

North American Flyball Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

New Orleans, Louisiana

Abridged Minutes

May 19, 2012

Present were: Executive Director Lee Heighton

Board of Directors
Sam Ford,
Nancy Garcia,
Leerie Jenkins,
Dana Nichols,
Karen Oleson,
Curtis Smith,
Ally Stern,
Dave Walt.

Chair Leerie Jenkins called the meeting to order at 8:52 CDT. Dale Smith was absent due to family issues.

Guests: Kim Davis

Officers' Reports

Chair's Comments – Leerie Jenkins

Leerie welcomed the Board members and guest. He thanked everyone for their hard work. Leerie expressed that there are a number of exciting things coming up. We are working hard on this year's CanAm Classic. We have started setting dates for milestones on the new database. Karen has been doing a good job of shepherding that along. Leerie thanked Ally for her work as secretary last year. Dana is transitioning the rules committee to Curtis. Dave has done a good job with the judges committee.

Executive Director's Comments – Lee Heighton

Lee explained that we have experienced some delays with implementing the new database, partially because we continue to add new demands on Gord and Emma Mak. Implementing the Iron Dog Award was substantial. We are currently setting dates for the new database to be ready to go. Lee indicated he has requested to have it ready to go by August to have some breathing room before the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

NAFA is moving towards utilizing a different shipping company in Canada. Lee reported we continue to have difficulty with shipping in many parts of Canada through UPS. We have had several instances of difficulty in getting lights shipped in Western Canada. He has looked into using Purolator. They are slightly more expensive, but have much better coverage and more reliable shipping in those areas. The shipping can be routed through our Canadian account. Canadian clubs would also be able to pay tournament fees directly into the Canadian account. Details are still being finalized.

Lee was contacted by Sue Crawford, who requested a link on our website to – www.americas-pet-store.com. The consensus was that the current link opportunity is not a good match for our organization.

He indicated he would like to move towards owning more NAFA equipment. Last year we purchased 2 rings of mats. Lee has spoken to Mike Smith who would be able to provide six rings of Sintra jumps for

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approximately \$2,000.00. This would include uprights in different colors to match the rings. There was discussion of various styles of uprights. Sam suggested that any purchase include 10 jumps per ring to allow for backup jumps. Several people also suggested purchasing extra slats. Even with extras, Lee predicted the cost should still be less than \$3,000.00. There was also discussion of purchasing containers for storing the jumps. Lee suggested storage containers that would allow for easy stacking. There were further discussions about styles of laminated jumps and how to display a NAFA logo.

Sam moved that we authorize Lee to purchase jumps and work out the specific details with Mike Smith. Nancy seconded the motion. There was additional brief discussion. Karen asked whether there would be a written quote/contract with specifications, pricing, and a delivery date. Lee indicated he would receive the bid in writing. The motion passed unanimously.

Lee requested that we enter executive session. Leerie moved we enter Executive Session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:23 a.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:35 a.m.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Garcia

Nancy reported we have a current balance of 66,000 American Express points. She plans to cash out the points again for gift certificates for CanAm volunteers. She discussed that generally most expenses are run through the account, such as Board members airline tickets, to maximize points. She is trying to classify expenses through the American Express account more clearly and may send follow-up emails where she has questions. She is also moving towards establishing other line items in our financial documents to classify marketing type expenses. Lee suggested that we consider establishing an annual marketing budget, especially since we generally see a spike in interest when we receive national exposure. Nancy will include that in budgeting for next year.

During the winter months there are not as many tournaments in the northeast, so tournaments fees have not ramped up yet.

Nancy has been working to get Quick Books streamlined for our accounts. That process resulted in recording a relatively minor reconciliation error of \$188.15. It was recorded in December 2011 and will show up on the year to date financials.

Secretary's Report – Dana Nichols

Dana reported that the transition from Ally has been completed. She reported the following activity since the last meeting:

- 2/13/12 – Highlights from the January 20, 2012 Board meeting were posted on the website
- 2/16/12 – January 21, 2012 AGM minutes (with election results) were approved by unanimous consent and posted on the website

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- 3/7/12 – The Executive Committee approved judge expenditures for CanAm as follows, with the caveat that the fee will be one entry fee per day. So, if the entry fee is changed (was \$125 last year), the judging fee will change accordingly.

Judges running on one team:

Fee of \$125/day (\$375 total)

Hotel of \$35/day (\$105 total)

per diem \$20/day (\$60 total)

Total compensation = \$540.00

Judges not running/helping on any teams:

Fee of \$125/day (\$375 total)

Hotel of \$70 /day (\$210 total)

per diem \$20/day (\$60 total)

Travel expenses \$250.00

Total compensation = \$895 .00

- 3/8/12 -- 2/27/12 Teleconference minutes were approved via email and posted on the website 3/12/12
- 3/9/12 - Minutes for the January 20, 2012 Board meeting were approved and posted to the website on 3/20/12

Standing Committee Reports

Election Committee – Dana Nichols

The entirely online election this year went well. Results were posted on the NAFA website with additional data on returned votes per region as well as overall.

This year, new time lines will go into effect for nominations. Nominations open June 1 and close September 30 for Board of Directors, Judge of the Year, Hall of Fame, and Regional MVPs. We are on track to start receiving nominations through the elections webpage beginning June 1 this year. The nomination period is now four months long. The Election Committee would recommend that the Board consider shortening the time frame, perhaps to have the period begin August 1.

Karen moved to change the nominating period to August 1 – September 30. Dana seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously. This change will go into effect October 1, 2012. The nomination period for this year will remain June 1 – September 30, 2012.

This year's election will also have new calculations for delegate votes. Clubs can earn up to 15 votes. Team entries are based on the new schedule in the rule book and are assessed per tournament week (meaning entries are generally now based on a per weekend basis, rather than per tournament basis), whereas delegate votes earned for hosting tournaments are earned per tournament day (meaning hosting 2 one-day tournaments = 2 votes, hosting 1 two-day tournament = 2 votes). Gord Mak has the information to begin updating the calculations for the database.

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This year, the Chair, Leerie Jenkins, is intending to be a candidate for the Board. Pursuant to Article V, Section I of the bylaws, he will not be a member of the Election Committee. He tendered his formal resignation to the committee.

Nominating Committee – Kim Davis – report included with Elections

Judges Committee – Dave Walt

- Bob Atol, Richfield MN - Apprentice to Provisional

The Judges Committee unanimously recommends promotion. Karen moved to promote the judge as requested. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the judge is promoted to provisional status.

- Peter Guidolin, Schomberg ON - Provisional to Approved

The Judges Committee unanimously recommends promotion. Ally moved to promote the judge as requested. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the judge is promoted to approved status.

- Anchor Dog Re-runs

The Judges Committee received the following request:

Can I have some clarification on what the anchor dog needs to do for its rerun to be legitimate. For the rerun to be legitimate where, in relation to the start finish line and sensors must the dog do its turn before returning back down the lane for its' rerun ?

Does the nose only have to break the sensor/finish line and the dog turn in the sensors? Can the dog turn in the sensors and the the tail break the start/finsih line and it be legal? Or does the entire dog need to cross the line before it returns back down the lane?

We had this situation at a tournament this past weekend and as judges we had a great discussion and not all necessarily agreeing.

Thanks

Carl Dingee

Region 10

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There was some disagreement in the committee about whether the dog had to completely cross the line based on Section 8.3 – The Heat. The matter was brought to the Board for further discussion. There was discussion about whether the rule needed to be clarified. The majority of the committee believed that an anchor dog has to completely cross the start/finish line before it can rerun.

A brief recess was taken at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:32 a.m.

After a brief discussion, Curtis moved to interpret the rule that the anchor dog must cross over the start line completely before rerun. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rules Committee – Curtis Smith

The Rules Committee received the following proposals and requests:

1. Listing additional dogs on multibreed teams -- Maureen Setter

First forwarded to the board by Leerie on 1/17/12:

> I've spoken to both Leerie & Lee regarding my solution for multi teams and I might have mentioned this to Sam. Giving extra points just doesn't seem fair.

