

East course combine

Meeting minutes June 20, 2020

All clubs' representatives in attendance: Bonita, WEF, La Puente, Ric, WOC

The Treasurer reported cash in bank of \$11, 679

Officers for current year:

President, Amador Larios,

Vp, open, Mike smith resigned

Race secretary, (see below for new Method of filling this position)

Recording Secretary, Dan Considine

Trailer committee: Franco, Eric

Old Minutes read and accepted

It was reported that the trailer is again in need of significant repairs, especially new tires and battery. The representatives authorized the trailer committee to do an evaluation and get estimates on whatever repairs are necessary and report on/ or before the next meeting.

Also, it was agreed that we needed a permanent place to store the trailer where it will be looked after. It was voted that we will pay a member \$50 per month to store it for us. It was agreed that this was much less than the cost of the professional storage lots. The previous member that has stored the trailer for free was offered free shipping this year by the members in general conversation. This seemed to be agreed up as only fair to that member.

It was also agreed That since no one person was willing to take the job as race secretary, the job will rotate to the race secretaries of each club every week. The combine president will handle a random drawing to pick the rotation of the job.

The combine president requested that all clubs submit a roster of their members at the next meeting. In addition he asked that they provide their best estimate of the number of young and old bird teams they expect to fly this year.

There was discussion about having a money race open to all members this season. Nothing specific was agreed upon but in general it was expected that birds would be nominated before the first race and a payment of something like \$25 to \$50 paid per bird. Later it is expected that someone will make a formal proposal on this matter.

Since Sonny is no longer racing with our combine it was agreed that Relys Moreira would take over the combine website and keep it updated in the future.

The Bonita club presented a possible race schedule for consideration that Combined old bird and young birds. Because it was anticipated that initially there would be too many birds to fit our on combine trailer plus the Bonita trailer, this schedule started with 5 young bird races and on the 6th race old birds would be added. Starting on the 6th race we could employ Clay McBeth to begin hauling the increased

number of birds. This race schedule contemplated that there would be 4 races in January/Feb when all birds would be considered old birds. Thus there would be 13 races. This schedule allows us to do away with the normal old bird season which would start normally in Feb or March.

After some discussion the representatives rejected this proposal and generally agreed that we would race both old and young together from the first race on in the usual 8 race schedule. They would be on separate race sheets and released 30 minutes apart from the same location. The only problem with this proposal is that there would probably have to be a reduced limit on the number of birds per team to fit on the two trailers. Members seemed to be willing to reduce the limit if necessary.

At this meeting Each club was asked to estimate the number of teams they might flight just to get an idea of what we were dealing with. The estimate came to 62 teams of young birds and 42 teams of old birds. If you assume an average of 22 birds per team, this means we need space for 2280 birds. Each club was asked to get a firm number by the next meeting so a determination could be made about limit changes. Just in general, the combine crates available on the two trailers is 70 crates. So, if you assume that we ship 25 birds per crate we can only hold 1750 birds. This might imply a limit of about 17 birds max per team. This calculation was not made at the meeting so it is undetermined whether the combine members will accept such a low limit when our previous limit was 30 per team.

Because the Bonita schedule contemplated additional races some members began discussing the passivity of adding perhaps 3 more races to our usual 8 race schedule and starting in late September rather than mid-October. It was not discussed what effect this would have on the birds starting during a hotter month and being also subject to the molt that might not be finished for many birds. Additionally, it was not discussed what additional losses would be likely, meaning there might be a few birds left by the time we get to the last races of the season. This seems to happen to us in old birds and often the last race ends up being cancelled. A review of the combine race reports for young birds going back 10 years shows that we have never had more than 8 races in a season.

The Palm Springs club sent a representative to ask that we reconsider admitting that club back into membership and participation on the race sheet. They had been voted out of the combine in 2015 because it was determined that they did not meet the geographic limits that our members considered reasonable. The representative stated that he would appeal to the AU if we did not admit them voluntarily. We agreed to vote on admission at our next meeting.

Dan Considine advised that a new driver has made himself available for us this year. He is experienced and previously hauled for the 395 concourse. His only requirements are that he be paid \$1.60 per mile door to door and that we commit to having him haul all of our races to make it worth his while. He can also store the trailer in his yard between races. This would make Armando our secondary driver who would drop off once we no longer needed the Bonita trailer.

Two long time flyers died this year: Lyle Loomis of our combine and Leonard Lee of the 395. Both were dedicated and well-respected flyers.

~~The next meeting was set for July 12, Sunday.~~ Then changed later to July 11, Saturday, 10 am