

THE HORN



2013 & 2014



World Championship Podium for USA

Congratulations to USA's Lisa Geller & her malinois Stetson Sunset Trailblazer from the Rougue Ringsport Club in Minnesota. Lisa and Stetson placed 3rd in the WORLD at the October 2013 World Championships held at the scenic location of Bilbao Spain. To date, as of December 2014, Lisa is the only American to qualify at MR3 in Europe having done so with multiple dogs, multiple times at multiple WC's!!!

Supporting 2013 Team USMRA roles played most admirably by Dave Kroyer & Enoch MR3, Maya Conrad and Zorro MR1 and Team Captain, Tate Hayes.

Well done!
Huzzah

INTERNATIONAL

World Cup 2014

With more members, more clubs, and more trials, the scores and numbers of USA Mondioring Titled dogs has become unbelievable. After many hours of discussion and debate, our new International Criteria to "raise the bar" was approved by BOD in 2013.

Just in time it appeared because after 15 years, USMRA had FINALLY assembled a full team! Unfortunate circumstances caused two of the team members to not be able to attend, so WC Team USA 2014 ended up with 3 MR3's – WC first timers Jake Scneider & Cato von Fulk BBM(m) were joined by WC vets Melissa Mims & E'LYkos vom Donnertal, BBM(m), and Lisa Geller & Stetson Sunset Trailblazer, BBM(m) with Tiffany Geisen & Avanti de la Grande Ille, BBM(m) playing at MR 2, Michon Mills & India du Loups du Soleil BBM(f) at MR1, and Tate Hayes as second time Team Captain. Thank you so much to these people, their dogs and their clubs who have made great efforts and sacrifices to represent the USA and United States Mondioring Association. You are all so appreciated!!!

If you are interested in representing USMRA at the World Championship/Grand Prix or FMBB (Belgian Shepherd Worlds) in 2015 or the further future, check out <http://www.usmondioring.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/WorldTeamSelection.pdf>

Additionally, you can get a "head start" by pushing your boundaries w. different fields and decoys and other new stuff AND take a trip or few w. your dog to experience and teach while limited w. the training tools you may be allowed to use, and the stresses of International travel and flying with your dog. Start now and you will be on your path!

WC 2015 looks to be another amazing year with the possibility of a full team - who will they be and how much fun will they have????

Stay tuned to www.usmondioring.org to find out!

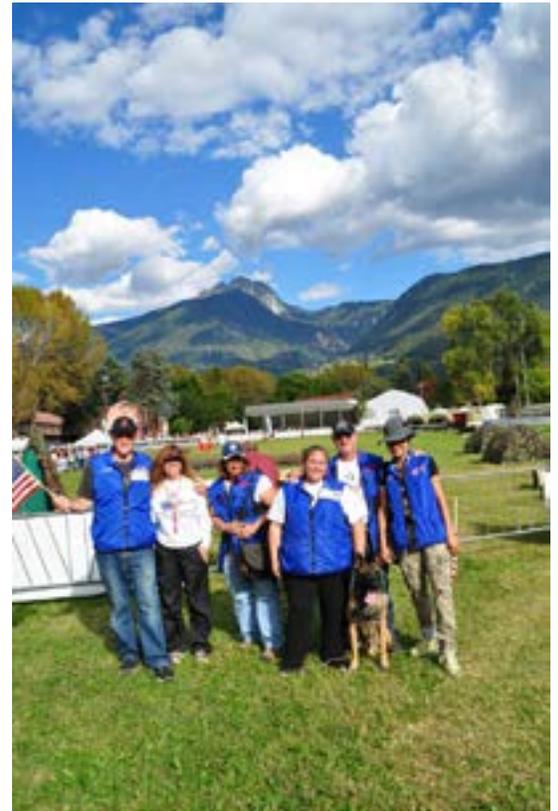
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World Championships 2013 & 2014



Clockwise from top left - Podium 2013, 2014 Team Relaxes, 2014 Parade, Michon Mills & India, Team 2013, Parade 2014



