

**2011 Mid Year Board Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2011, Orlando, Florida**

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

Absent: Jay Holder

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - Rivera

President Rivera opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

Following the flag salute and moment of silence, President Rivera shared information about his and Karen's travel to Poland for the Fédération Colombophile Internationale annual Olympiad event. It was a good experience for him to see that the other countries are united in the same way that was discussed at the AU zone meeting the night before the board meeting. There, you see organizations from 42 different countries, as opposed to our hierarchy of club within combine, within federation, etc.

President Rivera told of work he performed during his travels since the last meeting. At any event he attended, he did public relations and promotion. He shared in the veterans event releases with Bill Desmarais. The newly created veterans program is doing well. He also attended three races, which has been a positive exposure for the AU. Rivera shared that he provided contact information to members and directed them to pertinent representatives according to the topic.

In view of the FCI mention, Coletti introduced the topic of an electronic band standard by FCI. Clifton offered that we are still waiting for an official statement. Discussion of the requirement of aluminum in the rings was pushed to later in the meeting.

No one was present for public comments.

Motion to accept minutes as published. Barger/McSweeney. Passed.

TREASURER – McSweeney

The Finance Committee consists of Bill Mitiu, Bill Barger, Herb Cartmell and John McSweeney. One goal is to standardize the convention accounting for each convention. Mitiu provided a format that seems too strict. Desmarais provided a format in which a separate account was set up for each category. This format made figuring much faster. Comparing these methods indicates that having a fixed program is wrong. The suggestion was that the guideline Mitiu provided and the method Desmarais followed, combined, is the way to go. The format includes dollars, bird numbers, bird fee, perch fee, and so on. This type of report can easily be adopted by others.

Mitui shared that small clubs fear holding a convention. With more guidelines available, more opportunities open up. It will also be helpful to include how to negotiate with a hotel.

Desmarais suggested we have a convention “how to” packet for beginners. A committee made up of Mitui, Desmarais and Clifton was formed to compile the booklet. Copies of previous convention reports and a convention contact database will be planned. Clifton reminded the group that we do have a convention booklet that includes the basic how-to’s for running a convention, but does not go so far as to offer tips on negotiating with hotels. Mitui suggested that “convention assistance” be added to the expertise list on the Speakers Bureau as “available for convention assistance.”

Discussion was about IRS classification of organizations such as 501c3 and 501c7. The classifications do not mean the organizations are tax free. Also, if a group disbands, it does not mean the individuals are not liable. There needs to be a caution to check regulations to be sure.

Herb was aware that a 990T is required from non-profits to maintain status. Those that did not file a 990T lost their exemption. There is no problem with filing it late. 275,000 various organizations lost their exemption because they did not file.

A 501c3 classification is totally different and qualifies for receiving grants that are tax free. When liquidated, it can be turned over to a similar organization or it can be surrendered to the state. It can go to education. For example, the Texas Hill Country RPC’s education of youth.

If a club is not a non-profit, this discussion does not apply.

McSweeney continued with his report, saying that we placed \$64,000 in an account that cannot be touched unless a resolution is voted on by the board. Interest is practically non-existent. He is still in the process of assisting the office in converting from a cash basis to accrual accounting.

Clifton brought to the attention of the board that having a March 31 deadline for band orders and a May 1 deadline for club rosters, creates accounting difficulties.

MOTION to move deadline to receive membership rosters, membership dues and band orders to a March 31 deadline. Desmarais/Hoggan. Passed.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – Mitui

Mitui said he still gets Plains Zone calls; that some people are still not aware he is not the Zone Director, and that he no longer lives in the Plains Zone. There is interest in the 2013 AU Convention from Chicago and Gulfcoast Homing Club. Chicago is still dealing with ordinance issues so they have opted not to submit a proposal to host the 2013 convention. GHC is currently working with a hotel and has submitted a proposal.

MOTION to approve GHC 2013 AU Convention proposal and submit to general membership for a final vote. Mitu/Pairan. Passed. General membership vote will be in the 2011 convention in November. GHC is looking at the Doubletree in Tampa.

Mitu continued his report sharing that the Fisher House will have an auction in November in New Jersey. It is a combined AU and IF venture and will include imports from Belgium and Holland, in support of American veterans. There will be an ad in the AU Update newsletter.

Scott Bennis has a good idea for an information packet to do a good release. Mitu said he encouraged him to create a packet. Mitu is to contact Scott to get his input for a revised packet on releases.

Mitu continued that though Mayor Daley is out of office, there is still no progress on the ordinance issue in Chicago. Loft shutdowns are still happening.

RIGHT TO RACE – Clifton

Clifton shared there was no change. Members can call local border inspection stations and get details on requirements for transporting across state lines.

Desmarais commented that we need guidelines for drivers. The board was reminded that Frank Greenhall prepared information to assist members and it is found in the seminar series DVD & CD from the AU office.

LEADERSHIP/RETENTION - Lawler

The model started in Washington was slowed by a state organizational issue; however, the Western Open has been successful. Within one year, membership increased by 100. So now they have a model in place that is easily replicable. So now it's a case of "step up or shut up," therefore many people don't step up when the opportunity to promote is handed to them. The tools will allow them to give presentations touching various segments of the membership growth blitz. We can double membership in a specific location within a year. If we are serious about growth, we need to do face-to-face gatherings with AU personnel (Promo Task Force – PTF) to recruit and teach members how to grow and retain members.

WinSpeed©/NDB/Programming – Tobin

Tobin presented information for a new rewrite of WinSpeed© desktop for XP and up. He discussed issues with the current WinSpeed©: language is no longer of value, difficult to install on new operation systems, can't utilize available memory on new systems, problems later than XP, backup and merge do not coexist well between old and new WinSpeed©. Information on potential programmers was reviewed, along with costs: Ernsdorf (eLoft author) – has backed out, 40 hours/month @ \$30/hour approved at 2010

mid-year meeting, Logan Web Design started with Lance + 3 at \$60/hour and requesting 45 to 60 hours/month.

Logan Web Design began with money authorized for, but not used for Ernsdorf at \$1200/month. Tobin cut back his hours from 80 to 50/month, therefore, \$1050/month not used. The total of previously authorized funding was \$2,250/month. Add to that the \$1050/month for Tobin. November 2010 through June 2011: 269.25 hours/\$16,155.

Tobin addressed how we would pay for it in the future. \$2,250/month is authorized = 37.5 hours X \$60. 45 to 60 hours are requested = \$2,700 to \$3,600/month. That is an increase of \$450 to \$1350/month.

Then at some point, we will need to discuss maintenance, changes, tech support, etc.

The board will need to determine a payment plan. Release of the program is approximately one year away. McSweeney mentioned to set up a temporary sum until the annual meeting.

MOTION to incrementally pay Lance to 60 hours, \$1350, between now and November. Coletti will be submitting a BAR in November asking that the board approve a permanent line item budget for software development and support with starting budget for \$3500. Lawler/Hassler. Passed with Barger opposed. Coletti, McSweeney, and Holder are on the committee.

COMPETITION STANDARDS - Coletti

The Committee has submitted 6 new BAR's. During this reporting cycle, issues directly related to AU Race Rules are pretty much scattered throughout each section of the race rules. Competition Standards (1.00), Responsibility to Follow AU Race Rules (3.00), Membership Competition Requirements (4.00), Combine, Concourse (4.10), Race Schedules (5.00), Racing (7.00) and Conveying and Liberating (10.01) were the major hot spots.

Much of the National Race Committee's time is taken with bickering within the same clubs and combines that argue each year. Unfortunately these are experienced organizations that know the rules.

A list of a variety of interesting issues was presented at the meeting to illustrate what types of issues the committee has dealt with since the 2010 board meeting. Coletti suggests continued work on race release guidelines, rules issues, guidelines and compliance statements.

NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR – Pairan

Pairan worked with Ronnie Shumaker of the Eyes To The Skies program in Mississippi. Pairan feels we should use materials in a format that teachers can readily utilize with

lesson plans. He found out he can submit lesson plans only as an active teacher. He wants to challenge members that are active teachers to submit lesson plans. He encouraged the board to encourage teachers in their clubs, or that they know outside the club, to submit lesson plans for pigeon projects in the school.

HISTORIAN – Greelis

Since the last board meeting, Greelis and Herb Cartmell picked up Elwin Anderson and took him out for a buffet lunch. He passed away two weeks later. He will be missed. Greelis has approached Elwin's family to see if they would be willing to part with Elwin's pigeon keepsakes.

He assisted Herb Cartmell with a Pigeon Health seminar to Seattle area kids at a county extension office. He visited and supported the fund raising effort of the Whaling City Pigeon Club in New Bedford, MA. He had a chance to promote the AU and interact with members. He also updated members on the various youth projects that are taking place across the country as reassurance that young folks are involved in the sport. He worked with National Geographic to obtain permission to use military photos from their article titled "The Flying Telegraph." From that he and Deone Roberts and Bill Desmarais developed a 30 slide PowerPoint presentation titled *US Military and the Homing Pigeons* that can be used to present at veteran group gatherings. A copy of the U.S. Army commendation presented to the AU in 1945 is included in the information. Greelis also provided many 2010 AU Convention photos for posting to the AU website. Future plans are to go to Oklahoma City to work on video clips of past interviews for the AU website. At the same time, the AU historical display booth's frame pieces will be inspected and touched up.

Jim did extensive research and provided a write-up on the history of the AU to the Digest. It was rejected, asking for deletions. Jim revised the article and it was resubmitted.

Judges Panel report was moved to the following day's agenda.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU/VETERANS AFFAIRS – Desmarais

There was nothing new to report to the board on the Speakers' Bureau. It is basically handled through the AU office. He suggests doing away with his chairmanship.

Under Veterans' Affairs, he obtained old pictures from Ft. Monmouth and posters from World of Wings. He also obtained an old picture of GI Joe. A graphic artist cleaned it up and created a trailer decal.

He suggested we begin referring to the birds as American Racing Homing Pigeons instead of Homing pigeons.

SCIENTIFIC TASKFORCE – Clifton

There was a Newcastle outbreak in Tijuana, but early quarantines prevented the outbreak from spreading and there is no threat to the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE/CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS – Cartmell

Constitution and Bylaws Advisory is still receiving negative reports. Clubs have reported struggling with not only the higher cost of shipping and bird loss, but more infighting within their clubs. Division in the northwest predominantly stems from large team race entries vs. small team hobbyist race entries.

There is an attitude that no matter how poorly some members behave, the AU has little power of influence over them. He thinks it's time to think about what the value of an AU charter is to a club, as to what being an AU member is worth. It is his opinion that members causing the problems should be dropped as AU members, or even problem clubs should be dropped.

Another issue is no oversight of club finances. Audits should be part of the normal annual routine.

We had low member response to the compliance statement.

He recommends a database of materials to assist in ordinance issues, including the definition of pigeon vs. fowl. In one example, defining pigeons as “pets” reduced the required setback. Housing pets was addressed as opinion rather than code, which changed the code, allowing pigeons.

Herb asked for replacement for him as Constitution and Bylaws Chairman so he can retire to deal with other issues.

4-H SKYPILOT – Cartmell

Cartmell continues involvement in the 4-H, Lions and City of Woodinville, looking for ways to involve our pigeons in the community and to look for areas of public concern and help dispel the concerns.

They currently have 26 kids. More recently, they had a “Fly In,” held a drawing for birds so each kid left with one, showed vaccinating, looked for ways to involve pigeons in the community and looked for areas of concern in the community. His club is still working with charities such as “Flight For Sight.” The Lions club is doing Flight For Sight programs also. It creates a lot of interest.

4-H recently had a cruise for leaders (regional/western states) with seminars, breakout session.

4-H requested omission of the reference to AU and to use only “4-H” national standard in our material.

Review of Pending Assignments/Projects

A. Greelis video/cd production to capture historical interviews with pigeoneers and past presidents. With no response from Jim Jenner, he plans to get with Gary Braden to work with college or high school, or junior college. Desmarais has a television video person he could use. We could take each pigeoneer and answer questions to specific topics.

B. Hoggan circo vaccine development. Utah State University is ready now and the vaccine would be property of the AU. Clifton reported Dr. Miller found a company to isolate the immune booster. It could cost \$100,000 without the AU owning it. Dr. Cardona was only able to replicate the cells in the liver one time. That is why she never accepted our money to go further. Dr. Barnard said it is not 100% vaccine. We will need to check with Jeff Smith in Arizona, Richard Katz in California, to see what vaccine they developed.

MOTION for Hoggan to check what they need up front, what they would take in payments and the production cost estimate for the vaccine and disposition of cages from upfront investment. Barger/Mitiu. Approved. Review in November.

C. Coletti – create specific procedure for basketing/knock-off. He would add release guidelines and envisions a pamphlet, maybe with procedures in caricature pictures. Scott Bennis is interested in that. He can have an outline by the 2011 convention and include Scott’s input. He anticipates a 3-page pamphlet outline for November so everyone can look at it and use it for their area. Cartmell noted that AU 330 addresses the issue. We need to marry with rules and tighten up.

D. Already done with 4.03

NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATE – Clifton

We have increased postage cost when shipping outside the United States.

MOTION to add \$10 fee for postage to all membership outside the United States. Desmarais/Pairan. Approved.

There was a suggestion to put Canadian Union reciprocity in the AU Bylaws. Clifton directed to send a letter of reciprocity to the CU. Clifton also reported we have been approached by a shipping container company seeking our approval for putting our logo on the containers. Though good advertising, the board decided not to align with one specific manufacturer. Discussion was tabled to next day.

MOTION to fly into the 2011 annual meeting on Sunday, November 27th, meet Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mitiu/Barger. Approved.

The picket fence program was discussed. We sold 9 pickets.

MOTION to cancel picket fence program and refund any money received designated for that. McSweeney/Barger. Approved.

Help A Beginner is still going well.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT – Roberts

Roberts shared press and events that occurred after the last Update newsletter. The information will appear in the next AU Update. We still have an average of 100 new members coming into the AU each month. Breakdown by Zone will be in the Update.

ZONE DIRECTOR REPORTS

MOTION to accept Zone Director reports as written. Barger/Lawler. Approved.

Pacific Zone – Barger

He was able to attend several functions in the zone during the first half of the year. He was also at the CSRPO Convention hosted by the Mid-Valley Combine. They did a fine job. He judged the annual Bakersfield RPC Show in January. He was able to attend several functions at the Compton RPC and he was happy to report that everything is going well in his zone.

He is also a member of the 2012 AU Convention Committee that will be hosted by the Sportsman Combine and the Pacific Coast Combine. They have had several meetings to get things started.

He assisted with a few lost birds. Otherwise the zone is quiet and no new ordinance issues.

He plans to attend the Texas Center Convention.

He shared that clubmate, John Womack, passed away. He was a wonderful man and club member that held several offices in the club and will be greatly missed.

Lakes Zone – Pairan

Following the 2010 AU Convention, he judged a show in Cleveland area. He congratulated Bill Gallik for putting on a great event.

He put together a seminar and show for the Central Ohio Combine, featuring Freddie Rivera as judge and speaker. Freddie donated a bird for the combine auction. Tom Barnhart and Pairan took the AU Certified Judge test and judged the 100 mile bird class the next day.

He attended the local 4-H day in Lancaster for those who need to pick a project. He did a bird release at the event and his club members gave some birds away.

He gave a considerable amount of time to lost birds and club/combine issues. There is an ordinance problem in Louisville.

Northwest Zone – Coletti

The Northwest Zone continues to be a quiet zone with a few exceptions. It is made up of smaller rural clubs spread out over many miles. This tends to make the clubs more self-reliant.

