

EAST COURSE COMBINE Minutes of meeting

Sunday, January 4, at Highpoint pigeon supply, Ontario

The meeting was called to order by President Ramon Velasquez, at approximately 10:20 am. The club representatives in attendance were: Bonita, La Puente, Palm Springs, IEIC, RIC and WEF.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read but are also posted on our internet site.

Financial report: Treasurer Lyle Loomis reported that the cash balance was \$10,078, which is an increase of about \$5,500 from our last report. This represents a profit to build up our account for future uses.

New Business:

Three old bird schedules were presented for discussion, RIC, Bonita & LAP. The Bonita club presented one for 8 races ending along the 40 highway through flagstaff and LAP proposed one for 10 races along the 10 freeway through Phoenix. Dan considine suggested that we fly a shorter schedule in this first ob season as an expanded combine to keep the price down and ensure that we have a successful season with fewer losses. All other clubs voted for the LAP 10 race schedule so that was approved. The first race date will be March 1 and the last may 2, 2015.

The clubs were surveyed as to how many teams each might fly the total was 55, itemized as follows:

Bonita 15, La Puente 8, Wef 16, ieic 5, ric 7 and palm springs 4.

Based on this number of flyers it was determined that each team of 30 would cost \$200, the same as the charge for young bird season. However, it was understood that this projection was "at cost" and there would be no profit as we had in the yb season. Therefore if we don't get the 55 teams projected, we will have a loss for the season. Most members seemed to feel that that was okay and it was not unusual for the young bird season to subsidize old birds to some extent to keep the prices charged at reasonable level.

Dan considine suggested we consider having a half team price for those small flyers with 15 or fewer birds but there were no other votes for the idea.

Relys Moreira has been doing the computer work for the combine for the past 2 seasons but his work schedule does not permit him to continue. The president surveyed the members in attendance to see who would be willing to take over the job for this old bird season. Sonny C was the only member expressing a willingness to take the job and the reps present awarded him the position. At our annual meeting before the next young bird season we will have another vote for this position along with those for new combine officers.

The combine trailer has an out-of-alignment problem with the frame which occurred some years ago when the trailer spun out on the road. Sonny reported that the cost to fix this was estimated at about \$5,000 and it wasn't worth it to fix. A new trailer needs to be considered at some point in the future. However, he indicated that the problem could be mitigated by putting on new and better tires on the side of the trailer that tends to wear out each season because of the alignment problem. The reps authorized the VP Hector Morales, to take the trailer in and put on the new tires required. He was also authorized to replace one of the water pumps if that was necessary also.

After the young bird season the club sent the combine trailer around to various clubs to collect excess crates. Along the way home the driver was ticketed because the trailer was wobbling. This was not the fault of the

driver but was due to the alinement problem of the trailer. Therefore the reps voted to pay the cost of the ticket the driver gets since he is already penalized enough by getting a moving violation on his driving record.

Dan Considine spoke to Armando Zamora before the meeting about hauling the races for us this season as he has done in prior young bird seasons. Armando indicated that he would be willing to haul but he did not make a fee proposal because he thought there would be another meeting at which he would attend to do that. He was paid \$1.35 per mile the last time he hauled and he had to pay for his own gas and the extra insurance that is required during the season. Dan Considine asked the combine president to contact him and discuss the race schedule which is now 10 races instead of the usual 8 and to review that with him and confirm the fees he will charge.

The Bonita club provided the combine reps a memo in advance of the meeting analyzing the history of the geographical advantage that the Palm Springs club has in racing old birds in the ECC combine. In the last two seasons this club participated in the old bird races (2005 and 2007) they flew less than 10% of the birds but won 50% of the races. The advantages they have are: being 100 miles shorter than the lofts on the long end, (1000 fewer miles over a 10 race season is a significant advantage) not having to cross the often hazardous Cabazon pass, not having to face different climate conditions on the other side of that pass, and having their birds on the trailer for 5 hours less than the La Puente club as pickups are made. History shows that on long races PS, with a 2 hour advantage, is more likely to get day birds as compared to long end lofts, especially in slower races. Bonita feels that the majority of lofts in the combine, (more than 50) are being disadvantaged by this small club with only about 5 members, and many other ECC members have complained about it over the years. To correct this unfairness to the majority of our growing combine, the Bonita club simply proposed that the PS results not be reported on the combine race sheet but only on their club race sheet. There was no intention to stop them from flying with the combine or to eliminate them from membership. This issue was put to a vote and all clubs present except Bonita voted to keep PS on the combine race sheet in spite of the geographical and statistical winning advantage they have.

The IEIC club in Perris asked for a pickup at its club location and the members voted against it because there are too few members and birds to justify a pickup in this out of the way location. This was also the case in young birds. Instead they were asked to consider shipping with another club or bring their birds to a spot along the freeway that would be convenient to the driver. This club will have a meeting to consider what to do and will advise the race secretary.

Combine race diplomas and trophies were distributed by the race sec at this meeting for distribution by the various club secretaries.

Richard Ocegüera is trying to arrange a combine banquet this year and proposed a buffet restaurant called Luxe located in Ontario. There were many dates proposed and with each someone had a conflict. The dates being considered are Feb 8 or Feb 15, both Sundays. The clubs must get a head count from their members and advise Richard of how many will attend. Combine and club awards will be handed out at that time.

Next Meeting:

No date was set for our next meeting

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45.

Minutes taken by: Dan Considine, Recording Secretary

