Minneapolis, MN November 5, 2005

# **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Present were: Executive Director Sam Ford

Board of Directors Brian Fay,

Glenn Hamilton, Lee Heighton, Jeff Kinsley, Todd Morningstar, Kris Pickering, Dale Smith, Scott Stein

Absent was Ken Eldridge who was unable to attend due to business commitments.

The Annual General Meeting of the North American Flyball Association was called to order at 7:40 PM Central Time by Executive Director Sam Ford.

Sam expressed his thanks to the Dynomutts Flyball club and Jan Frey for all of their efforts in organizing the AGM and the associated flyball tournament. He then introduced the members of the board.

The Election Committee was introduced: Dale Smith as Chairman, Dan Rode, Ed Pheifer and Mary Pheifer who then left the meeting to count ballots. Electronic balloting was declared closed at 7:47PM.

Sam thanked all of the outgoing board members for their contributions over the last three years. The contributions of Ken Eldridge, Brian Fay and Kris Pickering have been great additions to NAFA Flyball.

Sam reminded the assembly that this year was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inception of the North American Flyball Association back in 1985; 10 years later in 1995 – 200 clubs and 4,000 dogs; 20 years later in 2005 – 700 clubs and 16,000 dogs.

One of the major steps taken by the board was the development of a new Electronic Judging System developed by Signature Gear. The development took place over the last year involving design, rigorous acceptance testing, revisions and finally implementation. Today we have 11 new Signature Gear EJS's about to be deployed.

NAFA introduced new classes of racing and participation in the past year. The Futurity class gives newcomers to the sport a chance to experience the racing floor. This year, NAFA also introduced the Veterans class for dogs that are 8 years old and older. Several differences from regular racing occur with the Veterans: there are no false starts, hurdle heights are at the minimum, there is no 90 day rule so teams can be made up for an event and dogs can transfer in and out of other clubs when racing in Veterans. There are limits to the amount of racing but they earn points on the same scale as regular racing.

Junior Handlers will be recognized by the presentation of pins to be awarded to youngsters for participation in the sport, whether by handling, shagging, box loading ... what ever their level! This is not an official class; there are no awards other than being a part of NAFA's family sport.

Turning to other matters, NAFA's financial status is strong. Our revenue has increased over last year while expenses were higher with the new purchases. Robin Marion asked if NAFA would be parking an EJS in each region. With the board's goal to reduce shipping costs, there will be a plan developed to minimize shipping costs and wear and tear on the systems. Regions with constant tournaments will have a set assigned while

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less busy regions will get traveling sets. Amy Sadowski asked if we would continue to use the older sets. With the existing systems reaching their designed life times, their role will be reduced to a backup role as soon as possible.

Jean Lewin asked what the plan for assignment of the old sets was to be. Sam replied that the plan was still under development based on the need for multi ring tournaments. Assigned sets will be supplemented by the use of unassigned sets.

The new EJS's have a regularly planned maintenance program and the NAFA purchase price includes a long term maintenance plan which enables them to be repaired by the manufacturer.

Robin Marion noted that while there had not been any problems with the SG lights this weekend; he asked if all of the Signature Gear problems have been solved. The ED replied that the lights have been running error free for the last 2 months. If any new errors crop up, the manufacturer has guaranteed timely repairs.

Sam then announced the NAFA Regional and National champions.

#### 2005 NAFA Regional Champions were as follows:

Region	Regular-Champion	Multibreed-Champion
1	Spring Loaded	Spring Loaded
2	Rocket Relay	Instant Replay
3	High Velocity	Balls Out
4	TNT	TNT
5	Hyper Flight	Hyper Flight
6	Touch'N Go	Touch'N Go
7	Dogwood Pacesetters	N/A
8	Inner Drive K-9 Sports	KAOS
9	CIA	Doggone Fast
10	Fast 'n Furious	Fast `n Furious
11	Florida Air Express	Florida Air Express
12	Northern Power Paws	N/A
13	New England Trail Blazers	New England Trail Blazers
14	The Gamblers	N/A
15	Fur Fun	Fur Fun
16	Bark in the Park	INXS

#### 2005 NAFA National Champions

Regular - Spring Loaded

Multibreed - Spring Loaded

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Sam thanked all of the candidates for this year's election. Brian Fay, Judy Hagan and Kris Pickering were all present at the AGM. Also introduced was Mike Smith from Texas who was unable to attend.

For the 2005 elections, 1584 ballots were mailed to delegates.

731 were filed electronically while 45 paper ballots were returned for a total return of 776 ballots at 48.99%.

