

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Bryan, Texas

Present: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice-President Preston Kissman, Secretary Ken Silveira, Director Allison Bryant, Director Rick Gann, Director Linda Gray, Director-elect Pete Dolan, Director-elect Rachel Vest, Director-elect Jan Wesen Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, Office Manager Ray Fryar, (Waiting on names of members in attendance)

Absent Directors: 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin, Director Cindy King, Treasurer Jean Roberts
There are not enough members present for a quorum.

DeChant called the meeting called to order at 7:18 pm.

Introduction of ASCA Directors, Officers & Employees

DeChant officially introduced Jan Wesen, Rachel Vest, and Pete Dolan as ASCA's newest Board members, to be effective following this meeting.

Remaining Officers and Directors were introduced: President Ann DeChant, 1st Vice President Preston Kissman, (not present) 2nd Vice President Rick Hardin, Secretary Ken Silveira, (not present) Treasurer Jean Roberts, Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco, (not present) Director Cindy King, outgoing Director Allison Bryant, outgoing Director Linda Gray, and outgoing Director Rick Gann.

DeChant shared that this has been one of the best Boards she has had the pleasure to work with. They have worked together civilly and productively this past year and she looks forward to more of the same.

DeChant introduced ASCA's employees: Office Manager Ray Fryar, Webmaster Heidi Moblely, and Executive Secretary Kalla Jaco.

DeChant thanked Fryar and Moblely for the online newsletter and for ASCA's online presence in general. The logistics for PayPal use for members will be in place by the end of the year. New members can now sign up on line. The Office will be closed tomorrow (Wednesday) so the staff can come to Nationals and meet folks at the booth.

Deceased Members

Silveira reported on members who passed away this past year:

"No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts you are always there."

Marylou Ayela, Sarah Bailey, Wally Butler, Joan de la Rocco, Wayne Harris, Glen Hoskin White, Elaine Hartnagle, Candace Heideman, Bjintze Jaeger, Gunnar Larsen, Red Oliver, Marti Price, Denise Sharp, Kirk Rand, Kevin Smith, Joyce Stephenson, Carol Thompson, Kris Toft, and Johnny Walker.

A moment of silence was observed in memory.

Last Year's Minutes

Silveira read the minutes from last year's General Membership Meeting. There was a motion by Bryant and seconded by Jayne Lipps to approve the 2013 minutes. The motion carried with one abstention from Tom Morrare.

Random Draw for 2016 Stockdog Finals Judges

The random draw for eligible 2016 Stockdog Finals Judges was conducted in full view of those present. Gann drew the names blindly and Bryant read off the names. The list is in order as follows:

1. Michael Tremblay
2. Preston Kissman
3. John Rossy
4. Rick Hardin
5. Joan Carillo
6. Marie Murphy
7. Sharon Simmons
8. Jan Wesen
9. Mark Westerman
10. Maxine Schvaneveldt
11. Robert Myrick
12. Rachel Vest
13. Russ Ford
14. Brad Warren

Sandy McClintock questioned whether the club will receive all names at once. In accordance with 12.7.4 in the Stockdog Rules, the first 9 names will be supplied to the Host Club in no order to choose and hire six judges. If six judges cannot be secured from this list, and all nine judges have been asked and more than 3 decline the offer, the Host Club will be provided with the next single (tenth) Judge name, in the order of the original random draw. If the next (tenth) Judge declines the position, the next (eleventh) Judge on the original list will be provided. This will continue in the order of the original random draw, one name at a time, until all six positions are filled. Each additional Judge must be asked and decline before moving to the next name on the list. A reason must be provided to the ASCA Board of Directors by the Host Club explaining why any additional judges beyond the original nine are needed.

Becky Parker questioned what qualifications are required in order to put your name in for this draw. The requirements are listed until 12.7.2 in the Stockdog Rules.

Random Draw for 2016 Agility Finals Judges

Rhonda Silveira questioned when the 2016 Agility Finals Judges be drawn. Fryar answered that they will be drawn next week, when the deadline for judges to respond has closed. The Office has a procedure for handling this and results will be posted.

Financial Report

In Roberts' absence, Kissman reported on ASCA's financials from January 2014 through September 2014. Net income is \$98,955.12, compared to \$34,839.40 at this time last year. There is currently \$175,943.88 in the checking account, \$339,882.31 in the savings account, and \$110.00 in the wire account. ASCA's total assets come in at \$752,671.37.

Tom Morrare questioned where the increase in income was coming from. Some of it comes from the \$.25 event membership dues and some comes from new programs and activity income.

Sandy McClintock questioned the quality of a report that only covers 9 months, instead of a full 12 month accounting. The report that is currently provided to the Board only is set up that way. Full year reports are given at the Board's Spring Meeting and year-to-date reports are given during the rest of the year. ASCA's financials are broken down very specifically, but that kind of information is not shown in the financial summary the Board is given.

There was a motion by Carol McLaughlin and seconded by Debbie Martin to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion carried with one dissent from Sandy McClintock and one abstention from Sue Graham.

Committee Reports

Agility Committee report, given by Chair Judy Boone.

"First we would like to thank our liaisons: Adrienne Karli at the Business Office and Jean Roberts on the Board.

So far this year we've had 366 trials. That's an agility trial every day of the year, and we still have 2 months to go. Course reviewers have done over 6000 course reviews and, as I said, we still have 2 months to go.

We've welcomed 3 new judges and 2 new supervising judges. New apprentice judge Kay Stimson from Texas, regular agility judges Diane Harrison from Ohio and regular agility judge Dan Roy from California. Our new supervising judges are Ally Bryant from Georgia and Darryl Warren from Pennsylvania.

This year the committee worked to introduce the ACE program. Competitors had been asking for a program similar to other venues. ACE dogs can jump lower and receive more time. The program was optional from June through September and became mandatory October first. We hope this new program will attract competitors from other venues by offering them the same competitive environment they're used to. In the short period of time the ACE program has been offered, dogs have earned qualifying legs at 15 different agility trials.

If you have suggestions or comments for the agility committee, please email any committee member and ask them to pass it on."

Mikael Hageus questioned whether there were openings on the Agility Committee in region 7. The Chair responded that there are, but the Board appoints members, not the committee.

Conformation Committee report, given by Linda Braun on behalf of Chair Liz Gibson.

"Greetings from the Conformation Committee. I am sorry I could not attend this year and thank the members of the CC for all their hard work and dedication to ASCA and this committee.

ASCA had 710 Conformation Shows from 6/1/2013 thru 5/31/2014. We had 47 new Altered Champions and 293 new Intact Champions. Congratulations to all of our new Champions. We would like to thank Ray and all of the office staff for this information!

We would also like to Thank Ann DeChant for guiding the CC this year as our liaison. We welcome our new liaison, Pete Dolan! We look forward to working with Pete!

We would like to Thank Susan Harris and Gail Karamelagos for their tireless work on the CC. Both Gail and Susan brought years of experience and knowledge to help make rule changes work. They both will be missed greatly!

The CC was tasked with the project to more clearly defining and to make any necessary changes to 7.6 (who a judge can pass judgment on) and 9.10 (what judge an exhibitor may show under). After months of hard work by a subcommittee and with help from our liaison and the ASCA Attorney, the 7.6 changes and definitions passed the committee and now is in the hands of the ASCA Board of Directors. The definitions and changes to 9.10 are now underway and the subcommittee hopes to have it before the rest of the committee for their input shortly. The subcommittee that worked on 7.6 was Susan Harris, Debbie Martin and Regi Bryant. The 9.10 subcommittee is Debbie Martin, Regi Bryant and Sue Holtz.

The CC also created a Conformation Judge Finals Packet for our Finals Judges. This motion was passed by the board and we thank them! In this packet is a letter that lists the rules that guide the judging of the finals. It also includes the Conflict of Interest guidelines and a copy of the scorecard to allow the finals judge to become familiar with the scorecard. This packet is to be mailed to the conformation finals judges once they are approved by the board of directors.

The CC also worked on a motion to allow "For Exhibition Only" dogs into the finals. This allows those dogs and or owner/handlers who may have a conflict of interest with a finals judge to be spotlighted in the finals ring. We wanted to recognize these dogs and owners/handlers for their hard work to make the Top 30 on the Merit list but are unable to compete in the finals.