"I wanted to take this opportunity to thank United States Mondioring Association for giving India du Loups du Soleil and I the opportunity to compete in the Mondioring World Cup this year in Merano, Italy. It was such a great honor walking on that field knowing that we were representing the United States. Watching our entire US Team compete in this very challenging sport was truly amazing. This was our first year training and competing in Mondioring and I was so proud to be on the US Team. 2014 has been a very blessed year for India and I. Not only have we been very successful in Mondioring, we have also been extremely successful in competitive Dock Diving. Right before leaving for Italy, India broke the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge Diving Dog World Record, jumping an amazing 33'10". Juggling two different sports has kept us quite busy this year. We have traveled to so many places that I have never been and met so many wonderful people on this journey. I thank all of my family and friends, old and new, for supporting us during this incredible adventure we have been on. The most important thing though, beyond having great scores at events, winning Splash Dog's National Championships and breaking World Records, is that I have the absolute best relationship and bond with India. I couldn't ask for a better team member to share all this with. India is a little dog with a HUGE heart and I am thankful every day that I have been blessed having her in my life."

- Michon Mills, 2014 USMRA World Championship Team Member



2013 & 2014 USMRA NATIONALS - Geller does it again AND again!!!

2013

Judge: Patric Corpataux (Switz.) Decoys: Sean Miller, Dennis Bilik, Josh McCleary
Rush City, MN Hosted by Rogue Ringsport

USA Mondioring 3 National Champion - Lisa Geller & Stetson Sunset TrailblazerBBM(m)

2nd Jake Scneider & Cato von Fulk BBM(m)

3rd Maureen Haggerty & Andolf von Hess Dobe(m)

MR2

1st Deb Hawkins & Vixen du Loups du Soleil BBM(f)

2nd Jennifer Marshall & Valor's Big Bad Barracuda ABD(MO

3rd Tiffany Geisen & Avanti de la Grande Ille

MR1

Maya Conrad & Moonquests Zorro del Sol y Noche BBM(m)

Emma Svensson & Era v t Merlebasch BBM(f)

Donna Matey & Eager du Loups du Soleil BBM(m)



2014

Judge: Valeer Linclau, Belgium Decoys: Oscar Mora, Josiah Neuman, & Kevin Bain
Colorado Springs, CO Hosted by El Paso County Mondioring Club

USA Mondioring 3 National Champion - Lisa Geller & Stetson Sunset Trailblazer BBM(m)

2nd Jake Scneider & Cato von Fulk BBM(m)

3rd Melissa Mims & E'Lykos von Donnertal BBM(m)

MR2

1st Maya Conrad & Moonquests Zorro del Sol y Noche BBM(m)

2nd Geoff Byram & Blackwatch Crickett BBM(f)

3rd Melissa Stagnaro & Kludde mix(m)

MR1

1st Humberto Bobadilla & DaVinci BBM(m)

2nd Michon Mills & India du Loups du Soleil BBM(f)

3rd Dewon Fields and American TJ BBM(m)



OTIS "OJ" KNIGHTEN USMRA's 2013 Sportsmen AWARD Recipient



"This year he has rehailed the decoy certification. This has been a lot of work. He also traveled to CO to help w. their trial and their first decoy certification. He has also spent thousand on bringing in some of the finest European decoys and judges and allowed many to come to these seminars and learn."

"OJ is able to remain calm and fair under pressure. Some of the decisions made by the Board of Directors are unpopular, but he stands behind his decisions and opinions and does not waiver. If he sees unfairness, he is willing to step up and bring that unfairness to light. Not everyone has the gumption to stand up for what is fair, but he does not hesitate."

"OJ has gone above and beyond to help not only the Santa Clarita Mondio Club, but to help the sport in general. He spends countless hours of his time helping people with their dogs, hosting clinics, trials and giving insight to decoys. He is always willing to lend a hand when someone gets "stuck" with their dog."

"OJ has been a great ambassador for USMRA, functioning as VP, collecting funds for a USMRA member to travel and represent the US at the World Championships, providing multiple opportunities for members to work their dogs in different locations with several different highly qualified decoys by putting on multiple trials and seminars. He has also spent countless hours reorganizing the decoy committee, implementing a new decoy certification process, and traveling as needed to see this large task through to success. He has had a lot of resistance with this and has always kept a cool and level head to further our sport. We feel he is an excellent ambassador for USMRA"
Congratulations OJ and THANK YOU!!

