

AMERICAN MULE RACING ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2010

A quorum being present, the meeting of the American Mule Racing Association was called to order at 9:08 a.m., February 20, 2010, by President Don Jacklin at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

The following board members were in attendance: Don Jacklin, , Roger Downey, Dr. Bert Johnson, Tom Krahelski, Mary McPherson and Becky Reimers. Twenty-two members and guests were in attendance. The list of members and guests is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes hereof.

There was an introduction of the Board of Directors and the general membership and guests.

The agenda was accepted as is.

The evening banquet was discussed.

The minutes of the February 21, 2009, meeting held in Reno, Nevada, had been published in the Association newsletter and on the AMRA website. Upon motion and second by Mary McPherson and Dave Wood, the minutes of said meeting were unanimously approved.

Don Jacklin gave the President's report. President Jacklin spoke as to the financial state of the Association and the hope that things would be better in 2010, but that racing in general in the United States is down in number of animals racing and amount of money wagered on races. President Jacklin stated it was important that animals be entered in races and that there be a good showing of animals in each race. President Jacklin also stated that the anticipated number of racing animals for 2010 is 35-45 and that the number in the past has been 60-80. He stated that it would be in the best interest of the Association that fewer mule races were written thereby having more mules per race.

Kate Phariss as Secretary-Treasurer presented the financial recap on the year 2009 and the proposed budget for 2010. Ms. Phariss mentioned the change in the budget as approved by the Board. President Jacklin spoke as to the 10% allocation money due the Association by CARF and the fact that the Association was attempting to recover this money. Upon motion and second by James Farley and Mary McPherson, the budget was unanimously approved.

Kate Phariss spoke as to the state of racing in California. She is in attendance at all CARF Live Racing Committee meets as the representative from AMRA. Any questions or concerns can be presented to CARF by Ms. Phariss. The membership was encouraged to contact the AMRA office with questions or concerns. Ms. Phariss spoke as to the CARF decision for 2010 to max out stake races at \$5,000, to lower purses, and to possibly use a point system to determine purses paid. It was discussed that overpayment of purses is a serious issue and that this plan by CARF is an attempt to repay the overpayment. The change in the summer fair calendar was discussed. Stockton will only race five days; State Fair has moved its dates to July and will only race 10 days instead of 11. It was relayed to the membership that Stockton will open for training June 6. CARF is attempting to work a deal with the TOC to allow emerging breeds stabling at Pleasanton beginning May 1. Ms. Phariss also relayed to the membership that Workers' Comp reimbursement was paid at the rate of \$22.40 per start in 2009.

Ms. Phariss spoke as to the website. The site has been updated and changed. Requests are still being made for member input. Photos and stories are always welcomed.

As breed representative, Rhoda March spoke as to the racing year 2009 on the Fairs. She stated that 22% of the races run in 2009 were hand timed and she felt that was an issue as some mules were allowed to run in their current speed index, even though they should have been moved up due to the fact that hand timed races aren't counted in speed index computation. Ms. March also spoke as to the overlap for year 2010 between Santa Rosa and Ferndale. She has spoken with Tom Doutrich, Racing Secretary for the Fairs, and Mr. Doutrich has stated that in an attempt to avoid splitting the mule herd, he is not writing any emerging breed races the last four days of the Santa Rosa meet.

The speed index chart was discussed. Non racing animals were deleted from the chart.

President Jacklin called on Roger Downey to discuss the proposed plan for filling races in 2010. Mr. Downey provided the membership with handouts showing mule inventory by speed index. The handouts also showed the trainer of each mule. At this time, there are five main trainers. Mr. Downey then spoke as to the Board's decision to have a committee of six made up of three owners and three trainers that will meet at the first of each race meet to discuss the status of the herd and come up with racing extras for that meet. One person of the six will be appointed for that meet to act as the breed representative. That person will be the one interacting with the Racing Secretary.

President Jacklin asked for suggestions for conditions for the 2010 racing season. He stated that the suggestion to the Racing Secretary will be for no more claiming races and that the starter series be eliminated.

President Jacklin also spoke as to the filler incentive with recommended approval by the Board. A filler incentive will be paid to each mule, which enters and runs in a race where there is a 12 point difference between the posted speed index and that mule's speed index (i.e., the race is written as 12 points higher than the entered mule's index). A filler incentive would also be paid to a three year old, which had not placed better than fourth in two previous races. The incentive money paid would be \$200 for each qualifying animal, which enters and runs. This incentive does not apply to Winnemucca races. Upon motion and second by Dave Wood and James Farley, the decision to apply filler incentives for the 2010 was unanimously approved.

