

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
Mid-Year Board Meeting Minutes
Salt Lake City, UT – June 27, 2015

President Coletti called the meeting to order 8:05 a.m.

Attending: Tom Coletti, Karen Clifton, Jay Holder, John McSweeney, Alan Porter, Shannon Demler, Joyce Stierlin, Jim Greelis, Al Hassler, Toni Wiaderski, Freddie Rivera, John Hundrup, Kamal Hindi, Ron Pairan, Deone Roberts.

Guests: Greg Glazier, Les Jensen, Ron Larrabee.

After welcome, introduction of guests, flag salute and moment of silence, time was allotted for non-board member comments. There being none, motion was made to approve the minutes of the annual meeting October 2014 as posted on the AU website. Pairan/Holder. Approved.

President's Report (Coletti)

What the AU office handles is unbelievable. They process a huge amount of information and commit a tremendous amount of time in service to AU members.

President Coletti and Executive Vice President Holder attended the Las Vegas Gala, manned a booth with promotional items and information pieces to share the development of eWinSpeed©. Unfortunately the event was simply a mechanism for one-loft races and selling birds. Jay discussed ordinance issues and John Vance spoke on drug testing. Neither Vance, nor Holder could be heard. The task of the event was the auction of expensive pigeons and to meet all the people running one-loft races. In the future, Tom suggests not going to the event unless the AU representative is sponsored – not using member funds.

All board members were sent a DVD from Jim Jenner. Now he has a book. It is very good. It doesn't help beginners learn how to race, but rather promotes the hobby, especially to children. Jenner has presented what seems to be a suggestion that the AU buy the books and send them out. Tom suggests that the AU not do marketing for others, rather, promote his DVD to members as a tool for membership growth.

Tom and Karen were on a conference call with all bird representatives about five weeks ago. They acknowledged that pigeons do not receive or transmit the avian flu and susceptibility is extremely low. The federal level is determined that the

final word would be from the state level vets. More states have actually stopped movement in an overall effort to stop the disease.

What he has learned is that it is a death sentence for the raptors. That is critical for wildlife biologists. The states are not taking any chances and are making all attempts to protect the poultry industry.

We started going through bylaws and took out any reference to more than 2/3 or 50% + 1 majority vote. Membership was right in voting it in to remove blocks to some competing members. A committee was created to help Shannon review bylaws.

We are behind with eWinSpeed©, therefore people have time to adjust their bylaws. Demler, Porter, Don Riedel and Dean Breaux are on the committee. They need more to review for the 2/3 voting item and get them to Karen. Greelis was added to the committee.

Executive Vice President Update (Holder)

Exec. VP Holder agreed with Tom's assessment of the iPigeon Gala.

In the past, the board discussed having mini-conventions. The Dixie Southern assumes a role as a mini-convention in that region. Mid-Florida Combine is doing the convention for 2015. We will have information to share with members shortly.

The National Database and Winspeed© will be covered in next day's agenda.

He cautions again to not get caught up in members that are fishing various board members for an answer that satisfies them, rather than accept the determination from the appropriate committee chair, i.e., the National Race Secretary.

Bird thefts increased in the Spring Hill area. Bill Mitiu resorted to an alarm system and the subsequent break in attempt was not successful.

Vice President Update (Pairan)

He is trying to set up presentation for a homeschool convention in Cincinnati each year. He applied to be a speaker. Regardless if approved or not, we must have a booth display. Home school is increasing. Parents are looking for hands-on type of learning.

He made two trips to Cleveland in the last two months. One was the Sport Show at the Expo Center. There was a lot of response from kids & parents.

Terry Finnerty and his daughter started a youth club.

He is not sure if Ronnie Shumaker will be able to continue his school project. The new principal may not have appreciation for the project as much as the previous principal was. Ronnie runs the Teacher/Student Race and raises money for them and conducts the competition.

He visited the Independent Homing Club regarding hosting the 2017 AU Convention. They are already working on it. With regard to the flu situation in Ohio – we were basically shut down. Lee Kohli, Ron Pairan and Dr. Marsh met with the state vet. Dr. Forshey was appreciative of information and sympathetic and he is aware pigeons are not affected, but because a pigeon can possibly mechanically transport the disease on feet or feathers, he will not allow exemption. Kentucky did lift the ban. But Ohio's first responsibility is to billion dollar poultry industry.

Lancaster Festival Farm Day was not allowed. They will reevaluate after fall migratory bird season. It's not a promise of lifting, but reevaluation. He is surmising they would evaluate in November.

This (A.I.) has been referred to as the greatest agricultural disaster ever in the U.S. per state vet.

Coletti interjected that he is aware of a situation where one club in a state has permission to fly; another group not. Rather arbitrary. But he does not have enough information to determine or assess the situation. He will be looking into the situation.

Pairan agreed that is possible because of location and the philosophy of each state vet.

Clifton offered that after holding up the sport function for a brief time, as this becomes the new normal, it is hoped the bans will be lifted because no pigeons (feral or others) have been found dead from the disease.

Pairan said that Dr. Forshey does not believe that temperature increase will help. The disease exists in Egypt (extraordinarily hot) and the disease still spreads.

They had extraordinary race results on one particular bird in club and combine. It fell through the cracks for national awards. Perhaps we would consider a different class – something for sprint.

Holder agrees he qualifies for ace champion pigeon. The committee will work on sprint category criteria. The committee includes Alan Porter and Ron Pairan.

President Ex-Officio Update (Rivera)

Rivera thanked the board for allowing him to be President the past 4 years. In January, he fielded calls from members.

Per the Drug Testing Committee: Both the GHC and the Long Beach California continue to test birds. The GHC less often as the word is out that the organization will not tolerate illegal performance enhancing drugs in race birds. The GHC has come down hard on those members that couldn't provide their birds for testing after a race. Random drug testing, or the threat of testing has been working well for them. In Southern California, Long Beach, the Combine continues to test in all races. They admit that it is expensive, \$175.00 per test. The testing fees are coming out of prize money. You have to ask, "What's the motivation behind drug testing?" Neither organization has had any positive test results.

He did a presentation for the Chamber of Commerce, Sarasota, FL. It lasted two hours and included a release. The Building and Safety Animal Regulation Departments never heard of the sport. So it was helpful to acquaint them with what AU members do. He also did a school presentation.

He still helps with lost pigeon issues. A lot of finders give them water and let them go, rather than wait for retrieval.

Treasurer Report (McSweeney)

There are no changes in system now that you can analyze costs and see where items come from without digging. John wants to see a written policy statement on release of corporate data on other than board members. We need a statement concerning AU funds and facility's funds use. People think we should support causes with donations, such as flood victims and so on. Soliciting funds from members does not work. Now we have a letter asking for support for the museum. We need a statement in place to state that all funds raised are for AU business and activities.

Tom asked John to draft a proposed policy regarding release of financial information. John will provide a draft for review at the annual board meeting in October.

Committee Reports

Judiciary Committee (Porter)

Right to Fly – Porter reviewed the Chicago ordinance and most recently dealt with an ordinance issue in Stoughton, WI. We are not granted the right to fly in the U.S. Constitution; cities and villages have the right to enact ordinances within their

boundaries regulating citizen activities. The Stoughton issue failed and might have succeeded if the individual would have been willing to accept allowance of fewer birds and then attempted further change at a later date.

What are some options open to us?

1. Win another lawsuit to counteract Chicago's ruling and hold that as example for other communities.
2. Create better literature and ordinance examples for cities to adopt.
3. Improve information and guidance to members in their fight with city hall.
4. Raise money for attorney fees for members that want to challenge a municipality that rules against them.
5. Bring in resources when we risk losing clubs/members in an area similar to the size of Chicago.
6. Review ordinance venue with lobbyist, Greg Smith.

We can pretend we have the right to fly with the uninformed. Once people make up their minds about pigeons, they usually don't want them next door – unless a pigeon saves their life. So how do we become more proactive to get council members on our side?

