

**2008 Mid Year AU Board Meeting Minutes
July 19 & 20, 2008, Las Vegas, NV**

Attendees: Bill Mitiu, Bill Barger, Bob Barnes, Robert Tomlinson, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Karen Clifton, Steve Lawler, Tom Coletti, Bill Desmarais, Herb Cartmell, Brad Hoggan, Gary Braden, Jim Greelis, Frank Greenhall, Mike Tobin, John McSweeney, Ron Pairan, Freddie Rivera.

Guests: Jim Gabler, Rick Barker, Paul Jenson

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Lawler opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with the flag salute and a moment of silence.

Following the flag salute and silence, Frank Greenhall commented that veterans' widows or families often donate flags. They are donated to schools and organized youth groups. Perhaps the AU could be a recipient as well.

President Lawler made opening remarks to prepare the board members for efficient use of time.

He began by thanking board members for all they do and saluted them for their dedication. He stated that we live in exciting times in the pigeon world. We are a moving target for the federal government and animal rights, to name two examples, and we work to stay out of their range. If only people know how close they are to not having the right to have pigeons in their backyard, maybe they would pay more attention. We have an awesome responsibility to write history for the sport with all the decisions we make. We do the best with what we have.

Lawler advised the board to listen with an open mind, dismissing predeterminations, and moving forward, asking correct questions, stopping to clarify, to make sure we are all on the same page. We cover a lot of territory and we have a lot of issues involved. Each board member may be involved in only a portion of the issues. It is our responsibility to make sure we are informed as much as possible before voting. He cautioned that when the board meeting is finished, in the spirit of democracy, when we walk out the door, we are one mind, one voice; we make the decision here and we walk out the door to carry out that decision. Complaints to the office afterward, are not fair.

He shared on a personal note that Clifton and McSweeney went to the event in Louisiana. He had thought about attending but decided that he was not required there and saved travel expense money. He did go to the Texas Center Convention. We were well represented. Bill Barger from the west coast did a nice job, as did John McSweeney, Freddie Rivera and Herb Cartmell. Herb happened to be visiting relatives in the area, so he stopped by and did a great presentation about the junior program with 4-H.

Lawler went on to share information shared at the Texas Center. There is an overall dissatisfaction with membership numbers. Numbers are down; expenses are up. He shared that they met with members of the Texas Center board and that McSweeney would share a proposal later in the board meeting and the board would give consideration to that. Also, McSweeney and Barger will provide insight as to what is going on in that part of the country. He also shared that the Texas Center Convention would be run by Bill Hill in Tulsa in 2009.

Lawler had just completed his travel to Red Bluff, California. He expressed his amazement at the outstanding work of Walt and Marge Shaffer with the 4-H. It is very impressive. His visit included 7 loft visits – one was up north, then they ended up at a castle. It literally looks like a castle: 2-story loft, 60 X 40, with 3 turrets. Perches are 16 feet in the air. It reminded him of the old dovecotes. The Shaffer's also hosted a barbeque potluck. They had telephoned all their contacts and there were 75 people there, so they had an unplanned zone meeting with good questions and very positive issues. A couple issues were dead time and smash races. Lawler stated he would give the information to Coletti to run through committee.

The Red Bluff Club members did 5 presentations and recorded them in order that they may be judged by the home office. They also had front page newspaper coverage while he was there and thanked Deone for her media outreach resulting in press.

Lawler went on to share information regarding Red Bluff Club membership. They have 64 members. Half are juniors. Of those juniors, 22 include parent members. One of the requirements for the junior members is that they must have an adult member join also. Two-thirds of the senior members are accompanied by juniors. They put a booklet out each year that includes all races, presentations, awards (such as bird of the year, loft of the year). One of the juniors won 2 races. Another junior won 3 races. Adults won fewer races in the club.

He went on to describe his travel to collect clocks for juniors in the Great American Clock Off. He described driving through desolate areas in Nevada as he was getting calls to collect clocks. He had 8 from the Pacific Zone, 5 from the Southwest Zone and 7 from the Mountain Zone. At the end he had 23 clocks with 1 out of Springhill. Freddie brought 4 more clocks from Florida. Those will go to the Massachusetts area.

While at the Texas Center, Lawler spent time with Ed Minvielle. As the G2 clocks replace the Express clocks, the trade-ins will go to the junior program. Hoggan suggested the AU office keep a list of serial numbers given to the clubs; they will be loaned by the club; then they will be returned to the AU if the club dissolves.

Cartmell shared that his group ran an instruction session about how to handle the clocks and that the clocks will be turned backing at the end of the season, conditioned and ready to go. He sprays WD-40 on the ribbon to temporarily regenerate the ribbon. Since 4-H is a citizenry development group, their clocks stay in the best condition ever.

