Maine Highlands Sled Dog Club Fall Meeting

November 9, 2014

Augusta, Maine

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| **Item** | **Notes** | **Actions/Status** |
| Welcome & Call to Order by Jill Carter | Bill Green and reporter present from one of the local papers were present today putting together stories about the sport of mushing and dryland rig racing. It appears there will be good competition this coming race season. | See Bill Green’s Maine video clip at:  <http://www.wcsh6.com/media/cinematic/video/18996083/dogs-train-for-winter/>  Kennebec journal article:  http://www.centralmaine.com/2014/11/09/mushers-race-at-viles-arboretum-on-wheels/ |
| Secretary report | Read by Terry | Approved and accepted |
| Treasurers Report | Read by Julie White | $6361.96 ($1000 for animal fund-$200 for Franklin County animal shelter donation for the care of several rescued sled dogs) |
| Animal Welfare Report | Lindy | $200 donation $200 donation assisted with care of 6 dogs seized from owner. Three are still up for adoption. |
| Correspondence Report | NA |  |
| Old Business | 1. Discussion of race awards-club merchandise vs brass and plaques. 2. Review of summer cook out and auction and Basics and Beyond | 1. Pros and cons for both ways. Motion made to keep brass and utilize merchandise and brass at last race of the season. Motion made and passed. 2. Fun had by all. Summer cookout was well attended. Julie and Elaine did an amazing job at coordinating food for Basics and beyond but there is potential that someone else might be called upon to handle this aspect next year. 15 teams participated in Basics and Beyond from as far away as Maryland and New York. Overall profit was $100. Next year registration will be $75 per team which will include handler, driver, membership and food. Slots will be available for 16 teams. Sign up can begin anytime. |
| Race Committee Update | Joint races with DESDC | Both clubs need to provide insurance. Club treasurer from each club needs to be present with list of active members. There will be a 50/50 sharing of expenses and profit. |
| Old Business |  |  |
| New Business | 1. Recreation Class and change in bylaws 2. Lifetime Member Nomination 3. Presentation of Allan Thomas Sportsmanship Award 4. Presentation of the Leonhard Seppala Award 5. Lead Dog Challenge Winner 6. Upcoming racing season schedule for MHSDC-Please have all registration to Elaine Thomas by Thursday before the race.   7. Cancellation of Races | 1. Discussed a change to the by laws regarding the definition of recreation class. You can read the proposal on the club website, but here is a summary. Recreation class will include sled, ski, bike, rig and canicross. The Race Marshall can make a decision at a given race to include something else. The class will be limited to one or two dogs, and will not exceed one mile. Motion made then amended to include skijoring-passed as written on club website.  2. Motion made and passed to make Julie White a lifetime club member.  3. Carter Quist was given the Alan Thomas Sportsmanship Award, and his dad Kevin looked pretty proud accepting it on his behalf. Way to go Carter!  4. The Leonhard Seppala award went to Dave and Darlene Farr. You can read their nomination proposal on the club website to find out why this couple is so deserving of this award.  5. Not surprisingly, Neil Fisher and Olive were the winners of the Lead Dog Challenge, completing the course without any errors in the fastest time! They were awarded the prize package from Capetown Carts which included a 6 foot bungee, 2 harnesses and a canicross belt. The Winter Lead Dog Challenge will be held at the Viles Arboretum race on February 22.  6.  - Allan Thomas Memorial race, Garland, January 10  -Milo, January 17  -Brownville KI and Beyond, January 31, race start 10am (Reminder Elaine does not take registrations for Brownville race). Brownville race is coordinated in with town’s festivities-see poster on website. There will be 20 and 30 mile race options as well as the fun run option for training or pleasure.  -Exeter-2 day race with DESDC, February 14 & 15  -Viles Arboretum, Augusta, February 22  7. Motion made by Elaine Thomas to not change venue or try to reschedule an event if cancelled. Motion denied. |
| Positive thoughts |  | 1. Thanks to Kevin and crew for setting up for the rig race and fall meeting 2. Fall meeting attendance is fantastic with several new members present |
| Other |  | \*Elaine is seeking individuals to learn how to time races  \*Larry Schneider wants to remind everyone to change their date of birth on facebook as it can lead to security issues in other matters.  \*Larry Schneider requests consideration for members who don’t actually ride on the sleds when longer trails or sledding spots are selected so members may get there with another mode of transportation (and keep in mind handicap accessible options).  \*Other race dates:  Saturday, January 24, 2015  All day  DESDC Musher's Bowl  Sunday, January 25, 2015  All day  Musher's Bowl  Saturday, February 7, 2015  All day  DESDC Farmington Frolic  Sunday, February 8, 2015  All day  Farmington Frolic  **Can-Am Crown races will start on Saturday, February 28, 2015.**  The 2015 Plum Creek  Wilderness Sled Dog Race  will be held on  Saturday, February 7, 2015  The 2015 Irving Woodlands 100 and Mad Bomber 30 is a go!! Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 24th! $5,000 purse for the 100 with a $150 entry fee and $2,500 for the 30 with $100 entry fee. Sign up deadline is January 1st. |
| Adjournment |  |  |