#### For the Board:

- \*Brian Fay 495
- \*Kris Pickering 474
- \*Mike Smith 424

Judy Hagan 419

Clyde Moore Hall of Fame (with vote counts, 272 needed for induction)

\* Indy Anna 376, a Border Collie owned by Robin Marion Toby 240, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier owned by Kim O'Neill Sampson 237, Irish Setter owned by Teresa and Chris Turner Bayly 106, Shetland Sheepdog owned by Page Heig

#### Regional Most Valuable Player Awards (with vote counts)

Region 2	*Higgins 49, Staffordshire Bull Terrier owned by Barb Stopay.	
	Chime 35, Border Collie owned by Joy Brunton.	
Region 3	*Jesse 57, Jack Russell Terrier owned by Anne Jansen	
Region 4	*Winston 45, White Highland White Terrier owned by Carol and Gordon Walker	
Region 5	*Sampson 74, Irish Setter owned by Teresa and Chris Turner	
Region 7	*Jasper 22, Jack Russell Terrier owned by Carolyn Morgan-Chan	
Region 8	*Sprocket 13, Miniature Poodle owned by Nancy Bird	
	Talbot 7, Mix owned by Michelle Cardwell	
Region 10	*Indiana 22, North American Shepherd owned by Rachel Hope	
Region 11	*Lucy 26, Jack Russell Terrier owned by Kyle Roche	
Region 13	*Duffy 20, Border Collie owned by Barb Black	
	Walker 4, Australian Cattle Dog owned by Cheryn Breeling	
Region 14	*Cody 14, Border Collie owned by Cindy and Paul Ferlitto	
	Snap 9, Border Collie owned by Virginia McRoy	
	Casper 8, American Bulldog owned by Christina Barribeau	
Region 15	*Tab 11, Pembroke Welsh Corgi owned by Linda Kriete	

On behalf of the board and the executive, Sam expressed congratulations to all of the winners. He then opened the floor for questions. Please note that not all speakers have identified themselves and so their names may have been omitted.

A question was asked regarding dogs entered on teams that are now being noted on the database even though no points were earned. Does the 90 day rule apply to those entries without points? Sam pointed out that the 90 rule does not apply until a dog earns points.

It was noted that a dog can apply for a height card one year after a dog earns its first point. Dale responded that the Height Card list will be added back to the NAFA Database.

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In response to a request about active versus inactive dogs on team lists, Dale noted that 14 months after a dog ceases racing, it is marked as an "I"nactive dog on the database. This flag gets restored to "A"ctive once the dog begins racing again.

In response to a request from Mary Pheifer, Sam indicated than plans were in place to maintain instructions for shipping and setup for the EJS on the NAFA web site ensuring that timely information will be readily available to all.

Jim Sova requested that a standardized method be implemented for settling ties. The ED replied that NAFA is an organization that is driven from the "bottom up". He is working with the RD's to develop fairness in the announced method for breaking ties based on the requirements of each region. NAFA will not implement a coast to coast standard method. Regional differences need to be respected when working with tournament hosts.

Amy Sadowski asked if a dog needed to be a participant in a tournament to be measured when practicing for measuring. Dogs need to be a participant in the event to have a measure recorded but may request a practice measure from the judge if time permits that will not be recorded.

Speaking on behalf of the meeting's attendees, Robin Marion thanked the board for participating in the AGM in Region once again.

The Annual General Meeting meeting was recessed at 8:51PM CT.

The meeting was reconvened at the Kelly Inn at 10:07 PM CT.

Sam called the meeting to order and reported that he had spoken with Mike Smith to announce his successful candidacy for the board of directors.

Lee requested that the board enter Executive Session to elect executive officers for the upcoming year.

Executive Session was entered at 10:14PM CT to hold elections for the 2006 Board of Directors.

Executive Session was left at 10:20PM CT.

The 2006 Executive was elected as follows:

Chairman - Lee Heighton
Vice Chairman - Kris Pickering
Treasurer - Scott Stein
Secretary - Glenn Hamilton

A proposal to develop and award a Junior Handler pin was finalized. The proposal includes distribution of the pins by the Regional Director at their discretion to reward participation of Junior Handlers at NAFA Flyball events. Estimated cost of development and produce is estimated to be \$2,000. Glenn made a motion to accept the proposal and implement it at the earliest opportunity. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

A proposal to develop a Junior Handler patch for sale was presented. The proposal includes design, and purchase of the patches for inventory and sale. The patch would be priced at \$5.00 USD in parallel with

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other NAFA patches. Dale made a motion to accept the proposal and implement it at the earliest opportunity. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The board recognized that NAFA was entering its 20<sup>th</sup> year of organized Flyball having been formed in 1985. Ideas were exchanged in an effort to develop a strategy to promote the occasion throughout the NAFA Flyball community. Estimated cost of development and produce is estimated to be \$2,500. Scott made a motion to accept the proposal and implement it at the earliest opportunity. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee reported that the Treasurer is fully authorized to open bank accounts as required to secure deposits as necessary.

On behalf of the board, Sam expressed his thanks and appreciation to Ken Eldridge for his years of service and contribution to NAFA. Ken's participation in the sport since the early 1980's has given him a perspective on Flyball that was rare in the sport these days.

Scott made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Dale seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39PM CT.

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