Coletti attended two shows, one in Oregon and one in Utah and included a mini-AU Zone Meeting within them. Many race rule questions were fielded and yearbooks and promo material from the office were distributed. Lobbyist efforts in Washington were also shared with attendees.

The biggest event in the Northwest Zone has been the Western Open Race. Organizations do not understand that it is to be an AU sanctioned race nor are they prepared for shipping across multiple states to get to the release site. The race was canceled because of bad weather both at the release site and in the direction of most destinations. A few organizations decided to release anyway as club and combine races. This reiterates the need to refocus on liberations.

Southeast Zone - Hassler

His information is the same as appeared in the Update. He and Mitiu went to Ocala for a show and sale. They met with Ron Davis at the Central Florida Fancier Association about their show coming up in January. We will have judges, Rivera, Mitiu and Holder. It will be a big show.

There was a zoning issue in Virginia Beach. He has also gotten more calls concerning various issues including zoning and the race manifest. Clifton sent AU ordinance packets and materials to those individuals with ordinance challenges.

Plains Zone – Porter

He spoke with Scott Bennis about a release in bad weather out of Kansas. Improved guidelines are needed for releases.

Ordinance issues came up. Restrictions are tightening; we need a realistic approach to win or stand up to this issue.

He said he has a few old clocks that could be provided to beginners. Not many beginners in the Midwest need them.

Because of the financial difficulty of dealing with quickly implemented rule changes, he'd like to see a longer time frame for implementation of rule changes.

He received a call from someone wanting to place a large number of unbanded pigeons that were pets. He has not had that experience and wondered where that type of call could be referred.

He was involved with the creation of the small children's book titled *SUPER DUPER HOMER* for the Madison Children's Museum rooftop pigeon loft project. He has been the mentor for the rooftop coordinator and volunteers for several months. One of the goals, as is shown in the book, is to send homer back with the children to their school after the children have visited the museum, then release homer to return to the museum.

A large annual event is the Midwest Homing Pigeon Associations old bird race from Topeka, Kansas with 6,000 + birds. This year, the young bird race and convention that is in conjunction with this group, is hosted by Rock River Racers and East Rockford Club. He has been distributing birds to the handlers of the race. They traditionally include an AU Zone Meeting during the business meeting of the association.

Mountain Zone – Hoggan

He spoke at several events since the annual meeting.

Southwest Zone – McSweeney

He dealt with two zoning issues. Unfortunately, one city is trying to deal with an increasing number of chickens being kept in city limits and that is having a negative impact on the fanciers in that city.

Northeast Zone – Desmarais

Desmarais said his zone has experienced the same issues and problems as everyone else: lost birds, cost of training and shipping and zoning issues. He makes himself available to assist members/clubs, and the community to improve public awareness. They've had great success.

They have a new trailer available to assist all members/clubs with training and racing.

They have successfully countered ordinance issues. One suggestion he had for ordinance issues out of his travel reach was to give flexibility to appoint someone within each state to tell what is going on and appear on their behalf. He will submit a BAR for that.

Executive session

Adjourn. Coletti/Barger – 7:00 p.m.

July 12, 2011

Attending: Jay Holder, Bill Barger, John McSweeney, Brad Hoggan, Alan Porter, Mike Tobin, Al Hassler, Bill Desmarais, Ron Pairan, Butch Woods, Steve Lawler, Jim Greelis, Herb Cartmell, Tom Coletti, Bill Mitiu, Freddie Rivera, Karen Clifton and Deone Roberts.

VICE PRESIDENT UPDATE/AWARDS COMMITTEE – Holder

Jay reported on the language (C sharp upgrade) and that Tobin and Logan Web Design are working on that together.

Web based WinSpeed© work is ongoing. Some future features to anticipate: improved security, member reports easily accessible to each member, race results are automatically calculated, membership status is easily accessible, real time clocking, automatic updates and eventually farther down the road will have membership, bands, banking and more.