PUBLIC/NON-BOD COMMENTS

The floor was opened to Jim Gabler and Rick Barker, representing World of Wings. Gabler shared that they presented financial statements two years ago and the WOW is continuing to release these statements. This was stated as a reminder that WOW has been forthright with the information. Gabler referred to recently published information regarding money raised 15 years ago. The figure of \$1 million was used, but only \$750,000 actually came in. Most of that still exists in various holdings and was not squandered. The WOW has \$800,000 in asset value. Gabler highlighted changes in the WOW. They have a number of new board members consisting of talented people, such as Rick Barker.

Barker was given the floor and shared that he raises racing and fancy birds. He described a chasm between the two groups. Racing fanciers consider fancy birds “droppers” and “feeders.” He went on to explain that the groups need each other. He spoke to correct a misconception: racing is not as old as the fancy breed use, in history. Homing pigeons were developed in the 1800’s out of fancy pigeons. Hannibal crossed the Alps using Modena pigeons as couriers. Barker stated it is about legacy. Bill Rice was president of the AU and president of the NPA. His was the precursor to the largest pigeon club. Barker shared that as a junior, he was one of the first of 350 members the first year. He said we remember this man. He asked what happens when we pass. What happens with someone of the AU board passes? AU represents the upper echelon of the pigeon fancy. How do we pull up the average fancier to participate with AU and WOW? He asked why not be involved with the museum – it’s our legacy. He said that some things need to be worked out between groups. That is what Gabler is trying to foster for the pigeon fancy in general. Barker shared that his was more of a public announcement plea. He has been involved in the hobby for more than 50 years. We are insignificant in each other’s world. We can learn about each other in the museum. It is disappointing and frustrating to deal with the apathy and lack of a sense of legacy that should be encompassing all walks of the pigeon hobby.

The floor was returned to Gabler who shared that the heritage of pigeons, not just racing pigeons, is important. Other things have gone on at WOW that have been changed. The bridge was locked by WOW on the WOW side. It is now unlocked. Gene Yoes deserves accolades for building the WOW web site. He did a lot of the work himself. WOW is in the process of expanding that to bring WOW to the public through modern technology. He said it is clear in his mind how to do it and that this is phase 1 of several phases.

WOW has committed resources to a special 24 foot trailer. It was Butch Shoop's idea. It is owned free and clear and will be on the road soon to illustrate the hobby. WOW has the same money they had 15 years ago for public relations. He stated that most of the hobby does not realize that. WOW needs to be better about communicating that. They suggest an ambassador for each club. Press on the Ambassador Program will be out soon. Drew Lesofski is WOW chairman of public relations and authors the articles. AU, IF and NPA have given space to share the information.

Though exact contents of the trailer have not been determined, discussion centered around potential uses and potential methods of shipment.

WOW just received a \$15,000 donation from the roller community, which is a sign of people starting to band together.

The WOW board consists of Rick Barker, Tom Beard, Jerry Black, Bill Bonwell, Randy Goodpasture, Dave Gerhke, Bill Hill, Drew Lesofski, Tommy Nettis, Willy Reichert, Jim Richesin and Butch Shoop.

Methods of tax-deductible contributions were discussed, along with the non-profit status of WOW.

Discussion then centered around the higher number of fancy enthusiasts, that are not part of a national organization, and the revenue generated from fancy breeds, which is equivalent to the homing breed. Public awareness of clubs needs to improve.

PAST PRESIDENT/SECRETARY REPORT – Frank Greenhall

Discussion and motion by Greenhall to approve minutes of the mid-winter meeting in San Antonio. Second Tomlinson. Approved.

Greenhall commented that as Past-President, he is the keeper of the poison pen responding to negative press such as Sports Illustrated, and negative reports of the sport dying and membership loss. His first article appears in the 2008 fall Update.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Barnes

Barnes provided a recap of the annual budget. The AU has \$454,000 as of June 30, from membership and band sales. Travel expense will be over budget. For the past 10 years he has been saying get out and spend your allotted travel money. He can't say that anymore and asked how we could raise more money? (The focus of the Finance Committee.)

Barnes would like to see \$10,000 surplus kept each year in an unappropriated fund balance for a "rainy day fund" and is submitting a BAR to have it established. Ideally we would have \$25,000 from year to year, but travel cost is up.

Clifton is to obtain figures from last convention to provide estimate for this year.

Methods of producing revenue were discussed including raising membership dues, raising cost of bands, and changing the price break on bands. A suggestion was to release press explaining expenses affected by the weak dollar, and then put a vote to membership. Greenhall will chair a committee to determine; committee to include, Hoggan, Barnes, Greelis and Clifton.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT UPDATE – Robert Tomlinson

Tomlinson stated that the most recent topic has been the time limit to contest race results after the race is done. He shared that there are electronic clock issues and awards issue, disease issues and expense issues. They are combining races because of heat and cost.

There was discussion of shipping together and liberating separately.

Tomlinson also mentioned the travel of board members. Suggested the winter meeting not take place again.

He then talked about shipping issues when crossing state lines. Discussion ensued about a resource for members: when clubs panic, they need a contact and protocol to respond to a particular issue, whether state health issues, tech support or legal. A suggestion was a clearinghouse approach with a national coordinator network consisting of a volunteer in each state. Information can be provided on the back of the Update newsletter. Desmarais worked with a young, energetic vet that has taken additional classes in order to be able to certify. That may be another opportunity for networking with other veterinarians.

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Issues presented by members were discussed:

Point system and new awards was referred to the Awards Committee. It was decided that the Awards committee continue to review the proposal submitted by Dale Golla. The AU awards and point system have been recently updated and most are already implemented.

A “bird liberation guideline” will be included with each member ID card and secretary packet. It is important that members do as much as possible to liberate only in optimum conditions. Clifton prepared and distributed the mock up.

Minimum presence requirement (potential change/reduction) to be presented in a BAR.

Combination of race seasons to control expense, referred to Competition Standards Committee and a BAR will be submitted with details once determined (October 2008).

The AU office is directed to respond to each of these communications issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Right to Race – Karen Clifton

Clifton said a company is making knock off chip rings with no quality control and duplication of countermark numbers, and mailing out to selected individuals. FCI governs races and takes the stance that those will not be legal. Additionally, they are trying to put penalties in place.

Coletti reminded that rule 16.06 already addresses that. The board agreed this should be included in the rule changes, which will be posted in the yearbook and on the website.

16.05 Users of Electronic Band Scanning Systems shall be required to:

A. Use electronic band scanning systems that have a re-programmable electronic band (read/write chips). (11/04)

B. Use EBSS bands as approved or supplied by the scanning system manufacturer.

Clifton reports that Dr. DePoyster, of the USDA, still anticipates a variance in the pending inspection requirement. The National Poultry Improvement Program requires annual inspection and one is still subject to blood tests. It was thought this might be an option for those willing to have an annual inspection by the USDA. It is more severe and not really a good option.

With regard to the hawk status, extensive research was completed and reported to the AU. Options for action include counter suit or testify in front of congress. Either choices depends on money. The research completed by Bill Wilder will be forwarded to AU lobbyist, Greg Smith for formulating the next step. Bill did an outstanding job of researching the laws and subsequent revisions and additions to the Migratory Bird Treaty.

Discussion ensued about loft certification and whether that would suffice with state veterinarians and be used in lieu of vet certificates. The difficulty lies in the approachability of states such as Nevada. It might be assumed certification would provide an edge in light of bird flu. Greenhall will chair a committee including Braden, Desmarais and Rivera to prepare convention meeting content on the subject.

Leadership/Retention – Steve Lawler/Karen Clifton

Clifton passed around the prototype of the Leadership Notebook, part of the Leadership Series revised for 2008. Segments of the series include

(1) Positive Organizational Environment and Sustained Membership,

- (2) Public Awareness/Education and Member Recruitment, and
- (3) Development of Youth Outreach Programs.

The Leadership Series material will be noted in the Secretary packets so that clubs may contact the AU to acquire copies. The intent is that the information contained in the series will help with member retention and promotion.

There was discussion on expert presentations on various topics at convention. Minnesota is having a Pigeons Unplugged Roundtable. The board could take part in that and have breakout meetings when members are socializing. Topics may include WinSpeed©, Constitution and Bylaws, Race Rules, Promotion and Fund Raising.

National Youth/School Coordinator – Frank Greenhall

Greenhall reported that one school picked up on the Cornell project. Five kids are very active, have lofts and their birds are flying. Eventually they would be able to represent the county in FFA competition and the winner would go from state to national FFA representing the school. Additional opportunities would be teacher conventions and administrator conventions.

It is hoped that the other schools would follow this model and then be replicated nationwide, however, other schools have been slow to embrace.

Historian – Jim Greelis

Greelis reported that he interviewed Tony Sorrentino and Walter Lesnak, a World War I veteran who had pigeons prior and after the war. Greelis has pulled in a little on Ebay purchases. The most recent acquisitions are the book *Bertha And The Racing Pigeon* and a Signal Corp patch.

A future trip will include Bob Woozio in Colorado, Chuck Weaver in Mississippi, Sam Lembo in Florida, for history on flyers. He is anticipating a pigeoneer monument, dependent upon the WOW status.

His historical collection of interviews is not eligible for PSB submission in Nebraska. Possibly, because the AU headquarters is in Oklahoma City, it will be eligible for submission in Oklahoma.

