

ECC Meeting Minutes – 01/08/06  
**EAST COURSE COMBINE MEETING**  
**Sunday January 8, 2006 (Location: The Pepper Tree Cafe)**

ECC President Lolo Ramirez called the meeting to order at 15:28.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

1. Bonita
2. Freeway
3. La Puente
4. San Gabriel Valley
5. Santa Anita

Absent:

1. Pomona
2. Palm Springs
3. WFI

WFI President Ron Boyer contacted Lolo Ramirez by email and stated that their club was leaving the ECC for the 395. The ECC accepted their notice to leave the Combine.

**MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING:** Kristin Swift-Ramirez contacted the ECC and offered to step in as the Recording Secretary for the remainder of the term, the ECC accepted. Kristin read the meeting minutes from the 09/24/05 meeting. Sonny Cangiarella made a motion to accept the minutes with a second from Charlie Cathel and the motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Kathy Bagu read the financial report. Kathy reported a balance of \$2006.51 in the combine account as of 09/24/05. The report is as follows:

Balance from 09/24/05	\$ 2,006.51
Deposits:	
Young Bird Shipping Fees	\$11,018.00
Interest from Checking	\$ 2.60
Expenses:	
Steve Whitmer – Brakes	\$ (486.68)
Kristin Ramirez- St. of CA, Haulers Dues,	\$ (134.28)
Race Sec. Supplies	
Hector – Hauling YB05	\$ (5,600.00)
Hector – Extra Insurance for Trailer	\$ (173.75)
Lolo Ramirez – Race Sec. Fee	\$ (600.00)
Charlie Ettensperger – Trailer Storage Rent	\$ (300.00)
Sonny Cangiarella – Ad & Trailer Tire	\$ (164.00)
Glendora Florist – John Weldon	\$ (76.31)
Oct./Nov. Bank Charge	\$ (32.00)
Balance in Account:	\$ 5,460.54

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Sonny Cangiarella with a second from Charlie Ettensperger. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**RACE SECRETARY:**

Lolo thanked all those who played a very important part in the success of the YB05 season. He named Hector, Sonny, Kathy, & Kristin as key people who made the YB05 season run so smoothly. Kristin went on to thank the club Race Secretaries for their part in getting their jobs done in a timely manner.

Charlie Ettensperger raised an issue in regards to the GPS. He stated that GPS coordinates from clock to the WinSpeed program didn't match. He also brought up that the Aguila station didn't match. Lolo informed Charlie that the Aguila race station had been changed this year and we used a different location for release. There was an issue with the Santa Anita database in regards to the Aguila station, but it was resolved by Kristin and the SA Club. The issue regarding the difference in coordinates from clocks to WinSpeed is due to a difference in computer programs and is not a concern of the combine. The coordinates from WinSpeed is what the ECC recognizes and if any ECC member disputes their current GPS coordinates they should petition the Combine to have a new reading taken. Kristin stated that she would try to contact Harry Hill from the AU to find out if there is any further information on this matter that combine should be concerned about.

## **2006 OLD BIRD SCHEDULE**

The 2006 Old Bird schedule is as follows:

2/26/06 Hayfield  
3/05/06 Chuckwalla  
3/12/06 Ehrenberg  
3/19/06 Hope  
3/26/06 Tonapah  
4/02/06 Prescott  
4/08/06 Ehrenberg  
4/09/06 Winslow  
4/16/06 No Race Easter  
4/22/06 Wickenburg  
4/23/06 Holbrook  
4/30/06 St. John's

A discussion began in regards to cost for the upcoming OB06 season. Club estimates for the OB06 season are as follows: BON-12, FWY-3, LAP-2, POM-7, PS-4, SA-8, SGV-0 for an ESTIMATED total of 36 lofts.

