

**Board Meeting**  
**January 20, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 18:30

Next meeting March 24, 2011 at 18:30

**Attendance:** Melanie Weir, Ben Volk, Steve Anderson, Sue Smyth, Don Strong, Lani Newcomb, Rufus Schneider, George Hall, Ted Ruprecht, Mary Tiscornia, Greg Fellers and Steve Shaw.

Motion to approve November 18, 2011 meeting minutes by Mary Tiscornia and seconded by Steve Andersen. Motion passed, unanimous.

**President Report:** Melanie Weir

- Newsletter printing: Don and Annie are no longer printing our newsletter for us. We obtained three quotes from printers and selected one that is in Oregon close to Annette Parsons. The costs are very close to what Don and Annie charged. Annette said she looked at a sample copy of our next newsletter yesterday and it looks great.
- Board Nominating committee: Don Betts is heading up the board nominating committee at my request.
- Membership Duties: Tracey Bakewell in Cool, CA is handling memberships.
- Horse of Distinction: Chris Amaral will coordinate Horse of Distinction activities. So far no new nominations this year.
- Ride & Tie Rules Article: I have asked Carol Ruprecht to write a newsletter article explaining the rules of ride & tie in detail. We are targeting the May issue. It will be sent to the board for review prior to publication.
- Ad in Endurance News Magazine: Steve Shaw offered to fund an ad in Endurance News Magazine. There will be four in all, black and white. The first ad will go in the next issue. Ben got this one done. Laura Christofk agreed to design the next three (postscript: Laura decided not to do this).
- Equine Affaire: Equine Affaire is coming together. Still getting the volunteers scheduled. It will run February 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.
- AERC Convention: I am looking for someone to take the lead on organizing this event. The Association will share a booth with Dennis Miller/ Featherhorse Designs. Dr. Fellers had the idea of presenting to the Ride Managers Committee to encourage ride managers to add a ride & tie to their endurance ride. I approached Connie Caudill about contacting the Ride Managers Committee, then later spoke to Randy Eiland (Committee Chair). He does not feel that this is a good approach because not many Ride Managers attend. He suggested posting to the AERC Ride Manger Yahoo Group and has given me access to that. So, the next step will be to organize some materials to help educate ride managers, and get the materials posted.

- I also want to communicate with ride and tie race directors about being “at the ready” to help any AERC RM who wants to put on an event. This has led to some discussion about how to get endurance riders to try a ride & tie. The issue may be less the ride managers and more than we can’t get enough people to participate. I think we need to just stay visible.

**Vice President: Ben Volk**

- The registration has been submitted for attending the Pacific Northwest Endurance Ride (PNER) Convention in Portland on January 21-22, 2011. The R&T booth will be worked by several folks including: Steph Irving, Annette Parsons, Jim Clover, Autumn and Heidi Larson, Steve Anderson, Becky and Melissa Fiedler and Ben Volk. We will have people at the booth from 10-6 on Friday and 10-6 on Saturday. We are going to have a 3’ x 6’ R&T banner with pictures of the posters from the last 40 years. We will also have copies of the NW Runner R&T article from March 2010, copies of R&T Newsletters, some championship buckles, R&T Membership forms and the R&T schedule for 2011. Playing on a computer we’ll have movies of the 1995 and 1989 Championship. We’ll also have some easels with vintage R&T posters and some t-shirts from previous Championships.
- Placed an ad for \$75 in the PNER Convention Newsletter. A copy of the ad is attached.
- Arranged for the placement of a ½ page R&T ad in the AERC News for 4 months. The cost will be \$270 per month. The ad (see attached) can be updated monthly if we would like to do that. Laura Christofk will be taking over advertising duties.
- Sent in the registration for the AERC National Conference in Reno, NV March 4-5, 2011. I am still waiting for the “Additional Insured” Certificate. Lani Newcomb has been working with her to get the certificate. The request for the certificate was submitted on November 29, 2010 but they have been busy getting other insurance requests taken care of for the upcoming Equine Affaire.

And one comment regarding the November 18, 2010 Minutes:

Regarding the elimination of R&T prize money it seems like some of our key sponsors would take exception to the vote. Awarding cash prizes is as much a part of R&T history as the buckle. Did anyone consult with major donors who support these prizes? Was there discussion whether the prize money attracted more participants? Were the “old-timers” consulted about getting rid of the prize money? I know most of us do not do these races for the money, but it just seems like this decision was made in a vacuum without too much thought on the potential impacts. Are we alienating long-time donors that would like to see their children and grand-children win these prizes? Are we offending major donors that just want to have the “Best Championship Ever” including prize money? Are we telling previous supporters that “We’re just going to keep your donations in the bank for a “rainy day, but keep on giving as much as usual because we still

want your money.” I know it’s probably too late for further discussion, but it just seems like the ramifications of this vote will result in lower major donations and less attendance at the “World Championship.” Without the prize money, what makes it any different than a normal local R&T? To me the prize money was another unique aspect of R&T.

