

Board Meeting

April 8, 2010 at 6 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Meeting called to order at 6:15pm.

Present at meeting: Don Betts, Steve Anderson, Ted Ruprecht, Mary Tiscornia, Ben Volk, Lani Newcomb, Jim Steere, Rufus Schneider, Melanie Weir, Sarah Howard, George Hall, Don Strong

Absent: Greg Fellers and Steve Shaw

Minutes from November 19, 2009 Meeting were motioned for approval by Ted and seconded by Melanie. Approved by all.

Reports

President's Report – Don Betts

We wanted to give you an update on what the \$15,000 donated by Leslie Yates would be used for at the Championship. Leslie will add another \$2500 if needed:

- 1) Large Tent with tables and chairs
- 2) Live Band Saturday night
- 3) Salmon for Banquet
- 4) Rufus can spend more on prizes
- 5) Motion Sensor camera will take pictures of everyone. The camera will be tested at the Mt. Adams R&T in May
- 6) 2 tons weed free hay
- 7) Local volunteers to clean up manure (with tips)
- 8) Huckleberry smoothies
- 9) No portable showers, cost was too high at \$5000 per shower. Showers will be at Trout Lake School.

Vet School Scholarship.

Don briefly discussed the vet scholarship. The Association will implement a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to the "winningest" vet school. This will be determined by the lowest average of the finishing place of the first man/man man/woman and woman/woman team from each school. If a school does not have three full teams entered, qualified individual participants from their school will count until the school has 3 men and 3 women total. In the event of a tie the highest finishing completion team will determine the winning school; if there is not a complete team, then the highest, second highest, or third highest finishing individual. Veterinarians, vet students, vet faculty are eligible to compete for their schools.

Vice President's Report – Melanie Weir

Web Site:

Member database has been built and loaded. Testing and cleanup is ongoing.

Race directors login is done.

Championship updates and race results are ongoing.

Facebook has been reduced to one now. There were duplicates.

Sanctioning is on-line with all forms available.

Guidelines for an elevator ride will be added.

Promotions – Ben Volk

- 1) NW Runner featured R&T on the front page and centerfold of the April 2009 edition. The article was written by Steph Irving and reviewed by Carol Ruprecht.
- 2) The Sunrise Canyon R&T in Kennewick was held on 4-20-10. Eight teams participated in the race, 1 long course and 7 in the short course. Seven of the teams were new to R&T. The race resulted in 10 new R&T members including 4 family memberships. Four of the teams are planning on doing the 2010 Championship.
- 3) The Tri-City Herald featured an article on the Sunrise Canyon R&T and mentioned the website and the Championship.
- 4) Carol Ruprecht has been working the media including: The Oregonian, East Oregonian, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima Herald, Hood River, Pendleton, Hermiston, Clark County Executive Horse Council, NW Horse Source, and others.
- 5) Still working with several event calendars to list 2010 Championship in Mt. Adams: Trail Runner, NW Runner, Purple Sage Riders, Active.com, Running Times, Arab Horse Magazine, Competitor Magazine.
- 6) Volk to contact Triathlete Magazine to try to get them to do a feature article.
- 7) Speaking at local venues when possible, including REI

Sanctioning - Lani Newcomb

Looking at new races in Nevada and North Carolina. 28 races on schedule. We had 18 races 5 years ago.

There has been a certain amount of resistance to the \$100 sanctioning fee, especially from Race Directors. We discussed having the association pay the fee or waive the fee for 1st time rides but no motion was passed.

Rufus Schneider – Championship

Rufus sent a picture of the buckles to Don Betts. Little different style this year. Ordered 80 total, same price as 2009.

Rufus will have similar awards to last year: Jackets, ceramic plaques and blue cobalt cups for the short course from Don Strong. She has some long sleeve shirts and sweats that have been donated.

Future Race Sites – George Hall

- 1) Melissa Ribley - Willing to put on a ride at the Wild West R&T, Skillman Campground, Tahoe, 14 miles east of Nevada City on Highway 20. Don Strong said he knows of a camp called Gold Hollow in that vicinity with showers, toilets, etc. Don will look into that camp.
- 2) San Louis Obispo- 1500 acre Ranch, Steve Shaw knows Ranch Manager, Dave Nicholson, XP Ride, Have not checked facilities.
- 3) Jim Steere asked about having the Championship in the Hills north of San Jose in the San Mateo Park System
- 4) Don Strong asked about Yosemite vicinity.
- 5) Don Betts said we need decision by May 2010 so the site can be announced at the Championship. Also need a Race Director.

Achievements/Special Awards – Ted Ruprecht

Ted discussed eliminating some awards. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to keep the current suite of awards. 31 Awards total.

Statistics – Steve Anderson

Here are the year-to-date race stats for 2010:

32 teams
8 long course

Treasurer’s Report – Steve Anderson

Balances as of 10/31/2009:

Dodge/Cox	\$50,500
Wells Fargo	\$35,000
PayPal	\$847
Coast Central CU	\$31,642

Steve Anderson talked to John Osterweis about a better investment product other than the Credit Union. John's recommendation was The Osterweis Strategic Income Fund (OSTIX). Steve presented it to the Board Meeting on April 8 and the recommendation was rejected pending discussion with John about liquidity.

Don Strong – Merchandise

Platinum has been a great sponsor. Will poll members to see what products they are using. Melanie will follow up with Don to set up the survey.

Hall of Fame – Mary Tiscornia

Horse of Distinction – No new news, Steve has pulled stats on 7 horses

Hall of Fame – Willy

Mary, Steve, Ted, and Melanie will set up a conference call on the Horse of Distinction 2011- Someone nominated Magic Sirrocco for Horse Hall of Fame

Youth Report –Sara Howard

Contacted friends and told them about R&T. Liz Perkins put championship information on the Facebook website.

Head Veterinarian – Greg Fellers

No report.

Old Business:

Report from Committee for Future Ride & Tie Association Funding

Current members Don Betts, Steve Anderson, Don Strong, Rufus Schneider, and Melanie Weir –

Mary Tiscornia said we do not fit conventional marketing strategies with our “weird” makeup. Rufus said we should be more fiscally responsible.

Budget – Don presented the budget based on last years’ expenses.

New Business

1. Roll over CD in OSTIX – Discussed rolling over \$30,000 in the Osterweis Fund. The fee is \$486 annual. Melanie motioned to table the discussion and Mary seconded. All approved.
2. Newsletter – Don Betts said we need a new newsletter editor. Annie may continue doing the Handbook. Don is going to ask Annette Parsons about being N/L editor.
3. 2010 Budget – Don presented the idea of paying Melvin Cox \$11,000 to prepare a professional R&T video. The problem now is we cannot get approval to use any of the existing R&T Videos. No motion or approval was made for the video. It was suggested that the Association would benefit more from small 3 minute instructional videos instead of the larger expensive video.
4. Problems with Participants – Rufus brought up the issue of inappropriate behavior/unsafe behavior at a recent R&T. Discussion ensued on what it would take to ban someone from R&T or penalize them. There had also been a problem at the Championship in 2009. It would be good if the Board is kept aware any incidence. The Board currently has no process for revoking memberships, but Race Directors can always bar individuals from participating in their races if they feel there has been a past issue with the participant..

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 6 PM Pacific Daylight Time.