

**2009 Mid Year AU Board Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2009, Oklahoma City, OK**

Attendees: Steve Lawler, Jim Greelis, Karen Clifton, Herb Cartmell, Tom Coletti, Brad Hoggan, John McSweeney, Butch Woods, Bill Mitiu, Ron Pairan, Bill Desmarais, Freddie Rivera, Mike Tobin, Bill Barger, Robert Tomlinson, Deone Roberts, Gil Rinard.

Guests: Paula Desmarais, Bill Nuffer, Rick Mardis

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, President Lawler made opening remarks to prepare the board members for efficient use of time. He began by listing the various recent changes in the sport, including electronic timers, the approval of timers and the process of timers. He reminded board members that though each representative reflects opinions of local constituency, the board itself is charged with balance in the overall, big picture and that what is deliberated is in determination of that which is best for all, separate of self and respective of the big picture.

Lawler summarized that we have differing opinions on recent decisions that could bear out the saying, "penny wise, pound foolish." He presented a couple issues of cost cutting and giving more up, in the end, such as saving expenses by eliminating the secretary and treasurers positions; and he stated that the meeting would include reconsideration of the treasurer position.

PUBLIC/NON-BOD COMMENTS/MARDIS-CLOCKS/CHIP RINGS

Phone connection was attempted with AU Lobbyist, Greg Smith, for him to listen to the guest presentations.

Rick Mardis began with statements that the universal chip band is approved by manufacturers and the only purpose of the band is to provide security. Compatibility would be the only concern. If prices are not set by the manufacturers, new innovations and price reductions can occur.

Samples of the universal chip ring were passed around to all the board members for examination. It was shown that the bands come in the "closed" position. Pliers are used to open them, which makes them more secure. One consideration was why the chips are removable. One example was the clip band is an option to use, rather than have to cut a band off a large leg.

Mardis explained that there are three manufacturers in China. Chips differ by manufacturer. One chip does not do all the clocks. Right now, clocks read

limited chips. The universal chips can be programmed for all clocks. Mardis stated that the board does not need to be in the business of telling which chip to use, but rather should tell what will work and also pointed out that the AU rule won't stand up in court, using a Microsoft case as an example.

Discussion: Barger asked why comment wasn't made when the rule was established. Mardis explained he is just now selling the band. The rule 16.05 was established in November 2004.

Mardis went on to explain that there is no clasp to break; you can pull it out; you can break the band; security is only when you put the bird in the basket. A company band was passed around for viewing.

Phone connection was established with Greg Smith.

Coletti asked if FCI administers and tests bands and asked if the band Mardis presented is approved by FCI. Mardis stated that yes, it is approved for Belgium, but he did not know if it was approved for anywhere else.

Cost of the band is 2.15, plus .15 for the insert.

Colletti asked that if it is approved by FCI, then is there a manufacturer's tag plus a random code? Mardis replied that he did not know and did not know if it exists. Coletti commented that it does. Mardis explained that with the Bricon chip, there is continuous updating. Information on changes will be presented at the AU convention.

Bill Nuffer, of Deister Electronics, agreed with most of Mardis' statements, especially regarding technology. Deister is a broad RFID business serving several industries. Two to three currently manufacture for sport. Others are considering. Other industry uses apply to cost, security and performance. He explained they deal with digital watermarking to increase security and error detection. He recommended tabling the motion to change the rule, as FCI is considering additional rulings that will have potential impact. First are antenna issues regarding improved performance. Second is encoding. Additionally if FCI is used as an approval mechanism, and they go in a different direction, does the board intend to go into the band approval business, where we would submit bands for approval.

Discussion: Numbering is finite, therefore companies have control of numbering. There is no legal protection, only organization rules. We refrained from recommending that FCI regulate. Therefore, we have hexadecimal digit assignment. Belgium has a single standard. There is an agreement among manufacturers. Desmarais asked Nuffer if he was familiar with Mardis' system. Nuffer said he was. Desmarais asked if it is compatible with Deister's system. Nuffer said that it is, at the basic level of electronics, but encoding, maybe not.

Desmarais also asked Nuffer if he has pigeons. Nuffer said he does not. Rivera asked if FCI is not in agreement, what would the next step be? Comments: there is a possibility of no internal knowledge. We would get rule created in FCI that enforces our existing rule. Doubtful if mandatory that it would be confined to manufacturer bands. Woods – what about member feedback? Why not have it uniform? One way of doing that is to adopt the Belgian model. All would follow a common standard. Mardis – all clocks have to work with chip and encoding standard. Belgium already went to that.

Final comments: Mardis – as far as FCI is concerned, he did not know how real it is. Belgium drives the FCI and Belgium is already at this point. He, nor FCI, would do anything to hurt the organization. The existing band limit is by manufacturers to protect sales. He offered lower prices with his product.

Nuffer – There is a biased perspective to protect sales and quality. There are subtleties in the RFID world.

Mardis – FCI meets in January. Mexico is already buying these.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MID-YEAR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve mid year meeting minutes. Tomlinson/Barger. Approved.

OFFICE REPORTS:

PAST PRESIDENT/SECRETARY – Greenhall

Past President Greenhall expressed opinions in writing that the AU yearbook should retain the band list and member directory. He shared that the yearbook is the one thing he sees everywhere. It is a historical document and should be preserved, not stripped down.

He also opposes increasing leg band size and believes we should adhere to an international standard, which allows AU to maintain its stance, with bands recognized. The number of complaints is so small that it does not warrant change. Finally he commented about rumblings that the Winspeed© upgrades should stop. He believes it would be shortsighted to the overall good of the organization and sport.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Tomlinson

Tomlinson reported that the committee did not have meetings. Financial statements were distributed. There was one member inquiry regarding fundraising via a phone service company. There was no response to the suggestion of codicils. The arch of honor project is put on hold pending a report from Hoggan, Greenhall, and Lawler.

The AU may not receive grant money because it is not an 501 (c) 3. AHPI was intended to be the recipient in the arrangement. He suggested the idea should be abandoned. Tomlinson's club, on the other hand, is a 501 (c) 3 and they are able to receive funding through the Raven Star Projects' "No Child Left Inside" program.

The national race concept is still pending. The AU auction is still in consideration. He indicated he would report on the national raffle later in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Tomlinson

He reported that all is in order. The Treasurer position issue will be addressed by Lawler. Tomlinson passed around a Raven Star Outdoor Learning Center flyer for other board members to see. Lawler interjected that this is like the one that is in Spokane.

Tomlinson's club has a federal ID number, is non-profit status and tax exempt. The idea may not be suitable for all clubs, but some clubs can do the same.

He spoke of a fundraiser dance to benefit the organization and said there would be more information later.

VICE PRESIDENT - Rivera

Rivera reported that in his travels he had a lot of questions around the band issue. He directed them to proper channels. He summarized his activities of speaking, judging and representing the AU at various events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RIGHT TO RACE – Clifton

Clifton explained that it would be necessary to shop around to get the best deal for inspection service to obtain a vet statement. Loft certification is also encouraged.

Rivera interjected that Florida was nearly shut down. Georgia followed suit and inspection was easy because he had already gone through the hoops for Florida.

Clifton continued, stating that three years time passed on the animal regulation via USDA/AWA. They should have had a response. House bill 669 restricts importation if the animal is not on an approved list. The issue is too complicated and research will be required to study the issue more. It initiated in Puerto Rico with regard to fowl. Greg Smith is monitoring.

Clifton referred to the Leadership Series DVDs and CDs that are available as a member service. We have filled several requests.

NATIONAL YOUTH/SCHOOL COORDINATOR – Greenhall

On hold.

HISTORIAN - Greelis

Greelis talked about his recent interview with Chuck Weaver, a club visit in Mississippi and interviews with past AU presidents – he has all living past presidents. He has nine big names in racing from Florida. He would like to see a CD created along the lines of “Legends In The Sport.” He suggested a school could put together clips and written transcripts in order to integrate all the topics. Possibly we could establish a 501 (c) 3 to obtain funding. He said it would be good to get clearance from Greg Smith regarding duplicating and selling. Hoggan volunteered to speak with local attorneys. Roberts was designated as the recipient for the research information.

NATIONAL PUBLICATION – Lawler

At this point we need to protect what we have and provide the best communication with three Updates and a Yearbook. Information needs to be relevant and useful. We attempt to be frugal but will miss information. Additional money needs to come from an outside source. Hoggan commented that Gene Yoes is still looking for partnership on the Update.

JUDGE’S PANEL – Rivera

Rivera reported that expenses are down and all judges are working. The next show scheduled is the Greenwich show in Connecticut, November 4 and 5, with Paul Anderson as coordinator and 100% AU judges panel. The show is at the same time as the NPA Grand National Show.

Crazy AI will have a show in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Mark Thrasher asked that the AU supply diplomas with a seal only, and a gold logo label for trophies for every class – or 34 total. Thrasher would supply plaques and the cost for labels at \$20 each would be \$680. AU would run a one-page ad in the yearbook with the show results.

Lawler asked that the committee determine how many shows there would be in a year and make recommendations.

Rivera continued stating that he has copies of tests taken by people to prove legitimate qualification.

What needs to be determined is how many national shows there will be each year and what kind of awards AU would supply.

Desmarais commented that he, Greenhall and John Canto started doing the Orange, CT show three years ago and that IF would like to pay for the trophy because they don't have a judging program. Paul Anderson is doing the large

show. He is not an AU member. If he becomes an AU member, he will be approached for the show again. The diploma is a good idea to keep the AU name in front, both for sanctioned shows and when AU judges are used. He will get with Clifton to establish cost and design of the diploma.

Motion to adhere to guidelines in place now. Barger/Tomlinson. Unanimous approval.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU – Desmarais

President Lawler commented that it would be nice to have a series featuring our speakers. Clifton commented that we have throughout the years featured speakers and their topics but members don't utilize the program.

SCIENTIFIC TASKFORCE – Clifton

Clifton reported that all is quiet. There are still several members serving as state liaisons and they report changes. She is also trying to find an ornithologist to sit on the Taskforce.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – Cartmell

Cartmell noted new areas we are addressing: ethnicities do not mesh, which reduces fun and fellowship; the Digest started featuring more youth articles.

Cartmell's Sky Pilot group did not need to use 4-H funds as the club auctioned pigeons for seed money. Elwin Anderson has been involved in area seminars. He is an excellent speaker. Cartmell's group is the only one to have a polished display at the 4-H shows. Hopefully it will influence others to do the same for the upcoming fair season.

What he had the kids do is draw pigeons. He ran off copies and the kids colored them in. Those sheets served as labels for divisions. It is a nice touch to dress it up. At the fair, they do demonstrations daily and the kids may be able to do a bird release for the fair opening. Just before the AU convention in October, there will be a meeting with all state and Oregon 4-H leaders. They will do a presentation on pigeon programs and use the AU banner stands. There will also be a national forum in Albuquerque, NM. Cartmell then passed around an example of the division labels for the fair.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – Cartmell

Cartmell reported that most communication from members regarded typical disagreements between club members. It appears to be a recurring theme in the sport. Most cases have been referred back to the club with suggestions for ways to solve the problem and minimize damage. He explains the process of filing a complaint, which usually encourages clubs to resolve the issue locally. Otherwise it becomes a matter for local authorities or the Infractions Committee. Cases that are referred to the Infractions Committee generally involve the AU Code of Conduct or Ethic violations. Cartmell said he continues to be surprised

at how many members have never seen a copy of their club bylaws and he refers them to that document first.

Other calls are about drug testing, release guidelines, foreign bands and transporting birds.

He met with the WSRPO to discuss options to revive interest and participation. CB&L was reviewed, a website created and better communications with members topped the list.

He presented at a zone meeting in Alaska with the Farthest North RPC and folks interested in starting a 4-H program. The club gained 3 new members and there was great response to a newspaper ad. As a result, a nearby village is considering a youth pigeon loft project. A representative bought birds for the project.

4-H SKYPILOT – Herb Cartmell

Due to fire and new loft construction, it is all he can do to keep up with the kids and their need for more birds. Elwin Anderson presented to the kids about young bird flying, and Cartmell is working with the Tacoma and North Cascade Clubs, plus other clubs that have asked about the Skypilot 4-H Club.

He will speak at a statewide and national forum. He finds that the challenge is not lofts or birds, but finding leaders, mentors or club to support the program and help the kids.

He submitted for board consideration, an AU sanctioned race definition, a proposal to encourage club bylaws and to encourage race manifests on shipping trailers.

Motion to require CB&L for all clubs. Coletti/Desmarais. Unanimous approval.

COMPETITION STANDARDS - Coletti

Coletti reported that the bulk of calls involved lack of adherence to race rules and bylaws and a range of excuses to justify non-compliance. Issues should be resolved at club or zone level.

