

The Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club



Vol. 15, No. 2 June 2009

President's Message...

Plans for this year's Master National Retriever Hunt Test continue to go well. I hope you and your dogs are having a successful test season and that we'll be seeing you at this year's event. The MNRC Board of Directors are working hard on your behalf. The approved minutes of each meeting held since the last event are included in this issue. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Some of the decisions by the board include: reducing the entry fee for this year's event to \$275; offering a MNRC "Online Entry Service" with no administration fee or credit card fee (MNRC is absorbing these); offering an online merchandise site at www.masternational.com; meeting with AKC representatives on May 19; updating the Women's Challenge Trophy; appointment of a History Committee Chairman who will document the history of the MNRC; and a complete revision of the Policies & Procedures.

The board unanimously approved several commendations for individuals who have significantly supported the MNRC; Theresa Stevens as she completed her service as our Corporate Sponsor Liaison, Roger Quaas for printing the catalogs of the last two events and lengthy committee services, Kerry Barlogio, (Janet Peters administrative assistant) for her assistance in getting our Policies & Procedures document completed.

When the board held its winter meeting in Giddings, the Central Texas area was experiencing one of the worst droughts in history. Many of the ponds on our test grounds were dry. Our prayers were answered and ample rains have filled the ponds and the grounds look great. For additional information, go to the Waterloo Amateur RC website: <http://waterloo-retriever.org/warc/>. You can also participate in a nice forum on the WARC site as well as get detailed info on the grounds, local opportunities, etc.

We appreciate the member club's participating in the process to select judges for the 2010 event in Corning, California (north of Sacramento) in October of next year. That is always an enjoyable process and the slate of candidates will be submitted to club delegates in advance of this year's annual business meeting and will be elected at the meeting.

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MNRC News

OFFICERS and BOARD

President

Bill Teague

734 CR 630
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
ta1@hughes.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Barton

116 Alta Vista Dr.
Marion, AR 72364
fbarton@bartonagcenter.com

Region I

John Marchica, VP

34 Applesed Rd
Sudbury, VT 05733
yhgolden@sover.net

Sam Ferguson, Director

1512 Valley Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32301
SAM.FERGUSON@fldoe.org

Larry Kimble-Director

1112 Birdie Drive
Independence KS 67301
lkimble@hackneyusa.com

Region IV

Janet Peters, VP

534 Wilson Ave.
Novato, CA 94947
jpeters@arcadis-us.com

Kevin Bunnell-Director

143 Val Vista Lane
Roseburg OR 97471
kpbunl@douglasfast.net

Dave Kress-IPP

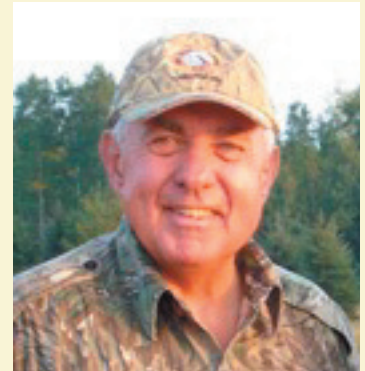
PO BOX 426
Gallatin, TN 37066
dkress@alberici.com

President's Message *con't from page 1*

Our member clubs now total 161 as we welcome four new clubs; South Dakota Hunting Dog Club, Missouri River Retriever Club, Grand Valley Retriever Club and Michigan Flyway Retriever Club. Congratulations on your new membership and we look forward to working with you.

Thank you for your continued support and it is an honor to serve as your president this year.

Bill Teague



Region II

John Blackbird, VP

1783 Johnsons Cartway
Mora, MN 55051
jblack0690@ncis.com

Ray Muth, Director

2484 Highway 84E
Dixie, GA 31629
re_muth@netzero.net

Region III

Gloria Mundell, VP

829 S. Miller Ct.
Lakewood, CO 80226
gjmundell@comcast.net

Vision Statement

The Master National Retriever Club, Inc., is committed to the hunting tradition, and devoted to the promotion, breeding, training and best interests of retrievers. In order to carry out our commitment, Master Hunters will be tested annually in a non-competitive manner at the Master National Stake to the maximum of the standard set out by the American Kennel Club. We firmly believe in supporting the hunting test program and that all participants should conduct themselves as good sportsmen. To obtain the maximum of the standard there shall be such utilization of terrain, bird placement, and natural conditions so as to provide significant challenge to the abilities of the master hunting dog.

MANY THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



New!!!

