

NAFA® Annual General Meeting, January 10, 2015, Athens GA

Lee called the NAFA Annual General Meeting to order.

Lee welcomes all to the 2015 AGM. He also thanked Dana Hanson for taking on the tough task of trying to find a place to hold the AGM as well as host the tournament.

Lee announced the trivia question: Region 14's first four tournaments were held over three separate weekends during the 2002 racing year. What was the total number of points earned in those four tournaments?

Lee introduced board members in attendance: Leerie Jenkins, Sam Ford, Kim Davis, Karen Oleson, Dale Smith, Dirk Elber, John Hendriks and Dave Walt. Nancy Garcia was unable to attend due to work responsibilities.

Sam Ford, from Region 5, went on to say a few words about Nancy Garcia, who is leaving the board this year.

Nancy Garcia was on the board for six years. Before being on the board, she was Regional Director for region 5. Nancy came to the board as we had resignation of a board member due to family issues.

If you have gone to CanAm, you have received the benefit of what Nancy does; because over the years she has been our awards person, event coordinator, NAFA treasurer. Nancy has done an extremely good job at everything she has done and she will be sorely missed. Nancy always made all the arrangements for board members. We are going to miss Nancy here and in our own Region 5. Many, many thanks to Nancy Garcia for all her hard work.

Lee announced this year's statistics.

There were 337 events hosted in 39 states and provinces hosted by 132 different clubs.

8,557 teams raced in these events from 358 different clubs, with 3,911 total club entries.

- 4,112 teams raced in Regular
- 812 raced in Multibreed
- 399 raced in Vets
- 3,162 raced in Open
- The remainder were in miscellaneous classes.

7,220 new titles plus 204 Iron Dogs were earned during the racing year.

3,393 dogs earned titles were earned during the 2014 racing year.

14,383,328 points were earned during the racing year by 5,381 dogs from 156 different breeds (one breed being mix).

There were 899 new dogs registered.

Lee also announced the election results.

Board of Directors – Dale Smith, Sam Ford, Neil Flood

Judge of the Year – Ule James

Clyde Moore Memorial Hall of Fame - Pyp 981008, Jack/Parson Russell Terrier – Mike Randall – Blockade Runners

Regional MVP, Region 3 - Epic – Mix – Carolyn Flood - Animal Inn

Regional MVP, Region 4 - Bo Bailey – Jack/Parson Russell Terrier – S.W. Bailey – Outrun

Regional MVP, Region 5 - Liberty - Jack/Parson Russell Terrier – Danielle Prince – Dogz Rule!

Regional MVP, Region 6 - Shazam – Border Collie – Kristina Pickering - Flying C

Regional MVP, Region 7 - Chaos – Mix – Stephen McComb - Stumptown Racers

Regional MVP, Region 8 - Sam – Mix – Sherry LeCouillard –KAOS

Regional MVP, Region 9 - Shiner – Border Collie – Deb Norman – Fur Fun

Regional MVP, Region 10 - Shadow – Shetland Sheepdog – Richard Landry – F.A.M.E.

Regional MVP, Region 11 - Mattie – Border Collie – Christine Heckman – Barkaholics

Regional MVP, Region 13 - Chase – Mix – Amanda Haldeman – Mass Chaos

Regional MVP, Region 14 - JAGGER – Mix – Pamela Murphy – Dixie Flyers

Regional MVP, Region 15 - Indy – Mix – Rachel Lindberg – Two-Lane Highway

Regional MVP, Region 16 – Nellie – Danish/Swedish Farm Dog – Phil & Sue Cohen – SoCal Frequent Flyers

Regional MVP, Region 18 – Lenny – Cavalier King Charles Spaniel – Cindy Rabe – Alaska Dogs Gone Wild

Regional MVP, Region 19 - Trinket – Papillon – Mary Martin – Mile High Velo-City

Region	State/Province	Regional Regular Champions	Regional Multibreed Champions
1	MI OH	Mighty Mutts	Mighty Mutts
2	ON	Rocket Relay	Extreme Chaos
3	MN ND SD	Animal Inn	Animal Inn
4	IL IN KY WI	Canine Dirt Diggers	
5	AR LA OK TX	Top Dog Racers	Do Run Run
6	AZ NV UT		
7	BC OR WA	Total Anarchy	
8	MB SK	Holeshot Racers	
9	NC SC VA WV	Fur Fun	Fur Fun
10	NB NS PE	Fast 'n Furious	
11	FL	Ketch This	
12	AB ID MT	Northern Power Paws	
13	CT MA ME NH NY RI VT	Ruff Enuff	Ruff Enuff
14	AL GA MS TN	Dixie Flyers	Dixie Flyers
15	DE MD NJ PA	Dogtown	Dogtown

16	CA	Marin Running Riot	Marin Running Riot
18	AK	Pawsitive Synergy	
19	CO NM WY	4 Dog Blitz	
20	ON QC	Burnin' Rubber	Hot Diggity Dogs
21	IA KS MO NE	Omaha Speedracers	Omaha Speedracers

NAFA Regular Champion	NAFA Multibreed Champion
Animal Inn	Ruff Enuff

NOTE Animal Inn's overall championship marks a first – this is the first time in NAFA history that a regular champion's average best 6 finishes is below 15 seconds at 14.978.

