

Merced Horseman's Association
Board of Directors Meeting & General Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2011 Minutes

Call to Order, Welcome and Introduction: by President J.A. Thomas at approximately 6:35pm

In attendance: President: J. A. Thomas; Vice President: Tony Aragon; Secretary: Carol Suggs; Treasurer: Bill Suggs; Directors: Karen Camp, Michael Conley, Arnie Kiil, Lisa Krogh, Jennifer McCulloch; Brett Weaver. Members/Guests: Bill Banducci, Karen Kiil; New Member: Dr. Madison Seamans, DVM and Caretaker: Dennis Friesen

Adoption of Minutes of January 13, 2011 (motion and moved via email vote)

Guest: Dr. Madison Seamans, DVM. Seamans discussed his practice and his offer of 10% off to MHA members and gave a presentation on his laptop regarding digital radiography and diagnosis and treatment of a horse with a broken coffin bone.

Committee chairs appointments:

Insurance: Michael Conley, discussion that insurance needs our event list by mid march, forms given to Conley.

Kitchen: Kathy Amos, Tony Aragon, Karen Camp. Per Thomas, the kitchen will not be run as part of the event for that day but will be run separately. Per Camp event chairs are to contact them ahead of time with what they want so the kitchen is stocked. If event chairs need assistance running the kitchen the kitchen chairs will assist when then can but it was understood that they would not be on the hook to work every event.

Membership Dinner: Joint effort by officers and board, Kitchen Chairs to make sure we are stocked, discussion of menu.

Awards Dinner/Christmas Party: seeking chair

Sorting: Brett Weaver and Arnie Kiil to co chair. This then launched into a long discussion about using roping cattle, if used need to have horns cut for safety reasons. Thomas discussed weight gain deal on cattle for use and possibility of grazing and our supplementing with hay. Discussion that our pasture can not sustain cattle for long. Krogh mentioned prior sortings had good turn outs several years ago, what happened? Discussion about having open sortings instead of club only. Discussion of \$5 goes and jack pot draws. Weaver said we need at least 10 members consistently to make this work. Discussion about additional insurance costs for open events. Motion made by Kiil and seconded by Conley to open the sortings to the public, have 8 sortings, possibly run them same nite as Gymkhana but not sure, get the insurance, have \$5 goes with jackpot draw at the end and that there will be a deadline time to sign up for the jackpot with no exceptions. This is all depending on what type of cattle deal we get for the year for the sortings. Motion accepted and moved.

Tack Swap: Thomas reported that he spoke with Melony Reed about helping with this for June 11 (same day as Merced Jr Fair) and that she will help coordinate venders but can not assist that day as she has another engagement. Camp stated that she and Kathy Amos will be there to do the kitchen. . C.Suggs will coordinate with Reed and will be there that day. \$25 per slot and \$20 for non members. Thomas mentioned that clubs and other organizations may want to have booths and possibly Dr. Seamans could run a mini seminar if he wanted.

Correspondence Received: various membership applications/renewals and proof of insurance from Merced Fair and insurance info sheet from our insurance company.

Financial Report: Per B. Suggs the checking account balance is approximately \$144 as per the accountant. Discussion of Propane Bill \$703 (was to fill both tanks, will check in summer when rates are cheaper instead of waiting until winter); \$250 bill to CPA. B. Suggs also mentioned that he has a \$230 in memberships to deposit and mentioned that at the last meeting they were going to transferring \$2500 from savings, but elected to transfer \$1000. McCulloch makes motion to transfer \$1500 from savings to checking to pay these and future bills, Camp seconds, motion accepted and moved. B. Suggs then passed out new **deposit forms** for the event chairs to use and left some at the front counter near the cash register. It was agreed that all money taken in would get a deposit form completed and put in the drop slot in the store room and he would collect it. Friesen submitted a bill for reimbursement for lock. Thomas passed out example MMR **budget form** and wants MHA to have a modified version of which we will produce at next meeting. He stated the importance of doing budgets so that the club knows and the chair people know the financial obligation.

Caretaker Report: Friesen reports about the side front **gate being broken** along with chain and lock on 1/28 while he was gone. Apparently a car went through the gate and ended up in a neighboring field. Thomas had come out and taken photos as did Aragon. Aragon has information on the vehicles owner and will be researching going after the vehicle's owner for repairs to the gate and to our fencing. There is a case number with the police department. It was also stated that the police **advised moving our coils of cable inside** as there had been some theft in the area. Discussion about the **main gate repair and conversion** to a conventional sliding gate style. Thomas got estimate at

\$1000 to use the existing gate, pour cement, rollers and for conversion to a rolling manual gate. The gate contractor stated that he could do this in various upgrade stages as we had funds (ie: making it electronic, key pad etc). Friesen reminded the Board that the **Tractor** needs maintenance. He stated that the **lawnmower** is having issues but he will work on it. The **water truck** has a dead battery and a front flat tire. Mentioned that we need to have this taken care of before the first event. Banducci mentioned that it costs the club approximately **\$150 per event to operate tractor** and truck. Friesen stated that the **panel trailer** needs welding before it is used. Discussion of **cleaning supplies** needed and Camp told him to give her a list and Kitchen crew will see to it that he gets what he needs. Friesen mentioned **fertilizer**, Banducci to get him some.