MNRC ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM

The Master National Board is pleased to announce that participants in the 2009 Master National event will have the ability to enter using an online entry system developed solely for the Master National event. This system will give the entrant the ability to use a credit card to pay for the entry, receive instant notification that the entry has been received by the Master National Retriever Club, and all without having to pay any convenience fees to use the system.

Entrants will enter by inserting the dog's AKC registration number into the online entry form. The Master National database of qualified dogs will then populate all of the appropriate fields found on the AKC registration form. Entrants will then have the ability to review the information and correct any data. After all information has been approved the entrant will then be able to select the worker's committee

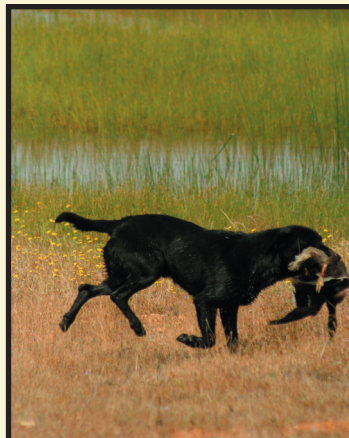
that they, and any other person traveling with them, will serve. Finally, the entrant will checkout using a secure credit card processing gateway. Entrants with multiple dogs will have the ability to repeat the process without having to enter the work committee or credit card information multiple times.

There are no extra fees associated with this service and an email notification will instantly be sent upon successful completion. The Master National Board believes that this service will meet the desire of participants to have an online entry system option and the ability to have instant notification that an entry has been received. More information will be available on the premium sent out to qualified dogs.

2010 Preview

October 10-17, 2010
Save the date!

Clear Creek Sports Club
Corning, CA




Highlights of Board Meetings

(November 2008 to present)

The MNRC Board of Directors has met regularly since the conclusion of last year's event; two conference calls and one 'face to face' meeting in Giddings, TX in January. Other meetings will be by conference call on July 8 and September 9, plus a brief meeting at the event on October 22. The month of the board meeting is shown after each item to assist the reader in finding the minutes of that meeting that may contain additional details on the subject. All clubs are welcome to submit info they want discussed to the president at least two weeks before the meetings. Listed below are some of the highlights from the meetings. The April conference call minutes are not yet approved and will be published in the next issue of the News.

1. The entrance fee for 2009 has been reduced from \$300 to \$275 (April)
2. At the 2009 event, blinds and marks may exceed the "approximately 100 yards" traditionally used. (April)
3. The MNRC will offer an online entry service this year that is owned and operated by the MNRC. There will be no service fees charged entrants and the MNRC will absorb the credit card fees associated with the entries. In addition to the lowered entry fee, this represents a substantial savings to our entrants. (April).
4. An online service to purchase MNRC merchandise is now available. Location specific merchandise will be available at the 2009 and future events. (January & April)
5. The Women's Challenge Trophy has been updated, refurbished and new benefits for teams earning it have been approved; a replica for each team will be provided (retroactively to each of the 22 teams); the trophy will be on display at the Bird Dog Hall of Fame (Retriever Hall) in Grand Junction, Tennessee between MNRHT's. (November, January & April)
6. The site and dates for the 2010 event have been approved: October 8-17 at Rolling Hills Casino's Clear Creek Sports Club north of Sacramento. (April)
7. The Policy and Procedure manual has been completely revised and includes new policies on qualifications for dogs that would have been entered by people subsequently elected to judge the event and an expanded Health & Safety section. (January & April)
8. A Strategic Planning Committee has been appointed to assist in planning the future for the MNRC. (January)
9. A meeting of MNRC leadership and AKC leadership is planned for May 19 to discuss how the two organizations can work more effectively together. (April)
10. Gunners at the 2009 event will need to have a Texas hunting license. MNRC will reimburse those fees for approved gunners at the event. (April)

If you have any questions on the above, please let the president know. I applaud our board members for their leadership and dedication to the MNRC. It is a joy to work with them. I am proud of them and I believe you can be proud of them, too. They put a tremendous amount of time and other resources into fulfilling their responsibilities, and I think they represent our member clubs well.