National Publication – Steve Lawler

Committee reports are part of 2020. It is anticipated that it will be twelve years to accomplish all these committee topics.

There was discussion of revenue options related to the national publication, including: graduated levels of membership, subscription based publication, retail purchase item.

Speakers' Bureau – Gary Braden

Braden said that even though the information about the service to members has been published in the Update newsletter repeatedly, there is no real activity in this area, so it is concluded that it will continue to be made available to members if interested.

Judge's Panel – Freddie Rivera

This idea has taken off. Several shows are being judged by the panel. We have the maximum number of judges now. Two sanctioned shows are scheduled this year: Colorado and Kansas.

Freddie also revealed that a new show standard book was compiled. Freddie worked with AU member, Kay Smith, to contribute a homing pigeon segment for the new show standard book. Kay was involved in contributing to the new book.

The judges' panel was divided into 3 sections, but some members want to select specific judges. They will need to bring that to the panel.

Barger moved that members must select judges from their own zone. Second from Greenhall. Failed. Opposed: Holder, Mitiu, Pairan, McSweeney, Hoggan, Desmarais, Rivera. A BAR is pending.

Discussion included having guidelines made available to members for preparing birds for show. Show Committee determined that a handout listing responsibilities would be made available.

Pairan moved that if members select from outside their zone, reimbursement would be the difference up to \$400 for the least expensive choice. Discussion was that the judges that are not speakers won't be asked to judge. Second by Desmarais. Approved.

Finance/Funding – Robert Tomlinson

Tomlinson reported that a reduction in number of people traveling would be a good idea. He suggested the board consider who needs to attend board meetings and conventions. If we discontinue the mid winter meeting and expand the mid year meeting by ½ day, if necessary, we would save.

Barger moved to discontinue the mid winter meeting and expand the mid year meeting by ½ day, if necessary. Second by Barnes. Approved.

Continuing his report, Tomlinson stated that our major income is from dues and bands. The Arch of Honor is on hold. He suggested an educational wing added to AU, which he would like to chair, with McSweeney as co-chair. Cartmell was added to the committee. Tomlinson will write an article regarding codicils for the yearbook.

Scientific Taskforce – Clifton

Clifton reported there was no current activity. Clifton had been directed to create a brochure that would be appropriate to share with anyone (including medical professionals) that are concerned about pigeons and disease. The brochure draft was passed around for review. The plan will be to submit a brochure and cover letter to all state vets. It was determined that Greenhall will handle as part of the committee.

This brochure will also be included with each membership ID card and in the Secretary packets.

It was suggested that state vet schools be surveyed to see who can address the circo virus vaccine. OSU was mentioned as the possibility in Oklahoma.

Membership Dirve/4-H Update – Cartmell

Cartmell reported that we have to resell the experience we had with our first pigeons. He mentioned that pigeons are excluded from poultry at shows. He gave the example of working with civic service clubs to develop fundraising opportunities and partnership to secure standing in community. Flight For Sight is an event example to raise money. Recognition is key in civic clubs and pigeon shows.

The kids in Cartmell's Sky Pilot group have been divided among three clubs and placed in Sportsman Class. Their results are merged into the concourse and their own race sheet will print. He intends to turn the effort over to the parents for assistance. The kids will run the club. Cartmell will serve as the technical advisor.

Constitution & By Laws – Cartmell

Cartmell reported that dominant issues were either club issues or policy issues for which clubs needed clarification. The AU office is copied on correspondence. There are still some clubs that do not have C&BL and officer duty descriptions to guide club leadership. Clubs typically want to comply with AU rules and policies.

Clubs with more than one national organization affiliation will continue to have problems with rules and member complaints. The simplest solution is to pick one and fly by their rules.

Cartmell shared that he responds quickly to member inquires.

Competition Standards – Coletti

Colletti said that his current BARs are submitted to clarify rules. He said it has become apparent that many race secretaries are not current with AU race rules. He suggested it will be a good idea to have a roundtable at convention for race secretaries.

Resulting discussion covered setting up something for combined races. A committee was formed consisting of Coletti, Cartmell, Lawler, Pairan, McSweeney and will copy Past President Greenhall and Awards Chariman Holder.

The bottom line is that race secretaries need to read the rules.

AU/WOW Committee Report – Greenhall, Hoggan, Lawler
Executive Session.

Greenhall moved to authorize the current committee working with WOW to place the WOW collection in a climate-controlled environment, not to exceed \$300/month split equally between AU and WOW for a period not to exceed one year. Second by Mitiu. Approved.

