

United States Mondio Ring Association

Report from the President January 28, 2015

Greetings,

This has been a busy month for the “new” Board of Directors. We have been in office for four weeks and wanted to give the USMRA Membership an update. I would like to thank the former BOD for the assistance they provided to us in making this transition.

We had two formal BOD meetings and many discussions this month. The agendas and minutes are posted on the USMRA webpage. We now have several committees in place. Our goals in Committee selections were to bring a balance of perspectives, based on knowledge and experience. We selected people who are committed to USMRA, who are willing to work, and who represent the various geographic locations of our country.

One of my goals is to create unity and communication between the Judge’s and Decoy Committees. We did this by placing a Decoy on the Judge’s Committee and a Judge (who was also a former Decoy) on the Decoy Committee. Another one of my goals is to have USMRA sponsored training seminars with a Judge and one or two Decoys to help educate and to promote Mondio, as well as to better prepare handlers and dogs for competitions. The Education Committee is working with the Judge’s Committee and Decoy Committee to work out the details. We also are looking into the possibility of allowing our Certified Decoys to gain credit towards their certification requirements by participating in these seminars, and for the hosting clubs to gain credit for trial requirements. Our goal is to certify more Decoys, who will be able to maintain their certification requirements as they increase knowledge and better develop their skills. We also want Full Member Clubs to be able to grow, to maintain their requirements, and to provide more trial opportunities for USMRA members.

One area of conflict that we have been researching and discussing is unacceptable conduct when people are representing USMRA. Particularly on USMRA sponsored social media. It is important that we respect Constitutional Rights; and at the same time foster an environment where our members feel respected and are free to engage in conversations that promote the Mondio spirit.

I want to be clear – The USMRA Board of Directors does not support, nor do we condone any type of behavior or conduct that is demoralizing to any member of USMRA.

We currently have no policy in place to deal with social media. On January 2, 2015, the BOD, through Jennifer Marshall, clarified the rules on the FB Official USMRA Members Group. That has helped, but we are a long way from having a permanent solution. We have received feedback from attorneys to guide us in the proper direction. We created a Special Committee and are in the process of selecting committee members who will research what other

organizations have done. By learning what has worked and what problems can arise, the committee will be able to determine the best possible solutions for USMRA. The committee will report back and make recommendations to the BOD.

So far this year, we have had 175 members renew their USMRA Memberships, and 24 USMRA clubs renew. Thank you all for your continued support of USMRA. You, the membership, are what make Mondio and this organization an incredible experience to be associated with.

Play hard and have fun,

Donald Lee
President - USMRA

Scheduled USMRA Events

We have eight trials, including the USMRA Nationals that are scheduled, and three Decoy Certifications requesting to be scheduled. Please make every effort to support these events and to help USMRA and Mondio grow.

Carolina Dog Sport Club

February 21, 2015 – February 22, 2015
Mocksville, NC

Lone Star Mondioring Club

March 7, 2015 – March 8, 2015
Von Ormy, TX

DC Swingers

March 28, 2015 – March 29, 2015
Washington, DC
*Decoy Certification

Club Mondio & SCABR

April 3, 2015 – April 6, 2015
Corning, CA

West Penn Mondio Club

April 11, 2015 – April 12, 2015
Sheakleyville, PA

El Paso County Mondio Club

April 25, 2015 – April 26, 2015
Colorado Springs, CO
*Decoy Certification

2015 USMRA National Championship

May 2, 2015 – May 3, 2015

Los Angeles, CA

El Paso County Mondio Club

June 20, 2015 – June 21, 2015

Colorado Springs, CO

*Decoy Certification