AERC Board of Directors Conference Call
June 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Campbell at 9:02 p.m. EDT

In attendance were Michael Campbell, Lisa Schneider, Susan Garlinghouse, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Monica Chapman, Sue Keith, Connie Caudill, Carla Richardson, Christoph Schork, Jan Stevens, Janet Tipton, Nick Kohut, Olin Balch, Paul Latiolais, Steph Teeter, John Parke, Andrew Gerhard, Jody Wyatt, Roger Taylor, Barbara Reinke, Duane Barnett, Susan Kasemeyer, Tom Bache, Mike Maul, Terry Woolley-Howe and Sarah Holloway (youth representative).

Mary Howell requested excusal due to work conflict, but would attempt to join the call as soon as available.

Connie Caudill made a motion to accept the agenda. Christoph Schork seconded. Motion passed.

Connie made a motion to excuse Mary Howell, Susan Garlinghouse seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Report - Kathleen Henkel

Membership as of 6/10/15	4843
Membership as of 6/10/16	4786
Sanction fees as of 6/10/15	$13,585.00
Sanction fees as of 6/10/16	$14,720.00
Rider fees as of 6/10/15	$37,999.00
Rider fees as of 6/10/16	$36,562.00
New members as of 6/10/15	570
New members as of 6/10/16	476

Business before the Board

Connie made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2016 conference call. Carla Richardson seconded. Motion passed.

Susan Garlinghouse made a motion to accept the minutes submitted by the International Committee. Sue Kasemeyer seconded seconded. Motion passed.

Jan Stevens, as USEF Endurance representative, reported on the current status of the North America Junior & Young Riders Championship. The endurance portion of this event was cancelled as the requirement for a minimum of two countries presenting a team was not met. Of two countries initially expressing interest, Mexico did not send a memo of intent, and Canada withdrew. There was approximately $15,000 in donations raised to support the US team, discussions are underway to determine how these funds should be handled. There are no current plans for an alternate young rider's event, but discussions are continuing.

Ms. Stevens also reported that FEI will soon be announcing an alternate venue for the World Endurance Championships after removing Dubai as the previous venue. FEI has sent a letter to US ride managers, requiring that they provide housing and transportation for FEI delegates officiating at their events. It was discussed that such added expense could be an onerous burden for smaller rides. The International Committee is requesting that AERC submit a letter to FEI (via USEF) requesting that FEI underwrite these expenses.

It was also reported that the FEI Inspector General attended the co-sanctioned AERC/FEI event at Ft. Howe, and was favorably impressed. There was no trouble in overlapping both AERC and FEI events.
Michael Campbell suggested writing a letter from AERC to FEI via USEF in support of this request. There was general agreement from the board. No motion or vote.

Junior Committee Motion - Introduced by Committee chair Steph Teeter. There was some brief discussion as to the impetus and benefits of a name change, and expanded purpose and scope of the existing committee. Coming from committee, no second is required. Motion passed.

Mary Howell joined the call at 9:17 p.m. EDT.

Michele Petty appeal - John Parke opened the discussion and reminded the Board that only evidentiary documents provided to the Protest & Grievance Committee may be considered in deciding the appeal. Connie Caudill asked whether the Board may only confirm or deny the penalty previously ruled by the P&G Committee, or if another penalty may be assessed. John Parke stated that an alternate penalty would be unusual, but allowable. There was some ensuing discussion on this point, as well as in regards to the rights of ride management to control their event and safety issues associated with loose dogs in camp.

Lisa Schneider made a motion to deny the appeal. Susan Garlinghouse seconded. Two directors abstained. Motion passed.

National Championship Committee Motion - Connie Caudill discussed the ideas being considered within committee to improve the quality and attendance of the National Championship event. The difficulties in logistics and financial feasibility for ride managers was discussed. Ms. Caudill discussed the submitted proposal to hold the event on alternate years, as well as increasing the budget per event from $5000 to $10,000 to fund further improvements and veterinary/control judge staff. There was further comments on these points. Connie Caudill made a motion to amend the motion to delete the phrase, "The committee is also asking the Board to approve that the National Championship ride be held only in even years so that it will be held every other year. (The Best of the Best ride is being held on the odd year so that if we held the NC ride on those years we would be pulling from the same group of riders)." The proposed amendment will also increase current budget from existing $5000 to $10,000, starting with the 2016 championship ride. Susan Garlinghouse seconded. Twenty-three votes Yes, two votes No, one director abstained. The motion passed.

Technical Committee Motion - Lisa Schneider opened the discussion with a review of the current outdated Tomcat system used for the AERC database, including reviewing the 'single point of failure' in regards to Russ Humphrey's ability to maintain the system. The feasibility and advisability of opening this project to outside contractor bids was discussed. It was generally agreed that, due to Mike Maul and Russ Humphrey's experience with the existing system, as well as the minimal expenses incurred for their largely volunteer time, it would be prudent not to commit to the expense of an outside IT contractor. Coming from committee, no second is required. Motion passed.

There being no other business before the Board, Susan Garlinghouse made a motion to adjourn. Terry Woolley-Howe seconded. President Michael Campbell adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m. EDT.

*** AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Rename 'Junior' committee to 'Junior & Young Rider' committee

Proposing Committee Junior committee

Date of Motion June 6 – conference call board meeting

Classification of Motion Request - Policy change

Proposed Motion (use exact wording) Change the name of the 'Junior Committee' to 'Junior & Young Rider Committee' in all pertinent publications (Endurance News, website, policy manuals)

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

Both Junior riders (under 16 and sponsored) and Young Rider (ages 16 – 21 per other endurance organizations such as USEF and FEI) are important AERC age groups, and by emphasizing (naming) Young Riders as part this committee we can expand our scope, increase enthusiasm for the sport, get more input and participation in AERC governance as it affects our youth, and acknowledge the importance of the Young Riders.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate) None

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

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)   time needed to change website, Endurance News listing.

Committees consulted and/or affected Junior Committee

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) Effective now

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

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

- National Championship Committee Motion:
AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name   National Championship funding and ride scheduling
Proposing Committee   - NC Committee

Date of Motion 5/30/2016

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

Proposed Motion (use exact wording)

The National Championship Committee is requesting additional funding for the NC Ride. Currently AERC budgets $5000. We would like to raise this to $10,000.

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

A NC ride manager has to have several Vets on the grounds for 4 days (we require that the NC ride offers the 50 and the 100 on separate days with a day in between). This may help the ride obtain more ride managers willing to take on the event making it the prestigious event that we would like to have for our NC Ride.

The committee is also asking the Bod to approve that the NC Ride be held only in even years so that it will be every other year. (The Best of the Best ride is being held on the odd year so if we held the NC on those years we would be pulling from the same group of riders.)

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate)

By offering the ride only in the even years, the overall budget would remain the same.

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

Hopefully the ride will be better and draw more ride managers will want to put a bid in for a quality ride.

Impact on AERC Office (Work load, budget)

None

Committees consulted and/or affected

National Championship Committee

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial)

Starting with the 2016 Antelope Island NC Ride

$$$$ Motion from the Technical Committee
AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name   Upgrade for the Office TomCat software system

Proposing Committee   Technical Committee

Date of Motion (Date to be presented to BOD)   06/13/2016

Classification of Motion Request: New

Proposed Motion   Upgrade of the Office software system to support all AERC activities

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

Tomcat - the membership management system, was written by Tom Rowell over the course of many months during 2000 - 2001. The language that Tomcat is written in can no longer be purchased on a retail basis (It can be purchased as used, however this market is shrinking). For a variety of reasons TC was written using an approach that severely impacts the ability of the AERC to keep abreast of and able to tap into the evolutions that the world wide web has made available to us. Of these, probably the most important is the notion of the "cloud", and the increasing number of "cloud-based" hosts available that charge based on capacity used. As it stands, we are limited to hosting by one person shops who own their own servers and are willing to be flexible with their customers. This is an extremely small number of vendors. There have been no substantive changes to TC since it was turned over to the AERC, and all of the public facing pages have been developed using completely different approaches. This has created an increasingly complex infrastructure for the AERC systems, which in turn, dramatically increases the difficulty of administering and maintaining the existing system.

System description: The launching of the "update the web site" effort last year, created the opening to begin a system-wide transformation from old-school, widely disparate approaches and complex data interactions, to a single, more durable, versatile, understandable and maintainable approach. The end result of this effort will be a single, monolithic code base, implemented using the most stable of technologies, and with a clear, consistent approach to the various sub-systems. The hallmarks of this rewrite effort are: •a fully web-based system •one architectural approach, using time-proven stable technologies, that circumscribes everything •the entire system will be housed at one (external to the AERC) location. Development constraints: This is not a new product development, it is a much-needed upgrade of an existing system. So, beyond the requirements that the system work as planned upon completion, additional constraints are in place that complicate matters. These are:

•   During development, the existing system must continue to work unimpeded.

•   During the transition period from old to replacement, both systems should be able to work in parallel, so that information correctness may be more easily established, and also so that work can continue using the old system if issues are found in the replacement.

Architecture: Generally, the intent behind the design of the new system is to create a fully integrated system that

will provide the IT infrastructure for the foreseeable future for the AERC. More specifically, this means that the entire AERC system will be put together presuming it will be a hosted web site. The AERC would expect to continue using a web hosting service, and the new approach will allow the AERC to change providers much more freely than it currently can.

Benefits: Replaces 15 year old software based on obsolete technology by a modern, supportable, application that can be supported by a wider group of software developers than the single source(Russ Humphrey) we have at present.

The new site will be hosted in the "Cloud" and with a commercial service such as Amazon or Microsoft rather than the office server and a site server that while commercial does not have the resources of Amazon/Microsoft.

Budget effect/impact (Attach spreadsheet if appropriate): $36,000 over an 18 month period from 06/01/2016 to the end of the 2017 season.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization: Allows more control over the software by the office organization. Higher reliability of the office software and the member website. Ability to avoid single source of development resources. Much lower cost than commercial replacement due to in-house developer.

Impact on AERC Office: Office will be involved is specifying changes to the system and debugging the software. The majority of the debugging will be done by Mike Maul at no cost to the organization.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Technical Committee

Implementation plan: First third in the remainder of the 2016 season and the remaining two thirds over the 2017 season

Supporting materials: None

Supporting approvals: Technical Committee., Office staff