Thank you to OJ and Jake, and ALL Sporting USA Mondioringers!!!

Along w. OJ, several other worthy 2013 candidates were nominated:

Melissa Stagnaro

"Melissa is a studious student of the sport and as such has become a great, teacher, trainer and mentor to our entire club. She comes from an obedience/ non-protection sport background but has thrown herself into the sport of Mondio Ring and really rallied our entire club to not only compete but host our own trial. You can often see Melissa at training with a notepad coaching other club members on the rules of the sport and handling tips. She also will get in the suit to be a second decoy for defense of handler exercises. She is quick to help out anyone who needs it and will run to her car and pull out any piece of equipment that we may be lacking. Her laugh is infectious and her dedication is impressive, we are proud to nominate Melissa Stagnaro for the Sportsmanship Award."

Todd Dunlap

"I feel Todd should receive this award for several reasons. First and foremost on how he has directly affected me and my desire to become more involved in Mondio."

"Todd has made it affordable for me and many others to continue on this journey."

"I love this sport and the people involved, but it would not be the same without Todd's influence."

"Because of him and his influence primarily, I joined this organization. I would not have done so without his dedication to the sport and influence guiding me. I have gone from a dabbler to a full blown addict."

Scott Dunmore

"Most long-term members of Mondioring will know Scott Dunmore well, and he has certainly played an essential role for many handlers, as both a training and trial decoy. Scott recently earned his level 2 Mondioring decoy certification, while also holding certifications as a French Ring and PSA decoy ... a triple crown of qualifications. His commitment to trial work, however, gives only a small insight into the impact Scott has on the success of not only his Mondioring club members, but handlers and dogs at many different venues, from sport to companion dogs to active duty K9. Scott is a founding member of the Wicked Smart Working Dog Club in MA and "the" person that allows Mondioring to grow in New England. Scott is always there to help, committing time, and energy and finances so that others can succeed. He is there for us as a trainer, a decoy, a resource and a friend without ever asking for anything in return. Scott, therefore, represents the quintessence of sportsmanship! Most importantly though, Scott makes people feel comfortable, gives them confidence to believe in themselves and their dogs. He's a genuinely "nice guy" with a phenomenal patience and talent for dog training that he passes on to others. Never short of ideas, Scott has been essential in imprinting club dogs from puppyhood, all the way up to successful completion of MR level 1 through 3. He has made many new handlers feel welcome in Mondioring, no matter the breed, size or shape of dog they handle, which is absolutely essential for the growth of our sport. He encourages and sets an example in all that Mondioring and good sportsmanship represents."

Rich Damico

"Rich Damico has been a member in good standing volunteering his time to USMRA and actively competing achieving the highest level in the spirit of Mondioring."



"In 2012 Our club had some changes and it was Jake who stepped up and accepted the position of leadership and accountability for our members — handling and decoy work. He assured that training happened even in the worst of conditions. In the evenings, late, when temperatures are dropping well below zero, there he was standing in a mist of steam from his own body heat. The barn we train in is dirt floors and basically filthy — frequently we will find Jake cover by a tarp lying in the dirt, hiding from dogs in search. Alone working the dogs one after another, while the handlers, look on from inside the heated room."

"Jake has spent countless hours for National's 2013, coordinating sponsors, trophies, field I Jake is a Great sport and a tremendous asset to USMRA. A good sport is someone who can look at adversity and smile and try their very best to make it positive. That pretty much describes the way Jake is, on the field competing, in the pouring rain/snow/heat decoying, in everyday life with everyone. A great sport!"



First Trials and Making Mondio Money by Sharon Novak

The road to a successful trial starts with a first step. Your club could pick a date that you **MUST** have because of member and or venue availability and then find a judge who is available that date. OR, you could pick a judge and work with their time possibilities. Find out what the judge's requirements are, and consider if and how that can work for your group. If the judge is somewhat local, find out if they are willing to drive and how much money do they think it would cost to get there? How much time will they have? Are they interested in doing a handler seminar in the days before or after?