Greelis will serve on the committee.

The Stoughton ordinance was voted down because of the number of pigeons the member wanted. The neighbors testified against the member.

We need a briefer handout to help them understand why pigeon racing is okay.

Tom said we need to move on to progressing issues rather than stay on one issue such as the ordinance. We have funding allocated to ordinance issues/assistance.

Porter, Clifton & Roberts are to work on simplified literature for city authorities.

Leadership/Retention (Kohli/Hindi/Clifton)

Wait for Kohli's report.

Right to Race (Clifton)

The biggest challenge currently threatening members' right to fly is the Avian Influenza. The flu has changed rapidly, but we try to keep pace with newest information. It is discouraging with regard to the Ohio state vet. Two vets from the AU Scientific Taskforce have been assisting. One participated in the USDA conference call Tom and Karen participated in. One has provided more recent information supporting pigeons are not susceptible. Our lobbyist found documents

to support our premise – more current information, such as a 2005 funded USDA study that found low occurrence in pigeons. Vets want to see assurance of no occurrence. Greg Smith is preparing a briefing paper for the senate hearing July 7 in Iowa.

Clifton asked the USDA about testing as they did in 2005 to determine if pigeons are susceptible to this strain. They indicated that was low on their priority list since they have done similar testing and found the same. What about awards on seasons that have been shortened?

Karen asked if exceptions need to be made with regard to awards so not to punish members that were forced to stop racing during their season. Hundrup advised it doesn't affect average speed.

Pairan said that after having spoken with the Ohio state vet, he would vote against funding at this point. State vet is already aware about pigeons, but ultimately must protect the major industry so regardless of testing, they still include pigeons in their bans.

Hundrup said the vaccine that was developed was 90% success. But USDA needs 95% success.

National Youth/School Coordinator (Pairan)

Already covered.

Historian (Greelis)

The 2014 AU convention in Omaha was a wonderful experience for all of the Omaha Racing Pigeon Association and the other area convention handlers. They had fantastic weather for that week and it became much cooler just a few days after everyone traveled home. The 2014 convention is an example to other smaller clubs what they could do if they will work together. He hopes to see future conventions in more places like Omaha and Ogden.

Since October it has been relatively quiet and he took advantage of the time to read old AU yearbooks and other periodicals to expand his knowledge base. He added to the AU chronology that was started several years back. Many of the concerns (i.e. attracting more youth into the sport, dealing with city ordinances, safeguarding against cheating, safely shipping birds via trains akin to our planes today, being a good neighbor, our public image, etc.) that we routinely discuss were issues going back to the 30's and 40's.

He has been working on adding new material for the AU display in Ogden. The items are things we already had, but not previously shown. The display was set up at the museum shortly after the last convention.

Probably the biggest issue going on in his regional area is the outbreak of the Avian Influenza in Iowa where chicken and turkey farms have been depopulated. Fortunately, it has not spread to Nebraska, and it has not affected their race season. Racing pigeons in Iowa has been in decline over the last few years, especially in Des Moines where there were two clubs that did not get along and now have dwindled.

Just prior to the last meeting, he started creating video clips of the Ed Abromowski interview. His laptop crashed and he has not yet obtained another copy of the video software to finish the clips.

He shared an idea he had for the 2015 yearbook – getting pictures of convention handlers in front of their lofts. He guessed 8 photos to a page and maybe 3-4 pages for all the photos. We would send out an open invitation to all the handlers to send us a photo so that we didn't miss anyone. He believes it would be a nice addition to the yearbook.

Hindi said they plan to put loft handlers & lofts with bios on the convention website so people will know more about their handlers in California.

Coletti agreed that it personalizes the convention organizers to AU members.

Demler said that they are going to resurvey handler lofts, so suggested they could take pictures to be featured in the Yearbook.

Greelis still gets some calls reporting stray birds. He thinks there is good cooperation from their membership in getting the birds picked up. He is the point person for the local humane society.