Examples of items of issue are: cutting off bands, race schedule and shipping change without notice, voting rights, average speed requirements, inappropriate use of AU label on futurity races, failure of electronic bands, numbering baskets, drug testing, Polish bands, gps band use, shifting of futurity birds to regular race, transporting birds across state lines, physical assault, cloned electronic bands, bird ownership issues, race distance rules (Tobin working on), partnership rules, crate security closures, release rules.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NATIONAL OFFICE – Clifton

Clifton reported membership number to date of 7958. Members had issue with band and dues increase, and removal of yearbook member directory and band list. Members seem happier with the alien band registration policy (now only registering if flying as old birds). AU had an \$82,000 increase in revenue from previous year because of the band increase. The majority of the 2010 bands were paid for earlier this year. Clifton also mentioned that another effort to run the office more efficiently will be placing the Secretary Packet on the web site to keep expense down. This will minimize mailing costs and be more immediate service to the club. We are hopeful that club secretaries will utilize this new feature.

Clifton asked the board to confirm travel date for convention. After discussion, it was decided that the board should travel Sunday and begin meetings on Monday.

Desmarais presented a letter of intent for the 2011 convention for east coast New Jersey from the New Jersey RPC Association. The Board reviewed AU policy with regard to convention. A potential host is to submit the deposit and convention agreement to the national office by June 1 if to be presented and considered by membership at the subsequent General Membership meeting. Clifton asked to mail the convention agreement and one will also be hand-delivered at the Texas Center function in the next few days.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Roberts

Roberts submitted report for review prior to meeting and noted that the information would appear in the summer Update newsletter.

ZONE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Pacific Zone Director, Bill Barger, reported good results combining sprint with longer races and will suggest to the Southern California Federation for 2010 Old Birds. They fly open limits on all races and split teams after the 330-mile station. Will suggest Federation implement same.

Lakes Zone Director, Ron Pairan reported that he attended the Penn-Ohio Banquet & Awards Ceremony and presented AU trophies to Federation winners and conducted a zone meeting. After participating in 4-H day in Lancaster, he was hopeful of involving members in pigeons, but economy issues interfered. Members will keep idea as a future goal. His club released birds for Special Olympics and Hospice again, to very positive response. Pairan concluded his report noting that many clubs do not have bylaws by which to resolve issues.

Mountain Zone Director, Brad Hoggan, reported that with regard to his meeting with World of Wings, WOW requested a \$200,000 fund match. AU declined; therefore nothing happened.

He started a 4-H club with 20 boys and their mothers. Three are flying. They are 9, 11 and 14 years old. The county donated materials for 4X8 lofts through the extension service. Each boy received 35 young birds and they are doing well. One mother would like her own. The entire family of one 11-year old boy is getting involved. His club initiated a program to help with clocks. They buy old clocks and rent them to the boys for \$50 deposit.

Northwest Zone Director, Tom Coletti reported a very peaceful zone. There is an effort to revise the Western Open race. Coletti suggested review of special races vs. AU sanctioned races. He also suggested changing “competition standards” to “national race committee” in order to have the ability to resolve issues in races labeled AU.

Gary Braden is still pursuing vaccine for circo virus. Coletti will judge in Portland, OR and present at a zone meeting. A member is interested in reviving 1000-mile races and awards. Coletti is working on a different way for lofts to participate in long distance races, such as remote shipping stations. For one race on which he is working, birds will be shipped to him by mail, he will do GPS, communicate with the race secretary and release the birds.

Barger suggested submitting a BAR.

Rivera responded that a similar BAR is already submitted.

Coletti continued stating that Idaho is relocating hawks to Arizona to resolve reduction in population.

Northeast Zone Director, Bill Desmarais, updated the board on the convention and said they have 2300 birds. The judging program is pulling in more members. The state veterinarian, Jason Lord, volunteered to be a mobile vet without fee. Members volunteered for a release at a rededication ceremony. The youth program is going well. He is lobbying for the use of banded birds in Massachusetts films. They had an interview on PBS. They are working on ordinance revision to specify AU banded birds, a shorter building setback distance, and required space per bird.

Rivera commented that he is working on a vet contact.

Plains Zone Director, Bill Mitu shared information about the most recent promotion events, such as a display at the Morton Arboretum, an interview on WGN-TV (PBS), and plans for an ESPN Radio interview. Mitu updated the board on the status of the proposed statewide ban on pigeons. The vote was actually in our favor. Lobbyist Greg Smith researched why the state can overturn and Cooke County continues to have the ability to ban.

President Lawler presented Mitu with a plaque of appreciation for the

tremendous amount of time and effort put into countering unfriendly legislation in Chicago and promotion of the sport.

Southwest Zone Director, John McSweeney shared information about recent publicity in his area via 4-H activity. Woodlawn RPC developed a cost effective race schedule. Tomlinson is working with area youth in the “No Child Left Inside” initiative.

JENNER PROPOSAL/FUNDING FOR FILM PROJECT

Clifton presented a written proposal from Jim Jenner outlining plans for a documentary tentatively titled “Young Wings,” featuring pigeons being used in educational settings around the world, in a one-hour long film. Suggested support was \$1 per U.S. member, in order to be listed as a sponsor. Payment would be over two years and \$2000 of that would be in the form of advertising within the AU’s publications. In return, AU would receive 1 free DVD per 20 members to permit films to be sent to clubs. Additional copies would be made available at a discount to AU, for resale.

\$7500 was still available in the 2009 advertising budget, allowing a portion to be applied to the sponsorship.

Motion was made to pay \$4000 each year for two years, details as laid out in the proposal. Pairan/Tomlinson. Unanimously approved.

Tomlinson commented that Jim Jenner may be the one to approach about refining the AU Historian Greelis DVD interview recordings.

Southeast Zone Director, Jay Holder, submitted a written report that was shared with board members. He expressed the same reasons as Greenhall for standing against the proposal to enlarge the size of leg bands. He also expressed that to remove the membership directory and band list from the yearbook would be a mistake. Finally, as Award Chair, he requested that any issues concerning awards be tabled until the Fall River convention meetings. Jay appointed Gil Rinard, Ron Pairan and Brad Hoggan to meet during mid year and asked Gil to chair the meetings. Jay will review the findings and submit information to the board in October.

REVIEW OF TABLED BOARD ACTION REQUESTS

NE-029 Amend AU race rules, award submission dates and By-Laws (if necessary) to permit the merging of race seasons from the two separate season format to a single schedule should an organization desire to have a single season for old and young bird racing. Combined with MTN-045 & NW-091. Coletti to implement appropriate changes and provide final language 7/2009. Effective 2009. Greenhall/Hoggan. Unanimous. Was already voted upon October 2008.

NW-093 Amend drug testing policy and reimplement a committee to review procedures and advancements in testing. Substances should be defined to determine what members should not use. Cost for testing should be determined and passed on to members. Greenhall/Hoggan. Unanimous. Committee appointed (Cartmell, Barger, Desmarais, Rivera, Mitiu) and will report 7/2009. Nothing has been done. Tabled October 2009.

Discussion: Cartmell stated we're not in the business of drug testing.

Motion to discontinue with drug reference. Barger/Rivera. Unanimous.

Discussion: Should be handled at club level. They can hold the prize until the infraction goes through with regard to the AU convention race as an AU sanctioned race and money going to place further down on sheet. It was determined it is up to the race committee. Issue dropped and directed to remove all reference to topic.

NW-099 amend scoring in WinSpeed©. Referred to awards committee chair for review/report 7/2009. Tabled to October 2009.

MTN-042 Adjust point system for awards. Hoggan/Greenhall. Send to committee for review 7/2009. Tabled to October 2009.

MTN-043 Establish time for implementation of awards for short and middle distance races. Hoggan/Greenhall. Send to committee for review 7/2009. Tabled to October 2009.

MTN-044 Revise rule 4.05 to allow a designated race secretary and/or race committee member to knock-off a race when there are not three competing members at a race knock-off. Combined with Lakes-020. Coletti to report 7/2009. To be voted upon on Monday, July 13.

MTN-045 Remove rule 7/10 so to allow combining young bird and old bird series and combined young bird and old bird releases. Combined with NE-029 and NW-092. Greenhall/Hoggan. Unanimous. Coletti to provide final lanauge 7/2009. Completed and implemented. 7.10 will not be removed, but will be modified, vote upon on Monday, July 13.

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. Combined with MTN-044. Coletti to report 7/2009. To be voted upon on Monday, July 13.

LAKES-025 Purina produce a band list. Pairan to contact Purina to determine cost/interest. Parain/Barger. Passed with Greenhall opposed. Pairan to report 7/2009. Dropped for lack of response from Purina.

REVIEW OF NEW BOARD ACTION REQUESTS

LAKES-026 Adopt a policy requiring individuals to be AU members for a minimum of 90 days prior to filing an infraction against a club or member. Pairan/Mitiu. Passed with Hoggan and Coletti opposed.

MTN-046 Increase the diameter of the life ring. Hoggan. Dropped for lack of second.

NW-100 Allow lofts to continue competing for AU local diplomas when dropping below the minimum five competing lofts for local club diplomas. Coletti/Barger. Unanimous.

PAC-034 Remove the color column from the race report. Died for lack of motion.

PAC-035 To allow true national competition in the Marathon & Marathon Triple Crown National Ace Pigeon Awards, amend criteria for these awards. Mileage or elapse time should be considered when defining which races qualify for Marathon & Marathon Triple Crown. Some clubs follow AU release guidelines and others don't. Therefore, some members are forced to enter birds in races with less probability of safe return, which eliminates them from qualifying for these awards. Tabled to Monday, July 13.

PAC-036 Prevent possible future litigation regarding knock off by amending 16.05 to remove "required to" to "We recommend . . ." Tabled to October 2009. Subsequent to the meeting, it was confirmed that the FCI does not regulate eband manufacturers, therefore, rule was amended per BAR SW 036.

SE-028 Sell AU bands only to AU members. If sold to vendors, vendors must provide proof bands are sold to AU members. Currently, non-AU members or even those banned from the AU are able to purchase bands through vendors. Those purchasing AU bands should be members in good standing. Died for lack of motion.

SE-029 Decide if it is illegal for AU member(s) to interfere with AU races by knowingly releasing training birds to mix with race birds when these AU members do not belong to the affected club/combine/concourse conducting the race. Recommend: AU members not belonging to a club/combine/concourse not be allowed to knowingly release pigeons within 35 miles or 30 minutes of when the affected race is liberated. If an AU member is found in violation of this rule, then punishment will be determined by the AU board. Coletti (for Holder)/Pairan. Unanimous. Coletti to draft rules and policy and code of conduct. Okay to wait until yearbook to highlight rule changes. No number for it yet.

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Guest: Barb Tomlinson, Gil Rinard

REVIEW OF NEW BOARD ACTION REQUESTS - continued

PAC-035 To allow true national competition in the Marathon & Marathon Triple Crown National Ace Pigeon Awards, amend criteria for these awards. Mileage or elapse time should be considered when defining which races qualify for Marathon & Marathon Triple Crown. Some clubs follow AU release guidelines and others don't. Therefore, some members are forced to enter bids in races with less probability of safe return, which eliminates them from qualifying for these awards. Barger/Rivera. Send to Awards Committee. Tabled October 2009.

PLNS-038 Reverse the previous AU Board decision to discontinue printing the band list and membership directory in the Yearbook. I have received numerous calls from members in IL, WI, TX, and AZ asking that we continue to print these in our Yearbook. Many of our members are older and not computer literate. We have raised band prices, but at the same time, taking away a favorite service to our members, which is poor PR. Mitiu/Tomlinson.

Discussion: It is time consuming to pull up on the computer, versus simply opening the book. We lose the dollar value added component when we remove those two components. Counter opinion was that we should treat this as a business rather than a hobby and therefore spend less to reduce dollar loss. Advertising makes about \$23,000 and keeping the components keeps the attraction that pulls the audience for the ads. There have been many member complaints against removal. Those who do not access on line and need print are in the minority. If our yearbook shrinks, how do we maintain one attraction of AU membership? The yearbook is viewed as a handbook rather than just a yearbook, with extensive use and easy referral in travel. Motion passed with Hoggan and Barger opposed.

PLNS-039 Amend race rule 7.32 to go from 75 miles back to 50 miles. Different courses are flown every year in the Twin Cities Concourse. On the north course, 19 members can't fly the first two 100's. Then members are penalized on short races. The Twin Cities Concourse says they can't change the direction, rather only the AU can make changes. Mitiu/Pairan.

Discussion: Rules qualify for club awards, not AU awards. Rather than run as a combine race, run as a club race. Technically that club should release 30 minutes later and if anyone is getting a break, file a complaint. Changing a national rule and WinSpeed© for one combine is not in the best interest of the entire group. The original rule of 75 miles was an arbitrary number. It was asked what the reason was for the rule and explained that the rule was created because of abuse, changing calculation. Belgium uses a 50-mile race for example. The intent was to eliminate excessive short races for awards, our awards have mileage requirements.

Motion amended to 60 miles. Defeated 7-3, in favor Hoggan, Mitiu and Pairan.

SW036 Modify rule 16.05 and remove 16.05B to read as 16.05 – Use electronic band scanning systems that have a re-programmable electronic band (read/write chips) with the ability to generate a secret code at basketing. Died for lack of motion. Subsequent to the meeting, it was confirmed that the FCI does not regulate eband manufacturers, therefore, approved unanimously.