If they need to fly, what are the travel times? Find out what the best airports for them to fly out of are. You can go to a travel site like expedia.com to get some ideas on travel cost. Will they be bringing a dog? How will that work with travel and accommodations? How will they get around once they get there? Club member chauffeur? Or can you lend them a car? Assign someone be the "point" person for the judge and decoys. They should be willing to offer to assist picking them up at the airport, driving to hotel or host's home, offering to guide them to the field and group meals, and if needed, help with shopping and finding things like rain gear, forgotten personal items and so on. Find out where your guests are willing to stay. Some decoys might be willing to share a hotel room with another decoy or stay at someone's house. Some judges might be willing or even prefer to have a private room in a club members house or guest house over a lonely hotel. Some may want a quiet alone hotel room so they can have a few moments to recover from the whirl of trial weekends.

Be clear, concise and considerate when asking questions and making arrangements for travel, food, and accommodations so that you have a realistic budget to work with and can make your working guests as comfortable and welcomed as possible. If applicable, talk about the reimbursement of spouse's ticket if the hosting club is buying both tickets or how and when gas and hotels will be paid for. Better to discuss arrangements **BEFORE** committing, especially if an expensive ticket is involved. The best way to find out what someone wants or needs is to ask them!

Bringing a judge and two or more decoys for a trial can explode the costs of trial production, especially with expensive plane tickets and long stays because of travel time.

At the same time, judges and decoys are essentially "donating" their vacation time to work your trial. Some may actually have expenses out of their own pockets for long travel to airport, lodging and care taking of their own animals, lost wages and so on. Giving them a clean comfy bed and some good meals is the minimum you can offer them, with a small gift and/or offer the possibility of local touring to show your appreciation.

Enough about how much money you **CAN** spend on a trial.

As far as bringing **IN** funds beyond entry fees, many clubs start with a raffle. Items can be requested from members, their families, friends and businesses both personally and on-line via social networks, discussion boards and so on. Never underestimate the interest or money you can get for other people's free stuff. By offering individual raffles for each item with their own containers, you can get ticket buyers excited to buy **MORE** tickets for the specific item they want!

You can double your money on a cool t-shirt if you find an attractive logo or graphics, keep to one or two print colors, know your size numbers and promote and pre sell.

Food and other souvenir items, you should also figure to double the cost price to make the efforts worthwhile.

Trophy sponsorship can also earn at least double the actual cost of the trophy vs what the sponsor pays. Often a higher price can be commanded if you put your **PRIME** sponsor's name or business name on the trophy or the back of your t-shirt, or in the program if you have one. Occasionally, USMRA offers "grants." Contact your BOD/committee members to find out if anything is available. "General" sponsorships can be sculpted to sponsors wishes. A Link to their business online on your club's web/FB page, a banner you make to hang on your field fence, then give to them after trial, an ad in your "trial program. Endless other possibilities can be fun, profitable sources of income for your next trial.

What profitable, fun and crazy Mondioringy things can you and your club do to help finance your next trial???

Secretary's Section

Under constant public pressure and criticism, the 2013/2014 USMRA BOD (Board of Directors) has accomplished amazing amounts of work, and had some fabulous successes on the Mondioring trial fields. All the while, and still at the end, our love of Mondioring has allowed us with many differences of opinions to be willing to work together to accomplish so much. I am proud of our work together and am proud to have served with all the BOD 2013/2014.

We have been increasing ALL our numbers by about 30 – 60% in just two years - members, trials, events and actual people trialing, new policies, decoy, judge, international, FR to MR reciprocity, coalition of policy and procedures, judges policies and more.

WOW! OVER a HUNDRED new members in just two years and many more trials with amazing numbers of titles awarded. The same approximate number of new people have joined USMRA in the four years that Lisa Geller has been President, as that have joined in the TEN years before.

The OB/J Obedience Only Certificate Program is expanding at an unstoppable rate and has brought new members to USMRA, new entries for USA trials and all breeds and sizes of dogs doing Mondioring Obedience and jumps!

USA had a WORLD podium placement by Lisa Geller & Stetson in 2013, followed by several new MR3's with records scores and first time ever titles for .