Judge's Panel (Rivera)

We sent a letter out to determine who will remain on the panel.

Tom thinks the judges need to get active. If they are not active, they need to leave the panel. It's a good service and we need to do something at the national level to reinforce the panel. Tom would like to see a show at our conventions.

Constitution & By-Laws (Demler)

He has been very busy as part of the 2015 convention host team and as bylaws advisor. The benefit for him is that he did not know anyone and therefore there

was no bias. He has found that the same people call with a variety of problems. He has experienced the “fishing” by members of the board for favorable answers. It was initially a challenge to avoid being sucked in by false information and lack of information. His solution has been to go to the club/combine bylaws as reference for appropriate response. He strives for solutions at the local level.

San Francisco RPC was an extraordinary challenge and they argued with his decision. Not everything is in the Constitution and Bylaws. We need to stay ahead of the game with where the AU is to go: for example, voting by email.

Competition Standards (Hundrup)

He provided a list of issues he has dealt with since the last board meeting. Issues included crating of birds, proxy voting, early band use, release of non-race birds, flying as a guest, flying multiple teams, NDB section requirements, programming chip bands, race schedule, official race results, antenna placement, minimum shipping requirements, partnership requirements, remote basketing, and many more.

Coletti believes there is a challenge covering rules that work for rural areas. We have a set of rules by which NDB functions. We also have constitution and bylaws that clubs use to function. We have one set of rules and we need to follow them. How do we get rural members in compliance so they don't have to cheat?

Pairan said a small group can fly for fun without NDB input. They can make certificates and trophies for their groups.

Veterans Committee (Hassler)

Desmarais was previous chair. Bill did a lot on his own. He has since gone and Al is chair. Bill is still doing it. Hassler is on Facebook with Bill. He has not been out and done what Bill did and he's not sure if it is part of his job.

We've got several things going on around the country: Johnny Marks has done releases. Bob Cook in Ft. Myers area has a veterans display. Hassler and Greelis met with him and saw his collection. Bob Tavares has a partner that releases at vet funerals. Karen will be advised of activities so the office can document them.

Coletti wants Al to work with the AU office and the office will work with Al as the “bird dog.”

Pairan said his club does a lot of white bird funeral releases and a lot of them are for veterans. It doesn't do anything to get pigeons into vets' hands. We need to figure out how to get birds into vets' hands.

Coletti reminded the board that our motive is to recognize what the vets have done, not necessarily get new members.

Greelis suggested that maybe we should work with the Veteran's Administration. We have literature to help them get started.

Coletti: Karen will be working closer with Hassler. He'd like to see the Veteran program remain part of the AU board focus.

Drug Test Committee (Rivera/Coletti)

Rivera updated in his President Ex-Officio report (see above).

National Office & Director Updates

National Office (Clifton)

Membership is about even with where we were year-to-date last year even though the average "New to AU" numbers are up. Normally, we catch up and have a slight overall increase by year-end. Numbers will be reported at that time.

The member survey results were shared with the board. Most male, retired, with college degree and professional experience in about every field. No one big percentage in any specific profession. Most prefer club racing over one-loft races. Most of the respondents were pleased with their interaction with the AU office and staff. There was a complaint that the AU should dictate race course direction. A couple of complaints were regarding local club activity and members not getting along. A complete list will be posted in the August newsletter.

What seems evident is that members do not read our publication so are not aware of all of the services available and the programs the AU has for members. So the office will continue to look for ways to present information in a way that members will want to read it.

Tony Huhn submitted an application to be on the Speaker's Bureau. The bureau is not currently being utilized much. Motion to suspend accepting speaker applications until the current list is vetted again. At that time, applications would be accepted and reviewed/approved. Stierlin/Hassler. Unanimous.

Application to host the AU convention for 2017 from the Independent Homing Club in Ohio has been received. After review by the board, it was approved as long as a single bird entry is made available. Pairan/Rivera. Unanimous.

