

NAFA® Board of Directors Annual General Meeting, January 14th, 2017

St. Petersburg, Florida

Sam opens the AGM. "Good evening everyone! What a great crowd. This is the official NAFA's Annual General Meeting, and thank you to Celtic Mayhem for the invitation. Thank you to Barb Miller as Regional Director. It's always want to thank those that work so hard and make us look good.

Let me tell you what happens here. We always have a trivia question! And have a prize for whoever gets closest to the correct # without going over. Write your name on a piece of paper, and add your guess. Board members will pick up shortly.

Trivia question: How many open teams have raced since Open's inception throughout flyball?

The hint is Open started in 2007."

Sam introduced himself as Executive Director and that he first came to Florida to play at the Incredible Dog Challenge in 2000. Commenting that he really enjoyed coming here and have been back several times, including working with Eukanuba in Orlando.

Sam thanked the crowd for welcoming the board members.

The attending board of directors introduced themselves; Neil Flood, Dana Hanson, Dirk Elber, John Hendriks, Jenn Bell Steve Corona, Sam Ford and Kim Davis.

Neil introduced Dale Smith, Vice Chair. "Most of you probably know Dale in some way shape or form. He's our longest serving judge and member of our Finance committee. Dale has been hugely instrumental in the sport and was a huge help to me in my first year as Chairman.

Our other board member that was not able to attend, is Dave Walt. Dave has been intricate in our judges committee for the last five years. If you've been to CanAm, you've seen him running around setting up the rings and has worked incredibly hard for us."

Sam announced the election results. "Our new Executive Director is Neil Flood.

Elections to the board included Leerie Jenkins, Dirk Elber and John Hendriks. We very much appreciate all the people that invested their time to run. If anyone is interested in running for the board, we have a place for you. We would love to have someone from your region. Thank goodness we have people that people that volunteer their time and spend hours and hours doing this for this sport. We look forward to many years of service to these three."

Sam talked about the Clyde Moore Hall of Fame and Clyde Moore himself. Inductees this year were Shiner and Fever. Judge of the year is Steve Heine from California.

See attachments for full election results, NAFA Champions and NAFA Regional Champions.

Sam announced the 2016 fiscal year statistics.

of events hosted: 342
of states: 39 different States/Provinces
of unique clubs hosting: 132
of teams that raced in the events: 8,104
of clubs represented: 339
of total club entries: 3,724
of teams by class:
Regular: 3,851
Multibreed: 716
Open: 3,158

Veterans: 367
CanAm: 8
CanAm-Multi: 4
of new titles: 6,320
of new Iron Dogs: 182
of dogs earning titles: 3,091
of points during the year: 13,806,378
of dogs earning points during the year: 5,049
of different breeds earning points during the year: 153
of new dogs registered: 804

Sam asked for the crowd's answers to the previously posted trivia question. Winner was Suzanne Rider, her answer was 25,231. The answer was "25,797 open teams have raced since Open's inception".

Neil announced the new officers:

Steve Corona - Chairman
Dale Smith - Vice Chair
Dana Hansen - Treasurer
Kim Davis – Secretary
Neil Flood – Executive Director
Lynda Mantler will serve out the remaining year of Neil's term.

Sam – "We have lots of things going on across NAFA. We have lots of conversations going on and we take them all seriously. We try to do, to the best of our ability, those things that are right and good and progressive for our sport. Our collective goal is to make NAFA the best sport to play flyball in. It's what we do and why we spend hours at this. We want you to enjoy it. We want you to play and have a place to play. We put our best effort to that. This board has made some decisions that we think that will help the sport in the future. As of May 1st, Open Class is going to change a rule. No longer in Open Class, will you need a height dog. Height dogs will still be the pre-eminent dogs in our sport, in Regular and Multibreed. But if you have dogs that can run and want to run in Open, you can choose the jump height you would like to run. Which opens the sport to more dogs, because there are teams that are having dogs sit out simply because there are no height dogs to run with on that team. This doesn't preclude you

running a height dog in Open, it just says you don't have to. You will still turn in seed times. You will still run against teams of similar speed in Open. But you won't be limited in entering based on jump height. That does not mean we devalue the importance of height dogs. It means we are giving them a place to play our sport, as it has done traditionally, in Regular and Multibreed. But it opens the Open class up to allowing teams to participate. Because it's hard to get started in this sport. It's difficult to put all those pieces together. And we think this is an opportunity for us.

Again remember, Open teams do not compete for regional championships, national championships or world records. They are there so we that can learn, and move on to the part of the sport that we all have traditionally seen, which is Regular and Multibreed racing. And we think this just opens an opportunity for more of us to be able to play with our dogs and remove that limitation. We understand that it's a step, but we consider it a step forward. So that all of us get to run and get to play. And we hope you do too.