Due to the high costs with less fliers during OB, it was discussed that a revised schedule be considered. Sonny Cangiarella proposed a schedule and after discussion the Combine came up with the following schedule to help reduce costs. Representatives are to go back to their clubs and discuss this schedule. Sonny or Kristin would have a price breakdown emailed to clubs by Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 for clubs to consider.

Revised Schedule:  
3/05/06 Chuckwalla Trainer (hailed by Bonita)  
3/13/06 Ehrenberg  
3/19/06 Hope  
3/26/06 Aguila  
4/02/06 Wickenburg  
4/08/06 Ehrenberg  
4/09/06 Winslow  
4/16/06 No Race Easter  
4/22/06 Holbrook

There was discussion on what costs would be incurred in addition to the haulers fees, they are as follows: 4 Overnights at a total of \$300, Race Secretary Fee at \$700, Trophy Fund at \$50/each or \$350. The combine is trying to keep the cost around \$250/loft. Kathy Bagu made a motion to accept the revised schedule with a second from Vito Frankini and the motion passed.

Lolo Ramirez did speak with Hector Morales and Hector is interested in considering a proposal for hauling the OB06. Discussions on costs were tabled until a price proposal was made and presented to representatives later in the week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LOFTS/TEAMS:**

Sonny Cangiarella made a motion that from this point on we consider teams as "Lofts" only and not as "Lofts/Teams". The WinSpeed program only recognizes lofts and it causes a lot of confusion plus added work for the Race Secretary where reports are concerned. For example, if a club has 10 lofts and 15 teams it would be reported as 15 lofts, there is no need to report the numbers separately. Edwin Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **AGUILA A/B:**

Sonny Cangiarella made a motion to permanently change the Aguila release station to the airport, which is the current "Aguila A" release station in WinSpeed instead of the old release point which is "Aguila B". The motion was seconded by Charlie Cathel and was passed unanimously.

**TRAILER UPDATE:**

Sonny Cangiarella stated the following in regards to the issues of the trailer before the OB06 season begins.

1. Crates are not cleaned – Clubs should make sure to clean all crates in their possession BEFORE the first race so clean crates will be traded out for the existing dirty crates.
2. Water tanks need to be flushed with chemical, water & vinagar.
3. Trays need to be cleaned
4. Sonny stated he wanted to get valves placed on the tanks so when the hauler returns the trailer to storage after a race he can open the valves and completely empty the water tanks after each race.

Sonny would contact Dave Bagu to discuss these issues and to schedule when the work could be done. Sonny will have an update by the next meeting.

Sonny brought up that he would like to see the Combine invest in a camcorder for the trailer to be used by the hauler. The hauler would be able to film the race station, condition of trailer and film the release of the birds. Sonny would then post the video on the ECC website. Sonny would look into the cost and report back to the Combine.

Sonny stated that there is still one crate currently on the trailer that has NO new crate bottom. Charlie Ettensperger also stated that SA was short one new crate bottom. Clubs were asked if they had any extra crate bottoms and all stated no. Clubs need to check for any extra crate bottoms since there were and extra set made and report any finds back to the Combine.

Keys for the trailer were discussed. Sonny reported that another set needed to be made for the trailer. Ron Boyer currently has a set of keys that he obtained from Steve Whitmer, the old ECC VP. Sonny would try to arrange to get the keys from Ron.

**TRAILER STORAGE:**

Kristin addressed the issue of the storage of the trailer during OB06 and after. Charlie Ettensperger agreed that the current location at his place was OK.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

The next meeting for the ECC was set for February 5th, 2006 at 15:00. The location of the meeting will be at The Pepper Tree Café. Please contact Lolo Ramirez with any topics or issues that your clubs want discussed at the Combine level. This meeting is tentatively set, if all items in regards to OB06 can be resolved by club representatives before this date and no new issues arise, then the meeting will be cancelled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sonny Cangiarella with a second by Edwin Rodriguez. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 17:15.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristin Swift-Ramirez/ECC Recording Secretary