>

> I know what would help our multi team would be to be able to list 8 dogs. Many teams barely have 4 different breeds of their team, much less 6 to attend a tournament all at the same time. If we could list 8 dogs, then we have a better chance of replacing a dog that can't run. Many times our 2 back-up dogs are of the same breeds that are running and they can only replace their breed on the team. Not a good solution for back-up dogs on your multi team.

>

> What do I have to do to get the Board to look at this possible solution for increasing multi team participation.

>

> I personally love racing on our multi team but getting 6 different breeds to attend a tournament can be difficult

>

> thanks

>

>

> -----

> Maureen

Recommendations: The committee was split with regard to the level of support for this proposal. Some members thought adopting the proposal may be the least intrusive way to help encourage multibreed. The option of listing additional dogs on the time sheet would allow for more flexibility since the team would less likely need to withdraw or go FEO if any one dog was suddenly

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unable to run. The committee discussed several practical concerns including modifications that would need to be made to the C.2 form, the NAFA scoring program, and the NAFA database (although, Dale Smith indicated it would likely not be too difficult to make the necessary changes). Adopting the proposal would also perhaps adversely affect various third party software programs that are used by some clubs to assist with hosting tournaments. Thus, the administrative heartache associated with implementing the proposal may outweigh the potential benefits. On the other hand, the proposal may provide the extra boost needed for those regions on the cusp of being able to run multibreed on a regular basis.

The committee mentioned (without discussion) additional options the board may want to consider such as splitting mixes into different "breeds" based on some specified criteria (e.g., weight) or allowing a multibreed team to run with a minimum of three different breeds instead of four. In any case, the committee looks forward to further discussion with the rest of the board and to hearing any comments or ideas that NAFA competitors may have on the subject.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations. There was discussion about possible benefits and challenges of an eight dog roster. There was discussion about supporting the multibreed class and whether that should be a goal for NAFA. Several members expressed support for encouraging unique breeds and preserving the multibreed class. The challenge seems to be that the open class is more flexible. Multibreed entries have diminished significantly since the introduction of the open class. There was some concern expressed as to whether the current proposal would encourage teams to enter multibreed. Briefly an intermediate option of moving to a seven dog roster was discussed. Most members in support of the proposal thought that eight was a more viable number as it allowed a back up for each dog on the roster. Several Board members wanted to actively seek input from the Flyball community.

Curtis moved that the eight dog multibreed roster proposal be placed on the NAFA website to actively seek comment before the August meeting and have the Board vote on the issue then. Sam also suggested that the regional directors help seek input. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Using compressed air in a flyball box -- Michael Stoyer

Subject: Flyball Box Regulations

Date: Fri, Feb 10, 2012 6:01 pm

Hi,

I'm looking to build a flyball box, and I had a question regarding regulations:

Under section 1.1, it states that

(b) All boxes are to have a mechanical (not electrical) mechanism.

Would this exclude the use of compressed air? I would be using a compressed air tank filled prior to the competition, and it wouldn't be filled or switched out during the

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competition. There would be no electronic components on the tank being used or otherwise on the flyball box. It would also, of course, adhere to all other regulations.

I only ask because in all likelihood I would probably use an electrical device to fill the tank beforehand, and while no electrical mechanism would be used during the competition, I wanted to make sure I didn't run afoul of regulations before building the box rather than finding out later.

*Thanks,
Mike*

Recommendations: There was no consensus regarding whether the current rules allow for compressed air. However, some committee members agreed that in principle, the rules should allow for a box to harness energy from compressed air instead of a spring. Furthermore, some committee members would also like the board to consider allowing the option of using electricity perhaps in the form of a self-contained battery. However, there was some concern that new technologies may make it difficult to readily discern whether a box poses any potential hazards (e.g., the possibility of a malfunction that results in an unsafe and overly powerful thrust). One member suggested that for the time being, boxes with compressed air be approved on a case by case basis. The committee also briefly discussed how one would deal with situations when the compressed air runs out or a battery dies during a race; although, perhaps such scenarios could be dealt with the same way as any other box malfunctions that occur nowadays.