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS (assigned/discussed 10/2008)

- a. Video/CD production to capture historical interview (pigeoneers, past presidents, etc.). Project on hold to discuss w/WOW to avoid duplication of efforts/cost. (Greelis) Covered in previous day's report. He is looking to move to the next phase of contacting Jim Jenner for production. Also, we can look at farming out material for project through a college or votech. Completed.
- b. Register/Copyright Sky Pilot. (Roberts) The mark has been published for opposition. We are waiting on the Trademark Office.
- c. Implement Membership Committee, create and empower. On hold. Herb is working with youth groups and civic groups to integrate nationally.
- d. Compile Project Guide to include a loaner loft agreement (patterned after Red Bluff 4-H and Northwest Junior Flyers) to be available to others conducting youth projects. Plans could also be posted on website. Need more pigeons. Timing show activities with race season is a challenge with 4-H. Parents opted for racing rather than show. Barger/Rivera offered birds. NW Juniors coordinator, Tim Tessier, provided copy of loft loan agreement. Red Bluff provided drawing of loft plans. Herb to make recommendations July 2009. Herb will continue with 4-H including rewriting the Wisconsin 4-H Pigeon Manual and maybe enlist Tommy Erskine. Pairan will assist. He needs loft ideas, sketches (and do we have permission?), and young birds. Barger offered to provide any birds that are needed.
- e. Finance committee will create a proposal for additional revenue to report July 2009. (Tomlinson) The club conducted a fundraiser with raffle. That activity alone raised \$2055. One possibility would be a silent auction in addition to the bird auction and the NLA auction. The national raffle tickets could be put in the yearbook. The silent auction could be during cocktails before dinner. Tomlinson

will check on legalities. Additionally, each director could donate birds for an auction. Pairan shared that his club had four auctions so far. Maybe it could begin earlier by putting information in the Update newsletter.

f. 2011 convention update. San Antonio will not host for lack of workers.

g. Need to review inconsistencies with the atomic clock time and the manual setting a club setting. How do we deal with manual clocks, which are often given to youth and new flyers? Report July 2009. (Coletti)

Discussion: A handout could be put in secretary packets.

Motion to require bangers to have an atomic clock to match electronic timers to list things required by clubs to be consistent. Amended to change requirement to recommend. Hoggan/Tomlinson. Unanimous. Coletti to write race rule.

h. Coordinate with a vet (possibly the one in MA) to serve as a clearinghouse for members/liberators regarding laws/health certificate requirements for transporting and releasing. (Greenhall, Desmarais) Completed.

Motion to request for veterinarian to serve, free of charge, as a clearinghouse for members/liberators regarding laws/health certificate requirements for transporting and releasing. (Desmarais, Tomlinson) Unanimous.

i. Approach state vets to seek variance from health certificates in lieu of AU loft certification. (Greenhall, Braden, Desmarais, Rivera). State vets will not amend. Health certificates are required.

j. Remove boundaries for the Texas Center. It was decided to research the by-laws and determine are centers still necessary and functional? Do we keep them and remove boundaries? Committee to report July 2009. (McSweeney, Cartmell, Mitiu, Rivera and Barger)

Discussion: Centers no longer function as such and are now social organizations.

Motion for AU to drop center format altogether and work with national office during a two year transition period wherein centers will receive \$2 refund, to be announced at end of year 2009, effective 2010. This is a part of Vision 2020 to streamline the organization. Barger/Hoggan. Unanimous. To be published in the Update newsletter and Yearbook immediately.

AWARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE - Holder/Rinard

Rinard presented an explanation of the Unirate used to determine National Ace Pigeon. A diagram showed points plotted representing the variety of measurements in a bell curve. The highest curve of the bell shape indicates the midpoint of the measurements. The highest percentage on the bell curve is assigned a percentage or unirate. If a pigeon is a 5% pigeon, his average remains 5%, whether the cluster of points is great or small. The more he flies, the closer he gets to his real value.

In the NDB Ace Pigeon results, each is tabulated by weekend. There are a variety of groupings – sampled around him, a variety of competition. Those separate unirates remain the same value. That number is independent of the number of pigeons in a race. Variability is probably greater in a small group; however, 100 pigeons is a good sample.

There are some random or biased variables, such as wind, but put altogether, those that are at the top end, remain at the top end. The Awards Committee investigated data (handouts) and the question is, do we need birdage averaging? We do not need birdage categories. This data empowers board members to say that no one is measured unfairly by not having birdage categories. All are on a level playing field. Tobin will write up the rule.

The Champion Loft is more complicated, trying to use these principles working on a distance factor. We investigated on bird number and can find no evidence.