We received 600 copies of the Jenner DVD “Young Wings” for us to put in the secretary packet mailings. They were received too late for last year’s packets so they will go out with this year’s packets. We propose an e-Update blurb regarding a prize for a youth group challenge for the first thirty clubs that respond. Consensus of the board was agreement with that proposal.

The 2015 annual AU board meeting will be in Ogden. Sunday, October 18 will be a travel day. We will meet October 19 & 20 and maybe 21. October 24th will be the membership meeting and we will leave on the 25th.

Sport Development (Roberts)

There were quite a number of promotion activities listed on a handout provided to the board. These activities will be published in the August AU Update newsletter.

Zone Director Reports (NW/Pacific/SW/Plains/Lakes/SE/Mountain/NE)

Northwest (Hundrup)

One nice thing is that the avian flu is no longer a problem in his zone at this time and there has been no interruptions in their flying or shipping of the birds to the races and no problems traveling through the various states, unlike what is starting to happen in the other states where it has shown up and also the states that are starting to halt the movement of birds to try to keep it from entering their state. It is still uncertain at this time the fate of the Washington Racing Pigeon Association and if it will still be in existence by the end of the year. The meeting he went to in March to see about keeping it going was a disaster and he will explain more at the meeting.

Acting Secretary Steve Lawler sent out a survey to see if the Washington clubs wanted to try to restructure the organization and their thoughts on various issues and he has since received all the replies and have sent the findings to the president and we will have to see what transpires from there.

Coletti said that in his conversation with Lawler, he found that part of the problem is the push back Lawler receives when trying to encourage members to rejuvenate the state organization.

The first Western Open race this year was flown on May 24th from Winnemucca, NV. There were 1031 birds released by 99 flyers, down from last year’s 1313 birds flown by 124 flyers. The weather at the release site was good. It was a tough race for many clubs with a total of 582 birds showing on the race sheet. The mileages on this race ranged from 185 to 495 miles.

The last Western Open race from Carson City, NV was flown on June 13th.

Washington was one of the places on our radar to help them be more successful & have a mini convention.

Plains (Porter)

The past six months have been the quietest for him in the past four years. Illinois was moved to the Lakes Zone. He was approached by a member for 2-3 cent band donation to fund the museum.

Minnesota has on-going issues, but now seems to be better. There was a voting strangle hold on the Heartland Federation, but that has been changed. The winter and spring have been quiet. The Twin City Concourse usually handles their own problems due to strong rules in place.

In Wisconsin, Gary Heindel (Midwest HPA), has been working with the Midwest Race Secretaries and the AU office to get clubs and combines and the Midwest Association in compliance with the new requirements for submitting charters and constitutions and bylaws. Gary did a tremendous amount of work for the clubs in the Midwest for the past year. Porter asked Heindel about the possibility of offering a youth race at the next Midwest convention in 2016.

He did have a race result inquiry from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma combines, but the results had not yet been uploaded to the NDB for Porter to review.

He spent a great deal of time working with a member in Stoughton to get a pigeon favorable ordinance passed. Ultimately the member lost the vote, he suspects because of the number of the birds the member wanted to keep and the neighbor's comments. He believes we need to improve how we can help members when they face similar issues.

He listened to criticism of the AU in handling of the Avian Influenza issue. He would like to see a more proactive communication with members to hit issues more quickly when they affect members and their racing.

He would like to see improvement in stray bird retrieval, chip band security, and short term AU goals.

Pacific (Hindi)

He had one issue wherein the 395 concourse had three members in a club – how can they qualify for section awards.

Coletti referred that to Hundrup since it is a race rule issue.

Northeast (Wiaderski)

Nothing to report.

Southeast (Hassler)

Nothing to report.

Southwest (McSweeney)

John has been working/testing with Benzing and been busy with promotion and bird retrieval in his area. There is discussion about a Gulfcoast Association which would run along the coast east and west which is being pushed by the New Orleans Combine.

Mountain (Stierlin)

Tom Brasher of Auburn RPC is sponsoring a 4-H project for twelve kids. He built each kid a small loft, and members of the Auburn Club and Camellia Combine gave six bird kits to each of the kids. Tom is mentoring them as they raise and train their birds for races among themselves. Krissy Omalley-Rapp is a teen and is president of the club now. She is organizing a club booth at the Nevada County Fair. She contacted AU for supplies for a great display.

The California convention is November 5-7 in Fresno.

Discussion of President's Agenda

Item 22 (AU exhibit space) was major discussion.

Hassler: Their club set up a museum that is loaned out.

Hindi: FEC has started a museum and they could loan out.

Greelis: Loaning out requires security concerns be addressed.

Pairan: We have things at museum.

Hindi: Gene Autry & Roy Rogers museums have some things where there are more kids.

We need to figure out how to get the AU collection displayed. We will review in Ogden and a committee will be created then to determine how to coordinate getting the AU display to groups requesting it, funding, etc. Hindi & Kohli would be good on the committee along with office staff. We will look at options and budget.

Review of Tabled Board Action Requests

NW-153 Develop a procedure/policy on handouts for ordinance problems improving response method on Right To Fly. Porter to work with office. Tabled until October.

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Guests: Greg Glazier, Les Jensen.

Membership Communication:

1. Request from a member for support for the American Pigeon Museum in Oklahoma City.

Member request was sent without blessing of museum board.

President Coletti collected background information on the financial communications regarding the museum. One of the other pigeon organizations that Coletti visited with indicated they had a committee that studied the proposition. Their committee determined it was not a wise decision.

There is concern that only being open two days a week is not enough for them to financially sustain the museum.

Ron mentioned that it was his understanding no one else in other states had been willing to run the museum.

The use of the funds solicited in the member request is not specified. It is simply expected as a line item in the annual AU budget.

Motion not to accept proposal to donate 3 cents per band to the museum was approved unanimously. Pairan/Rivera.

2. Letter from Jedd's regarding Elanco's decision to discontinue manufacture of AviPro Pigeon Pox P and a request from vets to solicit USDA to support vaccine development for PMV.

It is not economically feasible for companies in Europe to make vaccines in the U.S. and they want out. Jedd's, Global, and Siegel's are aware and bought large

batches of PMV that should last through 2017 in the absence of hoarding. That allows more than enough time to develop a vaccine here with the USDA.

Discussion included comments about having enough influence to recommend a developer to the USDA and that it could give USDA the impression that the PMV push indicates pigeon problems. Or, shall we allow USDA until 2017 to develop a vaccine. Should we let commerce take a natural course and monitor it? We have problems in commerce and in the PR viewpoint.

The board was asked if they want AU to support this company and write a letter to USDA to fast track it?

Pairan said he uses PMV regularly and feels it is vital we have it from some source. Without, it is devastating.

According to the USDA, they have classified it as a 'select agent', which is potentially a threat, that could affect public health or terrorist potential. The manufacturer has been purchased by Eli Lilly and it is a matter of expense they do not want to bear.

Hindi said they could approach chicken vaccine manufacturer. Tom indicated they already are and some members use LaSota.

Consensus of the board was to not take action at this time. Tom and Jay will have opportunity to visit with Dr. Miller in Texas to get more information.

WinSpeed©/eWinSpeed©/NDB/Programming (Holder)

1. National Database

Current server overloaded and some information was archived. Awards remain functioning. Looking to more powerful server for our purpose. Sprint awards are being formulated and will be presented for board approval, then implemented when the NDB rewrite is completed and loaded to new server.

2. e-Winspeed©

Challenges: developer production, slow pace of code writing
Alternative: employed company with contractors paid on a per hour basis. The programmers have been great and to date work and pace are good. Jay believes it will be ready for beta testing in July. Feedback is critical and will determine speed of progress. He hopes the initial release will be at the start of young birds (August 2015).