So as not to stifle innovation and creativity, the committee decided it would be instructive for the board to consider a rewrite of Section 1.1(b) from the Rules of Racing that includes a detailed description of "what" a box needs to do (e.g., hold ball, dog triggers box, ball shoots certain distance) without addressing the "how." Sam Ford and Dale Smith will try to have a proposed draft for the board to consider at the upcoming meeting.

If the board were to approve any changes to the rules with regard to box design, the committee recommends that the issue be open to some additional input from the public, and that any concerns raised during the comment period be thoroughly considered and dealt with before the changes take effect on October 1, 2012.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations. There was discussion about use of compressed air boxes. Concern was expressed about use of remote control devices to change compression & ball speed. Sam discussed the term mechanical and whether these boxes would expand that definition. Dale had expressed in committee that the term "mechanical" originally referred to spring loaded. Sam believed it would be most efficient to find out first if the Board was supportive of the idea in general before deciding whether to obtain feedback regarding the issue. Some members were very concerned about the possibilities of cheating. Others raised issues that the associated noise might be distracting to dogs in the other lane. Sam suggested that it might be time to revisit the rule regarding boxes and write it to indicate what a box must do and remove some of the restrictions on boxes.

There was extensive debate about whether the Board should move forward with a project to rewrite the box rule and consider allowing other types of boxes such as compressed air, battery operated boxes, and other designs. There was discussion about how much innovation in boxes should be acceptable. Designs

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now in use were not contemplated in the original rules. Ultimately, the Board did not express enough support to completely redesign the box rule.

The Board then revisited the specific question raised of whether a compressed air box would be permitted under our current rule.

Dana moved not to permit compressed air boxes. Dave seconded the motion. There was discussion that this motion might require some amendment to the current rule to clarify.

In favor of the motion: Nancy Garcia, Dana Nichols, and Dave Walt. Opposed: Sam Ford, Karen Oleson, Curtis Smith, and Ally Stern. The motion failed.

Curtis moved to respond to Mr. Stoyer that the rule does not inherently prohibit compressed air boxes, but that the Board has concerns about safety, noise, and meeting other standards of box design. The Board would consider any proposed boxes on a case by case basis. Ally seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Angie Heighton joined the meeting as a guest.

The meeting was adjourned for a lunch break from 12:00 – 12:38 p.m.

Angie Heighton left the meeting.

3. Changing regional affiliation -- Chris VanWert

Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2012 09:32:06 -0500

Subject: May Agenda Item: Proposed Change to CP P Section 8.3(c) "Changing Regional Affiliation"

[ref. Corporate Policies & Procedures, Section 8.3 (c)]

[ref. NAFA BoD Abridged Minutes, Detroit, MI, April 16-17, 2011]

To: Leerie Jenkins

Chairman of the NAFA Board of Directors

Dana Nichols

Rules Committee Chair

NAFA Board of Directors, et.al.

I propose that a change to the Corporate Policies and Procedures, Section 8.3 (c) be considered and adopted to be included as part of the agenda for the May 2012 Meeting.

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Specifically, change(s) that would allow a club owner with a legitimate residence change and/or other reasonable request for an exception to the current rule which requires that a club must wait until the beginning of the next racing year (October 1) before being allowed to change regions or to opt-in/prefer into an adjacent region.

This rule reads in part: "A Club may change regional affiliation by written request to NAFA." This statement is currently being interpreted as beginning its application at the following year's racing season (October 1).

First, a club that has chosen to opt-in/prefer into an adjacent region is not actually located there, by definition. They are a club that prefers to travel to a region outside of their place of residence.

*The Board has demonstrated that they are willing to grant exceptions to this rule. The minutes show that an exception was granted even though Section 8.3(c) has no exceptions written, or published by NAFA. There was no "reason" presented to the Board at the time the request for an exception was made and, the Board did not ask for a reason. In pursuit of **fairness**, this is an option that should be available to ALL clubs equally.*

Secondly, a club owner may have moved their residence which subsequently changes their regional location, yet they are being treated under the rule the same as a club which is choosing to travel "outside" their residence.

Under the current interpretation and application of Section 8.3(c), the only way a club owner may change residence and, therefore, compete immediately in the region where they now reside is to "dissolve" their club, re-register their club on NAFA Form C.11 using a new club name and paying an additional fee.