Lastly, the CC has several projects in the works. We are looking at expanding judge education including ringside mentors. The CC is also looking at updating the judge requirements and procedures as these have not been looked at, except for one small change to the Non Regular Breeder Judge requirements, since they were created.

As always, if anyone has a suggestion or a possible rule update, please send the information to the committee. The CC has a few openings. If you have the time and commitment to serve, please send your resume to the executive secretary before the spring meeting in April."

Donna Armstrong brought up her frustration over getting any response to suggestions she has made to the committee, which will be passed on to the Chair.

DNA Committee report, given by Chair Pete Dolan.

“With an effective date of January 1, 2011 ASCA is in its fourth year of mandatory Parentage Verification for all breeding stock. The Committee continues educating members about ASCA DNA to ensure all members are aware of the DNA requirements for all sires and dams. In order to register a litter DNA testing through an ASCA approved lab is required. The individual dogs in a litter DO NOT need to be DNA tested unless and until they are used as breeding stock.

DNA-CP and DNA-VP monthly listings appear on the web site Titles page

<http://www.asca.org/programs/ascatitles/titlereports>. All reports for 2012, 2013, and the first nine months of 2014 appear on this page.

As a reminder, the Sires and Dams of all ASCA litters must have DNA testing to verify parentage in order to register these litters. Getting DNA done well ahead of the actual breeding will ensure an easier litter registration process. The committee suggests this one time test be conducted as part of periodic health checks. Get the blood draw kit from ASCA well ahead of the time you plan to breed and get the blood drawn when you take your dog to your vet for other needs. Of course, you can plan accordingly with the other options such as blood cards and cheek swabs.

On November 1st, effective January 1st, 2015, as a result of the new five year contract with Therion, the Board of Directors voted to increase the fee for blood tube/card sample cards and cheek swabs by \$1.00 and review pricing annually, placing the ordering price at \$41.00 for blood tube/card kits and \$46.00 for cheek swab kits.

The National Specialty blood draw collected 21 blood tubes for Parentage Verification.

If you are interested in ASCA's Parentage Verification program, understand DNA, and desire to serve on the DNA Committee you may apply for membership by sending your resume to Kalla Jaco, the ASCA Executive Secretary at executive.secretary@asca.org.”

Hall of Fame Committee did not provide a report. DeChant reported that the committee added rally titles to Hall of Fame qualifications this year. As soon as the rule is published it will be effective, and all titles earned will be retroactively counted.

History Committee report, given by Robbie Norman on behalf of Sunday Miles.

“Tell them we are a laid back committee but probably the most interesting :) We the few on the Committee have not only lived thru much of ASCA's History but we continually are reminded of it by collecting things like letters, memorabilia and information from those who played a part of it. The past, the time of ASCA's infancy, much of its strife and of course its triumphs. We are working on ways to share it all with everyone in an economical way but are not there yet.

We try to find people who have gone the extra mile so to speak, people who in one way or another have made a contribution to ASCA or The Breed that in reality became part of its History. We think this year's selection for the Lifetime Achievement Award exemplifies all of the above.

Terry Martin and her Slash V kennel name are synonymous with the mention of the word ASCA, Terry spent many years on the Board of Directors in the early years some of it tumultuous with the starting of new programs and seeking direction for the ever growing popularity of our wonderful breed.

Terry has maintained a strong relationship working for ASCA, serving in many ways over the years ... as Chair of the sometimes controversial Breed Standard Review Committee for 7 years and remains a strong advocate for not only ASCA & the Breed but animal owners' rights in general. Terry is a Sr Breeder Judge, but she is probably best known as the Owner & Breeder of the well-known line of Working Stock Dogs simply called the Slash V.”

Infectious Disease Committee did not provide a report.

Junior Committee did not provide a report.

Legislative Committee report, given by Liaison Ann DeChant on behalf of Chair Susan Beals.

“With a unanimous vote of the ASCA Board of Directors, ASCA joined as a Plaintiff in a Lawsuit filed against the USDA regarding this APHIS/USDA Ruling by the Associated Dog Clubs of New York State

(ADCNYS) who is spearheading the effort to challenge the legality of the recently adopted USDA/APHIS Rule. ASCA made a \$2000 donation to this organization which posts on the <http://www.keepourdomesticanimals.com> web site.

