

**Ride and Tie Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
March 12, 2009-Teleconference, called to order 1804 hours**

Present

Board Members: Don Betts, Pat Browning, Lani Newcomb DVM, Ted Ruprecht, Rufus Schneider, Jim Steere DVM, Mary Tiscornia and Melanie Wier. Don Strong at 1810.

Advisor: Greg Fellers DVM

Administration: Lisa Preston

Guest: Annie Betts

Not Present: Cindy Brown, , Melissa Queen, Steve Anderson, Steve Shaw (Steve S. sent email comments ahead of time)

Motion by Jim Steere to approve previous minutes, Lani seconded. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Reports:

President - Don Betts

-Equine Affair expo at Pomona –4 drawing winners received free memberships.

LA marathon expo is coming; Kirsten Seyferth hosting booth; Greg Fellers offered to assist. To prep for 2010 Championship, considering Portland marathon expo in October 09, and the Seattle marathon expo in November (Seattle costs \$925).

Re Equine Affair-Pomona, Melanie reported she documented people addressed to see if expo translates to later, actual participation. Of the 58 talked to, 2 later attended clinic, 2 others are coming to a local race, 9 offered to volunteer; 10 more expressed interest but have not taken further action.

Also sponsorship potential from TechMix.

-Also gave free membership to mentors, along with a R&T DVD, either Idaho R&T or '73 Angels Camp or Ft Bragg.

Ted requested extra DVD to show people who are interested in participating. Don B. will send Ted the DVD.

-Has checked w/ Chris Amaral on Championship and notes good progress.

-Would like someone to take email info dissemination duty; Melanie will do this.

Discussion ensued regarding decreased participation in R&T. Rufus noted former participants often say they no longer participate because R&T is too hard—wants people to know it is not as hard as it used to be. Courses are shorter.

Mary pointed out that when R&T started, there were far few other options for endurance, backcountry races.

Jim suggested far fewer people have/can afford simple backyard horses anymore.

Lani said last weekend in July, east coast will host a night time R&T, with short races, seeking sport exposure, asking participants to bring a new partner

Treasurer – Steve Anderson – no report from Steve as he was not present.

Per Don Betts, the checking account has \$8,186 Dodge Cox fund had \$55,533/685 shares on 1/1/08 and now has \$35,833/726 shares;

Ted has tax info which he'll send to Steve A.

Ted notes CD \$10k due July, 40k due April 2nd CD.

Mary will ask John Osterweis for a suggestion on handling the CDs.

Sanctioning Director - Lani Newcomb

24 events on schedule for 2009. 11 have paperwork done; 6 are doing R&T insurance, others going thru AERC.

Championship Awards – Rufus Schneider

Has buckle info. Able to use same design as previous Humboldt but it does not change cost, so will select different buckle. Asked about the number of buckles needed, thought 80 has previously been too many. Don Betts thought extra buckles were given out to vets, RD and trail volunteers, suggested ordering 80.

Don B. confirmed Chris Amaral will be handling participant T shirt but not shirts for sale. Sponsors logos will be on the participant shirt. Rufus would like to offer award in addition to cash prize to winners; other board members supported this. Rufus asked if there were other, less obvious categories for awards.

Jim suggested trophy awards usually expensive or not lasting, suggested garment or paper certificate instead.

Annie Betts suggested framed photos of finishes as award. Jim Steere suggested no larger than 5x7.

Pat pointed out garments advertise the sport.

Rufus asked if people preferred to wait for personalized garment; board agreed. Don B. suggested one sample jacket at the race.

Future Race Sites - Rufus spoke for Nita

Melissa Ribley's race in the Tahoe National Forrest near Nevada City, CA.

A gentleman in Victor, ID has offered his ranch (near Hamilton, MT).

Per Don S., possible future site near Yosemite, in the Sierra National Forest, east of Bass Lake with a camp and several large trail loops, may require weed-free feed.

Achievement and Special Awards – Ted Ruprecht

Requested to give his report under new business.

Sponsor & Merchandise - Don Strong

Working w/ Platinum, Supracor and Specialized Saddles. Expects Platinum will continue; not sure about Supracor. No cash has been offered yet by a sponsor.

Ted pointed out Cindy was going to contact Silverlite re sponsorship and asked if anyone knew of results on this. No one did.

Statistics and Archives - Steve Anderson – no report as Steve not present.

Web Site – Melanie Weir

Working on putting old newsletters on the site. 2009 race schedule is up. She'd added clinics and practices page. Equine Affair info is posted on the web. Melanie will change Don Strong's posted number to his cell: 916.402.522 and remove Dawn Hartsock's number.

Promotion – Cindy Brown - no report as Cindy not present.

Horse Hall of Fame - Mary Tiscornia

Mary said Melanie has done most of the work. Horse eligibility was disseminated previously to the Board. Solicited discussion. Motion will be under new business to approve report.

Head Veterinarian – Greg Fellers

Greg has invited Mike Witt, from Redwood Valley, and Jennifer Strelkauskas. Jim Steere will be the fourth vet.

Greg's email address is listed incorrectly in the handbook; correct address is gkfellers@gmail.com.

Youth Representative – Melissa Queen- no report as Melissa not present.

Old Business:

1. Status of 2007 saddle raffle - Don Strong

Saddle Maker (Annie George) is accommodating paying customers first (though Association has paid \$1,000 for the saddle). Don S. gave the maker a March 1st deadline; maker said saddle would be ready by 3/25 but wanted the saddle winner to pay shipping; Don S. wants the Association to pay shipping. If maker does not meet 3/25/09 deadline, Don S. suggested denouncing and/or small claims. Association owes the 2007 raffle winner (Carol Stewart) a saddle if maker does not come through. Don B. suggested emergency Board meeting if saddle is not ready by March 26th. Rufus offered to be an intermediary.

Greg noted the effectiveness of small claims service.

2. Establish a committee to determine how to reduced dependence on donations – Ted Ruprecht

Greatest expense is the Championship which costs about 20k and earns about 4k. All have received Steve S.'s comments suggesting decrease expenditures and/or increase revenues. Don B. suggested current Treasurer should be on the committee; Ted requested Don S. and Melanie as additions to this new committee. Don B. would also like to be on the committee. Don S. requested Rufus also participate because she brings a unique perspective. Ted said he did not need to be on the committee.

Motion by Ted to establish the committee consisting of Steve A (in charge) Melanie, Don S., Don B., and Rufus. Don S. seconded. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

New Business

1. Authorize budget amount for year end awards - Ted Ruprecht

Was authorized previously to spend \$200. Checked into previous year end awards. \$372 spent, not counting engraving. Would like his funds raised to about \$400. Motion by Don S. to appropriate full \$400, second by Lani Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Ted commented the Association's web address not in handbook or newsletters, yet it should be in all publications. Annie will take care of this.

Don B. noted we need Life or Founder for Nominating Committee.

Melanie left at 1930.

2. Purchase Barbara McCrary's time clock \$500 - Don Betts

It is like the clock used at Santa Ysabel. They cost about \$2,500 new, per Don S. Motion by Ted to purchase; second by Don S. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

3. Establish Suggested Guidelines for Elevator Rides - Ted Ruprecht

Ride and Tie allows teams to elevate to a next highest distance, that is, a team can compete in a longer distance than the one initially entered. For guidelines, the BOD suggests the following;

- A. Teams may elevate only one distance level
- B. Participants do not get credit for the shorter distance if they do not complete the longer distance

- C. Teams must pay the entry fees charged for the longer distance
- D. They should start at the same time and follow the same course as the longer distance

Don S. suggested vet review is necessary when allowing the elevation. The consensus of the board was that the check was not needed because it would be redundant and the vet check might not be at the point of elevation.

Don B. suggested Race Director and vet on duty make the judgment at each race. Rufus noted definition of elevator rides should accompany the guidelines and suggested an article in the next newsletter on elevators. Ted motioned these suggested guidelines go into RD packet along with an explanation of elevators. Don S made the motion Lani second. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

4. Authorize the disposal of financial records over 5 years old – Ted Ruprecht.
Several members suggested records should be kept for 7 years. Ted noted he has many boxes of receipts and invoices, some dating from 1989. Don S. suggested scanning and cataloguing as they are received. Rufus motioned disposing of records over 7 years old. Lani seconded. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

5. Increase fees paid to Lisa Preston – Don Betts.

Lisa left at 1949 hours.

Motion by Don S. to increase monthly pay from \$400 to \$410 and grant a Lifetime membership. Second by Pat. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 1955 hours

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2009
Minutes submitted by Lisa Preston