



United States Mondio Ring Association

Board of Directors Meeting

January 19, 2015

Minutes from the January Board Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Donald Lee at 2005 (or 8:05 P.M. CST). A quorum was present.

Members Present:

President	Donald Lee	Director	Jake Schneider
Vice President	Jill Fryling	Director	Jennifer Marshall
Secretary	Michon Mills		
Treasurer	David Broderick		

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 4, 2015 Special USMRA BOD Meeting were approved on January 9, 2015 and posted on the USMRA website.

Officer Reports

President – Don reported the standing committees are in place and listed on the USMRA website. All members of each committee have been contacted by the Committee Chairs and they have started working towards their assigned goals.

There are 8 trials, including the USMRA Nationals, and 2 Decoy Certifications planned so far for 2015. The AWMA / USMRA are taking applications for the FMBB world championship to be held in Pisek, Czech Republic May 7 through May 10, 2015.

Don has contacted persons from other dog club organizations to inquire how they handle social media complaints. He reported, as he understands, the following information: Social organizations have limited authority to enforce rules on social media. In general, we should look at some type of rules for acceptable behavior (Sportsmanship) or code of conduct. This “code of conduct” needs to be fair and unbiased; and uniformly administrated over the entire membership. It cannot be selectively enforced. It can include any place where a member represents USMRA – trials or sanctioned events, team members at championships, and social media sites that are sponsored by USMRA for business and information updates available to members only.

Vice President – No Report

Treasurer – David reported that the bank account and PayPal accounts have been changed over from Aida. Don and Michon still need to be added to the bank account, which will occur this week. There was discussion that the Adobe Formscentral account



needs to be changed from Sharon to USMRA. David reported that the account balances are \$25,767.49 in the Wells Fargo account and \$6014.76 in the PayPal account.

Secretary – Michon reported that as of this date there are 148 total 2015 membership renewals, six scorebooks issued, nineteen total club renewals, and one new club request. Four of the nineteen clubs are still not fully compliant with requirements which will be addressed by the Membership Committee.

Committee Reports

Judge's Committee- The judges committee is ready to go to work. Charley Bartholomew has spoken with each member. They are making plans for combined training seminars with Decoys. They are planning a Judge's college to be held prior to the Nationals with Belgian Judge Margaret McKenna. Charley Bartholomew said, "We have a well-rounded group that will have every member and Mondio's well-being and growth in mind as we do our work."

Decoy Committee – Scott Dunmore has contacted and spoke with each member or the Decoy Committee. They intend to look at the certification requirements to make sure Decoy Certifications are accessible and straight forward for clubs to be able to sponsor. They are committed to making sure the certifications are run consistently, and that they are judged accurately and fairly. They want the standards to be clearly defined, so everyone understands what it takes to pass. They discussed creating a video to illustrate the certification process with examples of correct work and incorrect work. Scott talked about offering Decoy training weekends as a way of developing skills and as a means of maintaining decoy certifications. Lastly, they discussed developing criteria governing decoy selection for the nationals. This might include the number of trials worked, ratings at those trials, performance at decoy camps, and, potentially, participation in a decoy selection held at the nationals.

Jake also reported that a Facebook page has been created for the group.

Education Committee - Debbie Parker-Hawkins has communicated with all members of the Education committee. They have a FB page for input and discussions. Deb has informed the committee members of the progressions the Education Committee has been successful with up to this date. They will have their first formal meeting next weekend to determine how each member wants to benefit this Committee and to assign duties.

Membership Committee – The Membership Committee has formed a Facebook message board. Suggestions have been taken regarding goals for the committee. One suggestion is to update the Mondioring 3 Club. It is suggested that this club be established with no charge to the title earner. This committee will assist the Secretary with keeping clubs current on their membership status. The Secretary has provided this committee with info regarding current status of clubs.

Board of Inquiry - Gail Merit has contacted the members of this committee. Everyone is in place.



Michon reported that George Manley had expressed interest in serving on a committee. Don also reported on other individuals that he has been trying to contact to serve on various committees. He has left messages for several members to see if they are interested.

REPORT FROM THE AWDF DELEGATE MEETING JAN 15, 2015

An informal meeting was held to disseminate information about the upcoming AWDF Championships which will be held in St. Louis, April 9-12, 2015. Trophy sponsorships were discussed. One suggestion was for a trophy for a dual certified IPO/Mondioring titled dog and whether USMRA would be interested in sponsoring this trophy. There will be more discussion on trophies at the next meeting.

Next meeting, January 28, 2015 at 8:00P central Time.

Business

Discuss and add members to the Committees

Membership Committee – It was moved by Michon, second by Jennifer to “appoint Terry Ford and Nicholas Rempp to the Membership Committee”. The motion carried unanimously.

Auditing Committee – no members found to date

International Committee – It was moved by Jake, second by Jill to “appoint Tate Hayes (chair), Michon Mills, and David Broderick to the International Committee”. The motion carried unanimously. Abstain – Michon and David.

Nationals Committee – It was moved by Michon, second by Jill to “appoint Jake Schneider (chair) and Tiffany Giessen to the Nationals Committee”. The motion carried unanimously. Abstain – Jake

There was discussion that the clubs hosting these types of events need to know that they aren’t expected to do everything by themselves and that that they can ask for help if needed. Jake discussed that he will be in constant contact with OJ regarding the upcoming Nationals event.

Special Committee – Discussed the possibility of George Manley. Don will contact him.

Social Media / Code of Conduct

Don discussed forming a special committee to develop a code of conduct and list of consequences if the code of conduct is violated by a USMRA member at any USMRA event, World event or on any USMRA social media or internet site and how can the rules be enforced. Jake will contact Allison to see if she would be willing to participate on a special committee to



develop a code of conduct. It was recommended that the special committee be named the Code of Conduct Committee. Jill volunteered to be the Board Member on the committee.

There was discussion about requests to be added to the Official USMRA Members Facebook page. Only current members of USMRA will be approved and only one name will be approved per active member. On February 1, 2015, any member that has not renewed for 2015 will be removed from the Facebook page.

Insurance for USMRA / Clubs – Jake will get details from OJ for the specifics of insurance for trials. It was discussed that the insurance question should be removed or modified from the Club applications since the question could imply that USMRA covers the club for insurance which is not the case. It was further discussed that when a club has insurance through Sportsman's, the insurance is for a specific event and does not actually cover the club or members for the year. This is an umbrella policy to cover lawsuits. It was decided by the Board of Directors that the insurance question on the Club application / renewal form will be removed and only listed on the Trial request application form. Jake will contact OJ to find out more information regarding the Trial insurance for hosting clubs.

Evaluate the status of USMRA clubs – Michon researched the status of the current 2015 clubs. There are four clubs that are not fully compliant with club requirements from the nineteen that have renewed.

Endeavor Mondioring Club needs a trial or waiver from BOD. San Gabriel Ring Club needs bylaws. Wicked Smart Working Dog Club needs bylaws and to have a trial or BOD waiver. Black Diamond Working Dog club needs a trial or BOD waiver.

It was discussed that Michon will discuss with the chair of the Membership Committee to reach out to the contact persons of the clubs that are not meeting the requirements to make sure they become compliant. The Membership Committee will also contact the clubs that have not renewed for 2015 to determine their intentions and to conduct exit interviews in the event that they do not intend to renew for 2015.

There was extensive discussion about the independents listed on the Club page of the USMRA website. Currently there are 8 independents listed with one other person expressing interest in being listed as an independent. The BOD discussed this at length and would like the Membership Committee to address this issue. The BOD felt that having independents listed on the website in areas that did not have a club within 100 miles should be allowed so that there is the possibility of a new club being formed once members could train and form a club. There was further discussion that there should be an annual request to the BOD to be considered as an independent listed on the USMRA website. Anyone who is a member of a club by definition is not independent and will not be listed on the website as such unless they apply for special consideration to justify why they should be listed as an independent. An example of the rationale for this is because there is no club within 100 miles of that area. The BOD would like the Membership Committee to contact the current people listed on the website as independent to confirm whether they are current members of a club, whether they are current USMRA members and if not, their names will be removed from the website unless they submit to the BOD why they should be listed. It was also discussed that an independent listed on the website must be a



current USMRA member. The Membership Committee will report back to the BOD on this at the next meeting.

Discuss MR3 Club – Requirements, termination of \$10.00 fee – It was moved by Michon, second by Jake to “remove the \$10.00 application fee for the MR3 Club applicants”. The motion carried unanimously.

The BOD discussed having the Membership Committee update a current list of MR3 Club members wishing to be added to the USMRA website as their accomplishments should be acknowledged. This will be further discussed at the next meeting after the Membership Committee has a chance to gather a current list.

FMBBB – It was discussed that information on the FMBBB will be posted on Facebook and the USMRA website.

Club Approval - It was moved by Jake, second by Jill to “approve Utah Protection Sports club status for USMRA”. Motion carried unanimously. Abstain - David and Michon.

Announcements

Next Regular BOD Meeting – February 16, 2015 at 8:00 PM Central Time

Adjournment

It was moved by Michon, second by Jake to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2209 hours (10:09 P.M. CST)

Michon Mills,
USMRA Secretary

**Approved (Approved as Corrected)
BOD Electronic approval**