wet area and construct berms to prohibit ATV use of the horse and pedestrian trail. The trail is used by local endurance riders for training only. The small amount requested is a good will gesture by AERC to the local ride organization and to the state BCHA who will match whatever money the local group raises.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

None. Funds will come from the Trails Grants money reserved for such purposes.

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

AERC riders use these state park trails for training. No sanctioned rides have been held at this location. The benefit to AERC is in good public relations.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

None.

Committees consulted and/or affected

Trails and Land Management Committee

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

Work to begin when the funds are approved.

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

N/A

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

Trails and Land Management Committee

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

This Motion Proposal form is to be used in the development, presentation and approval process of submitting motions to the Board.

Motion Name

Western States Trail Foundation Auburn Overlook Staging Area

Proposing Committee

Trails and Land Management Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD)

August 21, 2010

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

New

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

The Western States Trail Foundation requests \$20,000 to improve the Auburn Overlook staging area for additional public access for equestrians, hikers and runners. The improvements will provide an additional 1.9 acres of parking access to the trailhead by improving the entrance, adding gravel to the parking area, adding tie rails, adding water troughs and hose bibs, and improving weed control. The Trails and Land Management Committee recommends that the AERC BoD approve \$5,000 for this project.

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

This project will increase year round access to the trailhead for users and add parking for participants and spectators in the Tevis endurance ride, especially for equestrian rigs.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

None. Funds to be provided from the Trails Grants which are allotted for such purposes.

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

This project will enhance participation in the Tevis Cup Ride.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

None.

Committees consulted and/or affected

Trails and Land Management Committee

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

2010 as funds are approved.

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

Formal proposal available to BoD upon request.

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

Trails and Land Management Committee.

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion Name Updates to AERC drug rule

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee

Date of Motion Midyear board meeting, August 2010

Classification of Motion Request Rule change

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

- 1) Add to Appendix E (withdrawal times) : pergolide (Permax, Teva) detection time of 7 days (USEF)
 - 2) Change ice/icewater in Appendix C (allowed substances) to: Ice and ice water administered topically. Can include the use of ice boots and compression wraps as well as devices that circulate ice water. The use of substances or devices that cool below 0 degrees Celsius are not allowed.
 - 3) Remove magnesium sulphate from Appendix A (prohibited substances) and add to Appendix C (allowed substances) to read: Magnesium sulphate except magnesium administered for the purpose of and at the levels of providing a calming/tranquilizing effect.
 - 4) Change yucca in Appendix A (prohibited substances) to read: Yucca other than as a feed additive for the purpose of and at the levels of ammonia reduction and intestinal health.
 - 5) Add arnica to Appendix A (prohibited substances)
-

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 for comment in the August, 2010 issues 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

Rules Committee, Legal committee, Welfare of the Horse Committee

Implementation plan

Implement updated rule 13 at the beginning of the 2011 ride season on December 1, 2010

Supporting materials

Current rule 13

Supporting approvals

Veterinary Committee