

Presidents Report USMRA 2014

1) 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/>

2) 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).

3) 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 only the AKC Canine Good Citizen and the test USMRA offers)

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

5) 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.

6) 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!

7) 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.

8) 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 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.