Joint marketing effort with Mariposa Mountain Riders (MMR): C.Suggs passed out MMR's February newsletter and Thomas discussed their putting in a "business card sized ad" for Merced Horsemen's and were hoping that we could reciprocate. Motion by Conley and seconded by Krogh that help each other cross promote both the clubs and our events, motion accepted and moved. Conley mentioned that we get a receipt for this as a write off. C. Suggs stated that MMR doesn't have the non profit status that MHA has but perhaps we could write off the value as advertising.

Listing of Capital Improvements for Supervisor Kelsey: C. Suggs reported that she has been emailing Supervisor Kelsey about the possibility of getting some money from the County for capital improvements to the Club. She was directed to gather a priority list and estimated costs to present back to Kelsey for consideration. It was determined that the following were the most vital to the club at this time:

- Repair and Conversion of the existing Main Gate. \$1,000 +/-
- Upgrade of arena lights to more energy efficient products, \$30,000 +/-
- Fencing. The property is in need of new parameter fencing so that when we have cattle on site that we can insure they stay on the property. It was estimated that we would need approximately 5,000 feet of fencing and cost would be \$4.00 per foot which should cover the labor, stakes, wire and ties for a 6 wire fence. \$20,000 +/-
- Septic. Although the facility has built in restrooms for men and women we are unable to use them because of the failing septic. We instead rent portable toilets. New septic system estimate: \$6,000-\$8,000 +/-

Other major capital improvements that were discussed: Roof on club house overhang needs replacing, new well and irrigation system for pastures and club house lawn and new water pipe line to the wash racks. C.Suggs to compose a letter and send.

MMR timing light rental contract. Motion made by Conley and seconded by Camp for Thomas to sign the timing light contract which would enable us to have the use of MMR's timing light for a cost of \$25 per show, as long as MHA can get the light back up to Mariposa for their shows. Motion accepted and moved.

Discussion of Farmers Ins listing MHA as 2nd mortgagee on Skinner policy. Conley stated that this might be an additional insured endorsement instead. C.Suggs to call Farmers and check it out.

Discussion of MHA property/equipment property not leaving the grounds. After discussion Motion was made by McCulloch and seconded by Camp that NO MHA equipment or property is to leave the grounds without prior Board approval.

Discussion of MHA to be possibly used for ACTRA ropings. Thomas has spoken with Tommy Lee of Tommy Lee Livestock from Nevada about using our facility for weekly summer ropings, Wednesday nites and either Saturday or Sundays. Thomas stated that Lee would have cattle here, responsible for feeding the cattle and would have a man here to take care of the cattle and to run the ropings, but that Thomas told him that we do not have hook ups so they man couldn't camp here and other arrangements would need to be made for that. Board inquired as to: How many cattle would be housed here? How many ropings? When would they start? Would they have a plan to move cattle out (possible build a holding pen) for when we have Nor Cal Rodeo or another cattle events come in? Would they allow us to use their cattle for approximately 10 club events (ie sorting...)? Do they have \$2 million in insurance? Is this a cattle swap deal or will we be getting some rent? We would need some sort of deposit as what if they committed to do a roping, didn't give us a deposit and they cancelled and we could had booked the venue with another organization and we miss out on that opportunity and income. We would not agree to have the cook shack open. Lastly the Board thinks that Lee should make an appearance with his proposal to the board. Thomas to discuss with Lee and report back.

Calendar of Events for 2011 season: Changes: We will not have High School Rodeo on May 7th so that will be a Gymkhana. **Added:** Extreme Cowboy Race Clinic/Play Days for Club Members on March 19th and April 23rd from 10am-3pm and an Extreme Cowboy Race Open event on May 14th from 9am – 3pm. It was decided not to add the sortings to

the calendar until after we get a report back from Tommy Lee Livestock and that if the ropings work out then we would fit our sortings into the calendar.

Event Chairs:

Gymkhana: McCulloch presented changes to the Gymkhana rule book and reasonings for the changes. Motion was made by Kiil and seconded by Camp to accept the changes as presented. Motion moved and accepted. Friesen stated that the arena is still to wet and if we get rain between now and the first Gymkhana it may need to be cancelled.

Old Business

Interview on Radio Merced (Judy Prine): Explained that this was left over from last summer. Prine had agreed to do this with Camp, but because of scheduling conflicts it never occurred. It was agreed that this is important publicity and that we should follow up on getting this done, but it was also suggested that it be removed from future agendas. Conley remarked that all radio stations and newspapers much announce non profits free of charge. Thomas asked for people to email him radio stations and he will contact them about announcements.

Golden Valley possible rental of grounds: Thomas stated that they contacted him; A. Kiil stated that they contacted him. No response back. A. Kiil to follow up.

Sign at end of road: C.Suggs spoke with Merced County Planning and a sign at the end of the road would be considered an off site sign and not allowed....however they would allow a temporary event sign such as a sandwich board. This then prompted discussion from Thomas and Krogh about Sign Place being our "go to" sign place for our sponsor signs \$105 for standard sign size. Thomas passed out sign sponsorship forms which listed costs for rental space in the arena for an annual basis.

Scholarships: Camp reported that the information is out there for students to apply

Sharing and Open Discussion

Conley requested permission from the board to gather information about possibly renting/leasing 5 acres for 20 years for a solar field. Several board members expressed interest in more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm