

**BHAM BOARD MEETING 11-10-07**  
**MSU Pavilion - 10:00 a.m.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** President, Ray Warner asked members to read over the minutes of the last year's annual meeting. Bev McCollum moved to approve the minutes and Rick Roberts supported the motion. Minutes were approved.

**BHAM Members present:** Doug Corwin, Janet Roberts, Rick Roberts, Kellie Fuson, Bruce & Lynn Yurkunas, Sally and Dan Schoenborn, Tracie Yurkunas, Aaron Hall, Lisa Castle, Tami and Tony Thornton, Pam Wells, Cindy Egnor, Melissa Kinnick, and Mike Gallegos.

**BHAM Board Members present:** Rick Heimbeck, Andy Hart, Betty Crowell, Rick St. Onge, Bev McCollum, Deb Dudzinski, Joe Kinnick, Ray Warner, Don Watts, Lisa Watts, Heidi Gautz, Judy Heimbeck and Paul Ferris.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ray Warner welcomed everyone to the meeting and was very happy that so many members came.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Don Watts thanked everyone for coming and being with us throughout the show season. Don also thanked Mike Gallegos, Rick Heimbeck, and Jim Postma for working the ring and gate. He stated that because of the size of the shows we had rented tents and lights to accommodate the long hours and large exhibitor turn out.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Judy Heimbeck reported that Horse's Haven sent a thank you to Jr. BHAM for all of their donations. Duke Neff sent a letter expressing his gratitude for being invited to judge our Congress. He also complimented the show and staff for being a class act. Christy Comstock sent an e-mail with questions concerning the audit.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Report submitted. Heidi Gautz apologized for the fact that the sponsors are not listed because the sponsorship book was accidentally left at Judy's after congress. She complimented Bev McCollum on hiring judges under budget and saving a great deal of money. Bev responded that judges want to judge our shows. Bev moved to put the Treasurer's report on record and Cindy Egnor supported the motion. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**AWARDS:** Rick Heimbeck submitted the following report:

*"The awards committee worked diligently to choose quality awards for the best price. Special thanks is due Kris Teelander who sent out dozens of letters requesting donations from vendors such as Cowboy Magic, Leather Therapy, and Ariat, just to name a few. These donations greatly enhanced our weekend high point awards. Also much credit is due Debbie Kober who selected most weekend high point and congress awards and submitted them for approval, ordered them, and took responsibility for getting them embroidered and delivered on time to the shows. She also helped our budget out considerably by getting most of the items at cost through her Schneider's dealership. Janet Roberts and Lisa Castle are also to be commended for getting the most "bang for our buck" when shopping for our year end awards and working so hard to get what the exhibitors request. There were many happy members after the Awards Banquet in February as they enjoyed the "fruits of their labor" from all their hard work throughout the show season.*

*In 2006, BHAM had been profitable enough that we were able to purchase all of the saddles, weekend high point awards and most of the congress awards before the first show in April. The following is the breakdown of where the money was spent for 2007 BHAM members and exhibitors:*

<u>Weekend Awards</u>	<u>Congress Awards</u>	<u>Year End Awards</u>
\$4,270.00 – Saddles	\$11,250.00 – Buckles	\$12,000 – Qualifying
\$1,727.75 – Ribbons	\$ 1,108.32 – Ribbons	<b>BHAM members (2007 shows)</b>
\$1,302.54 – High Point	\$ 584.50 – Grand & Reserve	
<b>\$7,300.29 - Total</b>	\$ 1,468.25 – High Point Scooters	
	<u>\$ 3,329.70 – Other High Point &amp; Reserve High Point</u>	
	<b>\$17,740.77 – Total</b>	

*This year the Board also voted to expire any coupons that did not have 2007 printed on them after Congress of this year. BHAM members and exhibitor's redeemed \$2,842.60 throughout the show season to offset their show expenses and \$2,145.91 shopping with our Congress vendors. It is highly recommended that BHAM continue to offer coupons as an option to receiving ribbons. There are plenty of ribbons with the new BHAM logo in inventory to start the 2008 show season.*

*The growth of the BHAM organization over the last few years has also been reflected in the growth of the awards budget and the BHAM Board of Director's commitment to keep BHAM financially sound and to put as much of the profits back into awards as reasonably possible for our faithful members and exhibitors."*

**JR. BHAM:** Rick Heimbeck commented that the Jr. BHAM meetings averaged around 50 kids and they all voted to continue with Youth Teams next year. He thanked Laurie Bowns and all of the adults and parents who helped. He submitted the following report:

*"This year Jr. BHAM has gone through many changes. Laurie Bowns has done an excellent job of leading the youth into new territory. Youth Teams were implemented and very successful. Several parents and caring adults also contributed to that success by volunteering as team leaders. The youth that chose to participate worked hard and made many accomplishments. They practiced life skills such as teamwork, goal setting, mentoring, strategy, volunteerism, and generosity. Sara Veit, this year's Jr. BHAM Representative, proposed a wonderful service project which was, Horse's Haven, a horse rescue operation. The Jr. BHAM youth took on the challenge and held contests to see which team could donate the most items. Horse's Haven really benefited from their efforts. BHAM also benefited as several youth volunteered at the shows performing such tasks as handing out ribbons and coupons, running errands, helping with the gate, posting patterns and orders of go, announcing, and running refreshments to exhibitors and staff.*

*We are also proud of the fact that JR. BHAM is now written into the BHAM Rulebook which includes the implementation of the Jr. BHAM Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is funded by donations, Jr. BHAM membership money and the Silent Auction at Congress. This year three very intelligent young ladies applied for the scholarship. A selection committee was appointed to evaluate each applicant. Special thanks to Paul Ferris, Deborah Dudzinski, Diana Snyder, Kristin Baker, and Lee Strahan for their time and attention to this process. Kaitlynn Watts was selected to be the first recipient of the \$500 scholarship. To receive the scholarship she will present her letter of acceptance to Central Michigan University and then a check will be issued to her and the university for \$500.*

*The Treasurer's report also reflects the hard work that the youth have put into their fundraisers and the wonderful support of our members and exhibitors. Jr. BHAM continues to set the standard and is a testament to this organization's commitment to promoting a family friendly environment."*

**JUDGES:** Bev McCollum reported that judges call her and ask to judge for us. Judges have also been commenting about the quality and depth of the horses and competition. Most judges are willing to come in at half rate just to be able to judge our Congress.

**DRUG TESTING:** Bev McCollum reported that we drug tested at one show and Congress. All tests came back clear. Bev recommended changing the rules to cut down the wait time for a urinalysis before they draw blood. Blood tests have become much more accurate and are nearly as good as the urinalysis.

**FUTURITY:** Janet Roberts reported that this was the best Futurity ever. This was the first year that there was an entry in every class. Sponsorship money was put back into classes as added money. Janet had Doug Lewis, the announcer, randomly pick five classes to add \$100 and \$125 to the Maturity class. Bev McCollum commented that Janet Roberts and the Futurity was her first introduction to BHAM many years ago and has a lot to do with why she continued. Don Watts echoed Bev's comment.

**POINTS:** Janet Roberts reported that she sent out letters that morning for year end awards.

**BHAM REPRESENTATIVE:** Heidi Gautz reported that Sara Veit will finish the year with her last letter in the Bullet. Brytnee Well's first act as the 2008 Representative will be a letter for the Jan/Feb Bullet and Banquet.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER BID: TIM FINNEGAN**

Tim Finnegan made a presentation to bid for a 3 year contract. Tim would continue to sponsor the Pee Wee Stick Horse first prize. (Usually a scooter, helmet and pads) He will also continue to help with logo design, supply CD's of pictures for the website and DVD's for website and promotion. He is also willing to help with decorations for the trail course to spruce it up a bit. Tim has limited his show agenda to about 13 shows a year in order to give better quality service. He has plans to add an extra photographer in order to get more rail shots when requested. Tim thanked us for our time and appreciated our business. The board will vote on renewing his services at the December meeting.

**BULLET:** Laurie Veit has edited the Bullet for the last 2 years. Judy Heimbeck reported that Laurie would like to be finished with that responsibility by the first show of 2008. There will be one more Bullet sent out this year.

**BANQUET:** Judy Heimbeck reported that the Board had voted in March to keep the banquet at the University Quality Inn with the same caterer. Betty Crowell, Lisa Watts, and Janet Roberts are working on the committee. There will be a better sound system rented for the event this year. Judy advised that space is limited and reservations will have to be cut off when the limit is reached. Tickets will be issued as money is received. However, anyone who does not make a reservation can still come for the awards presentation.

**LTA:** Lisa Watts reported that there would be a nomination form and criteria for the LTA award printed in the next Bullet. Rick Roberts commented that he has information and worthy candidates from years back. He feels the award is supposed to be member driven but because there are so many new members no one is aware of the history.

**SPONSORSHIP:** Lisa Watts reported that a sponsorship form was on the website. Kris Teelander won the drawing and received \$200 for the donations she solicited from vendors.

**SSS:** Betty Crowell submitted a report showing the stallions who have returned contracts for next year. Betty has received several calls from owners requesting contracts. Yearling Longe Line and Yearling Halter was added to encourage owners who did not get babies with color be able to continue promoting them. This has been a selling point to encourage more participation in the program. Bev McCollum suggested contacting the stallion owners on the website, ABRAStallions.com for possible stallion donors.

**WEEKEND SHOWS:** Don Watts read the following report submitted by show secretary, Judy Heimbuck:

*“2007 brought more and more exhibitors. The South Barn was sold out for every show and an additional tent stall was added for the July, August and September shows to accommodate for the overflow. The show days were long and lights were rented to help light the arena after dark.*

*The purchase of a second computer greatly increased productivity in the office. Check out went much smoother and results could continue to be entered so that High Point could be awarded in a timely fashion.*

*Shows profited almost \$13,000 this year. Tom Powers is raising the price of the stalls in the Pavilion for the April show and the tent stalls dug deeply into our profits so the decision was made to raise stall prices to \$40 for the 2008 show season.”*

**CONGRESS:** Don read the following report submitted by Show Secretary, Judy Heimbuck:

*“The BHAM Board of Directors worked as the Congress committee in 2007. The decision was made early on to hire three ABRA judges for the purpose of enticing more ABRA buckskins from surrounding states to compete and be able to receive more ABRA points. They also felt that three judges would give the Congress more respect as a regional show and not just a long weekend show with great prizes. BHAM purchased a hospitality booth at the ABRA World Show and hosted a free Sloppy Joe Supper to promote the congress, futurity, SSS, and Slot classes. As a result the Congress was bigger than ever this year with a 17% increase in ABRA horses! The higher cost of the classes did not discourage the All Color exhibitors either as the barn was completely sold out.*

*Over the 3 ½ day show Roger LeVick, Andrea Koehn, and Duke Neff judged almost 1400 entries. Exhibitors came from eleven states and Canada with many of them promising to come back next year and bring friends.*

*The Anniversary Buckle was a big hit for the Grand Champion prize of each class. This year a Select and a PeeWee High Point and Reserve High Point were added to the list of prizes. Scooters were awarded to the seven regular divisions for high point. Grand and Reserve Halter champions received vouchers to the Congress photographer, Tim Finnegan for pictures. Ribbons were awarded to 10<sup>th</sup> place for the overall Top Ten instead of ribbons for each judge.*

*Profits for Congress were over \$15,000. This is largely due to the fact that the barn was full and the show staff pay is minimal. Our judges are also relatively inexpensive due to the prestige and reputation the BHAM Congress has attained over the last several years and their desire to have it listed on their resume’. Our exhibitor’s also comment that it is one of their favorite shows due to the friendly, relaxed atmosphere and the great prizes. Efforts are being made to negotiate the use of the South Barn for future growth.”*

Rick Roberts requested that as we work on the showbill for next year that we put the Roye Meis Trail Ride Off first so that it is not so late and there are people around to watch it. He also asked that we try to dress up the trail class more with plants and trees etc...

**ELECTION RESULTS:** Andy Hart reported that Mike Gallegos, Bill Cox, Bev McCollum, Chris Holbin, Paul Ferris, Ray Warner, and Nancy Rich were elected to the board by majority vote for a two-year term. Lisa Watts was voted secretary and Heidi Gautz was voted treasurer for a one year term. 67 ballots were turned in. The meeting recessed for a pot luck provided by the Board of Directors at 1:00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:30 pm

**TRAIL:** Deb Dudzinski agreed to take Trail for another year. She received positive comments from youth on the patterns that she used and is excited to work on it again.

**RULES:** Paul Ferris reported that the rules committee will be formed in December and a rule book will be out by the first show. He asked that all suggestion for rule changes be sent to him.

**PUBLICITY:** Paul Ferris reported that Saddle Up magazine would like to be the official publication for BHAM. Paul has mixed feelings about it and will be negotiating the fine details. Janet and Rick Roberts commented that when people were asked how they found out about BHAM and our Congress and Futurity many said that it was Saddle Up.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Bev McCollum reported on the ABRA convention. ABRA now has a scholarship program up and running and it will be awarded at the World Show. The scholarship will be \$500. The information is now up on the ABRA website. Bev also mentioned changes that will be printed in the next Canterlope Post. Bill Dryden is the new president and Ken Pickering is vice president. Shannon Ryan was appointed to the board to fill a position that was vacated by a resigning member.

Election of new officers: Heidi Gautz nominated Ray Warner for President and Don Watts supported the nomination. There were no other nominations. Rick St. Onge moved that nominations close. Ray Warner won by acclamation.

Deb Dudzinski nominated Rick St. Onge for Vice President and Lisa Watts supported the nomination. Heidi Gautz moved to close the nominations. Rick St. Onge won by acclamation.

Don Watts reported that there will be a team penning November 18<sup>th</sup> and would like to invite BHAM members to come and participate. The first team penning was very successful and BHAM members participating had a wonderful time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Lisa Castle asked what the determination on the Green's membership revocation was going to be. Ray stated that most of the Board members had not even seen the letter from ABRA yet and needed time to discuss it. Paul moved that we go in closed session and Bev 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting went into closed session at 2:10 pm. The meeting resumed at 2:45 p.m.

Ray explained that we were contacted by ABRA asking for information on the Green membership revocation because the Green's asked ABRA to get involved and investigate the matter. ABRA responded this week after deliberation at the ABRA annual meeting. Ray then turned the matter over to Joe Kinnick, the director who stepped in for Paul Ferris, director of the Ethics committee, in this situation. Joe read the following letter from ABRA to those present:

American Buckskin Registry Association, Inc.  
1141 Hartnell Ave  
Redding, CA 96002-2113 (530) 223-1420

November 5, 2007

Judy Heimbeck, Secretary  
Buckskin Horse Association of Michigan  
374 Harper Rd.  
Mason, MI 48854

Dear BHAM Board:

Subject: Lonnie & Mary Green

During the recent Annual Meeting, the ABRA Board reviewed all of the materials sent by the Buckskin Horse Assn. of Michigan, as well as same from Lonnie and Mary Green concerning the life suspension of their BHAM membership. This is to confirm that the ABRA Board was acting only in the capacity as an intermediary for this situation.

After carefully reviewing all of the materials, the conclusion of the ABRA Board was:

1. The situation was documented in the BHAM minutes of the meetings.
2. When Lonnie Green requested a meeting between Ray Warner, Don Watts, Paul Ferris and himself, it was not granted, however it is felt that if a special meeting of the entire BHAM Board had been called, the misunderstanding or problem possibly could have been rectified.
3. The BHAM Board had a right to respond to the behavior exhibited by Lonnie Green.
4. The ABRA Board supports the BHAM Boards' decision, however, feels that the suspension of the Greens' membership for life is too harsh. The ABRA Board was in agreement that a year suspension from the time of incident, followed by a year of probation, would have been more appropriate.

There was much time taken with reviewing and discussing this problem by the ABRA Board during their Annual Meeting. The ABRA Boards' decision was that Lonnie and Mary Greens' ABRA membership should not be suspended or revoked. ABRA will not dictate to the BHAM Board how to handle their club problems, it can only be suggested, and BHAM cannot be forced to reverse their decision regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
Georgi Jones  
ABRA Office

cc: Lonnie & Mary Green ID#21831  
ABRA Board of Directors

Joe Kinnick asked if there were any questions or comments. Joe moved that effective immediately that there be a suspension of Lonnie and Mary Green's 2008 memberships and probation for the 2009 membership and reviewed at the 2009 annual meeting. Reference was made to ABRA rulebook pages 11, Item B; 14, Item 2; and 18 D-Section 4 and BHAM rulebook page 4 Article 4, Section 6. Bev McCollum supported the motion. Discussion followed. Lisa Watts called the question. Joe Kinnick explained that a "yes" vote is to accept the motion and a "no" vote means permanent revocation of Green's membership. Paul Ferris abstained. The vote was taken by written ballot. Six votes were "yes" and five were "no". The motion carried.

Rick St.Onge brought up that Shiawasee County Fairgrounds is available for a date in April and June. They have more stalls, camping electric and water for 200, three outdoor practice rings and lots of other great amenities. Joe Kinnick described the facility in detail. Ray asked the members present if they thought it was something they would like us to continue investigating. The general consensus was, yes. Rick Roberts also suggested looking into Centerville. Lisa Watts suggested that a facilities committee be formed this next year. The next meeting is set for Sunday, December 9th at 10 a.m. The location will be announced. Heidi moved to adjourn the meeting and Bev supported. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.