

Presidents Report 2013 in Review

1) USMRA hosted its 7th National Championships. Rogue Ringsport hosted the event at a County Fairground in Cambridge Minnesota. In one day a patch of grass was fenced and transformed into a symbolic image of things noted for the Minnesota area. The Judge, Patrick Corpatuax from Switzerland laid a challenging and rewarding course. The Decoys: Josh McCleary, Dennis Bilik, and Sean Miller showed some powerful and exciting work. The Two day event was filled with competitors from throughout the USA. The results are loaded here:

<http://www.usmondioring.org/News/Nationals/Nationals.htm>

Some pictures are loaded here:

<http://www.usmondioring.org/News/Nationals/2013NationalPics.htm>

And the videos for level 3 and a couple of the level 2 are loaded here:

<http://www.usmondioring.org/News/Nationals/2013NationalVideos.htm>

2) USMRA International Committee updated the criteria for qualifying to be on the team. This new qualification is listed here:

<http://www.usmondioring.org/USMRA%20Business/TeamSelection.htm>

The key changes revolved around selecting teams that were more experienced beyond those that scored sometimes higher at local or club trials on club decoys. The National qualifying score was increased to have a higher value (1.25X a regular club trial), so a person with a club trial score of 100 and a nationals score of 100 would have an average score of $((100 + 125)/2)$ or 112.5, encouraging both greater National participation and teams that are better versed on neutral fields and non-club decoy. Secondly, Team Selection to require two qualifying scores under different judges on different fields with trials organized by different clubs.

Also the cut-off dates changed to July 15.

3) USMRA decoy committee discovered many decoys were not able to maintain certification because of lack of trials within one year. The Committee asked for a variance from the certification guidelines for 1 year and began a process of re-write of the certification April 2013. The decoys were contacted and those requiring review were worked with. Through a laborious and controversial process the new certification was approved Dec 1 2013. The new process 'tightened the ship' a little to give us a greater quality of decoy for our ever-growing high level dogs. It addressed the problem of lack of decoys receiving enough trials by extending the time to two (2) years. It addressed the problem with accountability at certifications, by placing one responsible person. It gives the decoy committee chance to review decoys not approved through USMRA and a chance to maybe move some decoys to give the decoys other trials and clubs new decoys for testing. Decoys are no longer required to be in clubs, greater than half of them were not in an actual local club and it was felt the requirement was not being adhered to. The new process is defined here:

<http://www.usmondioring.org/Education/DecoyReq.htm>

4) Our new secretary, began a process of accumulating and setting a record on organizing

our USMRA files. She has automated to registration process for membership, club membership, along with many forms. Also she is gathering a set of Policies and procedures for USMRA, something we may or may not have had but cannot seem to locate most of these things under the former filing system.

5) The International Chairman, Marki Barta resigned from the Committee and the Board of Directors Jan 1 2014. This update was generated with the assistance of Rich Damico based on the meetings he attended.

- Revised International Team Criteria

- Got sponsorship from Roca Sport for team uniforms

- Sold t-shirts for extra monies for world team

- Discussed getting sponsors for future world teams and wearing their logos/patches

6) The challenges in 2013, as were in 2012 and 2011 were the continued dissatisfaction of a small group of individuals. The maybe five or six members posting numerous posts on public media voicing distain for the leadership and activity of the organization. This has been taxing on the Board of Directors and created some concerns for new members. The Board has addressed this over and over and really has no good solution. The Board will set a priority on how we might eliminate such negative promotion of our sport and address members and official representatives of the organization supporting this poor behavior

Although we, the USMRA Board of Directors feel it is every individuals right to voice concern, this continued badgering from these individuals have left us empty. Really, how many things must our actions be questioned. The members did elect us, we willfully dedicate our time and in return every hour in meeting and positive work is met with this 'attention seeking behavior' from a tiny portion of the membership. For 2014, let us hope the board can find a solution for these angry individuals.

Lisa Geller
President USMRA