3. Office website – once NDB rewrite is completed, rollover for AU office begins.
4. PC WinSpeed© recommendations
Tobin wants to retire at the end of 2015.
Phase out begins: no more sales, no more upgrades or support, no more coding for new machines, eventually no longer except uploads to the NDB from PC WinSpeed©.
5. Impact on the sport
Improve integrity of NDB and AU national awards and structure of affiliated organizations.
End PC WinSpeed© and use by non-au-affiliated groups. No other software is available and is accessed only through the AU site. This ends illegal copies of WinSpeed©.

Beta testing includes Porter, McSweeney, Stierlin. Then beta tester data will be erased when completed.

Users can still use desktop Winspeed©, but there will be no more support, upgrade, or person to call. Users can still upload to NDB.

Concern was that this sounds like extremely aggressive timing. Tobin will not be available for eWinSpeed© tech support. We will use Elizabeth, probably by email. Testers could end up being tech support.

Concern: Do we sell to non-AU members for a fee for use of eWinSpeed©?
Right now, we have non-members who pay more for WinSpeed©. Response: We will no longer be doing that. eWinspeed© is a service provided to our members at no charge.

AU's NDB and eWinspeed© will link up. The upload will go to eWinspeed©, not the database.

After eWinspeed© is in effect, revenue from disks becomes negligible and has no value to race upload. We debated repeatedly if this is a charge for use item and we agreed this is a service to AU members. Non AU organizations will likely not be interested. The disc can be used to figure races, but there will be no technical support for it. According to the AU race rules (1.01), to be chartered, the clubs must be 100% AU members. Non-AU members or non-AU organizations cannot use the eWinspeed© program.

Pairan presented a quick review of the infractions process. Basically, a member should make every attempt to have any conflict resolved at the local level. If that fails, then the Infractions Complaint form should be filled out, citing rules or by-laws violated, and submitted with the appropriate filing fee.

Upon receipt, the chairman will assign it to an investigator. He or she will be in contact with all parties involved and make a recommendation for the board to review and vote on.

Ron also shared that he had received another letter from Jim Weiss. He may have legitimate concerns; however, does not follow proper procedure and slanders.

Executive Session

11:00-11:30 a.m. Executive Session

Infractions Review (Cook v. Basurto, Rankin v. Basurto, and Hancock v. Derasin)

Motion: To approve recommendation regarding Basurto and suspend for five years. Pairan/Rivera. Approved.

Infractions Review (Hancock v. Derasin)

Motion: No action until any civil litigation or action is complete. Complainant should resubmit documentation at that time and refile the complaint. No additional fees will be required. Hassler/Holder. Approved.

Review of New Board Action Requests

NE-035 AU provide policy that in the event a fancier is disqualified from any race where the integrity of the race has been compromised by a member they be banned from competing for any AU national awards for three years.

There was discussion around not taking action until a club comes to the board. It is already handled by the infraction procedure. Dies for lack of motion.

NE-036 AU provide a policy that every AU Yearbook Cover and last pages be utilized for paid market rate commercial ads relating to our sport. As background for this BAR, Clifton explained that the previous year's yearbook cover advertiser backed out at the last minute. We have reduced the price and hopefully that will help that situation. Dies for lack of motion.

NW-154 Increase the amount of reimbursement for Speakers' Bureau travel from half up to \$400 to half up to \$600. Pairan/McSweeney. Approved.

NW-155 Add to the race rules verbiage to try to prevent the release of AU band prior to January 1.

“Any club, member, or organizations that are found to be distributing or using AU bands or AU specialty bands for the new year prior to January 1, shall lose the privilege of purchasing specialty AU bands in the future.”

Amend the motion to state “Any member that is found to be using AU bands for the new year prior to January 1 shall lose the privilege of purchasing specialty or vanity AU bands for a period of three years.

Motion to approve as amended. Holder/Wiaderski. Approved.

NW-156 Add to the race rules the minimum requirements for a combine race to be an AU sanction race.

Add to 1.01: “The minimum required to be a combine race for AU awards is at least two (2) clubs in the combine must maintain a minimum of 5 competing lofts per race.”

Discussion ensued regarding insufficient member numbers in club/section races.

Motion to table until the meeting in Ogden and look at the 5 person rule and make a recommendation to adjust numbers from 5 to 3. Porter/Stierlin. Approved with Rivera abstaining.

NW-157 To clarify the process for organizations that allow called in or emailed race times for the race to be final and official.

“For those organizations that allow flyers to call or email in their race results for the convenience and then knock off the clocks at the next club shipping, the initial race results are not official and are not to be uploaded to the NDB until all clocks have been knocked off and all arrival times have been printed and verified against the race results. For any race to be an official race, each club must have a printed copy of the basketing and arrival times for each flyer.”

Motion to adopt as written above. McSweeney/Holder. Approved.

NW-158 Add to the race rules a definition of proxy voting. “Proxy definition: A written appointment given by a voting member of an organization to another person allowing the proxy holder to attend a specific meeting on the member’s behalf, including the exercise of the member’s voting rights.”

Hundrup has been using the legal definition of a proxy vote in the absence of a description of a proxy vote in the AU rules. We will continue to refine the definition to prevent email voting. This can create a situation wherein delegates have a problem. Stierlin to work on wording for presentation at the Ogden meeting.

Motion as written. Hassler/Wiaderski. Approved with three opposed.

Lakes-31 To rescind the requirement of other than AU banded birds to be registered by paying one dollar to the AU to enable said birds to fly as old birds. Remove from rule 7.09. Died for lack of motion.

BAR presented at meeting (PAC-059). Pacific 395 Concourse. Change rule 1.08. Each club must maintain at 2 clubs and 5 competing lofts. Motion to table. Rivera/Holder. Approved.

Review of Director Manual (Clifton, Pairan, Demler, Hundrup)

Karen presented Policy 210 (Membership Classes) to replace what is currently in the manual. The only changes made were deletion of reference to Centers. Since they do not exist, it should be consistent with current policy.

A draft of a policy supporting the Judges' Panel program was presented. A number will be assigned and it will be posted in our Policies on the website as well.

Don Moore made a recommendation that the Honor member definition be clarified. Pairan suggested may make it "active" member.

Motion to amend 210.05 to include "Caribbean Islands" on Class E and add the word active. Holder/Rivera. Approved.

Under policy title: AU Judges' Panel, change the language to "up to \$600." A number still needs to be assigned to the policy. On page 2, strike "members will not be charged."

Visitors joined the meeting: Sharon Berger & Sheri Holder.

NLA Dissolution/Scholarship Program Proposal (Clifton)

The NLA will officially dissolve following announcement of scholarship awards at the annual convention. There have been only a few that have filled as officers and worked to keep the auxiliary and fund going. They have worked hard but with little help. They want to see the scholarship fund continued but are ready to step down.

We propose starting a scholarship fund. Applications would be submitted by June 1 each year. Applicants must be related to a pigeon fancier, have at least a B average in school and state what their goals are and the ways they would give back to the community. The AU usually gives \$2500 to the fund. Just as a starting point, we recommend putting \$6000 in the budget and award up to the top 3 essays in equal amounts of \$2000.

Discussion included remarks that the money should be spread around more. A counterpoint was made that this needs to be a Cadillac mark of the AU. Less means more and each award should be a significant amount – we're looking for the cream of the crop. The fund will be called the AU Youth Scholarship Fund.

Motion to continue the scholarship fund (AU Youth Scholarship Fund) and award \$6000 split 3 ways each year to the top 3 applications. Holder/Rivera. Approved.

Clifton will put an application in the August newsletter and yearbook to announce the youth scholarship fund. Step children are allowed. Actual members are allowed, up to the age of 23. The mechanics of the fund will be left to the committee and will be presented to the board case by case for the award decision. The committee consists of Clifton, Pairan and Roberts.

There were no pending issues to present.

Good of the Order

Zone director reports may be submitted in written form prior to the board meeting and are good in lieu of the director should he need to miss the meeting. President Coletti will always ask for an oral report.

The beta testers for eWinSpeed© will include Holder, Don Riedel, Alan Porter and Vernon Young.

The meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, the awards committee reviewed and approved member awards.