May 1st is the choice date, because all the tournaments up to then, will be on the books. This will allow those tourneys to make adjustments, if necessary. We hope you enjoy it. Because it will be a place where we all get to run just that much more. So, it's open to your dogs, let's go out and play."

Neil – "The next big thing we tackled and we spent a good portion of our meeting yesterday doing so, but the number of hours to work this through, finding the right thing before the mtg. Everyone; aware

We have spent a lot of time working to refine our height stand and how we've defined that in our rulebook. We aren't changing what we fundamentally wanted for the stand but we're changing the wording so it's less open to interpretation and it's clearer for our people to be able to all understand from every corner of our sport. The new wording will be posted shortly. We are not changing how, there was an expectation and we're trying to remove areas where people didn't understand or weren't clear.

A huge amount of thanks to John and Rules for working on the hundreds of hours they put in on this. This will also come with updated photos to highlight what the understanding should be.

We have reviewed height card process and we wanted to find out what we could to simplify it. So we will be overhauling this process to make it simpler for competitors to get them. That won't be effective right now. Hopefully we'll have this in place by the end of this NAFA year."

Q&A

Q – Maureen Setter, All Revd Up. Are dogs with HC are grandfathered? Yes. Have you looked at doing something to increase participation in MB?

A - Sam – We have talked long and hard on how to participate in MB. It is difficult to have MB. Our region has encouraged our clubs to run MB and help increase participation. We've not hit upon a solution that creates that magic bullet that makes MB jump up in numbers. We welcome suggestions.

Q - Alan Conroy, Tampa Bay Barkaneers. I would like to see the false start eliminated for all classes.

A – There's a lot of start dog handlers that value the false start rule. It has been discussed, but alternate opinions are that it changes drastically the nature of the sport. It's a different mindset for veterans than regular, multibreed or open. Overwhelming response is to leave it as is.

Q - Mike Miller, Barkaholics – Can Open also has no false start rule?

A – This has not been discussed previously. But the board can discuss.

Q - Rand Garvin, Celtic Mayhem – There are teams that intentionally false start, is there any solution to eliminate that. How about 1 false start for each team?

A – Sam - Instituting one false start has been discussed for each team. We've looked at this from all ways. In my opinion, something like this would require a major change to the sport and would have to go to a delegate vote.

Steve – it's also a concern to the judges committee and has been discussed. We'll look at this going forward.

Sam's closing remarks – "It's time for the journey to end for me. I've been with you ... I've truly invested 20 years in this. I want to thank you and it's been my honor to represent you and your dogs. I started out as a rescuer. I got in this to make sure that multibreed and rescues had a place to play. And I'm going to leave having fulfilled this. That's important to me. Thank you for everything you've done to make my life richer by letting me play, and letting me stand here before you. I appreciate you more than you'll ever know. And every time you enter, I will rest assure that we are playing this sport together. Because it's a sport that our canines love and drag us in here to play."

Neil – "We've had two board members leave the board at this time. Sam is one, of course. The other is Dave Walt. I hope some of you have had the chance to meet Dave. He's been on the board the past six years and five of those doing the impossible amount of work we ask of the head of the judges committee. I've seen firsthand with judges on our team how hard he works to train judges, and provide guidance and all the things that go into the judges program. It's a huge amount of work. If you've been to CanAm, Dave has been instrumental in making sure we have good judges in the ring, that they are relieved, and things go smoothly. It's a huge job. I've nothing but thanks for Dave. I've learned so much from him from my time on the board. Please, let's have a quick round of applause for Dave.

The other is Sam. There are some impossibly big shoes to fill for Sam Ford. In the sport of flyball and since I've been since '97, I don't know that there's anyone that has made any bigger contributions. And I don't say that lightly. If you look at the things he helped get in play; Open Class and Veterans Class an so much more. NAFA has been through so many ups and downs, and Sam was like one of these ducks you see, calm at the top, but scrambling like mad underneath to make things run smoothly for this organization. We would absolutely not be here today if it wasn't for the amount of work done by this man. CanAm would be nowhere near what it is today without him. I would have lost without him being involved this last year.

He has left this sport far better than he ever came to. And I can't thank him enough for everything; for just being a competitor and to what he's done on the board. Thank you."

Sam – "Thank ya'll. I do appreciate it. I do this because my dog loves it. And do it because I love it. And the best feedback was being here today watching these dogs run. Thank you for letting me play this sport."

Both Dave and Sam were presented plaques.

Meeting ended at 7:00 pm.