

2011 Banquet Comments / Suggestions

Replies to comments in Blue, are from Tim S. The competition committee may respond later to all comments!

1. Brett needs more chocolate cake; also some carrot cake would be good. *I agree, I like chocolate and carrot cake is one of my favorites. However, in the process of all the things a guy has to do to plan this event and put it on, I totally forgot to review the dessert menu. I did think about it a couple days before the event but figured I would leave it up to the hotel to decide and provide the desserts. We could create a dessert committee for next year's banquet, that would help out a lot since then they could respond to the dessert Nazi's we seem to get every year. Keep in mind there is a budget to work with so any changes to the menu which increase the meal cost would have to be approved by the competition committee.*
2. In regards to the banquet, I think that there should be an option to either purchase dinner and awards or just come for awards for a minimum \$ amount. There are families that can't afford full price that support the NMA and ride and win championship in their class. *I totally agree. However, if you can find a place where this would work, please let us know! Most venues charge a flat fee for the room. If you spend more than the room fee on food, most venues will waive the room fee. The room fee for the last 2 venues was \$6,000. This does not include the cost for 2 bars staffed with drinks (yes we have to pay for 2 bartenders), or the audio visual equipment used (sound, screen, microphones... I brought my own projector and laptop which saved us about \$400) Typically we can count on approximately 200 people to attend the awards ceremony. If we have 200 people, we get the room for free. The last 2 venues have charged us for the seats they set up. This year we had 200 seats, and we later request another 20 seats, so we will pay for 220 guests, whether they eat or not. We had 183 people RSVP and another 15 people showed up and paid at the door.*
3. Love Ya *OK...*
4. Expand the Enduro series, add one more event. *We would add one more event if there was a qualified club willing to put on another event! Start a new club!!*
5. Reserved Seating: I feel if you bought a dinner and award ticket we should be able to find a seat. We walk in at 4:30 and all but one table says reserve? How do you get to do that? We have paid the same amount. *You are right, you should be able to find a seat. According to the number of seats available and the number of people that RSVP, there were plenty of seats. There were 20 tables set up with 10 seats per table. There were 8 tables which were reserved. We have allowed some tables to be reserved by clubs if they donate 2 entry certificates per table, which we then raffle the certificates off for the NMA Land Use Legal Fund. This year table reservations by clubs were: Stumpjumpers: 2 tables with 4 event entries, Cascade Family MC: 1 table and 2 event entries, Bremerton Cruisers MC: 1 table and 2 event entries, Puget Sound Enduro Riders: 1 table and 2 event entries and the NMA with 1 table reservation and 2 NMA Membership Certificates. There also were 2 license holder's that purchased 10 or more tickets, so we reserve a table for them per their request. Part of the problem is having round tables. I*

noticed 2 tables that had four seats vacant. In some cases it is hard to fill a table for ten, depending on the group sizes. If someone would like to create and man a reservation committee, maybe they could figure out a way to seat everyone better than what's been done in the past.

6. Pitchers of water on tables would be nice and so much easier for servers. *Yes I agree.*
7. If the flyer would have been clearer on the mandatory fee, my husband would have came by himself. We are a family of 5 and simply cannot afford \$30 per person. However we all wanted to be here to celebrate with my husband and be here when he received his well deserved jacket. Please indicate on the flyer next year as we could have avoided an embarrassing moment by being asked to leave. *Sorry but I assumed everyone knew there was a fee to get in. There is no indication that its free to get in. In the past 15 years of going to the awards banquet, I have always paid to get in. We feel your pain. That's why the past two years we have offered those 12 and under a reduced fee. We worked this out with the hotel.*
8. If your kid is part of the association this does not mean they automatically get special accommodations. Sand baggers need to be called out. Get some new venues. More Saturday races. *I am not aware of anyone that gets special accommodations. I know My Kid does not get any special accommodations. If anyone thinks My Kid gets special accommodations let me know so I can straighten this out, it is possible something is going on I am not aware of. The rules do state how to deal with sand baggers. If you feel someone is sand bagging, report it as it should be done per the rule book. That said, its hard to qualify all sand baggers. We would love some new venues. If anyone knows a new place to put on an event let us know. Saturday races- well it's up to the club putting on the event which day the event will be held on. Remember 100 percent of our races are put on by all volunteers. For most clubs, a Saturday race is tough to do since they are still setting the event up on Saturday.*
9. Need to NOT give so many throwaways!!! It is not fair to the people who are loyal to the NMA and attend every race. How can you NOT race 3 races and work a race? That is 1/3 of the races!?! *We understand your pain. However, this is Amateur racing. We have family's that race, we have riders that just can't make every event due to other commitments like work, injuries, weddings, funerals, vacations, wives, children, parents. Not everyone can afford to go to every race.*
10. Change the rules for throw aways. 1 throw away after every 5 races. A 5 race series, 0 throw aways. 11 races = 2 throw aways. Change long course for Mat. Possibly just 2 hour race or 2 1 hour 15 minute motos. Have the option to run colored backgrounds instead of the letter designation. Red backgrounds for "A" Class instead of "A" next to your number. Pro payouts at all events. Make it optional to race AA not required if you are top ten overall. If you need further clarification call me 206-555-1234 (name and number withheld) *(1) Yep...Currently we have 1 throw away for every block of 5 races. It's been this way for a long time. If there are 5 races, 1 throw away. Ten Races 2 throwaways. If there are 11 races, there are 3 throw aways, if there are 16 races there are 4 throw aways (that was a crazy year). (2) We have discussed the 2 one hour fifteen minute scrambles and thoughts are: For one, the clubs would not be interested since long course would now be 2 races where they would have to do more than double the work. They would have to score each race, then combine the 2 races somehow for a final score.*

Plus we feel the riders would not be as interested in going out to race again. Do you really want to gear up after a mudfest and go out again? Maybe we are wrong, but this was discussed within the committee before and this is the consensus from what I remember about 2 years ago. (3) Colored backgrounds works for separating the A, B and C classes, but you would still need to have a letter to designate each class within A, B and C. Currently you can use whatever color background you want along with your number and letter designator. (4) It would not be fair to the other riders if someone in the top ten did not ride AA and rode say Senior A or another A Class. If your in the top ten and your coming from say Senior A, you are pretty fast since Senior A is 4 waves behind the start of AA in an Off Road event. The Off Road series AA qualification was changed because of the number of riders at Off Road events was increasing. OMRA also uses the top ten for AA class.