Thanks to the amazing efforts of Sarah Keegans, our www.usmondioring.org website has had an amazing re-org/ facelift and continues to get better, better serving the USMRA membership as well as the public in general.

And in concert with the awesome new website, we have finally started the process of on-line forms to renew clubs, memberships, request scorebooks, trials and certifications, international team application and more. This technological improvement has already helped to increase our numbers AND save USMRA money by offering e-mail member cards and renewals which reduces our carbon footprint as well. Almost half the membership took their cards via email and over 70% of our 2014 members joined on-line. How cool is that?

Thank you so much to Mondioring and it's membership who have allowed us to steward the organization for these eventful years.

- Sharon Novak, USMRA Secretary 2013/2014

USMRA BOD 2013/2014

**President-Lisa Geller,
VP - Otis J Knighten
Treasurer -Aida Flick
Secretary - Sharon Novak
Directors-at-Large
Kyle Sprague,
Rich Damico
Allison Seghetti**

Nomination/Election 2014 Committee: Maya Conrad, Chair, Emily Morrison, Melissa Stagnaro

Judges Committee: Aida Flick, Chair, Lisa Geller, Don Lee, Emma Svensen

Decoy Committee: Otis Knighten, Chair, Jake Schneider, Sean Miller, Andrew Ramsey, Josh McCleary

Education Committee: Debra Hawkins-Parker, Chair, Todd Dunlap, Andrew Ramsey, Otto Strum, David Broderick, Paul Freaney

National Committee: Geoff Bryam, Chair

Debra Hawkins- Parker, Jake Schneider, Kyle Sprague

International Committee: Lisa Geller, Chair, Rich Damico,

Dave Kroyer, Ivan Balabonov, Tate Hayes

By-Laws Committee: Lisa Geller, Chair, Sharon Novak, Lisa Lucero, David Wright, Maya Conrad, Jeff Oelsen

Board of Inquiry: Robert Wademan, Chair

Josh McCleary, Josiah Neuman

OB/J Only Certificate Program Committee: Sharon Novak, Chair, Karen Shivers, Ioana Montel, Deb Parker Hawkins, Aida Flick



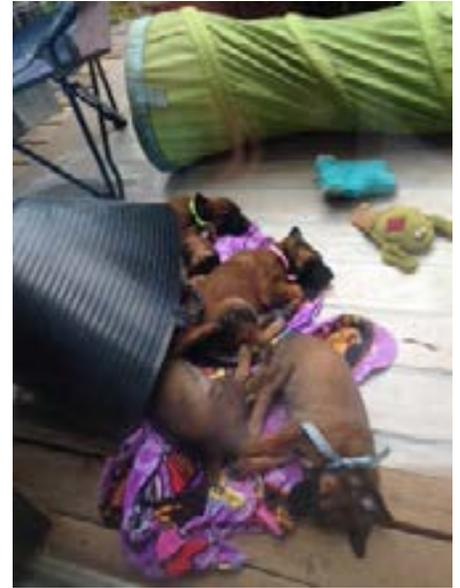
2013/2014 brought three new judge Candidates, Dave Kroyer, Robert Wademan and Emma Svensson, who was recently approved to Judge In USA. Additionally, these years brought us some new decoys and an amazing lot of titles on a diverse selection of USA dogs, from MR3 all the way down to OB1 Certificates

Congratulations to USMRA and ALL it's members and their successes!!!





Dining out in the fresh air, making new friends, exploring new surfaces, and fun learning make happy, healthy pups.



Puppies First Two Months – Mondioring “Preschool” by Deb Hawkins

Most of us bring our puppy home around 8 weeks and begin socializing. I recently had the opportunity to whelp a litter and I took that opportunity to introduce all 10 puppies to as many novel situations as I could during those first 8 weeks.

Enjoying being touched and handled could be the foundation of human scalability. Feet, muzzle, ears, mouth, gums, tails, the entire body was handled from birth, several times a day with the goal of using human touch as a relaxation tool. This litter met and was handled by over 20 different people including many young children during their first 8 weeks.