ASCA's President helped Frank Losey, Attorney for the effort and Chuck Carnese, ASCA's Attorney to draft an Affidavit that was signed by the President and used to present to the Court concerning why this lawsuit was being filed and why it must be heard by the court. Several ASCA Breeders statements were also used to show the damage that would be felt by Hobby Breeders who are like most ASCA Members breeders.

This has been to court several times with the naysayers saying it wouldn't go any farther in the courts each time, but it has! The latest report from our Attorneys is very positive. A hearing was held before a Federal District Judge on October 9 and our Attorneys were happy with the objective questions that the Judge asked both sides. We now await a judgment. I have been given permission

<http://www.keepourdomesticanimals.com>

Pleased donate to the legal expenses that this effort has incurred.

"STAND TOGETHER; STAND PROUD"

Frank Losey is the pro Bono attorney for this Lawsuit and since the lawsuit was filed in Washington DC we had attorney Phil Hecht representing the Plaintiffs

BACKGROUND ORIGIN OF HOW AND WHY THE "RETAIL PET STORE RULE" WAS PUBLISHED, AND WHY THE LAWSUIT ALREADY HAS, AND POTENTIALLY WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY AND INTERESTS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HOBBY BREEDERS WHO WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE USDA LICENSED AND INSPECTED IF THE RULE IS NOT SET ASIDE BY THE COURT.

"CONNECTING THE DOTS"

In order to more fully appreciate why the Lawsuit was filed and what will be the ultimate consequences if the Court does not set aside the Rule, the following background information is provided in order for all hobby breeders to more fully understand the "driving forces" of "who, what, where, how and why" the Rule was published.

Were it not for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Retail Pet Store Rule would never have been published as a Final Rule by the USDA.

In 2009, the HSUS first began ramping up its aggressive pressure to "force" the USDA and APHIS to redefine the definition of a "Retail Pet Store." The "definition" had remained unchanged for over 40 years, and had excluded all hobby breeders, including those who sold some of their puppies "sight unseen."

The HSUS ballyhooed the so-called internet "loophole," and pressured the USDA Inspector General (IG) to conduct an "AUDIT" of how APHIS implemented the Animal Welfare Act.

The USDA IG Audit occurred in 2010. The Audit contained recommendations for actions to be taken by APHIS. One of the recommendations included seeking Congressional Authorization to change the definition of a retail pet store so as to close the so-called "internet loophole" that was ballyhooed by the HSUS.

Of Note, APHIS IGNORED THE RECOMMENDATION TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION to change the definition of a Retail Pet Store. Instead, as a result of the "behind the scenes" urging of the HSUS, APHIS decided to unilaterally, WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY, prohibit any "sight unseen" sales of puppies, unless all breeders, including tens of thousands of hobby breeders, were USDA licensed, by publishing the Retail Pet Store Rule as a Regulation.

Prior to APHIS publishing its Proposed Rule, it did implement another recommendation - - the creation of an Investigative and Enforcement Branch Office. And APHIS filled that position by hiring Ms. Sarah L. Conant, as the Branch Chief. As such, she was now in a position to provide guidance to all APHIS Inspectors, and to interpret all APHIS Rules and "exceptions," and to enforce the Animal Welfare Act. OF NOTE, TWO DAYS BEFORE MS. CONANT WAS EMPLOYED BY APHIS AS THE BRANCH CHIEF, SHE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE HSUS AS A LITIGATION ATTORNEY!

OF FURTHER NOTE, WHEN A DOCUMENTED COMPLAINT WAS FILED WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY COMMITTEE, WHICH COMPLAINT ASSERTED THAT THE HIRING OF MS. CONANT REPRESENTED A "CONFLICT OF INTEREST," THE GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY COMMITTEE STATED IN WRITING THAT IT DID NOT HAVE "JURISDICTION" TO INVESTIGATE THE COMPLAINT.

OF EVEN FURTHER NOTE, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INTEGRITY COMMITTEE WAS MS PHYLISS FONG, THE USDA IG!

