



## Willow Dog Musher's Association

*It is the mission of the WILLOW DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION to protect and preserve the dog mushers' historical way of life today, tomorrow, and for future generations.*

### Monthly Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 – 7 PM

- A. Call To Order - Chris called the meeting to order at 7pm
- B. Establish Quorum - Quorum was established Board Members Chris, Marianne, Sue, Jenny, Josh, Tracey and membership were present
- C. Agenda Approval - Jenn Evans made the motion to approve the current agenda and minutes from 4/27. Sue Morgan seconded the motion. Membership was in favor – Agenda and Minutes were approved. Minutes from a board meeting on 5/11 were also reviewed at this time.
- D. Guest Presentations - Officer Phillips was unable to attend this evening's meeting due to being short staffed. Chris Stitt will address this presentation during Emergency Preparedness later on the agenda.
- E. Officer's Reports
  - 1. Members At Large - No reports at this time
  - 2. Secretary - - No report at this time
  - 3. Treasurer - See attached
  - 4. Vice President - Chris will report during committee/Special Groups
  - 5. President – Not in attendance
- F. Committee/Special Groups, Reports:
  - Activities/Special Events/Symposium-Jenny
    - Lance Mackey has agreed to be the Key Note Speaker and possibly participate as a panel member. His fee is \$1000 and will include accommodations, food, a free booth and the movie The Great Alone will be 250\$ to show.
    - Jenn will contact him back to verify all this info. He will talk at the start of the movie. Still going to talk to Vern about accommodations. Scott Jansen will sponsor Symposium for \$2000.00. A check from Mr. Jansen should be coming to the mailbox.
    - Someone from Schlossers – Sled Dog Systems will do sled design and repair group.
    - Sunday will be hands on with dogs on premise.
    - Symposium committee will meet to delegate people to handle vendors, gear swap, etc.
    - Chuck Cubbison asked about other local clubs coming. Will there be a fee for them coming.
    - There will be comp booths for several groups. Jenn will look into seeing how to handle the other mushing clubs. It will be a question to discuss as part of the committee. Mr. Cubbison asked if there was a set fee. Last year's outside vendor was 25/35 - inside 35/65 . Vendors only on Saturday.

#### Emergency Preparedness

Chris – Due to staffing, the AK State Trooper was unable to attend this evening. After discussing what we can do to help during an evacuation, Chris was told that the troopers cannot physically restrain you from going through their barricade and they will not arrest you. Several people wanted to get through last year and some people insisted on going through - Trooper response was to ask for next of kin and their phone number.

Chuck Cubbison discussed how he came up last year and was backed up in traffic. Someone a few cars ahead with a dog truck wasn't allowed in. He came to WCC and there was no one here. Carrie Smolden

was at WCC with Leos dogs. She said he could go with them. All they were asked by Troopers at this time was where they were going. They were let through without an issue. Chris stated that maybe there is more credibility if you are coming in with a dog truck. Community center or secondary site as a place to get into a dog truck to go help could be set up as a meeting place.

Sue heard they were blocking the road so her husband didn't come up. The question came up as to what if there were miles of traffic? What if the fire is on a Friday afternoon with miles of traffic? How to prove if you live up there or a physical address?

Depends on where you are trying to go through (Chuck)

JP was led in with a trooper to get into Willow from the north bound side.

JP was able to get hold of someone to request them.

It was an informal ad hoc... nothing about the situation that was consistent.

Carrie said it depended on who you talked to and how you talked to them.

JP didn't feel like it was smart to just take off and go through the barricade.

Chuck – you could go through but not all the way.

The trooper will not tell everyone in the line up to go through.

Chuck – mushers need to know that it appears if you are going to a specific location,,, if you are in a dog truck... last resort that you're going anyway.

Jenn – we could be proactive and have a little class about that. Terry said she lost a dog. The way people loaded dogs were all the way in. Steve parked on the road and brought dogs down. Marilyn pulled dog truck in ... Loaded and went. People took gear and went. She took care of dogs that were dropping. Having a magnet board was helpful. She then knew she could leave. Jenn asked JP if it was still ok to use Underdog. JP said yes. Scott has offered his location as well. Underdog was and is a designated point. Chuck noted that Underdog and Martin Buser's Happy Trials are a bit more out of sight

Group agreed that Emergency Preparedness is something we need to continually revisit. We should get a list of locations. Creating a training video and being able to access it through the website was discussed. Tracey suggested that if someone has an evacuation plan already in place and can act it out this could be a good training video.

Jenn mentioned if we did this and had some sort of card that it might help. Tracey mentioned Jennifer Hawkes has worked on a bunch of instructional videos.

More ideas to come and focus on a video to come possibly.

#### Racing Research Committee-Chris

Chris – looking like it's good for 9 small races for Jrs on Saturdays culminating with WWC. Waco will cover all 9 races as part of the winter carnival. Roni talked to Chris about them possibly putting those days. Sue will check with those days and with insurance. There will also be WDMA insurance. Jenn talked to Roni... Roni was going to look into it. She has info but hasn't been able to pass it on to Jenn yet.