National Office – Clifton

Clifton stated that most information was covered in committee reports. A handout of clubs that had not renewed was distributed. Zone Directors were asked to contact those clubs to encourage them to submit their rosters and follow up with the office. The list also included names of newly formed clubs, Lifetime, Honor, Sponsor & Patron members.

Currently, we have a total of 8109 paid members, which is only 686 down from where we ended the year and membership is still coming in. We anticipate another slight membership increase.

We continue to send out quarterly reminders to individual members and a marketing piece to former members asking them to come back and explaining our services to them. We usually have a good return on those mailings.

Our band revenue is up from last year. We continue to sell more personal bands each year, which is increase in revenue.

The new band manufacturer indicates we may anticipate receiving the first half of our order in September and the remainder in October.

Clifton is also working with ICOM to see if we can order the chip rings for about 3 clubs that have volunteered to use them in different club settings to determine what problems, if any, there are using the new rings. If there are no problems next year while they are in use, we might entertain offering these to our members that use clocks that are compatible with the chip rings.

The WOW has asked if we will enclose a string of 25 gold bands in each of the club orders. They will string them in strands of 25 and we will insert them into the band boxes and provide a copy of the list of assigned band numbers to WOW for their records.

Clifton said we have received input from a few flyers over the years regarding the bands being too small. One gentleman, Ernie Bruno in UT, continues to submit complaints about the size of the bands. The bands are the same size they have always been and the size is the international standard. The bands look smaller because the width of the outer plastic has been reduced, but that does not affect the actual inside diameter of the bands. Karen asked the board if a committee should be formed or a questionnaire developed to gather member input. The board did not wish to pursue it, as the band size has not changed.

The shipping expense will be greatly reduced as well since they'll be on a container coming over that will be cleared with other product. Our portion of the shipping will be less and duties and import fees should be much less.

Clifton reported that we are still seeing improvement in postal shipping and have fewer complaints than ever so that is working well for us.

Karen asked board members to submit articles/ads for the yearbook by 8/1.

Dates for the annual meetings were discussed. It was decided that all should travel on Monday, October 13. Meetings will take place throughout the week beginning on October 14.

Sport Development – Roberts

Roberts reported that most information to share would appear in the *Update* newsletter coming out shortly. Members in nearly 20 states promoted and received media coverage.

The April Promotion Contest winner was Herb Cartmell with an outstanding list of accomplishments, during the month, in the area of media coverage, promotion displays and work with youth.

Schools/youth groups for which we have received most recent communication numbered 6. Previous projects, combined with these 6, total over 16 projects in which members have been involved to teach and share with youth.

The new members coming into the sport still average over 100 per month.

Information has existed as member resources for several years. It is currently being revised for simplification and separation as the AU Leadership Series 2008 and will consist of notebooks and CD's entitled:

Part 1 – Positive Organizational Environment and Sustained Membership

Part 2 – Public Awareness/Education And Member Recruitment

Part 3 – Development of Youth Outreach Programs

Roberts was pleased to share communication from the newest participant in the AU board function, Mary Shaw, AU's first Youth Ambassador. The board unanimously endorsed Mary in the role and will anticipate reports on youth activities to the board and to membership through AU publications and the AU web site.

Greenhall suggests Mary Shaw be invited to attend board meeting in Massachusetts in 2009 and be allowed to make a presentation to the board.

Zone Directors reports were postponed until Sunday.

Review of Tabled Board Action Requests

Mountain-021 AU send a team of birds to the 2009 Olympiade. This was actually dropped in favor of the recommendation that the AU host shows in each zone. Freddie Rivera provided information from the committee and it was agreed it is premature as the show program is just being implemented and fine-tuned. Additionally, the expenses far outweigh the positive. Rivera/Braden, moved to not consider implementing either show plan at this time. Approved.

NE-026 Allow manual submission for national AU awards.

After discussion, motion made to continue to look for ways to accept individual submissions via electronic means (CD, DVD, etc.) and work toward automation. Greenhall/Desmarais. Approved.

Tobin is directed to work on a WinSpeed© "light" version that will allow manual electronic submission. Braden or Pairan to provide detailed proposal at annual meeting in Holder's absence.

PAC 029 Program WinSpeed© to leave tied birds tied. Withdrawn.

Plains 034 Amend race release guidelines. Died, lack of second.

Plains 036 Amend show agreement. Tabled until October 2008. Rivera to report.

SE-025 Judges for shows be selected from those in the region they are located to minimize expense. Motion withdrawn in favor of the motion approved earlier in the meeting.

Motion to adjourn until morning. Greenhall/Pairan. Approved. Adjournment.

July 20, 2008

Attendees: John McSweeney, Ron Pairan, Bill Mitiu, Freddie Rivera, Bill Barger, Bob Barnes, Robert Tomlinson, Jay Holder, Deone Roberts, Karen Clifton, Steve Lawler, Tom Coletti, Bill Desmarais, Herb Cartmell, Brad Hoggan, Gary Braden, Jim Greelis, Frank Greenhall, Mike Tobin.