When the Lawsuit was filed in December 2013, it slowed the steamrolling efforts of the HSUS which was postured to lobby Congress to appropriate more funds for USDA so that it could hire more inspectors who would then be able accelerate the process of sweeping tens of thousands of hobby breeders into the “net” of the Rule, notwithstanding the few very limited exceptions that Congress noted were creating confusion, and needed to be clarified with a new “rulemaking.” In short, the HSUS had to divert its energies towards derailing the Lawsuit. (NOTE: When Judge Cooper asked the DOJ Attorney during the October 9th Hearing if USDA had begun the new rulemaking, the DOJ Attorney said “no.” Immediately thereafter the Judge adjourned the Hearing!) In short, the Lawsuit slowed the momentum of the HSUS and the implementation of the Rule.

If the Lawsuit had not been filed, thousands of hobby breeders would have had APHIS Inspectors at their residences by now.

A collateral benefit of seeking to set aside the Rule is that if the Rule is not set aside and tens of thousands of hobby breeders are required to be USDA licensed, HSUS would then be able, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), to obtain all personal and financial information that hobby breeders submitted to APHIS. In this regard, HSUS has a “legal precedent” for obtaining all such personal and financial information submitted by all USDA licensed breeders as a result of a Lawsuit in which it filed against USDA. And a key reason why APHIS reversed its decision to grant the HSUS FOIA request was based in large measure on an E-Mail response that was provided to APHIS by a prominent hobby breeder who actively opposed the filing of the Lawsuit.

POSTSCRIPT COMMENT: Neither Mr. Pacelle, nor the HSUS has ever identified by name a single hobby breeder as a responsible breeder. In fact, in May of 2013 the HSUS described the AKC as being “joined at the hip with all puppy millers!”

ORAL HEARING REPORT

On the morning of October 9, 2014, the Oral Hearing for our Lawsuit, that a number of “naysayers” earlier this year confidently stated would never occur.....OCCURRED!

As we have previously stated, DC Federal District Judges typically do not issue their Rulings until 2-3 months after the Hearing, depending on how many other cases they have. Consequently, we may not know how Judge Cooper will decide our case until December or January, or even later. And as we have previously stated, we cannot predict with absolute certainty that we will prevail. However, based on Judge Cooper’s even-handed demeanor and the questions that he asked Phil Hecht, our Counsel of Record for the Plaintiffs, and Mr. Tim Johnson, the Department of Justice Attorney who represented the USDA and APHIS, we believe that Judge Cooper will be objective in deciding the case. In fact, Judge Cooper’s insightful questions gave us more than a faint glimmer of hope!

At the beginning of the Hearing, which lasted 70 minutes, Judge Cooper invited Phil Hecht to provide comments. Phil summarized:

- why the Plaintiffs believed that the Rule “overreached”,
- why it was “arbitrary and capricious”,
- how the Rule failed to distinguish the difference between large breeders and hobby breeders who breed a limited number of dogs in their personal residences,
- why a “sight unseen” standard is unwarranted for hobby breeders,
- how APHIS failed to accurately calculate and underestimated the number of breeders who would be affected by the Rule by an order of magnitude of tens of thousands of breeders,
- how APHIS underestimated the cost of compliance for hobby breeders,
- and ultimately, why the Rule should be set aside.

Phil responded to Judge Cooper’s specific questions by weaving our previously submitted written arguments into his responses.

Judge Cooper then invited Mr. Johnson to provide comments. Once again, Judge Cooper asked Mr. Johnson insightful questions that reflected a fair, impartial and balanced objectivity. After Mr. Johnson finished his comments, Judge Cooper invited Phil to respond, and he asked Phil questions that related to the responses of Mr. Johnson. From our perspective, one of Judge Cooper’s pivotal questions was what evidence in the record supported the assertion that the USDA underestimated the cost impact of the Rule. Phil referenced the five Affidavits from breeders that were in the record. Judge Cooper then asked Mr. Johnson to justify the “proportionality” of the Rule, meaning whether the scope of the Rule can be justified by the facts in the record. In his final question, Judge Cooper asked Mr. Johnson if USDA had begun the Rulemaking that was referenced in the February 2014 Farm Bill Congressional Conference Report Language. Mr. Johnson responded that it was being discussed at USDA. Judge Cooper then

asked if a date had been set for the new Rulemaking and Mr. Johnson said no. After that response, Judge Cooper adjourned the Hearing.