NDB/WINSPEED© UPDATE – Tobin

Combining OB+YB Seasons - Separate races released together under 7.10 have separate race reports and awards. YB awards are computed on total YB lofts/birds. OB awards are computed on total OB lofts/birds.

WinSpeed© changes were minor and completed (Version 2008D). It still won't allow 2 OB or 2 YB races within 30 mins/35 miles (7.10).

NDB changes will be more extensive. There is a new upload routine. Data will go into the OB or YB database. He will monitor/maintain two databases all year.

Old bird end of season results will be delayed six months, which precludes post YB + OB results in the AU Yearbook.

Changed NDB Uploads – New awards are taking too long to compute during the upload. OB Hall of Fame will take even longer. On the main NDB page, award results will be updated every few days instead of during each upload. After an upload, award results for an organization are removed until the next update. Race reports are still available immediately. Awards were last updated July 10, 2009.

WinSpeed© and 64-bit (Vista) Operating Systems: He found and implemented a solution that doesn't involve changing the WinSpeed© computer code. He can still use outdated software to develop WinSpeed©. He tested on the new "Windows 7" operating system to be released October 22.

Tobin said awards are based on standard points. Sometimes that is a surprise to a member using an alternate method.

Tobin also covered his WinSpeed© Awards priorities and his to do list.

ONE LOFT RACE POSITION – Barger/Mitui

Clubs basically want to run it their way belaboring the issue. Upon advice of counsel, it is a bad idea to become involved. It is not an AU sanctioned race.

CURRENT AU-SANCTIONED/SEMI-NATIONAL RACES

The definition of the AU Sanctioned Race was discussed and approved to be as follows:

An **AU Sanctioned Race** is a race where all AU race rules and AU Policies are followed and enforced in the race. Failure to follow all AU Race Rules shall disqualify the race from any recognition by the AU for diplomas or other National Awards.

1. The Club, Combine, Concourse or Federation By-laws and local race rules must be on file and up to date with the AU office in Oklahoma before January 1, of any year. (Or shall default to the AU model for club, combine, concourse or federation.)
2. It is the responsibility of each organization to maintain an up to date signed copy of its By-laws and Race Rules with the AU Office in Oklahoma or as above default to the AU model. The Race Secretary and President of each organization shall be responsible to sign all required items.
3. Only Official AU Diplomas may be used as awards in an AU Sanctioned Race. (7/09)

Of items deemed needing attention, Greelis, Coletti, Cartmell and Hoggan were appointed to create a specific procedure for basketball and knock-offs; Coletti, Cartmell and Lawler were appointed to write up partnership and voting rights guidelines; Cartmell was appointed to head the review of having a compliance statement signed annually by all clubs and combines; and proof of ownership was determine to be handled with the transfer of ownership form.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTOR SUGGESTIONS

Coletti suggested reinstating the 1000-mile marathon diploma.

Motion was made to elect John McSweeney as AU Treasurer, effective immediately. Hoggan/Barger. Unanimous.

Motion to change the Competition Standards Committee Chair to National Race Secretary and Competition Standards Committee to National Race Committee in order to resolve issues by AU racer rules. Hoggan/Barger. Unanimous.

Motion to require that all committee chairmen file reports prior to board meetings for inclusion in packets distributed prior to the meetings. Barger/Coletti.

Discussion: It is not possible for Coletti to submit because of lead time. Clifton reminded that the purpose of the reports was to inform members what the director has done and the ease of inclusion in the minutes when transmitted by

email. Tomlinson amended to include officers. Vote 5 approved, 0 opposed, 5 abstained.

Motion to purchase a 1 or 2-year old minivan, plus insurance for AU office use. Barger/Coletti. Tabled for vote in October 2009. Hoggan to obtain cost estimate. Concept voted upon with unanimous approval.

Motion was made to allow 2010 youth race handler, Mardis, to donate his own birds for kids to enter.

Discussion centered around kids wanting to send in their own birds. Amended motion to decline offer. Pairan/Barger. Unanimous.

Income is up because of band sales. Motion to put 80% into an investment fund so the AU is not looking for income resources. Barger amended to take 80% of the 80,000 profit for an investment fund, leaving 20% for slush fund, which replaces the 10,000 rainy day fund. Hoggan/Pairan. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn. Barger/Hoggan. Unanimous.

*Subsequent to the mid-year Board Meetings, new information was received regarding ebands (Board Action Request PAC-036). In view of the new information and time sensitive issues, the AU Board reconvened electronically and voted unanimously to approve the BAR.