

## 2009 United States Rottweiler Club General Board Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, May 7, 2009, 10:00 am Middletown, NY**

**Quorum for this meeting is 19 members, including 2 officers**

**IA. Call to Order by Wayne Simonovich at 10:15 am.**

### **IB. Seating of Delegates**

#### **Executive Board**

President- Wayne Simonovich	Present
Vice President- Mike Lewis	Present
Secretary- Pam Scheda	Present
Treasurer- Janey Greenlee	Absent
Admin of Records- Samantha Canuso	Present
Registrar- Paula Rebstad	Present
Head Breed Warden Erika Butler	Absent
Membership Liz Crawley	Absent
Director at Large-	Present
NW RD- Lucy Ang	Absent
SW RD- Jim Laubmeirer	Absent
NC RD- Dan Williams	Present
SC RD- Oscar Vera	Present
NE RD- Steven Canuso	Present
SE RD- Bryan Vice	Absent

#### **Club Delegates**

Bay Area Rottweiler Klub	Present
Central Ohio Rottweiler Club	Absent
Foothills Working Rottweiler Club	Present
Victoria Rottweiler Club	Present (Removed from Standing)
Wisconsin Rottweiler & Working Dog Association	Present
Wine Country Working Rottweiler Club	Present
Inland Empire Rottweiler Club	Present
Hudson Valley Rottweiler & Sch Klub	Present
Phoenix Rottweiler Club	Absent
Pocono Area Rottweiler Club	Provisional
Tucson Rottweiler Club	Absent
Rottweiler Club of Connecticut	Present
Southern PA Area Rottweiler Klub	Present
Bluegrass Working Rottweiler Club	Absent
Heartland Rottweiler Klub	Present
Central Florida Rottweiler Klub	Present
Praterstrasse Working Rottweiler Club	Present
Old Dominion Rottweiler Klub	Present
Smky Mt. Working Rottweiler Klub	Absent
Mid-Michigan Rottweiler Klub	Present

### **II. Bylaw Changes**

No bylaw changes were received

### **III. Acceptance of Minutes and Mail Ballots:**

- 2008 General Board Meeting minutes accepted without discussion. Motion by Chuck Wilson. Seconded by Andy Devlin.

- 2008 Executive Board Meeting minutes accepted without discussion. Motion by Chuck Wilson, Seconded by Andy Devlin.

- Ballots #16-08 thru #41-08: motion to accept by Chuck Wilson, Seconded by Andy Devlin. No discussion. Motion Passed.
- Ballots #42-08 thru #14-09: motion to accept by Tony Sajewicz, seconded by Deb Banko. No discussion. Motion passed.

#### **IV. President's Welcome & Report**

Wayne discusses the importance of attending our annual GB and EB meetings. He addresses certain regional problems. He talks about how ballots discussed at length in annual business meetings are rescinded through internet chat rooms. He discussed the importance of doing business eye to eye rather than on the internet. He addresses the overused BOI and the backlog of cases.

1. Wayne addressed Canadian clubs and the current legal exposure of doing business in Canada. Wayne points out that our insurance policy does not provide coverage in Canada. He states though USRC legal counsel, we have been advised not to set up shop in Canada. Wayne points out the Canadians are our friends and offers to help the Canadians with their own national club. Wayne points out that without having any USRC financials, our current corporate status is jeopardized, further necessitating a move to reduce exposure. He believes members outside of the US borders are okay but clubs outside of our borders are not. He also states that AWFDF membership, the impending IFR and possible FCI recognition is another reason to not have clubs outside of our borders.
2. Wayne discusses the difficulties in obtaining USRC financial records. Wayne discusses the need for clean financial statements and tax returns. He discusses the need for a CPA to handle USRC financial affairs.
3. Discusses the importance of using ADRK judges and making that part of the "brand" for USRC. He states the membership to participate is a good rule and uses an analogy about the liability to participants and spectators at the show. He suggests that requiring membership will give people ownership in the organization. He points to the many who do not operate within USRC guidelines, do not contribute to USRC infrastructure but still use USRC shows as promotion of breeding programs. He refers to the ADRK 60 dog limit and having overbooked shows which result in rushed critiques.

#### **V. Officers & Executive Reports:**

##### **Vice President Report- Mike Lewis**

1. Discusses the importance of straightening out the BOI situation. He states the importance of ending the bickering and begin moving forward with the breed. He reiterates much of what Wayne stated about insurance issues and audit problems. He suggest raising the BOI fee even more, from \$150 to \$500, to stop the abuse of the BOI system which is currently being used for personal vendettas. He also states that this is the time to work together in order to surpass the ARC so we can move to a more positive direction for the breed. He also emphasizes the importance of transparency within the organization and bringing people into the organization rather than kicking them out. He also states that each USRC show should have an education booth to promote the USRC and the Rottweiler breed.