One other noteworthy matter is that even though two HSUS Attorneys were at the Hearing, Judge Cooper did not invite them to present oral argument and he did not ask them a single question.

Again, we cannot predict with certainty how Judge Cooper will rule in our lawsuit, but we left the courthouse with positive spirits.

This effort needs donations, so we are going to pass the hat and send the money collected at the Nationals to support the effort. We will have a collection box at the ASCA Booth when people are there. And you may see me walking around with that box.”

Most Versatile Aussie Committee did not provide a report.

Obedience Committee report, given by Chair Laurie Rubin.

“The Obedience Committee relaunched itself after the 2013 Nationals with a new Chair and with 50% of the 11 members brand new to the committee. As a newbie Committee Chair I have been impressed by the knowledge and experience of all our members and grateful for so many volunteer hours. I am pleased that we have been successful keeping our yahoo conversations courteous and harmonious.

Here are some of this year’s accomplishments:

Added the Beginner Novice Optional Titling class to ASCA obedience. This should become very popular as an entry level obedience class and a bridge from rally to obedience.

Created an informational Finals Packet, including

Steward Duties at the ASCA® Obedience Finals

Differences Between ASCA® Obedience Finals and Regular Trials

Sample Obedience Finals letter to be emailed to finalists

8 Unofficial Judges Worksheets for the four orders of the Super Dog class (1 with blanks, and 1 with text for each order)

10 Unofficial Judges Worksheets for the five Open B orders for Super Dog finals classes, which differ from the regular Open ODX or Open CDX classes (1 with blanks, and 1 with text for each order)

Discussed a separate document for Finals Judges and decided it was not needed.

Clarified and improved Finals rules

Moved group stays to first thing in the a.m., with staggered start times in each ring.

Discussed and decided not to add a rule that Finalists must run in the chosen run order without a judge’s option to accommodate conflicts

Added a handler meeting first thing in the a.m. before Finals

Created an informational letter to finalists

Clarified that there should be no run-offs for ties within individual classes,

Discussed allowing Super Dog Open and Utility qualifying scores to come from different trials and decided against changes, maintaining the rule that Super Dog qualifying scores must come from UDX legs

Discussed allowing 1 or 2 Utility qualifying scores to come from previous qualifying year (as in the Merit rules), to increase Utility qualifiers and decided not change this at this time

Reverted to the original Finals rule allowing alternates to be added when there are last minute scratches, instead of closing alternate move ups at the date of catalog going to press. The goal is to allow more competitors in Finals, with the knowledge that they won’t be in the program or get a personalized ribbon strand.

Asked the BO to include with invitations to finals a sentence that Finalists are expected to make Finals their first priority on Finals day

Published new official ASCA logo judges worksheets on website in pdf, combining worksheets with text and worksheets with blanks into 1 pdf for all orders of these classes:

Beginner Novice (2 pages combined into 1 pdf)

Novice (2 pages combined into 1 pdf)

5 Open orders for CDX and ODX, plus a sheet on scoring the Directed Open Exercises (11 pages combined into 5 3-page pdfs)

5 Utility orders (10 pages combined into 2 pdfs)

Created a document highlighting differences between ASCA and AKC obedience rules to help judges and competitors who work in both venues.

Discussed possible changes to the new ODX class, deciding to make only one at this time—making measuring and marking the radii around the cone optional for judges.

Published General Guidelines for Obedience Stewards online and in the rulebook. These clear instructions for stewards will make it easier for clubs to put on obedience.

Changed rulebook language starting in 2014 to fix a loophole so that dogs can not simultaneously earn ODX legs and UDX-O or OTCH-O legs. The ODX must be finished first even if a dog previously earned a CDX and a UD.

Discussed allowing non-ASCA obedience clubs to hold sanctioned obedience trials as done in agility and decided not to act at this time.

Announced on several yahoo lists a request for volunteers to notify the BO of judge deaths, address changes, retirements, etc., to update the ASCA Obedience Judges list

Edited the obedience judges test

Added 2 judges ethics questions

Edited and tried to make multiple choice questions and answers clearer and not as “tricky”

Added Beginner Novice questions

Put on Judging Seminar at 2014 Nationals open to all.