As the eyes opened I became aware of their reaction to shadows and movement of the shadows. I deliberately introduced moving shadows followed by my touch. When I approached a puppy noticing my shadow, I stroked the puppy before I picked it up. Shadows became a predictor of something good and I made a point of shaking towels, tarps, bags of cans, blankets, noisily moving ex-pens and introducing more, different, louder and novel experiences. Soft obstacles were always present in the puppy area, crinkle, bubble wrap, plastic tarp, carpet, tile, mulch, wooden decking concrete, wire grates, grass, dirt, ramps, boards that rocked, plastic pool, bottles tied together and a portable ramp were part of their ever changing world.

From the moment I noticed the slightest reaction to sound I was alert. If recovery was not immediate I stopped and added distance until there was immediate recovery. They were whelped inside my home but by 2 weeks they were nursing outside. I was fortunate to have a busy neighborhood which included chain saws, garbage trucks, motorcycles, dogs barking, circular saws and building construction. I tried to seize every opportunity to expose these pups to novel sounds and experiences so they could experience it in a positive way, at a very young age.

We can't introduce our young working puppies to everything but we can give them a strong foundation of human sociability and prepare them for the world by letting them experience “novelty” in a thoughtful and positive way.

It Takes a Village - West Penn Mondioring Club by Gail Marit

What a silly word. Mondio? When I first heard it, like so many, I was at the Michael Ellis School for Dog Trainers. It was spoken with such excitement, a contagious enthusiasm.

Although I really wasn't quite sure what it was, I knew that I wanted to find out. Upon returning to the Midwest, I began to follow the Mondio activity including trials, some training and Nationals. It was that search that led me to Todd Dunlap and the West Penn Mondioring Club.

I went to Pennsylvania to watch a trial. While there, I was immediately struck by the genuine efforts of the club to welcome every guest and thank them for coming. While busy orchestrating a trial as well as trialing themselves, this group of people whom I did not know, went to everyone there over the two days, and thanked them for coming. That was my introduction to this wonderful gang of dog trainers. I was hooked!

As I have spent more time with the West Penn Mondioring Club I have seen that their interest goes far beyond training dogs and handlers. Their conversations are about making the sport more available, more affordable, and helping Mondioring grow so that more teams can enjoy the sport. An unfortunate part of this sport is that it can be very expensive, especially when considering the great distance one may have to travel to find training, decoys and trials. Todd Dunlap, and the West Penn Club, are completely dedicated to passing on knowledge and expertise to anyone interested in Mondioring. Todd and the West Penn gang are working hard to make this sport affordable by providing camps at not only a price most can afford, but frequently so that individuals and their dogs can grow as a team.

The West Penn Mondioring Club has held several trials, bringing this sport to the Eastern side of the United States. This group is not only dedicated to the training of their own teams, but as importantly they are continuously sharing, encouraging and inviting those who are new to the sport to join them and try their hand at Mondioring. There is never a feeling of being outside the group, but rather a welcoming feeling that makes everyone who stops by want to be a part of this crazy addiction called Mondioring.

It takes a village to prepare a team for trial. The village is full of trainers; a collaborative group willing to problem-solve together. The village needs at least one training decoy as well as others who are willing to put on that suit and get bit. It takes a group of teams dedicated to not only themselves but the other dog/handler teams. It takes someone willing to provide a location and allow mondio junk and equipment to "decorate" that location. The village has to be willing to sometimes set aside their individual goals to help others obtain their goals. This club's goals are simple; to collectively train and title the teams who work with them, and to share and grow the sport of Mondioring. It takes a village. The West Penn Mondioring Club is that village.





Old timers on good times - How do you keep things fresh, fun and exciting after all these years?

"I go all kinds of different places, parks, the car wash, big malls and so on. I like to bring pups as well as adults. The 1st Amendment is a local shooting range I like to go to because they have all kinds of guns. All different times in all different weathers – sneaking in a quick session here and there.

I like to use their special toys/balls/food, right now BALLS – chuck it balls, I just went crazy \$500 on balls for half price. Malinois can go through a LOT of balls...."