I can understand the incentive to collect a fee and therefore, create another source of income for NAFA however, a club should not be required to disband or to incur other excessive costs in order to compete in the region where they reside. If NAFA can put a club in its proper region as a new club at any time during the racing year, then it can move an existing club to its proper region any time as well. It did this for Spring Loaded.

Overall, the current interpretation and application of Section 8.3(c) is not customer driven. Please, think this issue through from an organizational and leadership perspective.

*What I propose is that the Board regulate or otherwise specify language and incorporate in Section 8.3(c) the exact situations in which an allowance for a residence change or other exception/exemption to Section 8.3 (c) may be applied for. As an example, a change in your place of residence which is more than 200 miles from your club's current address as listed on NAFA Form C.11 is a "reasonable" cause to apply for and be granted an **immediate** change of region.*

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There may be other reasonable causes that the Board wishes to include such as a change in residence to a region "beyond" an adjacent region or, it may leave that option open to allow other clubs to plead their case before the Board.

I am proposing this revision to allow both legitimate residence changes as well as other reasonable exceptions since:

1.) There is a precedent that was set last year for Spring Loaded, the Executive Director's club.

2.) The rule itself currently has NO provision for any legitimate residence change nor for any other exceptions listed.

3.) The current wording seems to limit the application of this rule to changes involving an "adjacent" region. How should this rule apply to a club that moves beyond an "adjacent" region? Would the Board consider that a reasonable request for an exception to Section 8.3(c)?

*4.) In pursuit of **fairness**, this is an option that should be available to ALL clubs equally who change their residence or who desire to opt-in/prefer to a region, just as it was made available to the Executive Director's club (Spring Loaded) without any reason recorded in the minutes.*

As in all rules where there are exceptions listed or not listed, the Board retains all rights to review requests for exceptions and has the final determination whether or not it is "reasonable".

All sections of the Board meeting minutes or the NAFA Rulebook referenced are included for easy reference below.

Sincerely,

Christine Van Wert,

The Wooferines Flyball Club, NAFA #455

North American Flyball Association®, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Detroit, MI

Abridged Minutes, April 16-17, 2011

New Business

Lee asked that his club (Spring Loaded, a Region 1 team) prefer Region 2. Dave moved that Spring Loaded be granted an exception to prefer Region 2. They can not earn regional championship points this racing year but, should they host a tournament, it

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would be a Region 2 event. Kris seconded. There was no discussion. No one was opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

CORPORATE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Section 8.3 - Regional Champions

(c) All points and tie-break times for Regional Championships must be earned in the Club's home region, i.e., an "in-region" team. A Club's home region, absent a written request for change, is the place of residence of the Club owner shown on NAFA®. Form C.11. A Club may change regional affiliation by written request to NAFA®. Requests to change regional affiliation to an adjacent region must be received before the start of the racing year to take effect that year. A host club's regional affiliation shall determine the region in which regional points accrue for tournaments hosted by that club, except when the tournament is hosted more than 200 road miles away from the opted-in regional border, in which case the regional points will accrue for the region where the tournament is geographically located.

Recommendations: After discussion, the committee agreed that exceptions should rarely be granted. The committee believes the board should handle any requests on a case by case basis and should grant them only under the most unusual circumstances. Where club owners move mid-year, most issues regarding regional affiliation of tournaments are now addressed by geographic limitations imposed by Section 8.3(c) [page 42 of the current rulebook]. Therefore, the committee recommends the board not adopt the changes requested in the proposal.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations. The Board reviewed an additional comment from Ms. VanWert.

