

USMRA Membership Committee Annual Report

The following is a summary report for the year 2011 by the Membership Committee.

The Membership committee agreed that we would be personally contacting clubs to verify if they are still active. We asked their input as to any concerns/ feedback they have concerning USMRA. We also contacted some newer clubs that have yet to have a trial on how we may assist them in achieving this goal. Some of the ideas that came about were:

- Co-hosting of trails- Possibly some of our more successful clubs that have the experience putting on trails can help the newer clubs by co-hosting their first trial. Example Atlas K9 co-hosted with Santa Clarita Mondio for their first Mondio trial.
- Making sure there is available paperwork for clubs to know exactly what is needed to put on a successful trial.

The idea of assistance with training was also something that was discussed. We agreed to list people who are "independent" on the USMRA website. We feel this would help expand our areas, as there are many people out there hoping to do Mondio we just need to get them together. By listing the independents it would help for people that are looking for Mondio in their area and don't realize there are people close by that they could join up with. Contacting people/clubs out there, like Terry Miller, who have trained/ titled dogs in our sport without having a club decoy. As well as, finding out if they are willing to share their methods and techniques. We feel this would help the newer/ smaller clubs that do not have the benefit of a club decoy and let them know it can still be done so they do not get discouraged. We also began to put together a new member/ club package section on the website. This section would include all important and helpful information we can put together for people just starting out in our sport as to help them succeed. (For example- trail guidelines and checklists, the videos Steve Garvin will be putting together, etc...). We are also attaching a flyer that was made by Ann Putegnat that she has always had available. We feel this flyer should be distributed to clubs when they are having trials. All trials should have this flyer out for the public so as to help attract new membership and interest in our sport.

Typically most trials are ran with the level 1 dogs going first, level two second, and level 3 going last. We discussed having trials running the level 3 dogs first. We think that when new people come to watch to see what Mondio is all about, a lot of the time they leave by lunch and never really get to see the higher level dogs and what a fun great sport this is when you see the teams that are more advanced and you can see what you are striving for.

We want to promote the new forum and try to get everyone using this as an information resource. We feel if used correctly it will be vital for new members and clubs. If we do get the members that train without decoys to submit articles, letters, etc... we feel it would be a great additional topic on the forum.

The Membership committee has sent out the call for nominations for the Sportsmanship Award. We encourage all clubs to submit a name of someone they feel that best fits what sportsmanship is all about.

“The Membership Committee is seeking nominations for the 2011 USMRA Sportsmanship Award. As the sport of mondioring continues to grow in the United States, the Committee and Board recognize the fact that there are individuals throughout the country and world that work hard to not only participate in the sport, but also work hard to further the sport so that others can enjoy it as well. These individuals often give their time and hard work without recognition, and this award is being created in order to express to everyone that these actions don't go unnoticed.

The committee is asking each club or member-at-large to nominate one candidate who satisfies the criteria set forth below. All persons and clubs nominating an individual for this award must be a member in good standing with the USMRA at the time of application submittal.”

Below is the link for the proper form to make a submission.

<http://www.usmondioring.org/Paperwork/SportsmanshipAward.htm>

We have some great ideas for the 2012 year that we hope to reveal at Nationals. We feel that as these ideas come out that everyone will feel the same level of excitement that we feel on the Membership committee.