MARC Board Meeting Highlights – July 14, 2026

Meeting Overview

- Meeting called to order by President **Jace Tramontin** at **7:10 PM CST**.
- June meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's report was unavailable; board members were reminded to submit expense reimbursements by the July 31st.

Membership

- Current membership totals **750**:
  - 110 Family
  - 332 Annual Individual
  - 198 Charter/Lifetime
  - 70 Lifetime
- Membership is down by **30 members** compared to the year-end report presented at the MAI.
- **56% of MAI-qualified dogs** entered the 2026 MAI in Stoughton, considered an excellent participation rate.
- A new volunteer is needed to provide monthly membership reports following the end of Mark Frederick's term in July.

2026 MAI Event

- The 2026 MAI was widely viewed as a **highly successful event**, receiving numerous positive comments.
- Key lessons learned:
  - A **refrigerated truck for birds** is essential.
  - Avoid switching flights between properties due to time lost from traffic.
  - Ensure adequate staffing levels.
- Ted “Topper” Towne and Adam Bally (professional trainers) were recognized for their critical support in managing flights.
- Follow-up surveys will be sent to gather feedback from volunteers and handlers.
- The Board discussed member concerns regarding financial reporting, meeting minutes, and communication with the membership.

2027 MAI Planning

Planning discussions focused on:

- Reviewing equipment inventory and determining what should be transported versus replaced for the Nebraska event.
- Clarifying responsibilities for sponsorships (flight, UTV, lunch, porta-potties, and other "soft money" donations).

- Improving logistics for delivering lunches efficiently to each flight.

Sponsorships & Communications

- The 10th Anniversary MAI sponsor recognition plates were well received.
- Kent Cartridge has expressed interest in supporting field events with new field blanks, creating potential for additional sponsorship opportunities.
- Communications Director Mike Heard will continue in his role while promoting MARC awards and supporting communications.

Awards

- Special recognition plates will be presented for:
  - **Annette Pachecho** – MAH6
  - **Charles Pugh** – MAH6
  - **David Murphy** – MAH7

Old Business

- Negotiations continue on the Entry Express contract, with hopes of finalizing before the next meeting.
- The Board expressed support for continuing Rex Gibson and Brook Douglas in corporate sponsorship efforts.
- Mike Heard has expressed interest in continuing to serve as Communications Director.

Board Recognition

- The Board recognized and thanked **David Markham** and **Wilson "Boogie" LeJeune** for their years of service.
- Congratulations were extended to **John Dawber** on becoming Vice President–East Region.
- The Board welcomed new Directors **Cathi Blackburn** and **Kerry Forni**.

Next Meeting

- **August 11, 2026**
- Directors unable to attend should notify Anne Millane by **August 10**.