Karen moved to accept the recommendations of the rules committee. Dana seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Wearing appropriate clothing/footwear -- Jennifer Strong

Date: Mon, Apr 16, 2012 at 5:45 PM

Subject: [flyball.org] <rules> Footwear Rule

I would ask that the rules committee consider adopting a rule that handlers must wear appropriate clothing/footwear in the lanes. I've noticed people who will run dogs in flip flops or barefooted. While this may be more comfortable, I believe it poses a safety hazard, and could potentially be a liability issue for hosting clubs. If you do not wish to specifically address it as a rule, could we include a section in the rules that gives the judges discretion to address safety concerns such as these? Thank you!
-Jennifer

Recommendations: The committee does not feel it is inherently wrong for a handler to be barefooted regardless of whether the venue is indoors on mats or outdoors on grass. If a running surface were deemed unsafe for barefooted handlers, then it would likely also be unsafe for dogs

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to run on. At this time, there are too many situational factors to consider if the committee were to attempt to devise a rule along these lines. For example, if bare feet were disallowed, would flip flops or Vibram FiveFingers be OK? The committee did, however, agree that head judges always have the right to address situations they deem unsafe (e.g., handlers with metal cleats/spikes or high heels).

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

Karen moved to accept the recommendations of the rules committee. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Using a vibrating collar before a tourney starts -- Elizabeth Currin

Date: Sat, 21 Apr 2012 12:11:53 -0400 (EDT)

Subject: Rule Question

Dana,

Got a NAFA rule question for you pertaining to the use of a "vibrating collar". I believe this is the applicable section of the rule book that will apply to this question:

Section 1.3 – Collars and leads

Competitors are forbidden to use electronic, electronic dummy collars, and pinch/prong collars on the tournament grounds. The tournament grounds include racing lanes, spectator areas, and the crating area. Head halters, including Haltees or Gentle Leaders are permitted in the ring, but may not be used in navigating the course during racing or warm-ups. Flat collars, slip collars and harnesses are the only accepted type of collar. Retractable leads shall not be used in the ring during racing or warm-ups. It is noted that it is impossible to control spectators with prong collars or other unapproved devices on their dogs who are not part of the tournament.

And here's my question: Does this rule apply before the tournament starts? Specifically, could a person use a vibrating collar to train a dog during mat time the night before the tournament starts? (i.e. Friday night or Saturday night if it is 2/1-day tournaments on Saturday and Sunday.)

*Thank you,
Elizabeth Currin
Region 5*

Recommendations: The committee unanimously agreed that based on Section 1.3 - Collars and leads (from the Rules of Racing), one cannot use forbidden collars at any time when in conjunction with a NAFA event, including mat time and single/dual dog racing the night before a tournament.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations.

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Karen moved to accept the recommendations of the rules committee. Ally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Submitting entries for open from multiple clubs in a limited tournament -- Leerie Jenkins

If there is any way I could add an item to this agenda, I would like for us to discuss limited tournament draws, and people submitting multiple clubs for open.

Leerie

Recommendations: The purpose of a random draw for a limited class is to give each team a fair and equal chance at getting a team entry into the class. The draw also ensures that each club will get one team entry into the class before any club gets a second team entry into the same class. Members of the committee believe that submitting entries from "ghost clubs" for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in a draw is against the spirit and intent of the rules and consequently unsportsmanlike conduct. When situations such as this arise, the committee recommends the board defer to the Executive Director for additional review and possible punitive action.

The Board considered the proposal and the committee's recommendations. The Board reviewed a comment from a regional director requesting that the Board write some form of rule to have more uniform assessment and enforcement. There was concern expressed that it would be difficult to draft a rule, rather than just handle blatant abuses on a case by case basis. The Board encourages clubs to act in sportsmanship manner when entering limited draw tournaments.

Karen moved to accept the recommendations of rules committee. Ally seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marketing Committee – Nancy Garcia

Nancy reviewed plans for T-shirts for the CanAm Classic this year. Nancy is putting out a request for proposals from several vendors. Dana requested she consider seeking plus-sized women's shirts this year as well.

She discussed various sponsorship opportunities in progress. She said that the club basket exchange was very popular last year and she has plans to continue it this year. Other awards and plans were discussed as well.

The meeting was recessed from 1:41 – 2:13 p.m.

Finance – Curtis Smith

Leerie moved we enter Executive Session.

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The Board entered Executive Session at 2:15 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 3:02 p.m. The Board discussed budget projections during Executive Session.

Disciplinary Committee – Leerie Jenkins

- Cheyenne - 060881- Request to remove 4/4/09 excusal

The committee received a request to remove the aggression excusal from April 4, 2009. The dog met all the requirements of the rule. The committee unanimously recommends removing the excusal.