Review of Pending Assignments

a. Convention Committee (hiring an organizer, research cost, AU purchase trophies, flexible dates (i.e., mid-July/late-December), screening handlers, etc. (Desmarais, Hoggan, Cartmell) Committee recommendations for convention handlers:

1. All convention handlers must have demonstrated to the Race Committee that they have the experience, commitment and facilities to handle a convention race team.
2. Convention handlers will not have birds of their own in the race loft.
3. Convention handlers must have their lofts AU certified, and abide with good health and Biosecurity practices.
4. Convention lofts should include a quarantine or holding area, and the capability for dealing with a disease outbreak.
5. Convention handlers have an obligation to adequately train the birds prior to the convention race, including trapping.
6. Convention handler will inspect and inventory their teams at least once a week and report any sick or missing birds to either the race committee chairman or directly to the owner, as per race committee's direction.
7. Breeder, as well as race committee chairman, shall be notified when, in the loft handler's opinion, the bird is no longer able to compete.
8. No sick birds, injured birds, or birds incapable of competing shall be entered in the race.

Motion to accept committee's recommendation, with some wordsmithing.
Greenhall/Holder. Approved.

Cartmell and Clifton directed to research convention planner cost and details to present in October.

b. Traveling historical display. (Cartmell)

It is done, except for what will be placed inside. It is hoped that it can be combined with the WOW traveling exhibit. The first use will be in Minneapolis, delivered by Greelis. Dimensions are 47" x 53" x 18", 350 pounds.

c. Motorized loft/traveling museum. (AU/WOW Joint committee – Greenhall)
Discussed with the WOW report.

- d. Video/CD production to capture historical interviews (pigeoneers, past presidents, etc.). Project continuing within budget constraints. (Greelis)
- e. Trademark Sky Pilot. (Roberts) In progress.
- f. Implement Membership Committee, create and empower. On hold. Cartmell working with youth groups and civic groups to integrate nationally.
- g. Review options for 2010 convention race. Rick Mardis submitted proposal. Barger appointed to discuss fees.
- h. Compile Project Guide to include a loaner loft agreement (patterned after Red Bluff 4-H & NW Junior Flyers) to be available to others conducting youth projects. Plans could also be posted on web site. (Roberts) In progress.
- i. Finance committee will create a proposal for additional revenue sources. (Barnes, Tomlinson)
- j. 2011 convention update. (Tomlinson) He stated it is a one-loft race concept, currently with three convention planning volunteers. The convention deposit is forthcoming.
- k. Awards Chair to review awarded criteria/applications in the yearbook to ensure they are appropriately updated/correct and the review/revise AU Policy 500 Awards. Need updates for 2008 yearbook by 8/1/08. (Holder) Holder has two web updates and information for the yearbook he will provide to Clifton. Champion loft awards will be provided by August 1.
- l. Address combining race seasons, the affect on WinSpeed© and the NDB. (Coletti)

Additional discussion resulted in agreement to send to committee to continue review and report in October 2008.

- m. Regarding the atomic clock time and the manual setting a club setting, need to review inconsistencies. Current rules state that at the combine level all must be radio or GPS. How do we deal with manual clocks (many are given to youth and new flyers)? (Coletti)
- n. Review problems with WinSpeed© recognizing only first four letters on bands and awards going to the wrong member. (Tobin) Discussion centered on whether it is a WinSpeed© or a clock problem. Clocks take only 4 letters; WinSpeed© takes 5. Therefore, it is a clock issue. The office was directed to limit new band lettering to only that which differs from first four spaces of previously reserved or currently used letters.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Committee Update (Holder)

GI Joe & Cher Ami Awards – Champion Loft Awards have been integrated into the latest update of WinSpeed© version 2008A. Overall response is favorable with exception of two comments. Tobin is working to ready National Champion Loft Awards for YB 2008. National YB Champion Loft is undergoing testing. This programming is also an integral part of the new Presidents Cup Awards.

Master Loft Award (standard WinSpeed© setting) has also been integrated into WinSpeed© version 2008A. It was released prior to 2008 OB season.

Yearling Hall of Fame is scheduled to begin in 2009 OB. Birds must have at least three qualifying races as a YB in 2008 to be eligible for Yearling Hall of Fame in 2009 YB's.

New Presidents Cup qualifying will commence during the 2008 YB season.

Current National Bird Awards include Young Birds – UPR National Ace Pigeon Awards – 4 races – single season and the new AU Hall of Fame – 5 races – 4 divisions – single season.

Additionally, Old Birds – UPR National Ace Pigeon Awards – all single season (Middle Distance, Long Distance Marathon, Marathon Triple Crown and All Distance).

The new AU OB Hall of Fame is 4 divisions – 2 seasons; the new AU Yearling Hall of Fame is 4 divisions – 2 seasons; AU Registered Champion awards and AU Elite Registered Champion awards – multiple seasons.

National Champion Bird Awards study

Young Birds – National Champion Young Birds – single season – based on the AU Standard Points system. Old Birds – National Champion Old Birds – single season – based on the AU Standard Points system.

Awards Committee Recommendations

Proposal of motion by committee to place a moratorium on any new National Bird awards for a period of three years. During this time, the existing National Bird awards will be fully implemented, results evaluated and any fine-tuning requirements reported to the board. Such motion made by Greenhall/Rivera. Approved.

Due to the large number of programming projects Tobin is assigned, it will be approximately two years before work may begin on automated Registered Champion awards.

Motion made to send a certificate of appreciation to new AU technical support volunteer, Sonny Cangiarella, and pay his membership. Holder/Hoggan. Approved.

Review of New Board Action Requests

PAC-30 Include all recognized banded young birds on the web site results page. Members can fly birds with alien bands (approved) as young birds without registering them. If they choose to fly them as old birds, they must be registered (per 7.09) at \$1.00 each. Barber/Greenhall. Approved. Effectively immediately.

PAC-031 Put Board Meeting Minutes on the website. Reference will be made and copies available upon request or members may view on the website. This will help reduce printing costs for publications. Barger/Tomlinson. Approved.

MTN-034 Put the percentage sign back into WinSpeed©. Withdrawn.

MTN-035 Change race rule 7/31 and 14.01. Clubs are getting confused by the language in 7.31 vs. 14.01. Moving 7.31 into 14.01 enhances the intent of 14.01. Under 7.00 Racing (7.31) shall be no more and will be reflected as under 7.00 Racing as "(7.31) not used."

Race Rule 14.01 to read:

14.01 A race is officially closed at a time and day agreed upon by the organization membership when the race schedule is set, if not otherwise set in the organizational constitution and by-laws, or race rules.

The Race Secretary shall be assured that a sufficient quantity of birds have returned from the race and all positions for awards have been taken before designating the time for opening of the clocks and closing the race.

Combined with MTN-036 and MTN-037 with motion.

MTN-036 Remove rule 5.06 and mark it "Left Blank Intentionally." Rule 5.06 conflicts with all AU race rules under 4.00. 4.00 states only three lofts are needed for an official AU race. In addition, only three lofts are needed to earn diplomas. 5.06 states five lofts are needed for section awards. This is in direct conflict with AU rules on awarding diplomas and participation in national awards.

Combined with MTN-035 and MTN-037 with motion.

MTN-037 Clarify Combine Section Awards (diplomas). Although the AU has for years allowed Combine Section awards (diplomas), the race rules do not reflect a specification or definition of a Section. AU race rule 5.06 has the only reference to section and it is wrong. A BAR has been submitted to remove 5.06.

Create AU Race Rule 1.08 Combine Section Awards. A section is a group of clubs within a combine separated by some geographical location that competes against each other as well as against the whole combine. Diplomas may be awarded to the winner of a section within a combine, as well as for an overall combine winner.

A section is made up of at least two clubs competing to receive a section award (diploma). Each club in the section must maintain the minimum number of flying lofts to meet the AU minimum presence rule of three competing lofts from three separate postal locations.

A combine shall not give section awards if the section stops meeting any of the minimum requirements:

1. Two clubs are required as a minimum to make a section.
2. The clubs in the section must always maintain the minimum present of three flying competing lofts from three separate postal locations.

The AU does not consider two competing lofts a “club.”

Motion to approve MTN-035 through MTN-037 as written. McSweeney/Pairan. Approved.

LAKES-020 Relax the requirement to have three participating (competitors) present at knock-off and instead require three active members to be present at knock-off. Tabled until October.

NW-089 Modify Section 12.01 to add additional divisions. Create two additional and separate competition divisions built into WinSpeed©. A “Classic Division,” which would be for those that fly with “banger” clocks and countermarks. There are some that just want to be “traditionalists.” This could work the same as Sportsman (which is underused). It would appear on the Open Sheet but could print out their own sheet with the click of a button.

Also propose a separate section for Youth, maybe called Skypilots, as well. This would add two additional Competition Divisions into WinSpeed© that would allow for recognition of members in these different divisions without changing the attributes of the Open Division.

All race rules such as minimum lofts (4.01) would apply.

Motion died for lack of second. Lawler suggested redefining “sportsman.”

