

ETRC Board Meeting 3/17/12

Present from the Board:

Brent McCoy, Roberta Williams, Kelley Eller, Ken Wade, Karen Edwards, John Guinn, Mike Evans, Robert Dodson. Carol Stone and Patti Gibson listened in to most of the meeting via conference call.

Absent, excused: Chuck Atchley and Trudie Kuka

Other Members Present: Jim Pearce, Hubert and Linda Helton, Mark Gibson, and Derek Dieterich

Location: Daryl Miller Farm following the Club Trial, Sweetwater

Brent called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Officer's Reports.

Reading of the Minutes/Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards reported that there were 4 sets of minutes that had not yet been approved: meetings on 11/9/11, 1/4/12, 2/25/12 and the E-meeting from 2/27-3/1/12. Given the number of minutes to be read, the lateness of the hour, and the fact that these had all been sent out to the Board within a short period after the meetings and comments and changes had been made at that time, Karen suggested that we dispense with reading the minutes and proceed with approval. Mike Evans moved that we approve the minutes as sent out and corrected via email; Kelley Eller seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Karen suggested that in the future we follow a different protocol for minutes approval. Specifically, she will send them out to the Board shortly after the meeting and there will be a several day period for review, comments and changes. As soon as she has received 7 emails from Board members approving them, she will finalize the minutes and send them out to the Board again as final and approved for purposes of posting them on the website and sending out to members. Carol Stone suggested that in order to keep everything sufficiently formal, we specifically waive reading the minutes at each meeting and formally approve those that were transmitted by email earlier, similar to how we did today.

Karen had no other secretarial business to report.

Treasurer's/President's Report

Chuck was not in attendance so we didn't have a treasurer's report. Brent said he understood there was about \$3,500 in the treasury at the present time. There was some discussion of the results from the Club Trial that was just completed. A total of \$725 was taken in for entries (plus some additional money in memberships and renewals), and \$100 was paid to the bird boys, leaving a net profit of \$625 for the club as there were no other expenses. Brent asked the Secretary to write a thank you letter to Daryl and Sharon

Miller for letting us use his farm. [Note: on March 19, 2012, Roberta Williams volunteered to write this letter plus one to Calvin Holt for letting us drive across his farm.]

Old Business.

Use of Roane Business Park land for training. Brent mentioned that before Christmas we had discussed this but had not had time to pursue it any further. Some person who knows what is needed for our training needs to go see the property and then go to a meeting with the Roane Alliance that Karen will set up to discuss our use of the property. Mike Evans and Ken Wade agreed to work with Karen on this, and Brent noted that Guy Greer was also interested in being involved. Status will be reported at the next meeting.

Committees.

Carol suggested that we needed to move forward with asking for volunteers to serve on the various committees. Brent noted that first we need to figure out what committees we are going to set up. Carol agreed to come up with a proposed list of committees. Karen suggested this list also include a brief statement of duties and responsibilities for each of these committees. Carol thought that was a good idea and asked if Karen would help work on this project with her. A report will be presented at the next meeting so the item was tabled for now.

Spring Hunt Test.

Carol had sent Brent an email with a detailed status report and we went down the list discussing the various items.

1. Kelley Eller is in charge of getting ducks. Kelley reported that he had located a duck supplier in Iowa who is supplying the Middle Tennessee Retriever club and who will bring our ducks at the same time he delivers theirs. The cost will be \$12.50-\$13 per duck and they will arrive the week before the test. He will have to have a check to pay for the ducks at the time of delivery; Brent replied that he had talked with Chuck Atchley who said this would not be a problem and that he would cover the up front since we will not have the entry fees by that time. Last year, the duck bill was \$3,600 for 237 dogs entered. We anticipate and hope for a larger number of entries this year, and duck prices have continued to rise so it may well be more than last year. Kelley is estimating that we will need 1.1 ducks per dog. Last year we had 1.25 and we had some extras. Kelley had to shop around to find a supplier that would sell them at less than \$15 a duck, and several of the old suppliers have gone out of business. He asked for some help on Friday morning for catching up the ducks. He will buy a bag or two of corn to feed them for the several days they are at his place before the test.
2. Robert Dodson will supply the duck gas.
3. Equipment movers will be Kelley and Tom Beeckman (if he is still here in the area). Also Mark Gibson and Wes Cosner have agreed to help.

4. Chief Marshall: Carol has asked Trudie Kuka if she will take on this role but hasn't yet gotten a response.
5. Lunches: Marianne Beeckman and Lois have agreed to work on this. If Marianne is unavailable on Sunday, Carol has some other people to ask.
6. Ribbons and duck bands: we have plenty already. Carol has them and will bring them along.
7. T shirts: , has suggested that we go down to just 3 styles of shirts. However, we still have quite a few shirts left over from previous tests, and it might be a good idea to save money this year and not get any new ones. We can sell the ones we have for clearance prices. Normally we order about \$700-\$800 worth of shirts and sell about the same amount. This year if we only sell ones we already have, there may be a small profit. John Guinn mentioned that he knew of a supplier that might be able to give us a better price. Kelley Eller moved that we sell only old ones this year and not buy any this time around. Mike Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
8. Gunners: Mike Evans has arranged for 5 people from the SWAT team to serve as gunners. Mike wanted to know how much ammunition he should get. Robert Dodson mentioned that last year he thought we bought 2 cases and Brent might have supplied some as well. Mike decided that he will again get two cases.
9. Poppers: we will need to buy some this time. Roberta has 12 boxes. We haven't bought any for some time, but we used up quite a few on the training day last week and on the club trial earlier in the day. Brent will count how many he has remaining. We can buy them from a Mr. Steadman who will sell them at his cost and deliver them for free. Carol will get the information to him once we figure out how many we need. There was mention that some clubs use primers instead, which are considerably cheaper. No conclusion was reached about switching to primers instead, pending Brent's inventory.
10. Bird Boys: John Guinn is working with his local high school coach to get some kids from the football team. Last year we paid them \$60 each, but John said the coach told him they would have done it for \$50. We decided that we couldn't use prison trustees like we had done today. We need a minimum of 30 kids assuming we will be running two master flights, and decided to offer a flat rate of \$1,500 plus lunch for at least 30 kids. This will save us \$600 over 2011 and \$400 over 2010.
11. Marshall boxes: Carol has them and will make sure they are OK each day. Patti will assist.
12. Judges' gifts: in the past, we have given \$75 gift cards. Given our straitened circumstances, Carol suggested that we set a budget and try to find gifts that fit within that budget. Various suggestions were made such as a satchel, T shirt, back pack, duck call, rain suits etc. The budget set was \$35 per judge, and Patti Gibson will start looking for ideas.
13. Judges dinner: Patti and Mark Gibson are taking care of the dinner at no cost to the club. A big round of thanks to them for this extremely generous offer!
14. Hotel: Carol has asked the hotel to reserve us 17 rooms, and will give them the judge's names. The club will pay for the judges and for the hunt test

- secretary. Anyone else wishing to stay in the hotel will have to pay their own way. If we have more master flights, we may need 21 rooms. Carol will ask for the number of rooms to be increased.
15. Hospitality: we will go with club member-provided drinks and other goodies. Someone is needed to take on the task of coordinating the hospitality donations and making sure we don't run out at the test. Brent will ask David Knott if he is willing to take on this responsibility.
 16. Entry fees: Brent provided a breakdown of entry fees for a number of the nearby 2012 hunt tests. Our fees last year were \$70 Master, \$65 Senior, and \$60 Junior. Most of the other clubs are charging more with the majority charging \$80 for Master, \$75 for Senior, and \$65 for Junior. Carol moved that we raise our rates to that level; Kelley Eller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 17. Hunt Test Committee: Carol submitted the hunt test committee names back in January to AKC. The committee consists of Carol, Roberta Williams, Tom Beeckman, Kelley Eller, Robert Dodson, and Chuck Atchley. Brent wanted to be added to the list, and noted that Tom needs to be taken off since he will not be there on the second day of the test. Carol will contact AKC to make this change. We still need to get the names to Entry Express including the name of the Marshall. [NOTE 3/19/12: Carol notes that she reported Tom's name as being on the committee in error. Ken Wade was the other member whose name was on the original list she submitted.]
 18. Porta Potties: we will need two for the test. They will be set up at the Headquarters building.

New Business.

Bylaws

Derek Dieterich had sent out an email to the general membership the previous week suggesting that he would be willing to work on making some bylaws changes. He was concerned that the membership provision (requiring sponsors and voting acceptance of new members) was not being done and that we needed to amend our Bylaws to make it easier to sign up new members. He was also concerned about the Bylaws requiring that statements be mailed to members, and thought that might mean that email reminders weren't acceptable.

John Guinn moved that we not entertain any changes to the Bylaws at this time. The motion was seconded by Robert Dodson and passed unanimously. As several members commented, we are currently fighting for our financial lives as a club and we need to focus all our efforts now on putting on a great hunt test and improving our financial situation.

Brent commented that members should not be sending out mass emails to all other members without this being screened somehow. Members give us their email in trust that we won't fill their inboxes with a lot of different emails and without a screening process we don't have a good way to ensure we are meeting this obligation. He asked Derek that if, in the future, he had some concerns about what the club was doing, to please bring it first before the Board rather than sending out a mass email. Jim Pearce


mentioned that there are some email list sites/software that might make it easier to have better control over membership lists and emails, including ensuring that the addresses were correct and people weren't inadvertently left off. He volunteered to look into this for consideration at a future meeting.

Next Club Trial

The next club trial is tentatively set for Saturday, April 28. Roberta will check with Chuck Atchley to see if we can use his farm for that. There was some discussion about bird boys for that trial, but no decision was reached other than needing 5 – 7 people.

At 6:30 pm, Mike Evans moved the meeting be adjourned. John Guinn seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Edwards
Secretary

Change log:

1. Karen: Took out “Special” before “Board Meeting” in the title (3/19/12).
2. Carol: Added “Patti will assist” in paragraph on Spring Hunt test, Marshall boxes (3/19/12).
3. Carol: changed “Our regular tee shirt supplier” to “Valerie McCoy, who handles ordering tee shirts for the club” in the paragraph on Spring Hunt Test, Tee shirts (3/19/12).
4. Carol: Added note to Hunt Test Committee paragraph to reflect the correct list of names already reported to AKC (3/19/12).
5. Roberta: Corrected spelling of Daryl Miller’s name. Also, I added a note that Roberta is going to write the thank-you letters to the Millers and to Calvin Holt (3/19/12).
6. Mike Evans: changed date of club trial from 4/27 to 4/28, which is a Saturday. (3/20/12)
7. Mike Evans: on the poppers, it’s Roberta and not Robert. Fixed typo (3/20/12).
8. Kelley Eller: the duck supplier is not from middle TN but instead is the supplier TO the middle TN retriever club who is bringing our ducks at the same time that he brings theirs.

Approvals:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Carol Stone 3/19/12 | 5. Mike Evans 3/20/12 |
| 2. Ken Wade 3/19/12 | 6. Kelley Eller 3/21/12 |
| 3. Patti Gibson 3/19/12 | 7. Karen Edwards 3/23/12 |
| 4. Roberta Williams 3/19/12 | |