- Kathleen O'Brien, FIRST USA Mondioring, USA WC Team 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2006

"After 15 years of training in Mondioring, I still find it utterly fascinating. Just WHAT is it that keeps me going with such gusto after training 8 dogs and hosting 29 trials. I have really had to think about this. The answer is the learning curve that is Mondioring. In the beginning, we trained with a rulebook in one hand and a leash in the other. Mondioring ONE was totally unreachable for over a year after the first trial here that yielded a few Brevets. Mondioring 3 was simply not in our vocabulary! That impossible learning curve simply keeps moving a few steps ahead of me. It went from that impossibility of achieving MR 1 to finally attaining a few 3's. Now, the learning curve is leading me to eventual competition in the World Cup with a very challenging dog. It is helping me to be a better judge, learning what people need to improve their handling skills. It is leading me to figure out how to make totally solid every exercise in MR3. As Mondioring gets harder every year, it is important to see what is happening to the exercises. Which ones get harder? How so? What needs to happen to our training techniques to make us more successful on the trial field? Can we move away from the IPO model that so many clubs follow to a more ring model of one dog at a time, start to finish. How can we help our dogs have power in obedience, yet not get so much reinforcement? This is the path that the learning curve is heading, for me personally."

- Ann Putegnatt, USMRA Judge, USMRA BOD 2000-2012

"The way I keep my training fresh and interesting is to stay away from negative people and groups. I train more for diversity than precision. I pursue dog sports, games and exercises that both my dogs and I enjoy. It is sad that some people think certain dog sports have less value than others. For me, dog training is about the connection and teamwork that you develop with your dog. Once you have that special bond, it is just FUN to work together regardless of the sport. My goal is to make every training session challenging without being overwhelming. I try to be creative in a way that builds my dogs' confidence, understanding and skill level!" - Donna Matey, Multiple USMRA National's Champion

"Sometimes I get discouraged with all the difficulties and struggles in Mondioring. But, somehow, I always find people out there to inspire me to do well. I am forever grateful to for the support from my fellow Rogue Ringsport club members and my husband Ron." - Lisa Geller, USMRA Pres. 2010-2014, World Podium 2013, Multiple Time Nationals Champion with Multiple Dogs, Multiple Time WC Team w. Multiple Dogs - 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, & 2014

"Lately I've been training not as formal "exercises" but more like the skills in life, here and there and then later put them together. We recently did searches in the closets, port o potties, the other day, I just laid down on the floor. Make it different. Make it fun!" - Charley Bartholomew, USMRA Judge

No "old timer" list would be complete without a blurb from Michael Ellis, who has probably exposed more Americans to Mondioring than any other yank. Unfortunately, the editor has not been vigilant in her attempts to contact M. Ellis and has no comment from him at press time. Rumor has it that The Michael Ellis School of Dog Training has opened a new Northern California School Location in the incredibly beautiful Sonoma County where this question may be asked directly to Michael.

- What fresh fun and excitement does your Mondioring future hold?????

Presidents Report USMRA 2014

USMRA hosted the 8th Annual USMRA Championships, this was held in the mountains of beautiful Colorado at Pembroke Center. The Hosting club followed a western theme that gave everyone a sense of the roots of the area. El Paso County Mondioring held a spectacular event with Judge Valeer Linclau of Belgium and USA decoys Oscar Mora (California), Josiah Neuman (Minnesota) and Kevin Bain (Texas). The event was fed via live stream on the Internet. True to the unpredictable weather the snowstorm that rolled in coupled with a difficult course and powerful work from our decoys lead to a great challenge to all of the competitors. Thanks so much to all who brought this to a reality, especially the club of El Paso County. Here is a link to the event: <http://www.usmondioring.org/nationals-2014/>

USMRA Board of Directors added a few new Policies such as the definition of reciprocity of French ring and Mondioring, Policy regarding Judge/Decoys selection from outside the United States acting in USMRA trials, Policy for USMRA Judges being asked to Judge outside the United States, The USMRA secretary compiled a list of the policies that have been approved and used which is supplied in the December minutes and will be on the website shortly. Notably -- The decoy committee, after a long delay, implemented a new certification process. The process was delayed in order to allow the committee to bring our current decoys up to trial/ certification requirements (many were not to date). It also increased the physical requirements of decoys and lastly to assure the decoy certification individuals were current and correct as to the rules and requirements to properly test the decoys.