MOTION to order aluminum band inserts (interior) based on price and compliance with FCI regulations. Desmarais/Hassler. Further conversation resulted in tabling until Clifton gets pricing to report in November. Lawler/Hoggan. Passed. Coletti and Desmarais voiced concern about delay if it is required. (It was determined later in the day that the FCI doesn't require, rather a few other countries have that requirement.)

BOARD ACTION REQUESTS

SE-032

Deland RPC requests a variance so that a flyer may continue to fly club races, but not be included in the combine results. Three clubs in the combine voted to boundary out a member that had been competing for four years (by 7 miles). No change was made prior to him winning some races. Club wants him grandfathered. Hassler/Pairan

Discussion was about applying it to one club or all clubs. Call for the question, as worded. Barger/Holder. Comment from Pairan that this should be applied to this one instance. Hassler/Pairan. Passed with Coletti, Mitiu, Porter opposed.

PAC-046

Request all BAR's to be voted on be submitted to the office by no later than 30 days prior to scheduled meetings. Any received after and/or brought to the meetings will automatically be tabled until the next scheduled BOD meeting. (Exception: If it would affect the next series of scheduled races.) Amended by Desmarais: Unless 2/3 majority of board members are present to hear case. Barger/Holder. Passed.

PAC-047

Reduce unnecessary costs to the AU for AU BOD Meetings. Committee Chairmen send a written report to be presented to the AU BOD at all AU BOD meetings in lieu of attending meetings. Retracted in favor of NW-119.

PAC-048

Reduce unnecessary costs to the AU for AU BOD Meetings. By-Law 3.07 be amended to read: The Past President of the Union shall only attend the next scheduled AU BOD meeting following the end of his term as President. Withdrawn in favor of NW-119.

PAC-049

Reimburse travel expenses up to \$400 for a certified AU Judge that resides within the same zone that the Sanctioned Show is being held. Barger/Mitiu. Passed.

PAC-050

Stop any and all programming expenditures until WinSpeed© has been updated to current language. Future AU Awards programming for WinSpeed© to be done on a bid only basis. NDB & WinSpeed© assistance be paid on 'as done bi-weekly basis'. Withdrawn – no longer relevant.

PAC-051

Remove the limit on how many AU Certified Judges are allowed in any and all zones. We have allowed more than seven judges in some zones, we need to do the same in all zones and be consistent. Amend limit by raising up to 12 in each zone. Barger/Desmarais. Passed.

PAC-052

Review former BAR SE-030 changing National Champion Loft & Presidents Cup results are formulated. New formula unfairly affects members that have to maintain and fly small teams due to health and/or space. No second. Died.

PAC-053

Suspend all expenditures by the AU Historian until we have determined what, where and how the current artifacts and/or information is to be stored or exhibited. Withdrawn. Travel was approved for Greelis to work on videos in Oklahoma City.

PAC-054

Simplify AU Show Agreement. Hotel removed. \$200 fee removed. Barger/Lawler. Passed.

BENZING PRESENTATION - Gantner

Gantner shared information about real time clocking. Secure, official time clocking is needed. An affecting factor is to drive to the club clocking location to basket. The first part is okay because you must basket.

What is needed:

- 1 - Physical clock provided security not tampered with
- 2 – Check accuracy of clock
- 3 – Transmitting data in secure environment

To transmit data, those three points still hold true. Secure transmission is not changeable. The clock time is compared to the master time. Send both clock and GPS time to the server. They are working on a method that does not have wireless available.

Every ½ hour the module sends the current time of the clock and the GPS time – a continuous knock off. Also, it's very fast, real time. They are in finalization of software in anticipation of trial in next season. The position of the loft is automatic. Demand will dictate which clocks it will work with. They will begin with the M1 clock. That's the one that does it all. All of them can do GPS. So far, they are updating all as long as they are capable. The cost is approximately \$300 because of the modem inside. They are about two years out from GPS real time tracking equipment. The problem is cost.

Continue new BARS

NW-119

Save money presently spent on standing committee members' travel, lodging and meals; this change will save the AU considerable money without jeopardizing the AU BOD's effectiveness.

All standing committees should be chaired by Board members; that short-term committees may be chaired by AU members at the discretion of the President; this change shall be made before 1/1/13.

Discussion that infractions have always been kept separate from the board. Section 3.07 provides a procedure to change bylaws. Comments: Cartmell – The board is successful because of the participation. We're basically a pretty closed board. With committees, you have more participation. Rivera – We have seen reduction in costs wearing multiple hats; Lawler – As part of 20/20 Vision, we started BOD reductions – Treasurer, Secretary, etc., why stop there? Why have 2 VP's? Why not have 4 regional directors instead of 8 zone directors? The President Ex-Officio, Executive Vice President, and Vice President have had little to do; usually, half zone directors have had little to do since the annual meeting. It seems we have the band revenue to pay for these projects for the betterment of the sport for members. Why not use the monies? Desmarais stated it is helpful to see what everyone has worked on and the board would be restricting itself. Further, he felt we should leave it as it is and appoint a director to hold another duty. Holder agreed noting workload issues. We may not have equitable distribution of workload. Sometimes more people are needed to distribute work well. The President can see who is not heading a committee and appoint. Also, look at talent and make use of it.

Failed for lack of second.

Clifton would appreciate a policy defining who is to attend meetings so that perception is not that one person controls who attends. Discussion: Desmarais – Determining who is to be at the next meeting is an agreement between the director and president as to who should come. Lawler – The President should be the one to tell who is to attend. Freddie will do it.

NW-120

Past President position was necessary when the President was the center of all AU business. Now the national HQ has assumed the major role in managing the organization. In the past, the President provided the institutional memory, knew all the ins and outs of what had transpired, and lessons learned from past decisions. The new AU structure that includes an Executive Director and staff now has the business memory for the organization, therefore this position is no longer necessary. Position should be eliminated by 1/1/12. Discussion: Desmarais – It is a necessary position to advise the new President. Lawler – In the 20/20 Vision plan, the Ex-President is the Secretary, however Barger volunteered to do it (after Dr. Greenhall passed away). This BAR is a change to the Constitution, which requires membership notice. Died with no second.

NW-121

Add wording to race rule 1.01 clarifying the AU's authority over all affiliated organizations.

Our own Infractions Committee has misinterpreted their ability and authority to hear and make recommendations to the AU BOD on infractions filed by AU members against combines, concourses and federations, which are known as affiliated organizations.

1.01 To read: Any auxiliary, club, center, combine, concourse, association, federation or other organization affiliated with the American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc. shall be hereinafter referred to as an "organization." **They shall be governed by all AU rules and policies. The AU shall maintain full authority over all organizations that award diplomas and/or report to the AU National Database. The AU shall have authority and jurisdiction to hear all infractions and grievances brought against any level of organizations affiliated with the AU such as clubs, combines, concourse and federations by the membership of the AU.** Coletti/Barger. Discussion. Call for question. Barger/Lawler. Passed.

NW-122

Security seals on electronic seals are being breached so individuals can change batteries and not send their system to the vendor to do so. Once opened, the user has access to the clock ROM chips. There are no user serviceable components in the clock without special parts, soldering, and skill.

Recommend that we specifically state the security seals, holograms and anti-tamper screws must remain undamaged. Clock security systems attached to electronic clocks by the manufacturer shall not be broken, removed in any way to open a clock. We should amend rule 16.01 by adding the following two paragraphs:

All electronic clock manufacturer security systems such as security seals, holograms, and security screws shall not be tampered with by any individual not authorized by the clock manufacturer or distributor.

If seals or security screws are broken or missing the clock shall be disqualified by the organization Race Secretary. Discussion: Barger – You limit who can work on a clock and force members to send clocks back to the factory rep when they can use someone less expensive. Coletti/Lawler. Passed, Barger opposed.