NW-090 Provide a single weekly race result report in WinSpeed© that will include data for both the UPR and new standard points reports. Also include the

following reports on the weekly sheet: 1 – Champion Loft (standard points), 2 – Master Loft (standard points), 3 – Two-bird nominated, 4 – UPR Team Score. Motion to adopt, as written, in WinSpeed© in by 2012. Greenhall/Holder. Approved.

PLAINS-037 Amend AU Race Rule 4.0 to allow any club member who is competing in the race series (not necessarily the race in question) to count toward the required minimum presence necessary to ship that race. With smaller clubs, grater distances to drive and the price of gasoline, it is difficult enough to keep individuals in the sport. As written in 4.00, if it takes “competing” members to make a minimum presence, then even if you can get 3 or 4 club members to assemble and ship a combine race if only 2 are actually competing they would have to go to another club to legally ship that race. Withdrawn in favor of Lakes-020.

PLAINS-038 Move Kentucky and West Virginia from the SE Zone to the Lakes Zone to balance workload between zones. (This compensates for moving Wisconsin from the Lakes Zone to the Plains Zone earlier this year.) Greenhall/Holder. Approved.

LAKES-021 Earmark 2% or \$10,000, whichever is higher of the two, of annual revenue and establish a separate account (Rainy Day Fund) within the first 90 days of each year. Rainy Day Fund can be used only by Board Approval. Pairan/Greenhall. Approved.

PLAINS-039 Create option in WinSpeed© to compete in “Team Competition,” shifting focus from an individual sport to a Team (Club) approach. Flyers with less success on an individual basis, would feel they could still contribute to the total Team effort. Tabled until projects completed.

NE-027 Discontinue printing member ID cards each year. Send cards only to new members. Desmarais/Holder. Failed with Desmarais, Rivera, Pairan in favor.

Clifton instructed to investigate ways to print from the web site and estimated cost savings.

Discussion resulted in recommendation of committee to study how to fix issue of printing a membership card from the web site. The site would need to be able to generate a message if dues are not paid, no card will print. Committee members are Tomlinson, Desmarais and Holder.

Zone Director Reports

Southwest Zone – John McSweeney

McSweeney presented a proposal from the Texas Center. Because centers function basically as a social center, the Texas Center requests removal of geographical membership boundaries.

Greenhall suggested that particulars be revisited through AU Bylaws, as to do for one, would mean the need to do for all. Are Centers still functional and necessary? Committee will consist of McSweeney, Cartmell, Mitiu, Rivera and Barger.

Northeast Zone – Desmarais

Desmarais spoke of usual Zone Director functions such as lost bird calls, lapsed memberships, promotion to members and public, assisting with clubs' fund raising events, and networking with various clubs and members. Lapsed membership is costly, time consuming and elicits ill will. He spoke of communicating the importance of sport promotion to general public, but noted that promotion within the ranks will serve membership to a positive result.

Desmarais offered a printout of a guideline for selecting and preparing racing homing pigeons for the purposes of grading and judging. He also shared information about his experience in providing birds for a movie production, which will give credit to Northwest Pigeon Flyers, and he and his grandson.

Southeast Zone – Holder

Holder reported the most recent activity was that of the State Department of Agriculture enforcement of an existing law concerning importation of pigeon into the state from other states. Races affected were the GHC Classic, Flamingo, Ocala, and one-loft races. The solution of a quarantine holding loft, pending inspection, seems to be working.

Member Michael Serrao responded to a promotion request with a grade school in Lake Mary, FL, with great results.

Holder and member Dave Bacon are currently working area ordinance issues.

Lakes Zone – Pairan

Pairan spoke of a successful interaction with area 4-H. With the help of members Dave Brehm, Terry Lynn and Tim Byers, local 4-H will adopt a pigeon project. The Lancaster Club also repeated participation in the area Special Olympics and Memorial Day events. A new pigeon loft project at the Athens County Alternative School are in the process of preparing to be able to race. Pairan will also be attending an Indiana promotion event with Mitiu and a Penn-Ohio zone meeting with Roberts.

Northwest Zone – Braden

Braden spoke of working with Clifton on health certificates for birds entering California and on an ordinance issue in Washington. He shared that top concerns for the NW Zone are bird losses, the impact of fuel prices and feed prices, and Peregrine Falcons in Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

Plains Zone – Mitiu

In addition to promotion activities conducted locally and the historical event with the Infantry Museum, Bill spoke of meeting with the attorney regarding possibly overturning the ordinance in Chicago.

Pacific Zone – Barger

Bill discussed California transportation requirements (health certificates) and spoke of a letter regarding the statute requiring a certificate of inspection to appease the poultry industry.

Executive Session-Greenhall/Tomlinson moved to accept the recommendation of the Infractions Committee. Approved with Desmarais and Holder opposed.

Adjournment