



NAFA NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the North American Flyball Association, Inc.

March, 1997.

Communicating with NAFA: New Address, Phone, FAX

Now that our Treasurer and Statistician, Melanie McAvoy, is located in Illinois, NAFA has set up an improved system for communicating with NAFA and Melanie.

Please take note of the following:

Mail Address:

**NAFA, Inc.
1400 W Devon Avenue
Box 512
Chicago, IL
60660**

Telephone: (Voice and Fax): **309-688-9840**

These numbers are available on a 24 hour basis (via answering machine) for conducting business with NAFA.

These changes should result in a faster turn around when requesting CRNs and other information from NAFA.

The Executive Director's Corner

Clyde Moore

This month, I want to call your attention to something that has occurred a couple of times in the last year. Twice, tournament directors have decided after their entries closed to split their divisions, racing some divisions one day and the others the second day. I have no problem with this format if the clubs affected knew about this when they entered. I do, however, have a problem when this is decided at the last minute. Therefore, in the future, if this type of racing format is not specified on the tournament application form filed with NAFA, it will not be allowed at a NAFA sanctioned event.

Also, in recent conversations with several competitors, it has been brought to my attention that at some tournaments, the matting is getting so gritty from sand and small stones brought in from outside, that some dogs are suffering damage to their pads. It has been suggested that maybe the mats could possibly be swept at least once during the day to alleviate this problem. It would

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also cut down on some of the floating hair that accumulates from somewhere, and covers the EJS.

I would like to thank Steve Morris (Flying Colors), who has consented to the use of his EJS for some of the of West Coast tournaments.

I would also like to congratulate Chuck Anderson (Animal Inn), who finally after losing three (3) starts in a row to Rachel Croley in the last race of the day in Vegas, managed to regroup, swallow his pride and win the race to the starting line in the last heat of the day.

I would also like to congratulate Texas. They have a very qualified and informed Judge in their Region. It was a pleasure working with D. West and his wife at the Vegas Tournament.

Clyde

Hall of Fame

Now is a good time to start thinking about Hall of Fame Nominations. Nominations are due by August 1, and should be sent to:

Katy Kaylor.
6800 Arroyo Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Don't forget that elections for three Board Members will be coming up this Fall

Words from the Chairman

Bob Murray

Now that '97 is well under way, the list of upcoming tournaments just grows and grows. I'd like to congratulate all the teams and Flyball people who organize and run tournaments, especially those people running tournaments for the first time. We are trying to supply the EJS to every tournament, but with more tournaments requiring 2 sets it is becoming more difficult. Please remember these systems have been at many tournaments and have thousands of air miles on them, so please - please handle with care especially when packing for shipment. The only thing worse than racing without the system is having to head Judge or line judge without it.

Good racing - Good luck - and have FUN!!!

Lights



Lights

John Cocking



Lights

I don't usually put my own words into the NAFA NEWS, but I have just seen a demonstration of the new NAFA "Lights", otherwise known as the "Electronic Judging System". I know that much concern has been expressed about the reliability and availability of the EJS, and I know that this has been a concern to Clyde and Bob as well. The new system has been under development for some time, but now that the prototype unit has been successfully demonstrated, the NAFA Board is confident that new systems will become a reality in the near future. In fact it is likely that by the time you read this, the prototype unit will have a tournament or two under its belt.

The new system will not appear much different to the competitors, but underneath there is an entirely new set of electronics. The prime characteristics NAFA wanted in any new system were reliability, durability, simplicity and transportability, all at a reasonable price. At the heart of this system is a Mitsubishi Programmable Logic Controller (PLC). A PLC is computer that has been dedicated to the task of controlling things. This PLC is not much bigger than a household thermostat, but it can sequence the start lights monitor the exchange sensors and keep track of times. In addition, it can function without the

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Brochures

The reorder date for the NAFA Brochures is approaching. If anybody knows of anything they feel should be included in this Brochure, I would appreciate hearing from you. Also, I have heard from only 2 equipment (boxes, jumps, etc.) manufacturers. If you want to be included consider this last call.

NAFA Policy Changes

Detroit, February 15, 1997

Regional Awards

1. Regional 4-breed champions will be honored in the Regions where the qualifications (i.e. # of tournaments) standards are met.

2. Regional Awards will be determined according to a Club's performance rather than an individual team. A club will now receive the points for placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd no matter which of their teams earned the placing, A, B, Gold, etc.

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Section 6.2(d)(i) This section will now read: *"When a tournament's regular class is unlimited"*

Section 5.1(h) This section will

now read: *"Following the tournament, the host club is to submit a recording fee of \$15 (US funds) per team that entered along with the original time-sheets, Judges measuring form(s), a Tournament Results Form (NAFA Form C.6) within 30 days. After 30n days, the host club shall be assessed a \$50.00 late penalty."*

Flyball on the Internet

To subscribe to the Flyball Mailing List, send an E-mail message to:

listproc@ces.com

Leave the subject blank, put only:

subscribe flyball your real name

in the body of the message.

For example:

subscribe flyball Joe Blow

There is also a Flyball Site on the World Wide Web. The URL for the site is:

www.cs.umn.edu/~ianhogg/flyball/flyball.html

These services are made available to us through the generosity of Ian Hogg.

The mail list provides a useful means for communication among flyballers around the world, but it is not the medium for conducting formal business with NAFA.

Measuring for Records

Records have been validated by a review of the video tape for some time now. This review has always focused on the exchanges. Recently the Board notified judges that in the event of a potential record, all the parameters of the race should be verified. This means judges will check:

- Race lane length.
- Jump placement.
- Box throw.
- Jump heights.
- Height dog measurement.

All of these have to fall within specified ranges for the potential record to be considered valid. The judge signs a form indicating that these items have been checked and are within spec.

Tournament Directors (Reminder)

The Electronic Judging System (EJS) transportation box lock combinations:

U.S. Boxes 173

Canadian (Green) Box: 3228

Keep for future reference.

Note that although the boxes are used primarily in one country, they do cross the border when needed.

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intervention of a line judge. The winning lane is indicated by a flashing green start light. The times are displayed on a Mitsubishi Display Interface. The head table time keeper has overriding control of the lights, so that a race cannot be started until the time recorder resets the system, passing control back to the head judge. The times from the most recent several races are retained in memory and may be recalled if necessary.

The system was developed for NAFA by a small company specializing in Industrial Process Automation. The system design, and the program that runs the PLC will be owned by NAFA. The system is professionally built and comes with full schematic drawings, instructions, and parts list. All the parts are heavy-duty industrial components that are stock items at industrial electronics suppliers. The system does not have all features that have been proposed, but it should meet the primary design criteria established by NAFA: Reliable, durable, simple, transportable.

The Final Word

by Steve McAvoy

Chairman Regulatory Committee, Vice-Chairman Board of Directors

This article concerns conduct of Flyball competitors away from the racing surface. First, as we begin a new year of racing let's make a conscious effort to be courteous to fellow competitors and also people we encounter when we travel with our pets. Take the extra time to clean up after your dogs both at the tournament sites and at any hotels we are able to use. If we lose the use of hotels or tournament sites we will not be able to

....If we lose the use of hotels or tournament sites, we will not be able to continue to grow.

continue to grow. ***Don't leave your dogs unattended*** unless they are crated, if possible take your dogs in your car if you go out to eat or go shopping.

The reason for my concern with this issue is while preparing for

our annual tournament I contacted a hotel that we had used in prior years and was told that they would no longer accept mass bookings for dog events due to problems that occurred at the hotel during a fall breed show. So please I urge you to take care of the hotels we stay at.

Another issue I feel needs to be addressed is any letters sent to the Board of Directors for any reason should always be signed by the person sending it. If a letter is received that is not signed it will be discarded, so please if you take the time to write the Board for any reason sign your letters so we can answer any questions or concerns you may have.

In closing as in past years I am once again the Chairman of the Regulatory Committee, if you have any questions about rules please contact me and I will cover it in my articles.

The NAFA NEWS is published by the North American Flyball Association, Inc. as a means of formal communication between the Board and the individual competitors. It is published bi-monthly and distributed free of charge to all registered Delegates, Team Captains, and Officials. The information contained is intended for all competitors to see. Delegates are urged to copy or post the NAFA NEWS for all their team members to read.

Articles of a broader general interest to Flyball enthusiasts are published in The Finish Line. The Finish Line is available by subscription from: Melanie McAvoy, 1002 E Samuel Ave, Peoria Hgts IL 61614 \$15 US.

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