Worked with the BO and the computer programmers to adjust and correct computer calculations for Merit awards.

Updated topics for the obedience page of the ASCA Website.

Added language to the rulebook section on Handicapped Handlers to allow such handlers to use any mobility device.

Discussed whether to expand the ways the High Score Junior award could be awarded if there were no junior qualifiers in a regular class, i.e. to a junior in non-regular class scoring at least 50% of each exercise or to a junior qualifying in the BN optional titling class and decided not to move forward at this time. We hope to communicate with members of the Junior Committee about this subject in the future.

Here are some topics coming up:

Add rulebook language for a judges briefing and handler walk-through before the Beginner Novice class—in process, ready for motion

Update rulebook language on how to limit entries when a judge officiates for multiple classes and how to limit entries for half day trials—in process, ready for motions

Created a Calculator worksheet in Excel that trial secretaries can use to let them know when entry limits are reached. We suggest this be put on web and hope to advertise it.

Judge education

Consider creating Web-based education, like rally, —needs volunteer

Discuss recommending apprentice judging to judge applicants

Discuss an education requirement for current judges on new classes when they are added, such as viewing a web seminar or taking a short test

Consider modifying/simplifying judge requirements for AKC, UKC judges

Utility changes

Changing rulebook language on the Directed Retrieve, so that to everyone in class gets same glove -- in process, ready for motion

Changing rulebook language on Directed jumping, so that a second command to sit on go out after a dog has stopped is a substantial deduction instead of an NQ

Amending rulebook language on the Moving Stand, so that the tail is added to list of what is NOT to be examined-- in process, ready for motion

Finals changes & clarifications

Have handlers send in brief bios and photos for awards time and/or awards banquet—being done at this year’s Nationals, perhaps we don’t need to do anything?

Discuss requiring dogs to jump shoulder height on Finals day, to best showcase the Aussie in obedience Nationals HC or HIT, clarify which judge judges a run off if needed on Day 2

Adjust list of dogs allowed $\frac{3}{4}$ jump heights--in process, ready for motion

Bitches in heat

Add requirement at Nationals and in Finals that bitch must wear pants.

Discuss changing rulebook language to allow clubs option of having BIS compete if it’s posted in premium and the Nationals rules are followed.

Create judge monitoring process—postponed until board gives more guidance

From Board: Move to direct the Office Staff to send any negative judge comments in Judges Evaluations to the corresponding Committee Liaison. If a committee has a process for reviewing judge comments, please let the Board know what it is. If a committee does not have a process to monitor judges and make recommendations to the Board, they need to develop one.

I am keeping a running list of about 30 other possible Obedience Committee agenda topics for the future that have been recommended by committee members or others.”

Rally Committee report, given by Chair Karen Black.

“Rally Finals in California had 6 entries; Colorado had 17 entries with 14 showing. This year for the first time, we had a full slate of 20 finalists with 19 showing. It was a great event judged by Rose O’Hara and Laura Richardson. Despite a record number of conflicts, every exhibitor made all four of their runs and everyone seemed to have a good time. Thank you, Rick Gann for coming to the Awards Reception and presenting our awards. The 2014 Rally Finals Champion is RTCH Soundtrack’s Pretty Please RTX, Breeders Lori Fausett and David Clayton, owned and shown by Lori Fausett.

Following Finals, the Rally Committee presented a Rally Judges Education Seminar which was open to judges, exhibitors, and anyone interested in Rally. This year we had two Judge applicants complete their judges education requirement at this seminar which means we are continuing to add judges to the Rally program to meet affiliates needs and many others fulfill their required every 3 years judges education.

We continue to see Rally entry numbers grow around the country as demonstrated by 257 trials with 1260 dogs competing between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014. If you haven’t tried Rally, you should! Our Nationals event will be taking place Wednesday and Thursday in the East Pavilion. Come watch these wonderful Aussie teams compete and then set your goals to compete in Rally at Tennessee in 2015! In the last year, with its addition to the Junior Program and Hall of Fame, Rally has truly become a full-fledged member of ASCA.