Sam moved to remove the aggression excusal. Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Panel – Leerie Jenkins

Leerie reported the following aggression excusals and actions on appeal:

- Dobby - 080286, 10/15/2011 - Upheld on Appeal
- Ally - 060559, 02/04/2012
- Tux - 100191, 03/31/2012
- Fable - 100179, 04/14/2012

Special Committee Reports

Technology Committee – Karen Oleson

EJS Systems:

Twelve Electronic Judging Systems have been updated with the new software which includes the Judge Override and Veterans Mode features. Five consoles are updated and ready to swap in as systems become available. The new features are very popular, especially the countdown timer.

There are issues with people who feel comfortable “reprogramming” the EJS systems. **Reprogramming is not a fix to many problems people encounter and if not done precisely results in an unusable system.**

Optimizer:

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The optimizer continues to be used by host clubs for creating schedules. Dale is working on getting the optimizer off of the physical computer that it currently runs on and putting it into the Amazon Cloud. People continue to comment on the seemingly high rate of club conflicts in some schedules produced by the optimizer. The optimizer tries to balance a number of factors in rearranging a schedule. Its highest priority is dog rest (the break a team gets before it races again). Behind that is Club rest - to give people time to take care of their dogs and allow them to get to and from the ring to keep a tournament flowing smoothly. Analysis has shown that optimized schedules which have been later altered, generally provide less adequate and equal rest for the dogs in favor of giving more rest to people (clubs).

New Database:

Work continues on the new database. We've set a goal date for the final cutover to take place prior to September 30, 2012. A timetable for unfinished functionality has been proposed and includes intermediate milestones to meet this date. We are holding periodic teleconferences to make sure it stays on task.

Other Equipment:

Lee reported that NAFA has purchased seven sets of heat counters like the ones used at CanAm.

NAFA/Flyball History Committee – Dave Walt

This continues to be a work in progress. Dave reported that the committee is working towards developing a historical timeline. Kathryn Hogg has given permission to utilize some of her site's historical data for our web page.

Old Business:

- *Training Column* – Dana Nichols

Dana indicated that the training column has not been active for the past few years. She asked for some direction as to whether there was interest in reviving the training column. And if so, asked that it be delegated to someone else for continuity after her term expires this year. There was interest expressed by board members. Ally volunteered to take over the column. Lee suggested posting questions on a quarterly as opposed to attempting to post on a monthly basis might be more feasible. Dana will transfer the trainers' yahoo group to Ally.

- *NAFA Online Store* – Lee Heighton & Leerie Jenkins

Lee and Leerie reported that they are still in discussion with the company who would host the online store. They will report back at the next meeting.

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- *AKC Recognition of Titles* – Leerie Jenkins

The American Kennel Club has enthusiastically approved recognition of NAFA flyball titles. They will accept applications now, with requests being processed beginning July 1, 2012. We will create a link on the NAFA website with the appropriate forms. Currently they will recognize 3 titles – FDCh, FM and ONYX. AKC will collect a processing fee from those wishing to have the titles recognized.

Several members requested this information be disseminated through NAFA News, the Facebook page, and on the website as soon as possible.

New Business:

- *Customized Awards* – Stacy Santarone

The Board received the following request:

For your consideration:

Can NAFA offer an option for exhibitors for the 40K award. Either (1) the current plaque that has room for multiple titles past 40K at no charge; or (2) a plaque like the 30K award (same size and layout) at the exhibitor's expense.

The 30K plaque is a beautiful, elegant and impressive looking award. The current 40K award is also beautiful but for dogs that most likely won't reach 50K and beyond, the plaque looks out of balance with just a 40K plate on the large walnut piece. The current plaque is great for an exhibitor with a younger dog who is able to travel to many tournys per year to attain titles beyond 40K. But for many of us, reaching 40K is a huge milestone and not realistic to expect anything higher. This is the reason for my request that NAFA consider offering an approved alternate style plaque for the 40K award.

I would even volunteer to assist with this if Annie would like the help – she could offload the "special orders" to me to coordinate the information from the respective captains/exhibitors so it is not additional work for her. Then I would send her the final list to combine with the rest of the quarterly plaque order.

Thank you for considering this request.

Regards

Stacy

Stacy Santarone

Captain, Waverunners Flyball Team -- Florida's First

www.flyballdogs.com/waverunners

North American Flyball Association, Inc.

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There was discussion of the proposal.

Dana moved to have the Marketing Committee look at feasibility of two options – stock plaques for 40,000 – 90,000 awards and partially customized options to include a photograph. Ally seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Mini American/Australian Shepherd* – Ally Stern

Board member Ally Stern raised the following issue regarding the appropriate name for the Mini Aussie breed based on modifications to the breed's name and recognition by several registries:

According to our rule book if a breed is claimed, it must be a breed recognized by at one of the following 6 kennel clubs. I've looked at all their websites and indicated their name for the "Mini Aussie".

- *American Kennel Club (including Foundation Stock Service)- Miniature American Shepherd*
- *Canadian Kennel Club- Only recognizes Australian Shepherds*
- *United Kennel Club- Only recognizes Australian Shepherds*
- *Mexican Kennel Club- I don't understand their website. Does anyone read Spanish? If you can read it what do they call the Mini Aussie (if they recognize the breed)*
- *American Rare Breed Association- Miniature Australian Shepherd*
- *American Herding Breed Association- Miniature Australian Shepherd*

Unless the Mexican Kennel Club calls them "North American Shepherds" I propose that we remove North American Shepherd (NAS) from our database. It should be replaced by Miniature American Shepherd. I did find one registry that recognizes the NAS- <http://www.cdhpr.com/CDHPRWeb.nsf/WebPages/Enrolled> The CDHPR has an agreement with the UKC. "The CDHPR Existing Breed committee can help breeds not currently recognized by UKC to develop an Existing Breed Plan that can then be submitted to UKC for consideration." <http://www.cdhpr.com/CDHPRWeb.nsf/WebPages/Consideration> This means that someday the North American Shepherd might be recognized by the UKC. But for now, it is not recognized. So once again, I propose that we remove NAS from our database (however someone should check the Mexican Kennel Club website).

Ally Stern-Kolesnikow

DogZworth- Montreal, Canada

Ally explained that the American Kennel Club recently recognized the breed under the name Miniature American Shepherd. Several other registries also changed the name for the breed so there is no longer any registry that recognizes them under the name North American Shepherd.

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Ally moved we change the current name of "Mini Australian/N American Shepherd" in the database to "Mini Australian/American Shepherd." Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- *In Memoriam Recognition of Flyball Dogs* – Dana Hanson

The Board received the following request:

For your consideration:

In Memoriam Recognition of Flyball Dogs

This winter one of the first dogs in our club to be awarded NAFA's Iron Dog award died. He was not sick, and he had a pretty good life in spite of the tragedies that marked the beginning and end of his life. There was not a cause to champion or a cure to search for when Bailey passed. What he did was play flyball with a lot of heart and a lot of noise. So it seemed fitting when our number- 3 American Eskimo passed that we find a flyball way to honor or remember him. I found nothing.

I'm asking NAFA to consider developing a program the purpose of which would be two-fold: to memorialize/honor dogs within the flyball community and to improve flyball for its ongoing participants by providing an untapped source of funds for replacement of EJS boxes, technology upgrades and new technology . . . perhaps even sponsorship of apprentice judges or upstart clubs in areas where geographic location creates unique challenges. The ideas for how to put funds to work came out of my conversations with others, conversations that started with the simple concept of attaching an engraved sign to an EJS box in memory of this dog. One conversation produced the suggestion to allow naming of the light sets rather using their current color and number designations. My idea is a rough one at this point but could be developed into a menu of opportunities and their associated costs, along with some a web based support for such a recognition program.

The club owners with whom I spoke are aware that NAFA is not a fund raising organization, and they don't believe this would be a deterrent. For our own club, I would consider such a payment part of our recognition program, just as I would plaques and awards.

*Dana Hanson
Double Dog Dare
Region 14*

Curtis moved to have the Marketing Committee consider this proposal and develop a recommendation for the Board. Sam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Dave moved to adjourn the meeting. Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 CDT.