

We would like to nominate Sam Ford for the position of Executive Director (ED).

Sam is currently the ED for NAFA, and we would like to see him continue in this role. Under his guidance, we have seen a substantial increase in the communication to the Regional Directors and to the general flyball public. An example of this is the RD Yahoo Group that Sam created immediately after being elected. This yahoo group helps his RDs to respond to their region's concerns in a consistent manner. Personally, as a regional director, I have had several occasions when I have needed Sam's input, and he has always provided a solution within 24 hours. Sam is very involved in the day to day management of NAFA and is highly accessible, be it via email, phone or at one of the many tournaments that he attends around the country.

For those of you that have not met Sam, here is some background information:

He is a graduate of Baylor University, with an undergraduate degree in Chemistry followed by a Masters Degree and work towards a Doctorate.

Sam served proudly in the U.S. Army in Vietnam where he earned a Bronze Star.

In 1981, Sam established Chem Coast Incorporated, which is an independent Testing Laboratory and Marine Loss Control business. It handles hazardous materials within the international ocean trade. He is President of the Company and is responsible for the entire operation carried on by three divisions and over 50 employees.

Sam started flyball in 1995 as a team member of the Houston Flyball Association, supporting the team's efforts but not running a dog. In 1996, he welcomed Missy, a Border Collie into his life. Sam says that "Missy opened his eyes to what could be if you just set out to accomplish something", and it was due to Missy that he became a founder of Border Collie Rescue Texas, Inc in 1997. Sam served as the Chairman of the Board of this non profit group which serves Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. So far thousands of BCs have been saved through this group's efforts. It is nothing for Sam to get in his car and drive a BC across the country to their "forever" home. That is the kind of person he is.

Sam continues to be the strong back and driving force in putting on flyball tournaments. Since 1996, he has worked, directed and led some of the largest tournaments in Region 5 and across the country. Reliant Center World Series of Dog Shows, formerly known as Astrohall, is an example of the size and quality of tournaments held under his leadership. Additionally he has been active in supporting flyball in regions without a large NAFA presence in order to bolster local interest and grow the sport. He directed or worked to provide flyball in the Memphis area, ran the Maitre-D table at the first NAFA tournament in Georgia and was the Tournament Director for Cynosports, held in Arizona.

Sam has been the leader of the Lone Star Ruffnecks, a club that introduced new ideas and supports improvements in the sport. Perhaps the most noticeable for many people is the

two-ring/one-schedule format that they pioneered and is now being used widely across NAFA.

Combining his business acumen and drive with his passion for the sport of flyball, Sam is truly suited to the role of NAFA's Executive Director. We are proud to nominate him.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Amanda Brown, Region 9 RD

Supported by:  
Bill Bunting, Region 15 RD  
Peter Wesdyk, Region 8 RD  
Chris Sells, Region 11 RD  
Ule James, Region 4 RD  
Joe Acker, Region 3 Co-RD  
Dan Rode, Region 3 Co-RD  
Kurt Johnson, Region 12 RD  
Dan Wood, Region 7 RD  
Nancy Garcia, Region 5 RD  
Cindy Henderson, Region 13 RD  
Jonnie Geen, Region 6 RD  
Curtis Smith, Alaska Dogs Gone Wild Captain