*Now you can
purchase MNRC
clothing online!*

Steven Howard Stidham

Dec. 25, 1951-April 27, 2009

The First United Methodist Church in Wolfe City, TX overflowed with people on April 30, who came to pay their last respects to Steve Stidham. Among those in attendance was a large contingent of retriever enthusiasts. Steve was a devout Texas Longhorn with a booming voice, and a propensity to lounge in any chair he could find, including a judge's chair, to ease the pain in his bad back. As you might expect, the University of Texas school song, "The Eyes of Texas" was played at the beginning of the service as numerous Longhorns stood, thrust the "Hook 'em Horns" sign to the sky and sang. Many of you will remember Steve leading the Texas contingency at the closing ceremonies in Minnesota as an invitation to come to Texas for the 2009 event this October. Steve died at his home in Wolfe City. The retriever sport has lost a good friend and a fine gentleman.

A family member eulogized Steve and highlighted his extensive contributions to his church, Ducks Unlimited, car shows in Wolfe City, and other charitable efforts along with his love for his family. His wife, Jerri Lee, a daughter, Amy, and two sons, Jeremy and Jerry Don, plus a sister, Sharon, and a granddaughter, Carly, survive him.

In Lyle Steinman's eulogy, he highlighted his friendship with Steve and Steve's dog training career. Steve was successful with both field trial and hunting test dogs. He described Steve's tenacious training regime and preparation of the dogs for their tests. According to Lyle, Steve and his dogs had earned 22 Master National plates by qualifying at MNRC events. Four of his dogs had earned Hall of Fame distinction, and three others had earned the MNH title. Numerous tributes to Steve and condolences to his family were read by Lyle.

John Green, president of the Brazosport Retriever Club, suggested that judges have a moment of silence in memory of Steve at their handler's meetings for the next 30 days. As I told Jerri Lee and Steve's family at the services, Steve was highly respected by those who knew him through the Master National Retriever Club. The Stidham family is in our thoughts and prayers. Cards and notes can be sent to Jerri Lee at 799 FM 1563, Wolfe City, TX 75496. Memorials can be made to Ducks Unlimited or the American Cancer Society. The MNRC board has sent a remembrance to the family.

Bill Teague, MNRC President



Steve enjoys a photo of himself on the line in a previous test at the 2008 MNHRT.

Master National Retriever Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Call
November 5, 2008
8:30-9:30 pm (CT)

Members Present: Bill Teague, Frank Barton, Dave Kress, John Marchica, Sam Ferguson, John Blackbird, Ray Muth, Gloria Mundell, Larry Kimble, Janet Peters, Kevin Bunnell.

Also Present: Theresa Stevens.

1. Bill Teague welcomed Kevin Bunnell and Larry Kimble as new board members.
2. Disposition of Board Meeting minutes: Frank Barton reviewed what minutes needed approval.
 - February 9, 2008 Motion by Frank, seconded, all voted in favor except for Larry, who abstained.
 - July 16, 2008 Motion by Gloria Mundell and seconded, all voted in favor except for Larry, who abstained.
 - September 19, 2008 Motion by John Blackbird and seconded, all voted in favor except for Larry, who abstained.
3. Guidelines for Service: Bill Teague reviewed the guidelines that were sent out earlier. There were no comments toward this document.
4. Preliminary Financials for 2008 Event: Frank Barton reported that the preliminary financial information showed a profit of \$20,000 for the 2008 event.
5. Summary of 2008 Event: Dave Kress reported that the event went well and good reviews were being heard from the hunt test community. Bill Teague commended Dave on their leadership. John Marchica made special mention of the local grounds crew.
6. Policies & Procedures Draft Revisions: Janet Peters reported on her work and referenced an email sent the prior week. She reported that it was taking considerably more word processing time than previously was anticipated. Janet suggested that changes be made to the attachments so that these documents be placed on the website in a secure location for board use only. She suggested that another committee be formed to review the disposition of these attachments. Bill asked that Janet (chair), John, Teri and himself, serve on this committee. Bill asked Janet to come with a target completion date for the word processing. Bill asked that we work toward a goal of 30-45 days before the winter meeting.
7. National Open Event (November 8-16, Montgomery, Texas): Bill Teague reported that he was going as a representative of his local club to give a presentation. Bill also said that he has been asked to go a representative of the Master National Retriever Club.
8. Ad Hoc Committees Appointed: Bill Teague reported that:
 - Women's Challenge Trophy: Cost to

update the trophy. Jill Volsch is chair.

- Audit: John Marchica, Larry Kimble, Dave Kress will serve on this committee.
 - History: Bill suggested that we start a formal process of recording the history of the MNRC and that a methodology be developed to keep this information updated. Ray Muth will start working on a draft for future discussion and/or action.
9. 2009 Judges Contacted: Bill Teague reported that the judges have been sent welcome letters and information about the upcoming 2009 event.
 10. Equipment Purchased & Trailer: John Blackbird will bring the trailer to Texas. It will be stored inside for the winter. John has thrown out all of the old ribbons and bibs. New keys were made for the side door. New stopwatches and marker boards have also been purchased. It was noted that we needed to add 15 new 2-way radios. It was noted that consideration should be given to purchasing additional wingers.
 11. 2008 Annual Business Meeting Follow Up: Bill Teague
 - Draft minutes: Frank will send out to the board in the next 30 days.
 - Bylaws Amendment re: Alaska Dave Kress said that the Middle TN club was withdrawing the amendment.
 - Motion from clubs: Frank reviewed the motion that came from the meeting "Randall Ayers made a motion, that was seconded, to table the two motions submitted and the amended motion, and to form an ad hoc committee to study the matter. Motion passed." Bill said that he was appointing Dave Kress, Frank Barton, and Randall Ayers to this Ad Hoc committee. There were several suggestions of other board members to also serve on this committee and Bill said he would take those under advisement.
 12. Website Update: Frank Barton reported that the Hall of Fame and Women's Challenge trophy information have been updated. The 2009 event page has been started. Frank asked that board members review their bio information and update their information.
 13. Online service for MNRC Merchandise: Bill Teague reported that this project was being looked at for future use. Larry Kimble will send information from the Pointing Lab club website. John Marchica will also send information on the

- Yankee Golden club's website.
14. Silver (5 year qualifier) & Gold (Judges') Pins Bill Teague reported that the club needs to order both silver rectangular and silver round pins as well as gold round judges pins. Clarification will be included in the P&P manual as to who get round and rectangular pins.
 15. January 22-25, 2009 Board Meeting: Bill Teague confirmed the dates for the winter meeting.

16. Business for future discussion: Bill reported that Dave Kress had previously appointed John Marchica to study the issue of giving a bye to a dog owned by a judge that has been elected to judge and the dog has qualified in the same year of the judging assignment. Bill asked that John have a recommendation for the January board meeting.

17. Adjourn

Master National Retriever Club, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
January 23-25, 2009
Giddings, TX

The Board meeting convened at the Ramada Inn at 8:30 AM. Board members Bill Teague, John Blackbird, John Marchica, Janet Peters, Ray Muth, Gloria Mundell, Larry Kimble, Kevin Bunnell, Frank Barton, (Dave Kress at 10:30) attended and Pam Bunnell & Linda Marchica were guests for part of the meeting.

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

Secretary's report

Bill reminded everyone that the minutes of November 5, 2009 Board of Directors conference call were approved in a December email. Bill reminded members we were working under 'Guidelines for Service' that were approved on our last conference call and that wherever possible, we would work by 'consensus' rather than 'voting'. The board unanimously agreed.

The board reviewed draft of meeting minutes, September 20, 2008 Annual Meeting. These minutes will be approved by the member clubs at the 2009 annual meeting.

Bill reviewed the following follow-up items from the November 5, 2008 conference call

1. John B. provide Dave names & addresses of the consortium representatives (done).
2. Ray to start working on documenting the History of the MNRC (done).
3. John Blackbird will bring the equipment trailer to Texas prior to setup week.
4. Janet provide draft P & P's to board in time to review prior to January meeting (done).
5. Theresa try to get radios donated by sponsor.
6. Bill add fourth member to Ad Hoc Committee to review electronic entries (done).
7. Board members send bios for website to Frank. All but one have been received.
8. Larry and John M. send Bill sample websites offering merchandise (done).
9. Bill contact Dave & Frank to get info on where to get new qualifier & judge's pins (done).
10. Board members send travel plans for January meeting to Bill (done).
11. John M. bring proposal to give judges a 'bye' for their dogs to Jan. board meeting. Discussion was held on this change. The consensus was only to

allow the bye provision for dog for the next year's event.

Treasurer's report: Frank reviewed the 2008 balance sheet and income statement with the board. Frank provided answers/clarification to numerous questions from board members. The board decided to move the advertising expense from Retriever News to the MNRC event class of the income statement. The board authorized Frank to donate the two old computers to some worthy cause. The financial report was accepted by the board.

After receiving the financial report Bill Teague recognized the hard work of Dave Kress and John Marchica and requested the record reflect a commendation for these gentlemen. The board agreed.

Bill announced the following dates as deadlines for the MNRC Newsletter.

1. February 1
2. May 15
3. September 1

Committee Reports

1. **Ad Hoc Women's Challenge Trophy:** It was reported that Jill Volsch had not contacted anyone yet about the review of this award.
2. **Ad Hoc Electronic Entry:** Dave Kress reviewed the actions that led up to the formation of the committee. Frank then demonstrated to the board a beta version of an electronic online entry system specifically for the Master National Retriever Club. After looking at the entry system there was a Motion by Larry, seconded by Dave to authorize an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for the development of the entry system. All voted in favor of this motion. It was the consensus of the board to not have a fee associated with credit card use of this system.
3. **Ad Hoc History:** Ray Muth said he had completed the research on the beginnings of the MNRC and was working thru the process of organizing the history.
4. **Ad Hoc Audit:** It was announced that this committee would meet sometime during the

weekend. Note: the committee completed this at the meeting.

5. **Ad Hoc Policies & Procedures:** The review of the Policy and Procedures is scheduled for the afternoon.
6. **Judge's Selection:** Bill reminded the judges selection committee of their assignments and the timeline for their work per Article VII, Sec. 3, g of the Bylaws.
7. **Nominations :** Bill appointed Ray Muth to chair this committee along with Sam Ferguson Larry Kimble and Kevin Bunnell per Article VII Sec. 3 of the Constitution and By-Laws.
8. **Judges' dog's 'Bye' status proposal:** After discussion of the various situations that might occur during the event, it was the consensus of the board to allow a next year qualifying bye for the dog of a judge or judge's family member. It was also the consensus that we should not permit a family member of a judge to handle a dog even if that person was in another flight. See the P&P for detailed language.

11:30 am to 1 pm Lunch

Dave Kress reviewed several items that he asked to be put on the agenda.

1. **Amount of funds to invest:** No Action taken.
2. **Lowering entry fee for 2009:** Dave suggested lowering fees. No consensus was reached and Bill will appoint an ad hoc committee to recommend the entry fee for 2009.
3. **Qualifications for handlers and dogs for the Retriever Hall of Fame:** Frank and Dave will visit these folks in Grand Junction, TN and see about getting hunt test people recognized in some way.
4. **What the MNRC should look like in 20 years:** Dave asked the following question, "Should the Master National find a permanent home for the event." There was some discussion; there was no clear direction on this point.
5. **Interaction with RHTAC (Retriever Hunting Test Advisory Committee):** It was pointed out that it had been five years since this group had met with the Master National Retriever Club. It was also reported that Keith Griffith had recently been asked to Chair this committee and Keith has accepted Bill's invitation for the committee to meet at the MNRHT this year and provide a report at our annual business meeting..

1 PM to 5 PM (Session)

Website Update: Frank reported that there was nothing that needed attention at this time.

Corporate Sponsor Liaison Report: Bill reported that he had talked with Theresa, who graciously agreed to a change in the CSL. He asked Dave Kress to accept the position of CSL for the Master National. Bill asked that the record reflect the Board's appreciation for Theresa's efforts that resulted in improvements in our sponsor program and the board agreed.

The Board adjourned into executive session.

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The Board reconvened from executive session.

Frank made a motion, seconded by Kevin, to accept the appointment of Dave Kress as CSL per the revised P & P 1.6. Dave Kress abstained, but all other members voted in favor of the appointment.

Bill Teague said that he was still working with Ford Motor Company regarding the donation of a vehicle.

Online merchandise program status: —Bill reported that we have received two bids; one from J. T. Lovell, and one from ABS. After discussions on both, Dave moved we use ABS. Frank seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Trailer & equipment: John Blackbird reviewed the inventory. Bill suggested that we get enough equipment to set up four stakes at one time. Dave Kress said he would see what equipment he could get donated. There was consensus we need ample equipment and supplies to have four set ups, all with triple marks..

Review of 2008 Event: It was decided that this had been discussed enough.

The next order of business was to review the reimbursement policy for board members running a dog in the event. After discussion it was decided not to change the current policy.

The Board then took up the business of reviewing and updating the Policy & Procedure manual.

The meeting recessed at 5:20 PM and the audit committee met immediately thereafter.

The meeting reconvened Saturday morning 8:30 AM.

The matter of the Policy & Procedure revision was resumed and completed. Bill requested the record reflect the board's appreciation for Janet & John M's work on getting the draft revision completed. The board agreed. Janet asked that her executive assistant be recognized for her support and Bill will write her a letter thanking her. Janet will provide Bill the necessary contact info.

The board next addressed the Punch List for the 2009 Event

1. Possible entries & financial analysis (Frank) Completed.
2. Tour test grounds w/local arrangements committee reps (Saturday afternoon).
3. Tour facilities for meetings w/local arrangements committee reps (Saturday afternoon).
4. Birds (Ray) Same values as last year. Same Contract.
5. Reefer truck for birds Local people working on this.
6. Volunteer workers for the field (Bill) The plan is the same as last year with local clubs.

7. Volunteer workers for line (Bill) The plan is the same as last year with local clubs
8. Contact with judges -Bill and Frank are responsible.
9. Travel arrangements for judges: Frank will make judges travel arrangements.
10. Judge's lodging Bill is responsible.
11. Shipping point for incoming materials- Bill is responsible.
12. Attendance of board members: set up & test week (Bill). Members that were asked to be onsite by test setup were Janet, John M, John B., Bill, Frank.
13. Welcome Party & Auction: Friday, October 23.
14. Annual meeting & Handler's meeting: Saturday, October 24.
15. RHTAC meeting/report: Saturday, October 24: invitation has been accepted (noted earlier in minutes).
16. Worker's party (including distribution of worker's pins): Wednesday, October 21. It was decided that lunch tickets for workers would be given to the line marshal at the start of the test to be distributed on a shift-by-shift basis.
17. Franks party: Thursday, October 22.
18. Rosettes: Bill is responsible.
19. Bird Bands: Bill is responsible.
20. Plates: Bill is responsible.
21. Handler's bags: Dave gets bags and works with hospitality.
22. Worker's bags: Dave gets bags.
23. Bibs: (Bill works w/Avery/Purina on selection of design; Dave gets it paid for).
24. Caps: (Bill works w/Avery/Purina on selection of design; Dave gets it paid for).
25. Volunteer Pins: Bill is responsible.
26. Judges Plates engraved and handed at the closing ceremonies. Bill is responsible.
27. It was the consensus of the board to retain Molly Schlater as official photographer for 2009 and 2010.(Dave will notify Molly).

2010 Event: Janet reported that the lodging was a big issue at the last reported location of the event. The host club was looking at the Clear Creek Sports Club - Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, California as the site for the 2010 event. They will host the board during set-up at no cost. During the event they want \$300 per day, times eight days. They want us to design a technical pond. They will build what we design. They want all other functions at the Indian Casino properties. Basic cost for parties is \$28 per person. The Host Club will examine this proposal during the next several months.

Host club met with the board at 12:30 PM.

Frank to provide the MNRC certificate of insurance to Nancy Neipert along with an explanation regarding landowners requests for a liability waiver. We reviewed various training properties and the methodology for signing up for these training sites. We need to examine

the requirements for hunting license requirements during the event.

The board spent the afternoon touring the testing grounds and facilities selected for meetings and Frankie's party.

Reconvened at 7:30PM

The board reviewed a proposal from Wild Outdoor Adventures TV. It was decided that Dave Kress will get additional information from this company before they are allowed to film the event. Dave will deal with the issue of vendors in the parking lot.

Janet suggested getting permanent judges' chairs that will be the property of the MNRC, reside in the trailer, and be used from event to event. It as the consensus of the board to get these chairs and Bill will secure them.

We will get one judges' car for setup and a vehicle for each set of judges for the event week. It was decided that a vehicle will be provided to the Chief Marshal.

The meeting recessed at 8:30 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30AM Sunday

Bill made the following appointments and the board approved them:

Ad Hoc committee to recommend entry fee for 2009 w/ report date to Bill of March 30. Gloria (chair)..... Sam and Larry.

Ad Hoc Committee to recommend acceptable locations for the annual event w/report date to Bill of July 8. Kevin (chair)John Blackbird and Ray.

There was lengthy, productive and positive discussion regarding the future of the Master National Event, the relationship with AKC, the ability to secure a title, the vision of the event and the "program."

Bill asked Dave to chair an ad hoc committee on strategic planning. Dave accepted and the board approved the appointment. Dave will select other committee members and advise the board. Dave will draft an outline for a "stepping stone" process to get us going in a direction that will lead us toward a strategic plan.

Janet requested that we get AEDs for each stake and have board members trained to use them. Janet suggested that all board members should receive CPR training. It was decided to rework and update the safety plan.

Bill thanked the members for their preparation for the meeting, constructive discussions, enthusiastic support and dedication to the MNRC.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Barton