Discussion from meeting:

Further discussion regarding cash prizes and history. Steve Shaw explained that cash money was re-implemented to encourage participation but no real increase as a result of cash prizes was noted.

The second discussion related to how money from major donors should be distributed. Is it appropriate to contact our major donors to ascertain their feelings about prize money? It was decided that no call to major donors was needed for the board decision about prize money. Donors tend to designate where they would like their donations to go and if a donor wants to designate funds toward prize money they can do that.

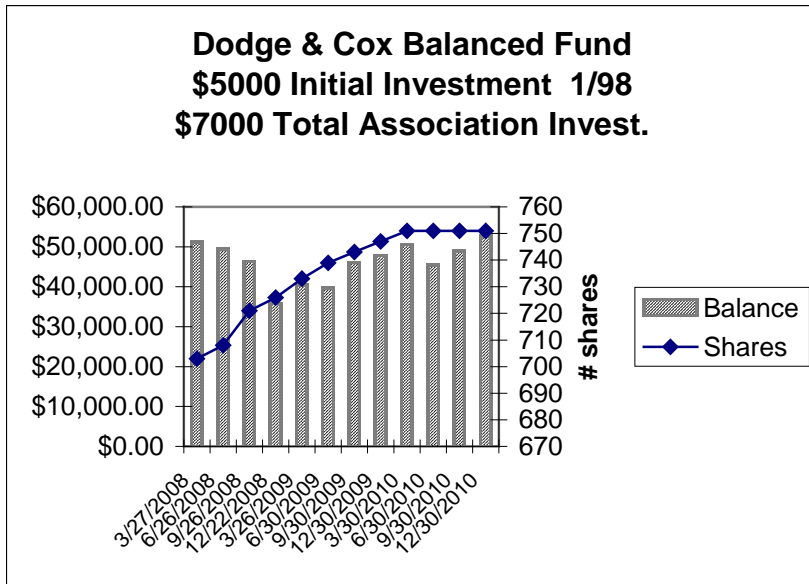
**Treasurer: Steve Anderson**

Balances:

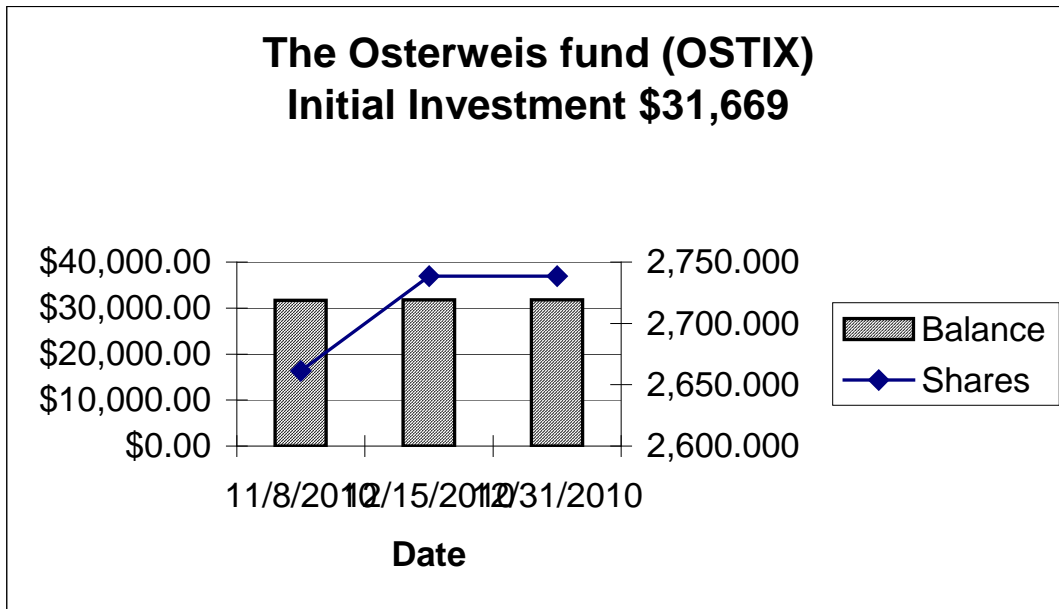
Wells Fargo Checking:	\$16,337.51
Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund:	\$52,725.00
The Osterweis Fund:	\$31,820.00
PayPal	\$ 266.95

Investments:

Dodge Cox



Osterweis



The above dates are 11/8/2010, 12/15/2010 and 12/31/2010

**Statistics Report: Steve Anderson**

Race Participation (follow-up item from last meeting)

	2010		2009		2008		2007	
	Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
Participants	140	144	127	103	109	70	122	75
Entries	480		415		321		413	
Horses	89	68	82	46	63	35	78	31
M/M teams	14	9	20	2	23	0	27	5
W/M teams	35	28	34	24	23	21	33	21
W/W teams	40	54	39	36	31	18	28	23

This table shows that we had a nice increase since 2008. It also shows where most of the growth is occurring, namely the short course and in woman-woman teams. Some of these short courses are “fun” ride & ties but it appears short courses may be good recruitment tools. However, we might research how many members start out with short course and switch over to long course to ascertain this.

Ted reminded us that traditionally the championship short course was done the day after the championship course, and was an event for the crew to participate in. This year the short course will likely be 20 miles so will still fall under the long course category.

**Secretary's Report (Sponsorships): Sue Smyth**

Cliff bar and Zombie Runner to supply goodie bags and product for Championship.

**Sanctioning Director: Lani Newcomb, DVM**

Lani sent out information on basic provisions of the ride & tie insurance, and addressed the specific questions being raised by the Cool race directors.

**Championship Awards – Rufus Schneider**

No report.

**Future Race Sites – George Hall**

- The possibility of holding it at the Swanton site (Barbara and Lud McCrary) is nil.
- I e-mailed John Euer a couple of times regarding having the championship in Euer Valley, but he didn't get back to me. I will try again, by phone too.
- I have not had a chance to go to the Jack Brooks Horse camp area in Woodside, California to see what it is like and if the road into there is really as narrow and difficult for two way traffic as I have heard.
- I have not contacted the people who put on the Bandit Springs ride in Oregon.
- Cooley Ranch could still be considered after talking to a few who have done the ride. There are some trees small enough in diameter to tie to, and all the hills are not as straight up and down as the ones I saw when I cleared ribbons on one of the loops last year. Reported that Cooley Ranch is not a good location.
- Big Bear is a possibility. Kat Swigart is talking to some people there, and would be willing to be race director. But this is still early in the process.

**Achievement and Special Awards – Ted Ruprecht**

Please provide Ted ideas for annual awards.

**Horse Hall of Fame – Mary Tiscornia**

No report.

**Head Veterinarian – Greg Fellers**

Drafted ride & tie veterinary guidelines article. See new business.

**Old Business:**

Jim Steere Memorial Award:

Sue spoke with Don Betts per Melanie's request. He felt it was ok to add Jim Steere's name, but reminded us that it is important to maintain the Ride and Tie association name because it helps us to meet non-profit status requirements (due to our identifying ourselves as an organization promoting education).

Suggested that the scholarship will now be called the Ride and Tie Association Jim Steere Memorial Veterinary Scholarship.

**New Business:**

A. Endowment fund- Discussion on future funding. Suggested that account investment should be increased to \$150,000-200,000 to ensure financial stability of organization. Steve Shaw he would match 30% of funds raised to a maximum of \$20,000, and requested a chairperson to lead fund raising. Some discussion ensued about our abilities/knowledge on fundraising. No motion made at this time. Slate for further discussion.

B. Discussion to consider oversight standards for mentors. Melanie proposed developing standards to provide some guidance to mentors on the type and quantity of activities they should be participating in as mentors for the sport. Some expressed concern that this would be too strict, and may lead to adding new rules. On the other hand, coordinating mentor activities may help mentors improve what they do by identifying and sharing best practices. Rufus volunteered to take the lead on mentor activities. No motions or further discussion.

C. Further discussion on Championship buckles and options. So far we have not obtained concrete quotes/options to present to the board. We are contacting Gist and MTM to obtain information about some options to reduce belt buckle costs. The options include ordering in larger quantities, changing the materials used (e.g. from solid bronze to bronze plated), Mary Tiscornia felt it important to discuss with donors and agreed to try to talk to Warren because the belt buckles are particularly important to him. Further discussion and research needed to determine alternatives and costs.

D. AERC Discussion:  
Discussion to formalize link from Ride and Tie to AERC. The question posed was whether the Association should develop a more formal relationship with AERC? For example, should Ride and Tie and AERC share a board member or develop a Memo of Understanding that somehow connects the two organizations.

How can AERC help ride and tie maintain longevity? What are the negative aspects?

Concerns expressed by some included AERC being too large in comparison the Ride and Tie Association, and would the Association get dwarfed by this, and lose important flexibility? Perhaps it is better to stay small, nimble and autonomous.

There was agreement that working with AERC is appropriate. For example, getting more connected with ride managers as identified in the President's

report may be a good way to bring more participants to ride & tie.

Some expressed concern that this issue has been raised in prior years with the board determining that no action to formalize the relationship with AERC was necessary or desired.

A motion was made by Steve S. to have the President set up a committee to be develop a liaison with AERC or other groups. Don Strong seconded the motion.

Melanie stated concern that she was not clear on what the objectives of the committee were to be, and therefore was not comfortable with pursuing this.

Ted proposed amending the motion to achieve more clarity around who would be on the committee.

Ultimately this motion was withdrawn. No further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30.