Lee continued and brought up the topic of CanAm. We do listen to the feedback. It's always a balance to make the best event that we possibly we can and also be fiscally responsible to some of the costs that take place. But we're happy to announce that after reviewing this past CanAm that this year we will be awarding placement prizes for 1st place in all divisions for Friday and Saturday, and looking at additional welcome gifts options. That was probably the biggest feedback we got and we're happy to be able to make that adjustment. It's a fun event if you haven't been there. If you can make it, we highly recommend it.

Answer to the trivia question: 157,931 points

Lee announced the winner of the trivia question was Joy Gochman (closest # without going over).

The tie breaker (had it been necessary): What was the fastest time run in the region that year? 16.480

Lee opened the floor for questions.

Geoff Brown: How long EJS going to last?

Lee replies: That's really an unknown with the electronics. There's a misconception that the EJS go back to a central location after a tournament for maintenance. There's no physical way to do that and travel to all the tournaments. We count on the judges and regional directors to let us know if they need to be repaired. If no one lets us know there's an issue, we can't get it repaired. We are starting the R&D on the next generation of the EJS. The technology committee has already started that process. We are hoping with the new technology that they can be lighter so that will save shipping and carrying costs. And make them a little less cumbersome for the people that hand carry them, it saves money, time and wear and tear on the units themselves.

Geoff Brown: Is anyone working on the APES with Dave Thomas to make it part of NAFA?

Lee: We are still researching on making it part of NAFA. The difficult part is educating people that the camera angles could show something early when it was indeed a good pass. Dave is making adjustments to address those concerns. We definitely want to make it part of the sport.

Alan Conroy: Is there any hope for data collection, computer wise for scoring?

Dale: When we did the last upgrades to the EJS, there were really two phases. The first phase was veterans mode and countdown timers. The 2nd one was modifying the data interface in the console so it would be usable for someone that had a scoring program at the table. The console does output data, so after every race, plug in and it

will output data. The problem is the format that comes out isn't the best data for parsing to a computer program. Part of the problem is figuring out a standard format for this. There are a number of programs out there, so whatever we do needs to be usable by all.

Lee: We've had lengthy conversation about this. We don't want NAFA tell host clubs what they should or shouldn't do, as far as what program they want to use, as long as it puts out results that can be scored, that's the criteria we've set. If we make it where you go to one program, it may meet with some resistance. Some host clubs have been using the same program for 10 years and might not want to change.

We've really embraced that each region has its own flavor. Sometimes a region runs 3/5, where another region runs 5/5. That's a choice that we leave up to the host clubs of the regions to decide.

We've been very careful to not project too much of what we think might be the best. There's not a best or only one way to do things.

Alan Conroy: Are we working with FarmTek?

Dale: Yes. If someone's interested in seeing what it puts out today and a look at the data, drop me a note and I'll talk you through it. Every console that we have puts that data out after every heat. With the cable, you can see what's out there now. And we're continuing to improve the format.

Lee: And on that note, we don't know it all and don't claim to. Most ideas come from other people that write in or call us. And the same thing with the technology improvements, like the next EJS systems to give output to the competitors. Even as far as using WiFi to check the data via computer, tablet or smart phone. But we need ideas from our competitors.

Sam: I wanted to address the use of the pass calling system. One of the things that's happening, is it's spreading out into other regions. As it's more accessible and more systems are out there, this means getting research data from many sources. We look forward to supporting that research and that's what it's going to take, a lot of support from everyone else. We hope to see it in every ring at CanAm one day, so every competitor gets to use it. These are things we are working on, but it takes a whole bunch of people to get from an idea all the way to a proven operating system.

If you really want to know the future of the EJS, talk to Dale. Instead of using light beams, use video cameras. Special recognition as dogs cross lines, and be able to instead of passing paper from table to line, be able to do what wireless! We have lots of ideas for the future of Flyball.

Lee: We did have a serious conversation about finding a way to recognize dogs by CRNs, so as the dogs raced, the points would go straight into the database. These are the ideas for the future.

Amanda Brown: Can the timesheet entry catch duplicate open team entries of dogs? Is there a program that would catch that?

Further discussion: We have had that happen multiple times at CanAm. But trying to verify on the fly by table workers at CanAm would result in extra time in getting the time sheets ready. So this would be something that could be used at the regional level, if the code/program existed to check for double listings.

Lee thanked all for attending. Everyone have a great day racing tomorrow.

Once again, Double Dog Dare, we appreciate everything you did for this weekend.