The Judges Committee also modified the criteria for becoming a judge in the USMRA system. The Board of Directors also retracted the Obedience Only as a Test of Sociability (Leaving the AKC Canine Good Citizen, the BH, and the test USMRA offers as approved requirements) USMRA added one new Judge Emma Svensson, Emma finished the USMRA Judging program and unfortunately had to return to Sweden. The USMRA Judges Committee is responsible for any trial requests for Emma that might be considered outside the United States. (as any other Judge).

The Education Committee, issued grants to clubs in the amount of up to \$500 dollars per request. The clubs that received this were El Paso County, RADS, and DC Swingers.

The decoy Committee moved at USMRA expense several decoys to club trials -- the purpose was to bring new people to new areas while enhancing our decoys with extra trial experience. This is a budgeted expense designed to make sure ALL of the USMRA decoys are given opportunities to do trials. This is based on hosting club approval.

USMRA was lucky to have a volunteer for a new website. Sarah Keegans revamped and created the beautiful, up-to-date website we have now. She is supplying free web hosting and maintaining the website daily. The website is a huge task and the persons involved in this generally go unnoticed. Big Thank you to Sarah!

This year we changed our members Yahoo to a 'read only' and added a face book group for members. The year has had the same challenges as previous years. It is a new popular method of politicking through facebook. It will be interesting to see how this works -- members do like having a voice. The nice thing about face book is members can block or read as they choose.

The year ended with a member count of 275 and number of clubs 31 clubs. This is growth up from when I took office four years ago at member count of 152 (almost double) and no recorded record of the clubs from the previous Board. The Treasurer reports are current for all years this board could find records for, they are online on the website listed for each specific year. The budget uses a 5 year model based on the prior year history shown pictorially on the website under each specific year. The federal and state tax filing are up to date. The records of member information has been automated with the use of Adobe by our Secretary Sharon Novak, the scorebooks/scoresheets are preordered so the new board would not be without them moving forward. Sharon also collected the policies this Board and previous boards have approved and listed them in a new policy section being added to our website. All clubs were verified to carry insurance or utilize the USMRA insurance for every USMRA sanctioned trial.

Be it ever so briefly, for the first time, the International team showed full this year -- although two members were unable to attend. The judge and decoy history are recorded on the website as are every trial that we have records for.

Thank you to everyone that put your faith in me and elected me for this position, I feel it was an excellent opportunity to grow myself as to help grow the organization with my experience in small business. Huge Thank you for the extremely hard work of Sharon Novak for polishing up our records to the fantastic records they are. Thank you to Otis Knighten for staying tough and making our decoys ***skilled. Thank you to Aida Flick who silently accomplished all of the needs of the treasury and chaired a strong minded judges committee. The hours each of you put in in your tasks and aiding is unbelievable. A great Board of Directors in 2013/2014!

Best of luck to the new President -- and the New Board of Directors 2015/2016.

-Lisa Geller, USMRA President, 2010-2014

"Parliamentary procedure should not be used to awe, entangle, or confuse the the uninitiated. Technical rules should be used only to the extent necessary to observe the law, to expedite business, to avoid confusion, and to protect the rights of members." - "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Proceedure" by Alice Sturgis

Editor's Ending Words.....

Thank you BOD 2013/2014!

Those who step up to participate in any form of governance should be commended for their service. At the same time, they should respectfully question their motives and ethics from time to time and be open to when others question them as well. Operating from an angle of "I am ENTITLED," is not attractive, from neither leaders nor citizens but especially not from those who do nothing and are being served by VOLUNTEERS. Citizens should expect and ask the same of themselves and think on these things BEFORE they rally with torches to burn the castle. No matter what -- the best leaders, the best players, the best kind hearts, they share the quality of from time to time examining themselves, their paths and motives, sometimes to the point of sadness and self doubt. This introspection is one of the moves on the road to greatness.

Best of Luck to the Next Board! May you live in interesting times!!!

- Sharon Novak, Newsletter Editor

USMRA BOD 2015/2016

President - Donald Lee
VP - Jill Fryling
Treasurer- Michon Mills
Directors-at-Large
Jake Schneider
Lisa Lucero
Jennifer Marshall

(No Candidate ran for Secretary)