

Board Meeting January 31, 2016

Called to order at 7pm

Board members attending: Janet Massolo, Vici Whisner, Katrina Parkinson, Laura Hartwick, Ernie Mill, Michelle Pressell, Roberta Troxell

Membership fees and New renewal system

Michelle proposes to change the system so it is faster to do the membership, have a \$25 fee for normal fee, and family membership \$35. Renewal by Jan 1, after Jan 1 the cost goes to \$35 regular and \$45 family fee. Fees not paid by Jan 31, member is no longer a member. This would go into effect 2017. New members signing up in 2016 will pay the new fee.

This motion was approved by the board.

The current policy of if someone joins before October 1, they still pay the normal amount and do need to pay full renewal the next year. If a new member joins after Oct 1, this will count for the next year. Michelle will update the membership form and Laura will put this on the website.

Paypal

Michelle proposes to set up paypal for SMART. Currently SMART has just under 100 members. To help members renew, Michelle would like to set up a SMART paypal. She has a friend who has advised her on how to set up and use this. The monthly fee is \$30/month, or \$360/year (this fee would be partially offset by the increase in membership dues). Also, each transaction fee has a 2.9% charge plus 0.30 charge. This comes to .31 for a membership. Were paypal to be used for entries, the cost would be approximately of \$6.10 for a \$200 entry.

Paypal doesn't allow a paypal charge applied to transactions. There may be a reduced rate for non profits, but because SMART isn't a 501c3 non profit, so likely not.

Bay Team doesn't charge an extra fee for the paypal on entries, the club eats the cost. At their last trial, \$4000 in entries came in via paypal. We estimate that at \$250 average entry, that was probably about \$121 in fees to paypal total, perhaps about \$6 per entry.

Janet suggests starting with paypal for just membership fees, before adding it for trial entries. Michelle suggests to add an online convenience fee of say, \$5 to cover the cost on trial entries or a 3% fee, and not add the additional fee for membership dues since we are increasing the fees. A set amount as convenience fee would be easiest, say a \$5 fee since it isn't allowed to have a transaction charge. Perhaps this cost would increase at a 3 day trial, so at each trial the fee will be determined.

Laura can set it up with a button on the website in the membership section once Michelle has set up the paypal. For entries, it would need to be somehow with the premium, how Karey sets it up.

This motion was approved by the board.

Equipment

Ribbon Trailer-6x12 single axle in \$4000 range brand new. Ernie hasn't yet talked with Jim about Bay Team's new trailer, it may be a larger trailer than what SMART needs for this ribbon trailer. Ernie will email the quote out to the board before purchasing.

Broad Jump-Katrina will be talking with the person who can import the jumps from England and will do wholesale pricing on the order. This will be a plastic broad jump. The boundary sticks come with this, Bay Team's measuring thing for this was made by Scott Lovelis. Katrina should have a price for this soon. The color can be purple.

Ring Fencing-Vici just purchased MHDS ring fencing, 180' was \$300. She got it online from a sheep fencing place. Ernie just needs to order it. 30" high is easy to set over as opposed to 36". If they are in 8' panels easier to set up the rings than getting 12' sections because they can be moved to fit 10'. One ring is probably sufficient since SMART borrows Bay Team's who has 3 rings worth. Regionals this year might just be 4 rings, then there would be enough, and if it is 5 rings it is easy to borrow from another club.

Chute-SMART should update one chute so it isn't the kinds with the metal legs which are dangerous with the big fast dogs as recently happened with an angled approach at SMART's last trial. The Max200 ones have a flat bottom and no metal legs. One of SMART's has tiny feet and one has the big metal legs, both have some kind of rubber inside. A new chute with the 12' fabric \$440, \$320 without the sleeve. But the current sleeve we have may not fit the new chute shape. Katrina suggests Candy Geiser could make a 10' with sandbag pockets, or perhaps Max200 would just make a 10'. The new chute can be purple and have the SMART logo. The old chute could be raffled off for a chance to buy at a reduced fee so there is a bit of money towards the new one. Ernie will look at the one with the big legs and see if there's a way to make it safer before purchasing new one. This is the least urgent purchase since it is a pretty common chute design. Perhaps it can be specified to the judges that the chute has legs and the judge can consider in their course design.

Lighter a-frames were also on the list for new equipment, should this be pushed back for new chutes or new a-frames? Katrina thinks that Bay Team may be getting some new a-frames, SMART could piggy back on to this order to save shipping. Katrina will know in a month if the same person will be the vendor again if this would work. Right now we have time, no trials until April. The old ones can be raffled off for a chance to buy at reduced fee so there will be some money towards the new ones.

New Idea for Trials

Bar None class-suggested by JD. This is a class for retired dogs, after Master Jumpers is run, all the bars get put on the ground and it would be judged. Still would cost same entry fee. The Q wouldn't count as anything because it's not a sanctioned class, the judge and USDAA would get their normal per run fees. This is similar to running Strategic Pairs, a fun and sanctioned by USDAA class. There will probably not be a lot of people doing this, pretty easy and fast to run. This would be a nice thing to try.

Regarding fun runs, USDAA has asked that the clubs do not do the fun runs at the end of the day, so it could not be combined with that. USDAA advisory committee may be announcing soon that there will be a sanctioned fun run type class in the future that competitors enter like a regular entry.

Also USDAA will probably announcing BIS will be able to start competing at regular trials and will have to wear their panties. This can be brought up at the next meeting whether we want to allow it or not, this will be on our next board meeting agenda.

Volunteers

Do we want to try something new? Announcements like they do at regionals, ie, yellow ring needs 2 bar setters to start seems to be a tired method. Too many announcements can end up being unheard. Vici suggests starting with trainers and education and have them really try to express to new people that it's important to help. And trainers should set examples for their students, which they do. But perhaps stress the importance of this as an important part of agility culture. Vici will draft an email to send to trainers to start there, and Katrina will put together a list of trainers that it can go to. This could go to all Northern California agility trainers.

Meeting Schedule

When best to have Board meetings? Perhaps a quick board meeting at each SMART trial? What would be a good time schedule to have the meetings on? How about every other month? We will look at the end of March for next board meeting, everyone within the next week email if Sunday March 27 7pm is a good time.

When is best to have General meetings? Fun runs have been good for this. Trials are a possibility as well. One at a trial perhaps, one as a fun run, one as the Holiday Party? Labor Day trial is Bay Team's, but since so many members are working hard maybe a Bay Team trial is a good time for a SMART meeting? Labor Day is an exhausting trial though. How about July SMART to try one, this is a 3 day trial so that is a good one. Maybe a April 16 or May fun run at Heart Dog meeting, and perhaps Burn off the Bird fun match meeting in November. Michelle will check with Kathleen re. dates.

July Trial

Ernie is planning to have it at Monterey Fair grounds in horse arenas, with some classes running at night since there are lights. There would be additional food vendors, but only 2 rings. Full schedule of classes but moved into 2 rings. 2 rings sounds a little dicey for what may be a large trial, running really long days, ie Santa Rosa a couple weeks ago with classes still running at 8pm. That was 200 dogs, if July may be a large trial, that is really too many for 2 rings. Ernie was planning on not having team. 3 ring trials usually have a good balance of titling classes and nationals qualifying classes. Perhaps because of Nationals being held in Arizona, cutting to 2 rings is not great to try this year, also people really like York School as a venue. Ernie will switch it back to York because of this.

Nomination Committee earlier

Perhaps this is a good thing to do at one of the General Meetings so it is ready for the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm