

**Northeast Reining Horse Association General Meeting Minutes
Three County Fairgrounds – Northampton, MA
Wednesday, July 1, 2009**

Board Members in Attendance: Candy Conway, Judy Galipeau, Michelle Robertson, Sheli Senecal, Michele Whitney, Cathy Nevitt, Geri Wasylak, Carrie Austin, George Riden, Dennis Tito, Dirk Winkelhake

Board Members in Absence: Lois Gaetz, Barry Sanborn

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by NERHA President Candy Conway at 7:23 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The Board of Director's Meeting Minutes of 4/21/09 were not presented as they had been approved by electronic vote in May, 2009
- III. **Financial & Budget Report** (Michelle Robertson) – The NERHA Board of Directors receives and reviews detailed financial reports monthly and at all Board Meetings, and considers this information confidential. If you are a member and would like more information, please contact the NERHA Treasurer.
- IV. **Show Committee** (Candy Conway) –
 - A. **Northeast Classic** – A special thank you goes out to Whitney Trucking and George Riden for the grounds work at the Northeast Classic. The Pro-Am teams will be grouped into larger teams for the Calcutta, this will simplify the bidding. Ken's Catering will be handling the BBQ that will be held during the Pro-Am Tournament. There were 215 stalls reserved at the Classic.
 - B. **The Maine Event** – There will be paid warm-ups on Thursday, the same format will be used that was used in Topsfield (one warm-up per rider). Pizza Hut will be hosting the exhibitor party again this year. The Traveling Chef will be doing the vendor food for the show.
 - C. **Super Slide-In** – The judges are all set. We are hoping to try and get the ground covered in the warm-up area in the event of bad weather to try and keep it drier. There will be a Silent Auction to benefit the NERHA Affiliate Team.
- V. **Youth Update** (Michele Whitney) – Michele is going to try and get a Youth club meeting held during the Classic. There are 50 jackets plus the grey and maroon shirts along with hats that will be up for sale. Adult volunteers are always needed.

The Silent Auction for the themed baskets at the Falls Creek Slide made a profit of about \$500. Thank you to all of our sponsors;

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Themed Basket</u>
Clark Performance Horses	The Captain's Catch
Candy Conway	Old No. 7
JK Ranch	Bahama Mamma Beach Basket
Whitney Family	Scenter of the Universe
Jennifer Johnson & Cheryl Fletcher	South of the Border
Cyndy Bryden	Pet Basket
Liz Pino	Gardening Basket
The Puris Family	Spa Basket

The Galipeau Family
First Class Performance Horses
MDS Farms & Cheryl Fletcher

A Little Cheese with your Wine
Relaxation Basket
Keepem' Busy Children's Basket

Each youth showing during the Friday youth classes will receive a tail bag. The winner will receive a full body sheet and second place will receive a hood. Sponsors are still needed for the Pro-Am. The chuck-a-duck will be held again during the Super Slide-In in August.

- VI. **Sponsorship Update** (Dirk Winkelhake) – According to the latest sponsorship numbers we currently have a commitment of \$18,780 in sponsorship contributions for 2009. With the current economic situation we are very happy and thankful that we have such a great membership and generous sponsors who still find a way to come up with the support we need. Unfortunately even with the current contributions, we are below our target of \$25,000. We continue to work on corporate sponsors but need the continued support of our membership.
- VII. **Magazine Update** (Carrie Austin) – Carrie has decided to change the paper stock of the Magazine for better picture quality. The centerfold came out great and the front and back covers for the next issue have already been sold. The deadline for magazine articles is Friday, July 10th. Going forward the membership list will consist of just the members name and location; full addresses will no longer be printed. Michele Whitney will be working on the member spotlight.
- VIII. **Website Update** (Sheli Senecal) – Sheli has been working with the web developer to create the new page format for the site. The banner for the web page has been completed and approved by the board. The next step is to sign-up with a new web hosting vendor and move the current site to the new host.
- A. **The Tailgate** – The first issue of the NERHA Tailgate (our online update) went out on Friday, June 26th. It was sent to over 700 email addresses; there were a total of 139 “bounce” backs for unusable addresses. This is excellent as it tells us that its not just our members that are interested in what is going on with our association. However, due to the large number of email addresses, we have to change our subscription to Constant Contact which in turn will cost an additional \$100 for the year.
- B. **NERHA Logo** - The developer has also been working on an updated logo for the association; the design came from what was used for the 2004 Classic. The new logo was used on the hats that the NERHyA sold at the Classic. There were also pictures of the logo in the Secretaries office at the Classic.
- IX. **Show Secretary/Membership Update** (Cathy Nevitt) – We current have about 300+ members.
- X. **Affiliate Update** (George Riden) – The deadline for your Affiliate Designation has come and gone. July 1st was the deadline. George recommended that we give a jean jacket and pay the stall fee for each of our NERHA Affiliate Team members that go to Kentucky.
- A. **Northeast Affiliate Show Location** – It was discussed that although the Kentucky Horse Park is amazing, it's to far to go for the Affiliate show. Karen Black-Clark recommended that we start discussions with CNYRHA and EPRHA to look at holding it at the Dream Park in NJ for 2011. This is a new facility that should be completed by that time. It is also a very central location to the Northeast.

XI. **Discussion Items –**

- A. **New NERHA logo** – before voting on changing the logo the board would like to get feedback from the membership. Therefore a survey form will be available in the Secretaries office at the Classic for people to complete.
- B. **Bylaw Change** – Candy has recommended a bylaw change to add the term “or in the first two weeks of November” to NERHA bylaw #19 so it provides more of a window on when to hold the annual meeting. Appropriate notice will be given to the membership prior to voting on the proposed amendment.
- C. **Officer Slate for 2010** – The following people have officially declared their candidacy for Officer positions; Karen Black-Clark – President, Cathy Nevitt – Vice-President, Michele Whitney – Treasurer, Sheli Senecal – Secretary.
- D. **Open Board Positions for 2010** – At a minimum, the following board positions will be open for 2010; Memberships, Magazine & Publications, Youth. A fourth position is also currently unfilled. The Board continues to seek interested candidates from among the membership.
- E. **Proposal to combine Annual Meeting and Banquet of Champions in 2009** – There had been a discussion that the annual meeting and banquet should be held at the same time. However after much discussion this idea was discarded. The banquet will be held at the beginning of the year as it was this year. President’s awards will be delivered by the outgoing President during the Annual Meeting.
- F. **Affiliate Fund Raising** – There are two fundraisers for the NERHA Affiliate team this year, the silent auction and the Calcutta for the Derby at the Slide-In. George is going to look into raffling a yearling next year as a fundraiser.

XII. **New Business** – Plaques for the Green Reiner class. It was discussed and decided that the winners of the Green Reiner class should be awarded a plaque. To do that for this year donated plaques will be used. Green Reiner winners from shows prior to the Classic will be asked if they want a plaque or not. Going forward, starting at the Classic, winners will be given a plaque.

XIII. **Meeting Schedule** – The next meeting will be a conference call on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 7:00 pm

XIV. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.