



“COMMON KNOWLEDGE”

BY DENISE FENZI

How old is your toolbox? If it's old, it probably has a lot of tools in it. Indeed, you might find that it's so full, you've switched to a truck to carry your various props. Some of your tools are surely tried and true. You've met the goals you set out to meet using them and quite possibly reached some very nice success. Success, security, knowledge, admiration from others – as humans we need these things.

Your toolbox likely carries physical props (treats, toys, special collars, sticks, etc.), information (solutions to specific problems), cutting edge options (highly adjustable e-collars, remote ball launchers), and “common knowledge” for your sport (“your dog MUST perform”, or “it's always the handler's fault”).

If you've been around awhile, odds are excellent that you've invested a good deal of time, money, and emotional energy building up your toolbox. Odds are also good that you haven't thought too deeply about what you have and why you have it.

If you're getting queasy, you can relax. I'm not going to question your beliefs about the need for a prong collar or how many cookies you use in a training session. I'm not going to ask you to look at your physical tools or choice of training techniques. I'm going to start with a simpler and less threatening query – specifically, when was the last time you took a good look at your “common knowledge” about dog training? Not necessarily with an eye towards changing, but with an eye towards ensuring that your common knowledge is still compatible with your current training methodology.

I'm going to mention five pieces of common knowledge that I lived with for many years and that I have since thrown out. Maybe you'd like to play along and see where you stand as well.

1) Do not feed your dog before a trial.

My food driven dog gets frantic when she misses a meal, my “routine driven” dog vomits bile, and I know that for myself, my mental capacity is reduced when I'm distracted by hunger. So why is it that my dogs did not eat before trialing for close to 20 years? Because I never bothered to think about where I had received that information and whether or not it made sense in my circumstances; I simply did what I heard because it was standard practice – common knowledge. Personally, I don't care if you feed your dog the morning of a trial, but you might want to consider what your practices are, and why. What makes sense for you and your dogs?

2) End training on success.

My dogs live to train. Love to train. If I ended when they were doing it right, they'd be punished for figuring out what I want. That's silly. Once upon a time this approach made sense, because training was quite unpleasant for the dog, so all the dog really wanted was to have the misery end. But if your dog loves working and training, then “ending on a positive” just doesn't make much sense anymore. Personally, I tend to wait until my dog gets distracted or sniffs to end the session. Now the mature dogs don't normally make mistakes in training, so I end when I've had enough. The days of escape/avoidance training are long gone for me. What makes sense within your training system?

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FCI JUDGE'S SEMINAR

BY CYNTHIA ZIMMERMAN

This year's FCI Judge's Seminar was held in Nova Gorica, Slovenia on January 19 & 20, 2013. Representing the United States were Al Govednik for the AWDF, Frank Phillips, UScA and myself for the AWMA.

Judges from all over the world came together for this seminar to go forward in our goal of consistency within judging for all countries. Three judges from the FCI Working Dog Commission each presented one phase on judging within the new IPO 2012 Rules.

Wilfried Schaepermeier covered Tracking, Robert Markschiaeger, Obedience and Gunther Diegel, Protection. Each exercise within each phase was broken down in a way that gave every judge there a clear understanding and picture of what our common goal is going forward within these new rules and within our sport.

The host city's, Hari Arcon put together a wonderful wine tasting and dinner at a local farm house for all of us on Saturday evening. All had good food and wine and yes of course some lively discussions ensued during the evening, which everyone enjoyed.

Notes from the meeting will be on the FCI website and I will be posting any rule clarifications from this meeting shortly for all of our membership.

It is important for our organization to be on board and to work with the FCI to maintain and uphold these standards within all of our competitions and within a sport that we all work so hard to uphold. Please take the time to read, share and discuss these rules with all of your club members. The more informed and current we are, the better leaders we can be within our organization, as ambassadors for our sport and most importantly for our dogs.

Cynthia Zimmermann
Director of Judges, AWMA

Important Changes Coming for AWMA Members

As we enter 2013, we have a lot of important changes coming for our loyal AWMA Members. We are now partnering with Zooza to help streamline the membership and scorebook processes. Our hope is to create a faster response time for membership cards and all related AWMA products. Zooza is an online company that will enable members to search for their membership status and number, print their own cards, get e-mail reminders regarding renewals, enter AWMA events, etc. It is free for anybody to sign up and use and there will be no increase to the membership fees. As before, you can still mail in a check and application and you will still receive a paper renewal notice as well. Renewals go out in May with all renewals due back June 1 so we are working hard to get our zooza system up and running! If you have any questions or comments on the coming changes, please contact the membership chair via e-mail for more information!

MEMBER ADVERTISING

Are you an AWMA Member with a dog related business?
Do you have a litter of Malinois you'd like to advertise?
Advertise for FREE in the AWMA Online Magazine!

The Magazine is available for viewing to everyone who visits the AWMA website.
Please contact Dana McMahan
at schhrotts@hotmail.com
to get your business in the next issue.



FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget if you have any articles, ideas, pictures, that you'd like to submit for publication in the newsletter, please send them to Dana McMahan at schhrotts@hotmail.com





FROM THE DESK OF THE AWMA PRESIDENT

January, 2013

We are now embarking on an annual full newsletter and quarterly updates in the form of a president's report. This is our annual newsletter where we will include an overview of the prior year's activities and provide some additional material of interest. A summary of the organization's business in terms of motions that were created and voted upon for the last fiscal year is included at the end of this message. You can keep up with these as they occur by checking the discussion forum on the website under 'news'. We post each motion while it is open and when voting has closed the outcome and voting record of the board members is provided. You are welcome at any time to contact your board and provide input on these topics.

Since the last update the 2012 AWMA National IPO Championship has occurred. Motor City Working Dogs hosted the event in Bowling Green, Kentucky, with Mohawk (John) Wiitanen and Paula Daigle in charge. Sincere thanks to them and all the other volunteers who helped make this happen. Our judges were USCa Frank Phillips (tracking) and FCI/ADRK Roland Seibel (obedience and protection). Helpers were Mario Bardouille (IPO 1 and 2) and Joe Brockington and Don Yelle for IPO 3. The weather was nearly perfect – pleasant temperatures in the upper 60s and no rain. There were 3 BH, 1 IPO 1, 2 IPO 2 and 16 IPO 3 dogs competing over the three day event. There was plenty of socializing that took place with time for talking with old friends and meeting new participants and spectators. We had a wonderful dinner on Saturday night hosted by Motor City Working Dogs and the AWMA where a special award was presented to Sean Rivera by Sean O'Kane in recognition of his high obedience performance at the 2012 FCI World Championship. When everything was over on Sunday these awards were given:

High IPO 1 – Phil Hoelcher and Enzo Farsal; High IPO 2 – Doug Kowalski and Vicky du Loups du Soliel; High IPO 3 – Fabian Robinson and Graubaer's Boker (also High Tracking and High Obedience); High Protection, High Handler Owner Trained – Sean Rivera and Danskjold Iron (also 2nd place IPO 3); Helper's Choice and 3rd place IPO 3- Pablo Varela and Garm vom Adlerauge; 4th place IPO 3 – David Green and Luigi du Dantero; Sportsmanship Award – Everhard Ernsting and Chilli Airport Hannover; High Female – Susan Miller and Axa Prema Sudo.

At the event Cynthia Zimmerman completed her apprenticeship and is now a probationary judge in the AWMA. This is a huge accomplishment and I hope you all will join me in congratulating her as our first 'homegrown' AWMA judge. Please consider inviting her to judge your next AWMA event.

The annual general board meeting was held at the Championship. The board was re-elected without opposition, Cynthia Zimmerman was elected as our new Director of Judges, and Glenn Stephenson joined us as a Director at Large. Glenn is replacing Warren Jones who stepped down due to health issues. We also added several new individuals to our committees. A complete list of our officers and committee members can be found on the website. Thank you all for your service to the organization and I am looking forward to another two years with you all as part of the team. As part of the meeting the general board voted upon and accepted several small by-laws changes. You can find the updated by-laws on the website.

Since the last update we are fortunate to welcome another AWMA full member club. Cache Valley Working Dogs is in the Western region and already has scheduled a trial for this spring. Thank you for supporting the AWMA with your club and training.

There are two important events on the horizon. The dates for the FMBB event are April 30 – May 5. We will once again be sending our IPO team. In addition, we partner with the Belgian community to send an agility team and the United States Mondioring Association to send a mondio team. These collaborations are important to our organization and the chance to have the United States represented at our breed's international event. If you are interested in supporting the team please contact us. The other important event is the AWMA National Championship and Team Challenge hosted by the Kentucky Hudesport Klub to be held May 15-19 in Kentucky. As things unfold, consider entering, sponsoring a trophy, or being there in person to help with all the things that need to be done to make an event like this a success. Because this is a team challenge, it would be fantastic if we had several IPO 1 and IPO 2 AWMA competitors to help us receive this honor over the other breeds.

In other news, we were fortunate to have Cynthia Zimmerman attend the FCI Judges College in January along with USCa judge Frank Phillips and AWDF president Al Govednik. We felt it was important to have a member of our organization there to listen and participate in the discussion. Cynthia has provided an overview of the meeting for this newsletter. She is in the process of preparing a summary of the rules and their interpretation for our members; watch for the announcement when they are posted on the website.

Another important development in the works is focused on scorebooks. As you probably know, the new FCI rules require that there be only one scorebook per dog. This change along with other developments in the AWDF has provided the AWDF with the opportunity to review the scorebook policies within our umbrella organization. A committee has been established to investigate the best ways to serve our members while enabling us to be in compliance with this rule. The best outcome will be policies that reduce confusion and streamline processes and are acceptable to all of the AWDF member clubs.

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2012 BOARD MINUTES / MOTIONS

November 21.

Motion to accept the minutes from the 2011 AWMA Board Meetings as written. Motion by Dana Williams, second by Les Flores. Motion carried, closed.

Yes: Dana Williams, Les Flores, Bob Miller, Paul Konschak, Warren Jones, Kristina Carmody, Anne Camper, Donna McGinnis

Did not vote: Christopher Smith, Terry Miller

November 24.

Accept the FCI rules with an amendment to allow competitors to trial three dogs at club level events. Motion by Dana Williams, second by Donna McGinnis. Vote closed and passed.

Background: The AWMA has previously voted to accept the slate of titles offered under the new FCI rules. This motion was to consider a modification to the FCI rules that allow for only two entries.

Yes: Donna McGinnis, Christopher Smith, Warren Jones, Dana Williams, Terry Miller, Kristina Carmody, Anne Camper, Paul Konschak, Bob Miller

Did not vote: Les Flores

November 29.

Motion to order 20 DVDs (from the FCI) and sell them at cost to AWMA members only. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Bob Miller. DVDs have been prepared by the FCI illustrating the new rules and the vote is whether to purchase these and make them available for purchase.

Vote closed and passed.

Yes: Donna McGinnis, Bob Miller, Les Flores, Warren Jones, Dana Williams, Kristina Carmody, Anne Camper, Terry Miller

No: Paul Konschak

Did not vote: Christopher Smith

January 5.

Motion to cancel purchase of DVDs regarding 2012 rules. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Warren Jones. Motion carried.

Yes: Bob Miller, Donna McGinnis, Les Flores, Christopher Smith, Warren Jones, Paul Konschak, Anne Camper

Did not vote: Terry Miller, Kristina Carmody, Dana Williams

February 2.

Motion to reinstate Cascade Belgian Shepherd Club as a full member AWMA Club. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second Warren Jones. Motion carried.

Yes : Les Flores, Dana Williams, Paul Konschak, Terry Miller, Donna McGinnis, Christopher Smith, Anne Camper, Bob Miller

Did not vote : Warren Jones, Kristina Carmody

February 15.

I make a motion to move forward with forming a working relationship with the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America. Motion by Bob Miller, second by Terry Miller. Context: AWMA was contacted by the BSCA to start a program for recording of titles on AKC pedigrees similar to what already exists with the American Belgian Malinois Club. Motion passed.

Yes: Paul Konschak, Dana Williams, Bob Miller, Warren Jones, Donna McGinnis, Christopher Smith, Anne Camper

Did not vote: Les Flores, Kristina Carmody, Terry Miller

February 27.

I make the motion to accept the bid from Motor City Working Dogs to host the AWMA National IPO Championship. Bob Miller, second by Warren Jones. This was the only bid received for the 2012 Championships. The bid was reviewed and put forward by the WC/NE Committee for a vote.

Passed.

Yes: Anne Camper, Les Flores, Warren Jones, Donna McGinnis, Dana Williams, Paul Konschak, Bob Miller

Did not vote: Christopher Smith, Kristina Carmody, Terry Miller

March

7. Motion to pay for the 2012 AWDF trophy for high malinois at \$100. Motion by Les Flores, second by Warren Jones. Vote passed.

Yes: Warren Jones, Bob Miller, Dana Williams, Christopher Smith, Anne Camper, Donna Miller, Paul Konschak, Les Flores

Did not vote: Terry Miller, Kristina Carmody

March 7.

Motion that we budget for the AWDF high malinois trophy for future years. Motion by Warren Jones, second by Donna McGinnis.

Passed.

Yes: Donna McGinnis, Les Flores, Anne Camper, Warren Jones, Dana Williams, Paul Konschak, Bob Miller

Did not vote: Christopher Smith, Terry Miller, Kristina Carmody





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March 24.

Motion to approve \$250 expenditure for website consultation for technical support. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Christopher Smith.

Funds to support changes and help with hacking problem. Passed.

Yes: Paul Konschak, Warren Jones, Dana Mahan, Donna McGinnis, Anne Camper, Les Flores

Did not vote: Christopher Smith, Bob Miller, Kristina Carmody, Terry Miller

May 4.

I make the motion to accept Tarheel Protection Sports as full members. Motion by Christopher Smith, second by Bob Miller
Note that acceptance will be contingent on receipt of club dues and any other outstanding requirements. Passed.

Yes: Terry Miller, Les Flores, Christopher Smith, Anne Camper, Paul Konschak

No: Kristina Carmody, Donna McGinnis, Dana Mahan, Warren Jones

Did not vote: Bob Miller

May 22.

Move to accept Metro-Detroit SchH & Police K9 as a full member AWMA club. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Kristina Carmody. Passed.

Yes: Warren Jones, Kristina Carmody, Anne Camper, Donna McGinnis, Bob Miller, Terry Miller, Christopher Smith, Paul Konschak, Les Flores

Did not vote: Dana McMahan

July 23.

Move to revise schedule of publication of AWMA's newsletter to one annual issue at the beginning of each calendar year and publication of President reports on a quarterly basis of each calendar year. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Bob Miller. Passed.

Yes: Dana McMahan, Christopher Smith, Bob Miller, Paul Konschak, Warren Jones, Les Flores, Anne Camper, Donna McGinnis

Did not vote: Kristina Carmody, Terry Miller

August 26.

I move that the board approve the application of Bay State Working Dog Club for full member status as an AWMA club. Motion by Warren Jones, second by Les Flores. Passed.

Yes: Bob Miller, Les Flores, Dana McMahan, Terry Miller, Anne Camper, Donna McGinnis, Warren Jones, Paul Konschak, Christopher Smith

Did not vote: Kristina Carmody

September 26.

Move that Cynthia Zimmerman be granted provisional status as an AWMA judge, with provisional status being removed upon receipt of a positive evaluation of her final apprenticeship at the 2012 AWMA National Championship. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Bob Miller. Rationale: The acceptance would make Cynthia Zimmerman eligible to be elected as the AWMA Director of Judges at the AWMA National meeting. This would allow us to be in compliance with our by-laws. Passed unanimously.

Yes: Anne Camper, Christopher Smith, Donna McGinnis, Dana McMahan, Les Flores, Warren Jones, Terry Miller, Bob Miller, Kristina Carmody, Paul Konschak

October 9.

Move to accept Cache Valley Working Dogs Club (CVWDC) as a full member AWMA club. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second Les Flores

Passed.

Yes: Christopher Smith, Kristina Carmody, Paul Konschak, Warren Jones, Anne Camper, Bob Miller, Donna McGinnis, Les Flores

Did not vote: Dana McMahan, Terry Miller

October 18.

Move to provide up to \$500.00 from appointed, donated funds to sponsor AWMA members and trial volunteers attendance to the 2012 AWMA National Championship judge's dinner in celebration of our 10th anniversary. Motion by Donna McGinnis, second by Bob Miller. Specially donated funds were provided to the AWMA to support the National Championship. This motion would provide resources to honor our members and volunteers at our 10th annual event. Passed.

Yes: Anne Camper, Donna McGinnis, Kristina Carmody, Paul Konschak, Les Flores, Bob Miller

Did not vote: Dana McMahan, Christopher Smith, Warren Jones, Terry Miller

03/03/13

American Working Malinois Association
 Profit and Loss Standard
 January through December 2012

| | <u>Jan - Dec '12</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Income | |
| Sales | 18,082.25 |
| Total Income | <u>18,082.25</u> |
| Expense | |
| AWDF Championship Ent... | 2,775.00 |
| AWDF Delegate | 363.10 |
| AWDF Dues | 426.00 |
| AWMA Nationals | 3,556.25 |
| AZ Corp Filing Fee | 10.00 |
| Bank Service Charges | 90.00 |
| FCI Donation | 500.00 |
| FCI Judges Meeting | 1,719.55 |
| FMBB Dues | 150.00 |
| FMBB Entry Fees - Agility | 200.00 |
| FMBB Entry Fees - IPO | 400.00 |
| FMBB Uniforms - IPO | 836.47 |
| Insurance - D&O | 909.00 |
| Insurance - Liability | 252.00 |
| Office Supplies | 58.52 |
| Paypal Processing Fees | 141.43 |
| Postage and Delivery | 496.50 |
| Scorebooks | 440.00 |
| Taxes - Arizona | 137.00 |
| Taxes - IRS | 681.56 |
| Total Expense | <u>14,142.38</u> |
| Net Income | 3,939.87 |

03/04/13

American Working Malinois Association
 Sales by Item Summary
 January through December 2012

| | <u>Jan - Dec '12</u> | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | <u>Qty</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>% of Sales</u> | <u>Avg Price</u> |
| Service | | | | |
| AWDF Championship Ent... | 19.00 | 2,775.00 | 15.3% | 146.05 |
| Club Dues | 17.00 | 1,195.00 | 6.6% | 70.29 |
| Donation | 5.00 | 4,135.00 | 22.9% | 827.00 |
| Family Membership | 29.00 | 1,416.50 | 7.8% | 48.84 |
| Individual Membership | 183.00 | 5,563.25 | 30.8% | 30.40 |
| Insurance Overpayment | 1.00 | 9.00 | 0.0% | 9.00 |
| Rush Fee | 23.00 | 1,150.00 | 6.4% | 50.00 |
| Scorebook | 76.00 | 1,153.50 | 6.4% | 15.18 |
| Sponsor | 2.00 | 400.00 | 2.2% | 200.00 |
| Trial Fees | 5.00 | 285.00 | 1.6% | 57.00 |
| Total Service | | <u>18,082.25</u> | <u>100.0%</u> | |
| TOTAL | | 18,082.25 | 100.0% | |



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3) Always precede a command with the dog's name.

This made sense when dogs did not pay attention to their handlers. It was a warning – "fido, heel". If Fido woke up on his name then he avoided a correction. If not, then Fido paid the price. Indeed, it was a kindness – a way of allowing the dog to avoid a correction. But if your dog pays attention because it is impossible to perform correctly without attention, then why are you using their name? When you are directing another person, do you precede each request with their name? Not only is it a waste of time but worse, it teaches your dog to simply ignore the first second of each cue you give. Does it cause great harm to use the name? No. But consider why you do it – maybe you have a good reason, like training multiple dogs at the same time. Just think about it.

4) Don't let your dog sniff.

Dogs like to sniff. Personally, few things are more irritating than listening to a handler command "leave it! Leave it!" every 20 seconds. Why leave it? Why do you care if your dog sniffs while you chat with your friend? Sniffing is not the first step towards canine world domination, nor is it the first step towards sniffing during heeling in the ring. For Pete's sake; you're not heeling; you're standing around talking to your friend. Dogs use their nose to examine their environment in order to feel safe and to be able to focus, much the same way humans use their eyes to take in a new environment. Physically preventing your dog from sniffing doesn't make your dog not want to sniff. It makes you an irritation that your dog will wish to get rid of – so he can sniff. All of my dogs sniff, and not one time, not once, have I had a dog sniff in the competition ring. That's because sniffing is an incompatible behavior with working, and I focus on getting what I want, not what I don't want. Is it ok if your dog sniffs? Think about it.

5) Don't let your dog get away with any failure to perform.

Seriously, who cares? So your dog failed to do something. You'll get a lot further in your training if you figure out why your dog would not or could not perform than if you focus your energy on the behavior that didn't happen. Sometimes my dogs don't want to do something. Maybe they are experiencing physical pain. Maybe they aren't sure how to perform. Maybe I'm a dead boring trainer and I cannot motivate them to care. Regardless of the reason, "making" them perform probably doesn't progress your training goals, and it certainly doesn't progress your relationship. At most, it makes you feel like you're doing something, but doing something and training your dog don't have a lot in common.

The more I examine my beliefs, the less common knowledge seems to make sense for me. As I shed my common knowledge, I find myself freed up to focus on what does matter – developing a training relationship that works for me and each specific dog, regardless of what my friends or fellow trainers might find works for them.

Anyway, give it some thought.

Denise Fenzi



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I'd like to remind you to take advantage of two opportunities that we offer. If you have completed an IPO 3 on your dog, consider applying to our IPO 3 club. Details are on the website. You are also able to have your dog's IPO titles included in your dog's official AKC pedigree. This is a partnership with the American Belgian Malinois Club and the American Kennel Club. Details are also on the website. If there are other services that you would like us to offer, get in touch and we'll open up a discussion.

Once again I want to thank you for supporting the AWMA. As individual members you are greatly valued. If you have a chance to do so, consider forming a local AWMA club and hosting events and trials. Through our local clubs we can engage more people in the sport and offer more opportunities to obtain titles for those with Malinois and other breeds as well.

On behalf of the AWMA, I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Anne Camper, AWMA President



Anne with Bazouka ("Zouka")
van de Trinekesdreef, IPO 3



2013 AWMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Anne Camper

Vice President

Christopher Smith

Secretary

Donna McGinnis

Treasurer

Kristina Carmody

Membership Chair

Dana McMahan

Directors

Terry Miller

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Regional Directors

Les Flores—West

Paul Kanschak--South

Bob Miller—North

Auditing Committee

Paul Kanschak

Michele Kutelis

Christopher Smith

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Cynthia Zimmerman (primary)

Anne Camper

Christopher Smith

Glenn Stephenson

Nominating Committee

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Shari Lipski

Website Committee

Anne Camper & Dana McMahan

Newsletter Editor

Dana McMahan

World Championship & National Events Committee

Kristina Carmody

Jim Honda

Shari Lipski (Chair)

Dana Miller



Congratulations to the 2013 AWMA IPO Team Members

David Greene with Luigi Du Dantero

Susan Miller with Axa Prima Sudo

Sean Rivera with Daneskjold Iron

Fabian Robinson with Graubaer's Boker

To see up to date information on the FMBB World Championships for IPO, Agility, Mondio, Obedience, & Exposition, visit:

www.FMBB2013.si

April 30 thru May 5th

AWMA IS ON FACEBOOK

ARE YOU A FAN?



2013 EVENT CALENDAR

FCI FH Championships
Jutland, Denmark
April 10th—14th

FMBB World Championships
Koper, Slovenia
April 30th—May 5th

AWDF Championship
& Team Challenge
Kentucky, USA
May 15th—19th

AWMA National Championship
St. Anne, Illinois
November 15th — 17th