Kirk Goodrich, Racing Secretary for the Winnemucca meet, spoke as to the meet. Date for the meet is the weekend after Memorial Day. Mr. Goodrich stated that it was mandatory that all starter slips be signed by the official track starter before turning them into the Winnemucca racing office. All slips must contain the date of the work, the track, the time and the distance the mule worked. Older mules that have already run and have been gate approved only need to turn and work.

The AMRA Futurity run in Fresno was discussed. President Jacklin suggested the following changes: If paid by June 15, total entry fee is \$100. If paid June 16 through August 31, total entry fee is \$300. If paid after September 1, total entry fee is \$500.

It was also discussed that the winner of the Winnemucca Futurity will go into Stockton with a speed index of 80. After discussion by the membership and motion and second by Dr. Bert Johnson and Mary McPherson, the motion carried.

Mary McPherson spoke as to a proposal for approving hand timed races for speed index purposes. Twenty-two percent of races in 2009 were hand timed. There was a motion and second made by Dr. Bert Johnson and Roger Downey to accept hand timed races if no electronic time is available for a race. After discussion by the membership, there was a hand count vote. Fourteen members voted in favor of the motion; four members voted against the motion. Motion carried. There is an understanding that the motion will be revisited at Winnemucca with respect to hand times for the Ferndale meet.

There was a Board recommendation that the minimum speed index listed on the charts for a mule would be 30.

Mary McPherson as Chair of the Nomination Committee spoke as to the election procedures for the AMRA Board of Directors. Ms. McPherson called for nominations from the floor. Dr. Bert Johnson nominated Dave Wood. A motion and second were made by Ruth Burdick and Rhoda March. Tom Krahelski, as a current Board member whose terms was up, offered to withdraw as a candidate. Mr. Krahelski spoke as to Mr. Wood's outstanding qualifications and devotion to mule racing. Dr. Johnson thanked Mr. Krahelski and called for a white ballot. Motion carried. 2010 Board members are Don Jacklin, Dr. Bert Johnson, Roger Downey, Mary McPherson, Dave Wood and Becky Reimers.

Meeting adjourned for lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

The annual meeting for members of the AMRA reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

Dr. Johnson discussed his desire for a memorial race in Fred Cox's honor to be run at Pleasanton. Dave Wood encouraged the membership in this regard as well. Mr. Cox was an avid supporter and benefactor for mule racing.

President Jacklin spoke as to changes in the handbook. "Stake race" is a paid in stake; open points are derived from open, non-conditioned races. A new handbook will be printed and available to paid in members.

Jim Schleimer asked for someone to take over the newsletter as his schedule makes it difficult for him to produce the letter. All information is forwarded to Mr. Downey's office for mailing.

Roger Pelish was called on as Marketing Chair. Mr. Pelish stated that due to the economy, it was difficult to obtain any type of marketing assistance from companies. Budgets are very tight. Ms. Phariss spoke as to the marketing opportunity offered by the California State Fair in assisting with the Name the Baby Mule contest. Mr. Downey generously provided a mule to be displayed in front of the grandstand every day. The Fair obtained 2,500 entries for the contest and provided mule racing exposure to the public every day of racing during the Fair. Mr. Downey has offered to provide a mule for the contest again in 2010. The winner of the contest for 2008 earned \$831. The winning name chosen for the 2009 racing mule was "Onassis." The 10 semi-finalists for the 2009 contest were awarded prizes in the winners' circle the final day of the Fair.

It was decided by the membership to have the 2011 annual convention at the Grand Sierra Resort Casino in Reno.

A count of three year old mules for 2010 was taken. At this time, there are 17 three year olds that will be in race training.

Roger Downey reported that there will be an endurance race at Winnemucca again this year.

President Jacklin thanked Ruth Burdick for the tremendous amount of time and effort she puts in to keeping records for the year-end awards. For 2010, there will be speed index awards in each category.

Kate Phariss spoke as to the Cal Bred award program for 2010. It will be in keeping with the 2009 program. Award money is paid out to Cal Bred mules running first and second in each race (\$200 to 1st - \$150 to 2nd). First and second award money is paid to the breeder (owner of the animal at the time of the breeding) (\$100 to 1st - \$75 to 2nd).

There being no further business there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion and second by James Farley and Dr. Bert Johnson, it was unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Phariss
Secretary Treasurer