##### **Secretary-P. Scheda**

1. No report read.

##### **Treasurer-J. Greenlee**

1. No report submitted by Janey Greenlee. Wayne stated that he knew that as of April 1 we had \$14615.86 in bank. He also stated that there is a paypal balance that has not been moved over yet from Membership income. He stated he did not have it moved over until he knew the balance at the time but there is additional money in the treasury besides the \$14615.86.

##### **Admin of Records-P. Rebstad**

1. 2008 Registrations down by 33% from last 2007. (132 in 2007, 88 in 2008)
2. 30 registrations issued at that rate we'll be at 80-90 this year.
3. One litter registration for 2008 and one for 2009.
4. Two new USRC kennels registered in 2008, but no new breeders.
5. Trying to get Kennel and Breeder listings updated on the USRC website.
6. Trying to update and get breed books up and going and in print by early 2009 or 2010.

7. Reminder to people not to wait until the closing date of a show to register a dog, especially for breed test.
8. Reminder to people to submit all the proper documentation so that registrations are done correctly.

#### **Registrar-S. Canuso**

1. No report given.

#### **Head Breed Warden-E. Butler**

1. "All members of the current breed committee have been active over the past year. The committee has answered questions from USRC members regarding USRC rules and procedures. The committee has been responsive to all complaints and requests for breeding exceptions and all issues are discussed within the committee before any action is taken or response is given. The committee has received reports of accidental breedings from members and handled those reports appropriately. The committee has received requests for approval for breeding exceptions and has applied the appropriate rules for responding to these requests. The committee has also provided researched reports to the Executive Board for matters involving member's breeding practices in accordance with the USRC bylaws and levied fines for violations of breeding practices in accordance with the breeding regulations. The committee has received 3 complaints on breeders, none of which were USRC members. These 3 complaints were regarding problematic dog sales involving parties that are not USRC members but have advertised USRC membership on their websites. The complainants were under the impression that by doing business with a USRC member there was some sort of protection for them in their purchase. All were notified that the parties in question are not members. I have been working with the membership officer to address this issue. Correspondence has been sent requesting parties to remove the membership claim from their website. Most parties have complied with the request however there are still a few parties that have not complied. We will be working to resolve this and force the compliance to our request in the near future. Fortunately there have been no complaints on business dealings involving USRC members."

#### **Membership Director-Liz Crawley**

1. "During the past year we have added one new full member club in the South West region and one new provisional club in the North Central region. Three clubs have been dissolved, one in the North Central, one in Northwest and one in Southwest. All three clubs dissolved due to lack of interest in their area. Two clubs have been moved to provisional in the Southeast and Northeast region for non-payment of dues and missing insurance info respectively. Currently USRC has approximately 456 members in 327 memberships. Because family memberships are only counted by the database as two members we are unable to accurately determine the true number of members. The database would need significant modifications in order to change the initial setup. Under the new membership rules, three individuals with questionable breeding practices attempted to join USRC. All three rescinded their applications and received refunds upon being questioned regarding their current breedings. One individual was rejected by the Membership Committee and the Executive Board. This person has also been issued a refund. We have had several complaints regarding problem breeders claiming USRC membership on their websites and we are working to stop this practice where we can."

#### **Director at Large-C. Wilson**

1. Nothing to report at this time.

## **VI. Regional Director Reports:**

#### **North Central-Dan Williams**

- "This past year has gone by rather quickly and the North Central Region has been very active with respect to shows, membership, breed tests, seminars, trials, and new clubs. May 2008 – The NCRD and NARD both submitted articles to the USRC Magazine. May 2008 – NCRD attended and participated in Schutzhund USA Classification under fellow USRC Teaching Helper A.J. Slaughter III. June 2008 - The NCRD and the NARD attended the HOT Schutzhund Championships (Ohio) to support our lone entrant, Angeli and Griffin. October 2008- The Regional Director attended the 4 day WUSV World Schutzhund Championships (Kentucky) in support of our USRC SW Regional Director, Jim Laubmier who was selected as one of the four helpers. October 2008 – New Club, Mid Michigan Rottweiler and Schutzhund Klub approved as full member club. October 2008 USRC Regional Show and National Schutzhund Championships were hosted by Central Ohio Rottweiler Club. Excellent venue with 16 teams competing. The region was well represented with 5 competitors including 2008 Schutzhund Champions Angeli & Griffin. John Bernard and CORC are to be commended for a job well done. Special thanks to Bill and Liz Crawley from Wisconsin Rottweiler and Working Dog Club for all their help with the event. April

2009 – New Club, Northern Ohio Rottweiler Club approved as provisional club. April 2009 – RD attended Mid Michiga Rottweiler & Schutzhund Klub 3- Day Seminar and Helper Classificatin with David Deleiseguess, National Schutzhund Competitor and Schutzhund USA Teaching Helper. May 2009 – NCRD attended Central Ohio Rottweiler Club BST under Judge Andreas Mueller. Wisconsin Rottweiler and Working Dog club is scheduled for a fall event TBA. Northern Ohio was not on the Agenda and NCRD would ask that they be recognized. On a personal note, as your regional director this past year: I have trained, competed, and titled all 3 of my rottwilers, attempted a BST, helped to train a dog that passed his BST, shown in conformation at our National and Regional Shows, participated in helper tryouts, coordinated our 2008 USRC Schutzhund Championships, attended 4 helper seminars, classifications, received a full UKC- SDA Helper License (excellent rating 188/200) and also classification to be considered for helper work at Schutzhund USA National Events. I have attended all General Board Meetings and phone conferences. I have been appointed to the Helper Committee. I have also completed apprenticeship and have been appointed as UKC- Service Dogs of America Working Performance Judge for all Dog Sports. I am currently assigned to work the 2009 UKC Premier SDA Championship and the 2009 Working Pit Bull Terrier Nationals. During this past year I have become a AKC-CGC Evaluator. The work also continues weekly as Training Director for Mid Michigan Rottweiler & Schutzhund Klub. I look forward to the coming year and the continued growth within the USRC.”

**Southwest-Jim Laubmeier**

- “Best of luck to all the National Sieger Show participants! The SW Region currently has 4 full member clubs with DARK ( Denver Area Rottweiler Club) being our newest club. All clubs have hosted an event in 2008. Inland Empire hosted the 2009 SW Regional Sieger Show in Los Angeles this Spring. We have an active region for the working rottweiler with most clubs hosting Sch trials and BST’s for their annual events. I have submitted my name to the nomination committee to run for another term as SWRD and would like to voice my support for a nominee for SWARD. My fellow Phoenix Rottweiler Club member and club VP, Chad Gloetzner also submitted his name and bio to the nomination committee and is running for SWARD. Chad would be an excellent addition to the leadership team of USRC. Please give him your support. I am not able to attend the 09 National Sieger Show due to undergoing shoulder reconstruction surgery April 29th. Good luck to everyone at the 2009 National Sieger Show and I hope everyone has a safe and successful weekend.”

**South Central-Oscar Vera**  
**Northeast- Steven Canuso**  
**Southeast-Bryan Vice**  
**Northwest-Lucy Ang**

**COPY OF REPORT NOT SUBMITTED FOR MINUTES**  
**NO REPORT SUBMITTED**  
**NO REPORT SUBMITTED**  
**ABSENT**

**VII. Standing (S) & Appointed (A) Committee Reports:**

- **Auditing (S)** Nothing to report.
- **Breed and BST (S)** Report read under Head Breed Warden Report.
- **Nominating (S)** Nothing to report.
- **Schutzhund Advisory (S)** Nothing to report.
- **Show Advisory (S)** Nothing to report.
- **Magazine (A)** Nothing to report. Wayne comments that Magazines are now coming out and Stacie Heaton and Laurie Stupak are active on this committee. He states that the magazine is a lifeline to the membership. Suggestion was made for going paperless with the magazine and making it web base and having an annual hard copy made.
- **Foreign Judge Liaison (A)** Nothing to report.
- **Candidate Review (A)** Nothing to report.
- **Ways and Means (A)** Nothing to report. Wayne speaks on behalf and states that corporate sponsors cannot be secured without financial statements.
- **Judges (A)** Wayne Simonovich eported that Mike Lecuyer is no longer with the Judges program.
- **Historian (A)** Nothing to report.
- **WWW (A)** Wayne Simonovich speaks on behalf of the WWW committee. He suggest that there be a way to remove post without a committee vote so that executives of the club can be defended. He states that it is difficult to communicate with the membership through the forum because of how members conduct themselves on the forum.
- **Inquiry (S)** Backlog of cases have been caught up on. Many of the juvenile issues have been removed because they were not within USRCs ability to legislate. Rewrite bylaws of BOI so that decisions of the BOI cannot be

overturned by the EB because it becomes a waste of the BOI's time. States that the BOI should have more of a judicial role and should have more control over what gets submitted, how things are submitted, to whom it gets submitted and how it is transmitted to the board so that BOIs do not get lost or do not have clerical errors which require more rehashing on issues. The BOI committee is committed to being unbiased and based on the facts that are presented. Also suggested that the fees do not need to be increased past the \$150 it is currently at. Mike Lewis suggested a possible Bench Committee like that used by AKC to expedite the process. Suggestion made to have set consequences for certain infractions.

- **Bylaw (A)** Nothing to report but suggested that Andreas Mueller or previous Presidents be included as DAL so they are held accountable and be included in future decisions after their tenure.

## VII. Motions Resulting From Reports

- **Motion based on the Presidents Report to remove Canadian Clubs from the United States Rottweiler Club.** Motion by Andy Devlin, seconded by Steven Canuso. 15 Accept, 6 oppose.
- **Motion to make it mandatory to be a member to participate and make it a reduced membership fee for the first year for members.** Motion by Steven Canuso. Seconded by Wayne Simonvich. Request was made for more data before voting. Motion was withdrawn.
- **Motion to vote all breed wardens in as a slate versus separately.** Motion by Pam Scheda. Motion was seconded but was inaudible. 9 Accept. 0 Oppose.

## IX. Old Business

- **Strike A,B,C on agenda (redundant)**

## X. Elections

**A. Selection of election assistants (ballot committee)-** President.

### **B. Voting**

- Positions voted on by General Board (22 voting delegates presented).

- **Secretary**
  - Pam Scheda (18)
  - Chrissie Kovac (3)
- **Vice-President**
  - Amanda Hoskinson (13)
  - Mike Lewis (9)
- **Director at Large (3 openings)**
  - Leslie Fried (8)
  - Chip Foster (10)
  - John Bernard (5)
  - Mike Lewis (16)
  - Lauren Fitzgerald (1)
  - Lala Roberts (10)
  - Skip Morgart (13)
- **Director at Large (3<sup>rd</sup> Position - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote due to Tie)**
  - Chip Foster (11)
  - Lala Roberts (10)
- **Board of Inquiry (2 Openings)**
  - Dave York (10)
  - Paul (7)
  - Volker Czechowski (12)
  - Hunter Gund (13)
- **Breed & BST Committee (2 Openings)**
  - Tony Sajewicz (17)
  - Leslie Fried (14)
- **Nominating Committee (5 Openings)**
  - Dee Hernandez (13)
  - Chrissie Kovacs (13)

- Leslie Fried (12)
- Chip Foster (19)
- Lynne Panno (16)
- **Southwest RD**
  - Jim Laubmeierer (7)
- **Southwest ARD**
  - Dana Williams (?)
  - Chad Gloetzner (7)
- **Northeast RD**
  - Steven Canuso (9)
- **Northeast ARD**
  - Hunter Lund (11)
- **North Central RD**
  - Dan Williams (8)
- **North Central ARD**
  - Dave O'Boyle (9)
- **South Central RD**
  - Oscar Vera (7)
- **South Central ARD**
  - Lala Roberts (8)
- **Southeast RD**
  - Bryan Vice (10)
- **Southeast ARD**
  - Sharon Wilson (11)
- **Northwest RD**
  - Lucy Ang (7)
- **Northwest ARD**
  - Marlene Feruson (8)

## **XI. Seat new regional directors and officers** (quorum requirement may change)

Article VII, Section 5, c. election of Officers

- (v) *Newly elected officers shall be seated at the conclusion of old business except for Regional Directors who will be seated immediately upon their election.*

## **XII. New Business**

- **Items A, B, C stricken from agenda during Old Business because they were redundant.**
  - A. New business arising from Executive Board Meeting and Mail Ballots
  - B. New Business Arising from Officer reports
  - C. New Business arising from committee reports

### **D. Other new business**

- One Member/One Vote brought up for discussion but requires major bylaw changes.
- Steven Canuso suggested lifting the ban on Mark Clark.
- Steven Canuso – FCI/IFR rules on foreign clubs (Nothing discussed on audiotapes)
- Anthony Schiavone – BOI Procedures (Unintelligible on audiotape)
- Andy Devlin - USRC Championship Point program (Nothing discussed on audiotapes)

### **E. National Events (Proposals)**

- 2010 Schutzhund National Championship
  - Central Florida is a possibility to host the 2010 Schutzhund National Championship. No formal bid made.
- 2010 National Sieger Show
  - No club has stepped forward to host the 2010 National Sieger Show.

## **XIII. Open**

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

- **Motion to Adjourn by Wayne Simonvich. Seconded by Pam Scheda. Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.**

\*\*\*Due to the resignation of the Secretary Position by Pam Scheda, the above minutes were compiled through e-mail from several sources and several hours worth of audiotapes. The above minutes were done to be as accurate as possible but there may be errors or places where parts were inaudible or unintelligible. If there is any question to the above it can be cross referenced with the audiotapes of the meeting, located here:

<http://www.usrconline.org/minutes/2009recording/>