NW-123

AU rules do not take into consideration members flying from multiple lofts with the same team of birds on their property. The sentence below should be added to rule 6.04 and the amended rule should read:

Airline distances will be figured on the basis of the shortest distance (a straight line) between the release point and the competitors' lofts. **When a race team is flying from more than one loft at a location, the loft with the shortest GPS coordinates shall be used in all distance calculations.** Discussion: Lawler – It could be “loft” or “entrance.” Hassler – The shortest loft is the measure you go by. Amended proposed resolution is edited with “entrance.” Coletti/Hassler. Passed.

NW-124

Clarify the intent of rule 14.03 (Length of Race). The intent is to put a limit on how long a race can be open if not covered by 14.01 at the local level. It is not meant to force an organization to meaninglessly keep a race open. We need to amend 14.03 by adding the word “maximum.”

The maximum length of a race shall be: one day race, up to 48 hours. Two day race, up to 72 hours if the provisions of 14.01 are not defined by the organization. (7/06 (7/11) Coletti/Pairan. Passed.

LAKES-28

Change the date the AU office sends new bands out to Membership to the first Monday or Tuesday after Christmas. Members are getting bands too early. Died with no second.

LAKES-29

Provide a special band stamp for each AU band. Counterfeit AU Bands are being made in other countries. Died with no second.

PLNS-040

Modify the way bird and loft count are determined for national awards. Illegal lofts and birds contribute unfairly to national awards. When birds are rejected for unregistered alien bands, the bird count for national awards shouldn't include those birds.

When a loft is rejected for an invalid AU ID or Dues Not Paid, the loft count for national awards should not include that loft. The birds for that loft should not be included in the total bird count.

If the loft count goes below 5, the entire organization should not be able to use that race for national awards. Discussion: The last paragraph is already done. Tobin – Whether

this is passed or not, we need to put it somewhere. Died with no second. Tobin would like to see it put in the guidelines.

Other:

McSweeney discussed AU Policy 920 regarding travel expense. He reiterated that it is not to him to approve or disapprove travel, rather as Treasurer he would like board members to determine cost of travel, to include hotels, parking, transportation, etc., prior to an event and submit to the Executive Director, Treasurer and President. It was decided that it may be submitted to the office and the office will forward. The purpose is to ensure that board and committee members are fully aware of the expenses they incur. He provided an informational handout encouraging a cost estimate prior to travel.

Rivera, point of order regarding decisions in Executive Session.

MOTION to accept the decisions made in Executive Session. Lawler/Pairan. Passed.

Rivera read a letter from Lou Coletta to the board requesting that AU contribute \$1000 monthly over the next 2-3 years to assist WOW. Discussion: Desmarais – The AU’s own exhibit materials in various museums around the country as satellite museums. Coletti – We agree on the fact that the Historian has gathered information that can be used in various museums. Barger – The truck race pays for expenses for WOW as it exists currently, but not enough to pay for the recently hired curator. The estimate for the drive was \$20,000, yet they are requesting \$36,000, which is \$16,000 over the driveway cost. Pairan – We may want to add more to our own property. Hoggan – Doesn’t feel we have the right to take money from our AU members and give it to another entity rather than spend it on members. Coletti – We’re looking at more funding for software, which would be better funded by member funds. Desmarais – We don’t have a great profit from conventions, yet we are asked to provide money where we receive nothing in return. The consensus is that Karen will write a letter to WOW declining.

Fred Perez out of Tampa wrote a letter offering options for dealing with hawk situation. Clifton was directed to write a letter thanking him for his contribution and have sent the information to Greg Smith. If we need Mr. Perez to assist, we will contact him.

CU requested a reciprocity letter to them, indicating we have placed the reciprocity rule in the AU Bylaws. Clifton was directed to send a letter that we reciprocate.

Michael Gantner shared an FCI proposal about electronic clocking system approval rules. All manufacturers obtain FCI approval. All chip rings need approval too. Cloned rings are coming from Poland and China. A paper includes a list of approved chip rings.

Lunch provided
Margie’s Gourmet Kuisine
Margarita Perez, “MGK”
407 222 6599

Margiek20@hotmail.com

Adjourn. Lawler/Desmarais. Passed. – 3:00 P.M.