

January 16th, 2016 – NAFA Annual General Meeting

Dogz Rule! Flyball Tournament, Temple, Texas

Lee Heighton opened the meeting. He expressed his and the board's thanks to Dogz Rule! for hosting the tournament.

Lee introduced all the board members; Kim Davis, Dirk Elber, Neil Flood, Sam Ford, John Hendriks, Leerie Jenkins, Karen Oleson and Dave Walt.

Dale Smith was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Lee announces that Rocket Relay has set a new NAFA World Record of 14.620 today!

Lee announced that the AGM usually includes a trivia contest and explains the rules. The winner is the one that gets the closest without going over the correct number.

The trivia question is:

“Since Dogz Rule! first tournament in September 2006, how many titles have been earned by Region 5 dogs?”

The tie breaker is: How many CanAm entries since inception have been entered?

Each year, we also announce the statistics for the previous year:

of events hosted: 333

of states: 38 different States/Provinces

of unique clubs hosting: 130

of teams that raced in the events: 8,359

of clubs represented: 340

of total club entries: 3,854

of teams by class:

Regular: 3,982

Multibreed: 759

Open: 3,217

Veterans: 389

CanAm: 8

CanAm-Multi: 4

of new titles: 6,513

of new Iron Dogs: 195

of dogs earning titles: 3,219

of points during the year: 14,070,129

of dogs earning points during the year: 5,214

of different breeds earning points during the year: 149

of new dogs registered: 851

Lee announced the newly elected board members Kim Davis, Steve Corona and Dana Hanson.

The departing members leaving the board, due to term limits, are Leerie Jenkins and Karen Oleson.

Lee turned the meeting over to Sam Ford.

“There has been a lot of time and effort put in by these two folks and we, as the board of directors would like to say thank you to them. You guys, I wish I had time to tell you all the things they have had their hands in and worked for; CanAm being one of them. They have revised rules, they've changed up the sport for us, they have been great leaders and as a member of the board directors, it's my privilege to let them know that we really appreciate them. As parting gifts, we have cutting boards for them. They have the NAFA logo on them, and written on them “Thank you for your years of service. North

American Flyball Association January 16th 2016.” We really do appreciate them for all their hard work and maybe one of these days, we'll see them on future boards. We already have commitments from them that we will see them at CanAm later this year. Thank you to Leerie Jenkins and Karen Oleson.”

Sam turned meeting back over to Lee.

Lee announced election results:

NAFA Judge of the Year is Toby Emo.

Clyde Moore Memorial Hall of Fame Inductee is Rukus, of Dog-On-It.

2015 NAFA Regional MVPs

Regional MVP, Region 1

Chip - Jack/Parson Russell Terrier – Gerry Bradshaw – Pedal Pushers

Regional MVP, Region 4

Kia – Jack/Parson Russell Terrier – Lana Luhring – Outrun

Regional MVP, Region 5

Decker – Mix – Kate Harward – Canines in Action

Regional MVP, Region 7

Tessa – Mix – Susan Nightingale – Fierce Flyers Flyball Club

Regional MVP, Region 8

Sketch – Border Collie – Stacey Conolly – Flyball N~R~G

Regional MVP, Region 9

Elphaba – Mix – Leerie and Julie Jenkins – Fur Fun

Regional MVP, Region 10

Kew – Border Collie – Carl and Gwen Dingee – F.A.M.E.

Regional MVP, Region 11

Dooley – Australian Shepherd – Michele King – Ketch This

Regional MVP, Region 12

Abby Normal – Mix – Chris Barrell – Tailwind Flyball Club

Regional MVP, Region 13

Sting – Mix – Gail D'Avolio – B.A.R.K.

Regional MVP, Region 15

Heidi – Mix – Carle Lee Detweiler – No Speed Limit

Regional MVP, Region 16

Jack Jack – Mix – Suzanne Mah – Bay Racers

Regional MVP, Region 18

Sinjin – Mix – Holly Evans – Glacier Shakers

Regional MVP, Region 19

Maggie – Boston Terrier – Maria Evans - LAUNCH

Regional MVP, Region 20
Twist – Border Collie – Heather Beach – Burnin’ Rubber

Regional MVP, Region 21
Gabby – Mini Australian/N American Shepherd – Judy Myers – Omaha Speedracers

2015 NAFA Regional Champions		
	Regular	Multibreed
Region 1	Mighty Mutts (464)	Canine Express (10)
Region 2	Rocket Relay (164)	-
Region 3	Animal Inn (2)	Animal Inn (2)
Region 4	Canine Dirt Diggers (85)	Outrun (899)
Region 5	Top Dog Racers (180)	Barkworthy (885)
Region 6	-	-
Region 7	Unorthodogs (761)	-
Region 8	Holeshot Racers (734)	-
Region 9	Fur Fun (171)	Fur Fun (171)
Region 10	Prepare for Takeoff (717)	-
Region 11	Barkaholics (883)	All Revd Up (901)
Region 12	Northern Power Paws (475)	-
Region 13	Mass Chaos (965)	Mass Chaos (965)
Region 14	Dixie Flyers (906)	Dixie Flyers (906)
Region 15	C.I.A. (594)	C.I.A. (594)
Region 16	Surf City Flyball (848)	Marin Running Riot (738)
Region 18	Glacier Shakers (894)	-
Region 19	LAUNCH (765)	-
Region 20	Burnin’ Rubber (663)	Paws on Fire (666)
Region 21	Omaha Speedracers (299)	Omaha Speedracers (299)

2015 NAFA Champions	
Regular	Multibreed
Animal Inn (2)	Fur Fun (171)

Lee announced his resignation as Executive Director.

“I have a special announcement to make. My professional career is as a police officer, actually a sergeant, and I've been afforded the opportunity to attend a command school called Staff of Command. It's an extremely intense program to go through; two weeks a month for six months. This will pretty much take up all of my time that I have to do that. I've had to think long about this. And I'm announcing tonight, that at this end of this meeting, I will be stepping down as Executive Director.

It's been an honor serving all of you, “ya'll” for twelve or thirteen years, I kinda of lost track! And I've made a lot of friends. I'm not going anywhere, just going to be really busy for awhile. This decision was made a lot easier, looking at the leadership that sits here behind me and the ones coming on board. I'm here to help them as much as I can. I have one year left on my term and with my retirement from this position, the board has appointed Sam Ford to fill out the remainder of my term.

I want to thank you all for all your help, advice and the friendship you have given me. And I look forward to it in the future.”

Sam Ford addressed the meeting.

"It's been my privilege to work with Lee. Lee took over from me when I stepped aside for business reasons. I don't think anybody can imagine what the weight of the "ED-ship" is on the shoulder of the people, unless you've done it before.

It's a sport we love; it's a sport we've dedicated years of service to and Lee has set the bar extremely high as Executive Director. We do CanAm today, under the leadership of Lee Heighton. We race across the beautiful country and are able to have thousands of teams and clubs racing under the leadership of Lee Heighton.

And I want you to know it's a privilege to have served under him as Executive Director. And I, of all people, realize how much time and effort this man has really given to each and everyone of us. We come to these tournaments, we play, we have fun. But the real work that goes on behind the scenes, are done by people like Lee Heighton, Leerie Jenkins, Karen Oleson and the rest of this board. And it's been a privilege to serve alongside and under the leadership of Lee. He will be sorely missed.

I only take this responsibility knowing that I have these people standing there with me, to help shoulder this tremendous load. We take this board very seriously. And at our level, working with the finances and all the things that go on behind the scene, we want you to be able to come and play and not worry about one whit about all of this stuff that goes on. Our job is to make it look easy.

And Lee has done a marvelous job of doing that. I would ask you to stand for a minute and give this man a standing ovation.

We also want to take a minute to tell you that Leerie is stepping down as Chair and Neil Flood will step into that position. Additional officer announcements will be forthcoming. But it will now rest among Neil and myself to fill this blank. I could talk all night about Lee. I'm thrilled that we are in Texas so we from Texas can say thank you. He has reached around the world for flyball and it's our privilege to have him here."

Lee addressed the meeting.

"My last official act as Executive Director, will be to award the trivia contest prize. The answer for the correct # of how many titles were earned is 786. The closest without going over was 731, sent in by Chris. Congratulations!"

The tie breaker answer of how many total team entries since CanAm's inception was 3,405. Of those, 254 have been from Region 5.

Lee opened up the floor to Q&A.

Craig Poirier - Is CanAm for future to still be held at the current venue? We have been unable to find venue of that size and get at that price level. We are looking at extending the venue in Indianapolis for now. But we are open to input.

Texas Fastg & Furious – How long have the members of the board have been in flyball. Dirk 2009, Kim 2000 Neil 98, Lee 98, Leerie 98, Karen 94, Dave 2002, John 2000

Mike Smith – Talked about Toby Emo being Judge of the Year. And this was a great thing to honor him.

Dawn Carter Smith – Region14 lost Barbara Skalka recently and started the region with her and the Birmingham Bandits.

Bill Davis – Are regions cultivating younger people to the sport? We had that discussion yesterday. We do have regions growing and bringing up young competitors. There are generational differences, and what inspires people to come play. We're looking to inspire millennials. And we are working toward that. Leerie Jenkins mentioned that Steve has promoted junior handlers and getting more involved with that program.

Craig Poirier – Have you thought about putting together training items? Lee talks about people coming to teams to learn. We are always looking for new ways to train and bringing people together. The best way to get them hooked is getting them competing.

Shirley Kerkhoff – Region 12. When we host tourneys, the entry fee items are in Canadian dollars and how do we afford with the money across the border does not equate. Lee did reveal that we have discussed in the board meeting. Flyball is historically the least expensive dog sport out there. And competitors expect that. The difficulty when asked to subsidize entry fees. Those tourney fees are how we keep NAFA financially solvent. They are the # one source of revenue to the organization. We also do not know where the Canadian dollar is going.

A tournament host always has the ability to change the entry fee before the tourney closes if you have to. Communicate that you have to change because of the dollar changing. Communicate why you have to change your rate to help with rising costs of the dollar. Sam reminds all that the dollar will change again, and all will be riding it out until it changes again.

Mary Fairbairn – Do other regions have issues finding affordable venues? Yes, all regions have this issue!

Charles Jones - What % of tourneys are Canadian? Region 2 and 20 are the largest regions for tourneys. They have the highest # and it's significant.

Mike Smith – What does everyone else look for in venues? Board members suggested county fairs, indoor soccer arena, ice hockey rings, basketball courts, airport hangers, recreational centers, volleyball courts.

Mike Smith – Doug Spencer is opening a flyball training facility in the Woodlands on May 1st.

Thank you to Dogz Rule! for making this all possible. Thank you to the 2016 board of directors.

Karen Oleson motioned to end the meeting. Leerie Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8 pm.