In the upcoming months, our rally sign numbers will be changing. New signs will be up on the website before long, label templates will also be available so new signs do not have to be printed if affiliates would rather just make number changes on their current signs, a new course design template will be up on the website and a page of .jpeg images of the signs will be available for judges who are using other software for their course design. We hope these tools and the use of the ASCA Course Design Checklist will make it easier to design courses that meet ASCA Rules and Regulations.

The Rally Committee would like to have a full committee no later than appointments made at the Spring Board Meeting. If you are interested in contributing to the efforts of this committee, please send your resume to executive.secretary@asca.org. We are especially in need of members, from regions 1, 3, 4, and 7. If you are interested in contributing to the efforts of this committee, please send your resume to executive.secretary@asca.org.

If you have any comments or suggestions please email the Rally Committee Chair, Karen Black, at kblack@pdmsdesign.com, or contact any Committee member. The Committee really wants to hear from you on how Rally is working in your part of the ASCA world.”

Sponsorship Committee report, given by Mikael Hageus on behalf of Chair Ray Schafer.

The committee is working, but not much progress has been made.

Stockdog Committee report, given by former Chair Jan Wesen on behalf of Chair Maxine Schvaneveldt.

“The Stockdog Exchange is the newsletter for the Stockdog committee to communicate with competitors. The address is thestockdogexchange-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Active competitors to Stockdog program are welcome to ask to join the group. We look forward to input from the competitors on what we are doing and things that we should be working on.

This last year we have worked to clean up and reorganize the rule book. There are areas that still need a lot of work.

We have worked to improve on the farm trial program please review the checklist available on the web site to help meet the requirements: <http://www.asca.org/Portals/0/farmtrialcheck.pdf>

We have increased the handler lines on Open ducks in A and B to 12 feet the rulebook diagram doesn’t reflect this change so please make the adjustments at the trials.

We have several new apprentice and provisional judges to the program. We have increased requirements for all level for the judges.

SDC Judges position resumes are needed by the spring meeting. This is a two year term.

Thank you Preston Kissman for your year of service to the committee.

Here are some stats:

Time period 6/1 to 5/31

Stockdog Trial: 422 down from 441

Dogs competing: 1282 down from 1322

Farm Trial: 47 down from 49

Dogs competing: 257 down from 255

Ranch Trial: 8 down from 9

Number of dogs competing was up 55 from 45.”

Tracking Committee did not provide a report.

Office Manager’s Report

Fryar reported that staff positions in the Office are filled. The current staff has been maintained for about a year. Fryar requested that Affiliates get their show results in as early as possible. The later they come in the later results are posted.

Lori Fausett questioned whether the paperwork submission deadline could be shortened in May, so year-end results can get out quicker. Fryar responded that they would not make an exception for a particular month, just encourage Affiliates to send results in quickly.

Sue Graham brought up the related benefit of being able to submit results online. Discussion was held regarding that possibility and why it is not possible at this time. ASCA is trying to move toward that with the new computer system, though. If Affiliates would like to submit their results in their own excel document they may do so, as long as all pertinent information is included and the document is signed.

Computer System Update

Bryant reported on the computer system update that is currently ongoing. The Request for Proposals is a 250 page document that describes ASCA’s requirements for the computer system. In the past year the RFP has been stripped down to be sent out for initial proposals and to determine a cost range. The original version specified how the project would be managed and how it was staffed (as well as other things), which really should be left to the computer company to decide. Fryar has provided a list of 8 or 9 vendors that were interested originally and 4 vendors were contacted from that pool. Bryant stated that she was currently waiting to hear back from Mobley regarding updates to the front end (website) so that she can have a full report for interested companies. Things are moving ahead positively. The goal for this project is to clean up the current system and move to open source software. A timeline will be better determined when the RFP is sent out and we hear back from vendors.

Unfinished Business

DeChant called for any unfinished business.

Becky Parker stated that CASA has not been reimbursed for the 2013 Finals. A request was sent and the amount paid was not the full amount requested. CASA would like to know when they can expect to get any information regarding this. The Board voted to disburse funds to CASA at their last meeting and will schedule a time to meet with a representative of the club to discuss this during their upcoming meeting on November 6.

New Business

DeChant called for any new business. There was none.

At 9:06 pm all present approved adjournment of the meeting.