There is community interest in a 35-40 mile race in the community

Chris talked about possibly reviving the Don Bowers 300 mile race. Chris talked about bringing in lots of help grooming and trail crews. Terry mentioned a friend with gps coordinates of a property outside Skwenta with a lake and she would be willing to use the property.

Don Bowers was not associated with WACO. It was on the carnival weekend.

JP said you could make the Earl Norris longer if the club wanted too .

JP said the Earl Norris belongs to the WDMA Club as of last year. JP said they are no longer primaries involved with the race. JP said if we wanted to take that in another direction you certainly could.

Junior Races could be nine weeks - 1, 2 and 3 dogs - 1 100 yards 2 dog ½ around lake 3 dogs one time around the lakes. Format would be the same as carnival but maybe do it by age. Minimum possibly at 5 years.

Carrie will forward info she received from ASDRA about starting a junior club.

Chris contacted insurance about children's races. They want dates of the races not ages- 9 races and 35 or 40 miler...quote was for 295.94 for all events. Spectators only. No participants are not covered. That's why you have a waiver. 30 spectators per event.

Chris talked about board insurance in case something happened with the child and they wanted to sue. Eventhelper .com provided the quote. Roni will try to cover use of the lake and other requirements with WACO. Chris asked Sue to speak to Roni.

Chris will verify deductibles and coverage. She believes 100,000 per incident up to 200,000 settlement and 1000.00 deductible.

Carrie asked if it specifically if it covers dog bites.

Possibly look up coverage to \$1,000,000

Carrie asked about number of events.

Jenn and Chris 5 races with a 6 on carnival

Carrie spoke about number of races in conflict with parents that may be races.

Chris said that she has input that parents want races in this community. Races might conflict but these families are not racing

Carrie asked if there will be enough kids.

Chris talked about that this can be organized and she has the help if needed and she can pull in enough of people.

Jenn said that these kids may not be from mushing families. Dates are Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Put it on and see what the response is. Dates are just being thrown around.

Chris – if we drop it down it would be cheaper. Carrie wanted to know if we tack one on is there an availability of doing a rider at a later date.

Chris will find out if dates can be changed due to weather or adding on. Check on what it will cost to up the coverage.

Rudy had to leave but quickly reported that The Sockeye Fire remembrance was looking for a vendor table for WDMA and having people sign up.

## G. Unfinished Business

### 1. Website/Social Media – Brief Update

Photos are sent in – Jennifer needs board member bios asap.

Facebook site – Chris – Contacted Donna – Asked about Facebook –Donna is not giving up the page. She is willing to let it go through willow dog mushers. Bob sexton is currently an editor on her page. She sees no reason why we can't work with her.

We need to do something soon. Donna has her check in the mail. She is a member and she is willing to bring the page back to the site. Everything she puts on there is dog related.

JP – one of the issues is that she wanted to be running ads and things that were not relevant to the club. Willow Dog Mushers Association could add her as editor.

She won't give her page up. She forced us and would not relinquish control. When she got mad she kicked us all off.

Chuck asked if we could talk to Facebook.

JP wanted to bring up that he was kicked to the curb. Pains were taken to make sure that all of the log ins and passwords were secured so that someone getting pissed off, dying or moving could not take off with them. Club email should not be held hostage by anyone person.

People need to like our page.

2. Letter regarding the cabin at the WCC

Chris read the letter – see attached –

Chris talked about the mayor letter. Our letter will be sent.

Jenn mentioned she talked to Vern about using the cabin for symposium. We should have no problem using it for symposium according to Vern.

3. June 18 – Sockeye Fire Anniversary Event at WCC

Jenn, Terry Chris and Tracey said they would try to organize a booth. The meeting was tonight. Maybe we could touch base with Jaime West who was at the meeting.

4. T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Design/Merchandise

The shirt lady can order 2 different colors Hoodies more than 35 – 23.00 no shipping a piece with front and back emblems. Any color we wanted. 50/50. Shirt lady also does t-shirts will check with her. Last frontier embroidery is the embroiderer. Beanies – could be embroidered on the front. 50 with 10% discount 256.50 - Will get a sample. Jenn will connect with Chris and Chris will contact them. Both will pay for booths at symposium.

5. Insurance – Insurance was talked out already.

6. October 1 and 2 – Symposium Committee Formation - committee meeting will be – and then delegate – symposium meeting will be headed up by Chris. Josh volunteered to create a registration form

H. New Business – no new business noted at this time.

I. Announcements Terry will try the website out to pay membership when PayPal is up...Sue will open a new PayPal account. Chris will talk with Bob about the website.

There is dog food in the storage unit.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WDMA – have a cake celebrating this at the WDMA Symposium.

Fort MacMurray Donation – Marianne will email Sue the information.

If there are any ideas for the Iditarod/Quest panel please let us know.

Women of the Iditarod – Chris asked if JP if he could check with lisbet, ([lisbet@mac.com](mailto:lisbet@mac.com)) JP said to contact her directly.

J. Adjournment Meeting – Chris called the meeting to adjourn at 8:25 pm. The motion was made by Jenn Evans and seconded by Terry Morache. Motion passed unanimously.

