

LWCA Mock Survey

Introduction

In the April 2019 LWCA business meeting, the Board discussed doing a mock survey to exercise Airtable's information-gathering capability. The purpose of the survey was to determine the feasibility of using this method as a voting tool or to perform surveys for gathering member input in lieu of using postal mail. The survey was put together by April 15th and individual emails were sent to all 18 LWCA Board members on the 16th to invite their participation. Each invitee was provided a unique six-character alpha-numeric code to authenticate survey selections. One day before the end of the survey period, another email was sent to remind participants who had not yet responded to take the survey. Sample emails are included in Appendix A. The survey consisted of a total of 20 questions with the final 3 gathering respondents' opinions of the survey method. The actual survey questions are included in Appendix B. Survey results are shown in Appendix C.

Summary of Results

It took approximately 4 hours to prepare the survey, which included the effort to become familiar with Airtable's capabilities, and another 30 to 40 minutes to prepare and send the 18 emails to invitees.

13 of the 18 invitees took the survey. One respondent mistyped the code that was provided, which served to invalidate those results. This is important because this is likely to occur in an actual survey.

The first 17 questions were intended to present Airtable's formatting capability and to simulate the time and effort required to navigate the survey. Otherwise, the actual responses to those questions were meaningless. In consideration of this method as a voting tool, question Nos. 16 and 17 were presented as entries on a mock voting ballot. The results for Question No. 18, "How would you rate this process for collecting information?", were entirely favorable with 10 of the 13 respondents selecting the most favorable answer. Question No. 19, "Please add whatever comments you would like" yielded 11 comments, all favorable. Question No. 20, "How long did it take you to complete the survey?" showed that all respondents completed the survey in less than 10 minutes with 8 completing in less than 5 minutes.

Proposed Usage

This method can be used effectively to collect votes in Association elections and to survey LWCA membership about open issues. Although 72% of invitees participated in this mock survey, the results of an actual vote/survey would likely yield a smaller number due to lack of interest, unfamiliarity with issues/candidates, etc..

To authenticate responses, randomly-generated codes must be generated and provided to all members. The codes for this survey were created in seconds using a free online random-number generator and were distributed to invitees with individual emails. If this method were to be used this year say, for voting, it would take approximately 6 hours to prepare and send the required emails, which probably compares well with the time expended using the postal process. Going forward, the best way to distribute survey/voting codes would be to do so when we receive dues at the beginning of a membership year in the form of a membership dues receipt sent back to each member via email.

To exercise the processing phase of the survey, a simple Microsoft VBA routine was written and used to validate codes and eliminate duplicate code entries. This validation process can now be performed in seconds. Further, since survey/voting selections are collected in a database, they can be presented to the membership through our website. Members could review these results to ensure their selections were counted as they were entered. It is worth mentioning that survey/voting results would theoretically be exposed to the one person who has the list of codes, so a double-blind system could be used to maintain confidentiality.

Finally, if this method is used in LWCA voting, the Bylaws will have to be revised to document the process.

John Bates
LWCA Data Manager

Appendix A

Sample Emails

LWCA Mock Survey

John Bates <telli2jb@gmail.com>
Draft To: JoeBlow@gmail.com

Wed, May 1, 2019 at 12:34 PM

Please read carefully...

In last Saturday's LWCA business meeting, we discussed doing a mock survey to exercise Airtable's information-gathering capability. As I stated in the meeting, I believe it is feasible to use Airtable as a voting tool or to perform surveys for gathering member input in lieu of using postal mail for such things.

I have assembled a list of rather meaningless trivia questions, the point of which is not to find out what you know, but to make this a quick and enjoyable experience. The objective is to learn whether you, as an officer or director, believe this process can and should effectively be used by the Association.

As with most surveys, the tendency will be for you to fly through as fast as possible so you can move on to something else. Please avoid doing that because we need your meaningful opinion as to whether this is a viable option for the Association. The survey should only take about 10 minutes.

A unique Survey Code is provided below. Entries without a valid code will be ignored. The survey period will end on April 30th and the results will be posted on the LWCA website by May 5th. Please click the link below to access the survey.

Survey Code: 2947GZ

<https://airtable.com/shrLuR6cRzuZIHJ3W>

Thanks...
John Bates
Data Manager

Original Email

LWCA Mock Survey

John Bates <telli2jb@gmail.com>
Draft To: JoeBlow@gmail.com

Wed, May 1, 2019 at 12:39 PM

This is a reminder that your opportunity to participate in the LWCA Mock Survey will end (tomorrow) on April 30th at 9PM.
If you'd like to participate, follow the link below.

John Bates

----- Forwarded message -----
From: John Bates <telli2jb@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 16, 2019 at 11:25 AM
Subject: LWCA Mock Survey
To: JoeBlow@gmail.com

Please read carefully...

In last Saturday's LWCA business meeting, we discussed doing a mock survey to exercise Airtable's information-gathering capability. As I stated in the meeting, I believe it is feasible to use Airtable as a voting tool or to perform surveys for gathering member input in lieu of using postal mail for such things.

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Thanks...
John Bates
Data Manager

Follow-up Email

Appendix B Mock Survey

20 Questions...

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Begin by entering the unique survey code you were provided. Only one survey per code will be accepted. In the event multiple surveys are cast with the same code, the latest survey will be accepted, thereby allowing you to re-submit should you want to change your selections.
2. Survey Questions - Some are multiple choice or true/false while others require a simple answer. Make your selection or place your answer in the space provided.
3. Click the 'Submit' button at the bottom of the survey to record your entries.
4. The deadline for submittal is 9:00pm on April 30, 2019.
5. The results will be compiled and posted on the LWCA website by May 5th.

Survey Code *

Enter the unique survey code you were provided. Survey results posted with invalid codes will be ignored.

1. Judgement *

How warm does the water need to be for you to jump in the lake?

- 60 degrees
- 70 degrees
- 80 degrees
- 90 degrees

2. History *

What year was Lake Weatherford impounded?

- 1951
- 1956
- 1957
- 1961

3. Entertainment *

The leader of the Rat Pack was...

- Dean Martin
- Frank Sinatra
- Brad Pitt
- None of the above

4. Recreation *

Sailboats use this for fuel...

5. Finance *

Social Security payments are made on what day of the week?

- Monday
- Wednesday
- Friday
- None of the above

6. Nature *

The Diamondback Water Snake is poisonous.

- True
- False

7. Geography *

The only active volcano in Hawaii is on the big island.

- True
- False

8. Sports *

How many no-hitters did Nolan Ryan pitch?

- 4
- 5
- 7
- 9

9. Acting *

Duke Wayne's first name was actually...

- Marvin
- Marion
- Patrick
- John

10. More History *

This strong-armed individual was the first to walk on the moon...

11. More Recreation *

This is widely known as a place in the water where you throw money...

12. Even More History *

He was No. 10's co-achiever...

- Wally Schirra
- James Lovell
- Ken Mattingly
- Buzz Aldrin

13. More Nature *

Unlike almost every other tree, this one sheds its leaves in the Spring...

- Water Elm
- Live Oak
- Shumardi Red Oak
- No idea

14. More Sports *

Latest winner of the famed Green Jacket...

- Francesco Molinari
- Tony Finau
- Tiger Woods
- None of the above

15. Genetics *

All blue-eyed white cats are deaf.

- True
- False

16. Secretary *

Enter your vote for one of the following to fill the office of LWCA Secretary...

- Will I. Wright
- Penn Scriptsky
- Neither

17. Treasurer *

Enter your vote for one of the following to fill the office of LWCA Treasurer...

- Irene Adderupsky
- Shirley Shomedamuny
- Neither

18. Opinion *

How would you rate this process for collecting information?

- Really easy
- Pretty easy
- Easy enough
- None of the above

19. Comments *

Please add whatever additional comments you would like.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR COUNTRY.

20. Time *

How long did it take you to complete this survey?

- Less than 5 minutes
- 5 to 10 minutes
- 10 to 15 minutes
- More than 15 minutes

Appendix C Survey Results

Voting Code	1. Judgement	2. History	3. Entertainment	4. Recreation	5. Finance
B2GEJ6	80 degrees	1957	Frank Sinatra	Wind	Wednesday
6DA9DJ	60 degrees	1956	Brad Pitt	people who talk too much	Wednesday
Swdjtu	90 degrees	1951	Frank Sinatra	Chris bates paddling	Monday
Z7EQNY	60 degrees	1956	Frank Sinatra	Wind	Friday
S4ZJW5	70 degrees	1961	Dean Martin	Wind	None of the above
A84Y26	80 degrees	1956	Frank Sinatra	Wind	None of the above
X3477v	70 degrees	1957	Frank Sinatra	Wind	None of the above
GVX3V4	80 degrees	1956	Frank Sinatra	Wind	Wednesday
GHVLMML	80 degrees	1956	None of the above	Beer	None of the above
4vfnmt	80 degrees	1957	Frank Sinatra	Wind	Monday
FTTREC	70 degrees	1956	Frank Sinatra	Wind	Wednesday
MJEJKR	70 degrees	1951	Frank Sinatra	Wind	Wednesday
2947GZ	80 degrees	1956	Dean Martin	wind	Wednesday

Questions 1 through 5

Voting Code	6. Nature	7. Geography	8. Sports	9. Acting	10. More History
B2GEJ6	FALSE	FALSE	7	Marion	Neil Armstrong
6DA9DJ	TRUE	TRUE	7	Marion	jerry
Swdjtu	FALSE	FALSE	9	Marion	Neil armstrong
Z7EQNY	FALSE	TRUE	5	Marvin	Neil Armstrong
S4ZJW5	TRUE	FALSE	9	Marion	Neil Armstrong
A84Y26	FALSE	TRUE	7	Marion	Neil Armstrong
X3477v	FALSE	TRUE	5	John	Neil Armstrong
GVX3V4	TRUE	TRUE	7	Marion	Neil Armstrong
GHVLMML	FALSE	TRUE	9	John	Mickey Mouse
4vfnmt	FALSE	FALSE	5	Patrick	Neil Armstrong
FTTREC	FALSE	TRUE	5	Marion	Land rover
MJEJKR	TRUE	TRUE	7	Marion	Armstrong
2947GZ	FALSE	FALSE	7	Marion	Neil Armstrong

Questions 6 through 10

Voting Code	11. More Recreation	12. Even More History	13. More Nature	14. More Sports	15. Even More Nature
B2GEJ6	Boat	Buzz Aldrin	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE
6DA9DJ	my house	Wally Schirra	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	TRUE
Swdjtu	Your boat	Ken Mattingly	No idea	Tiger Woods	FALSE
Z7EQNY	Boat	Wally Schirra	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE
S4ZJW5	Wishing Well	Buzz Aldrin		Tiger Woods	TRUE
A84Y26	Fountain of youth	Buzz Aldrin	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE
X3477v	Fountain	Buzz Aldrin	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE
GVX3V4	Trevi Fountain	James Lovell	No idea	Tiger Woods	FALSE
GHVLMML	Boat	Ken Mattingly	Live Oak	None of the above	FALSE
4vfnmt	Fountain	Buzz Aldrin	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE
FTTREC	Wishing well	Ken Mattingly	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE
MJEJKR	Well	Wally Schirra	No idea	Tiger Woods	FALSE
2947GZ	Trevi Fountain, Rome, Italy	Buzz Aldrin	Live Oak	Tiger Woods	FALSE

Questions 11 through 15

Voting Code	16. Treasurer	17. Secretary	18. Opinion	19. Comments	20. Time
B2GEJ6	Irene Adderupsky	Will I. Wright	Really easy		Less than 5 minutes
6DA9DJ	Neither	Will I. Wright	Pretty easy	cool	Less than 5 minutes
Swdjtu			Really easy	Thank you for doing this John!	Less than 5 minutes
Z7EQNY	Neither	Neither	Really easy	Very nice! I'm sure I got a lot of wrong answers!	5 to 10 minutes
S4ZJW5	Neither	Neither	Really easy		5 to 10 minutes
A84Y26	Shirley Shomedamuny	Will I. Wright	Really easy	Love it!! Let's use it for everything we can!!	Less than 5 minutes
X3477v	Neither	Neither	Really easy	Good survey, John. I probably flunked but it was un!!! Pretty sneaky questions!!!!	5 to 10 minutes
GVX3V4	Neither	Neither	Really easy	You are a genius John Bates!	Less than 5 minutes

GHVLMML	Shirley Shomedamuny	Penn Scriptsky	Really easy	Seems very easy to use. I completed this on a smartphone.	Less than 5 minutes
4vfnmt	Neither	Penn Scriptsky	Easy enough	Agree to allow former residents of lake association to continue as associate members after moving out of area	Less than 5 minutes
FTTREC	Shirley Shomedamuny	Will I. Wright	Easy enough	John, if I got these all right, you can have your "T"back!!!! Ha! Good survey!	5 to 10 minutes
MJEJKR	Neither	Neither	Really easy	Interesting. Hope it works for you	Less than 5 minutes
2947GZ	Neither	Neither	Really easy	Nice work John	5 to 10 minutes

Questions 16 through 20