

ETRC Board Meeting 7/8/12

Present from the Board:

Brent McCoy, Kelley Eller, Chuck Atchley, Roberta Williams, Karen Edwards, John Guinn, Mike Evans, Robert Dodson, Carol Stone, Patti Gibson, Trudie Kuka.

Absent, excused: Ken Wade.

Other Members Present: Val McCoy, Lois Eller, Jim Pearce, Mark Gibson, Mitzi Evans, Heather Guinn, Kevin Stone.

Location: Chuck Atchley's private box at the Smokies Stadium, Sevierville. Many thanks to Chuck for use of this wonderful facility, plus the excellent food and after-meeting entertainment!

Brent called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Officer's Reports.

President's Report

Brent congratulated the club on a successful AKC hunt test at the end of May. Thanks to this test, we are now firmly 'above water' again with our finances. Lots of good ideas were used for cutting costs without making the test go poorly – only water to drink, for example, although ice costs were very high since it was such a hot weekend. Many people helped and thanks are due to everyone.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck reported a total of \$10,082.81 in the bank account and passed out a report showing running totals for the year. Income on the hunt test was \$17,298.59; expenses were \$11,287.02 with only about \$50 remaining to be paid out. In comparison, the last fall hunt test we ran (2010), our costs were \$11,450 but income was only around \$10,000, for a loss of approximately \$1,500. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

Reading of the Minutes/Secretary's Report. Minutes from the last meeting were approved using our new email voting protocol and have been posted on the ETRC website.

Karen reported a letter received from Eric Rutherford, the photographer who took pictures at our spring test. Other members reported that this all worked very well – the Rutherfords didn't get in the way, Mrs. Rutherford helped out in the office, and the participants appreciated the pictures which were excellent. If they want to come back, they will be welcomed!

Old Business.

Use of Roane Business Park land for training. Karen reported that we have a signed agreement for use of the property off Pawnook Farm Road in Lenoir City. This property is close to I40, near the big HT Hackney plant, and consists of several hundred acres of rolling land. There is a 1.1 acre deep water pond on the Pegasus Technologies' property owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, which adjoins this land, and we can also use hoses available at the building to cool down dogs if this should become necessary. The stipulations on use contained in the agreement, other than the ones for not tearing it up, are advanced notice to the Roane Alliance, and no live ammunition. Brent offered to scan the agreement and send Karen an electronic copy for posting on the members-only portion of the web. He will keep the hard copy in the President's book.

Mike Evans reported discussions with TWRA on use of the Roane Regional property. TWRA said they were not likely to ever show up unless there was a complaint from nearby property owners or Roane Regional. If they did show up, the only issue will be to make sure that the ducks we use are not wild ducks, are mallards and have the clipped toe. Kelley Eller mentioned that he had a Federal number from where he purchased the ducks, showing that they were farm-raised, and that he would provide this number to Brent in case TWRA ever showed up while we were training.

We discussed what the protocols should be for use of the land, and agreed on the following: Karen will be the liaison with Roane Regional, and she will need a decision by Wednesday in order for us to provide adequate notice for our use on Saturday. The land will be available for use on Saturdays only for now, and only for organized training. It should be noted that these are Board stipulations and are not part of the agreement with Roane Regional.

New Membership Sponsorship Requirements.

Roberta reported that we have a new membership application, so we need to firm up our protocols for assignment of sponsors. We also need to go over how it will work to read the application at one meeting and then have a general membership vote on acceptance of the member at another meeting. We looked again at the bylaws, and noted that they do not specify what type of meeting where the membership application is first read. Karen moved that the reading would take place at the first club meeting of any type, which could be a board meeting, and that the actual voting would be at either the general meeting in August or the one in February. Sponsors will be assigned (with their agreement) by the Board from people who live near to the new member. Voting for new members would be on the agenda before any other voting business, so the new members could vote in all other business from then on. Trudie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Chuck Atchley, who is typically the person who receives the applications, will also send a copy to Karen as well as Roberta from now on, since the Bylaws specify that the Secretary is supposed to maintain copies. Roberta will continue to maintain the club's archives, and Karen will pass on the original copy to her following the full acceptance vote by the membership.

Karen read the new membership application from Gregg Driscoll (spouse Kathleen). Mr. Driscoll is a metals analyst who lives in Lookout Mountain, TN. He owns a 7 month old Chesapeake dog, and has past experience as a birdboy and gunner. He was a previous member of the Shrewsbury River Retriever Club in New Jersey, and has primary interests in AKC hunt tests, dog training, club trials, and Ducks Unlimited membership. He provided all the appropriate contact information.

Trudie Kuka and Brent McCoy, who live reasonably close to Driscoll, volunteered to serve as his sponsors. They will contact him to welcome him to the club. Karen will prepare an email notifying him that they are his sponsors, and will provide everyone with the appropriate contact information.

Standing Committees.

Some work had been done on this earlier this year, but never finalized. Carol Stone introduced the idea again, along with a proposed committee structure that she had worked on with some input from Karen. A copy of the proposal is attached to these minutes.

Basically, Carol proposed a total of 8 standing committees be established, with each one headed by a board member. Proposed duties for each committee were also supplied in the proposal. There was some general discussion that having committees with some of the members being from the general membership would spread around the knowledge of how to run the club (which is most strongly located within just a few people, notably Roberta, at the present time) and would be a good way to get more members involved in running the club. This could also serve as a good way of identifying people who are willing and interested in helping and who might be good additions to the Board at some point in the future. Mike suggested that we send out an email to all members soliciting volunteers to help serve on these committees.

There was some discussion on whether the committee chairmen needed to be board members. According to the bylaws, this is not necessary. However, in order for the board to ensure that it is aware of what is going on with the committees, it would be necessary for the committee chairs to attend the Board meetings, and so from a practical standpoint, having them be board members already seems to make some sense.

Discussion was held on each proposed committee separately:

1. **Training Committee.** There was general agreement that our training situation is broke and needs fixing. Currently one of the problems is dragging the trailer from

Hiwassee to the training grounds. There was some consensus that this wasn't needed; training can be done effectively without wingers, just using participants to throw bumpers or ducks for each other, and that many people have cap pistols or personal shotguns with blanks that they can bring along. The concept of a training committee chairman would be someone who organizes the training sessions but doesn't have to actually run each one. He or she could get other members on his committee and those assistants could actually run the sessions and learn how to organize training. Right now, only Brent and Roberta have the knowledge on organized sessions and we very much need to get this spread around. Brent and Roberta agreed that they would be willing to serve as co-chairs on such a training committee. There will not be any training organized until probably after the fall hunt test; it's too hot right now anyway.

2. **Membership Committee:** This is again something that Roberta has done pretty much single-handedly. With the new decision to follow the Bylaws procedures for new members, this will involve more work ensuring that sponsors are assigned, members are voted on, new members are notified of who their sponsors are, etc. Since the Bylaws already assign some of the membership duties to the Secretary, Karen offered to learn this function, with Roberta's assistance.
3. **Program and Events Committee:** these were proposed as two different committees, with the Program committee covering seminars, and the events committee covering the summer picnic, fun days, etc. Patti Gibson suggested these be combined into a single committee, and volunteered to head it up.
4. **Awards Committee:** For years, Roberta has handled this by herself. Last year, Mike Evans helped out and did much of the work under Roberta's guidance. There are still some things that he doesn't know, however. He volunteered to work with Roberta as co-chair on this committee so he could finish learning what was involved, and Roberta agreed to keep on training him. Basically, he still needs to know about where to get the awards plaques engraved.
5. **Club Test Committee:** after some discussion, it was agreed to keep on with this being a committee of the board as a whole, rather than setting it up as a separate committee.
6. **Equipment Committee:** As discussed above, one of the biggest problems is that the trailer is at Hiwassee and is hard to pull. It's also pretty much a mess, despite periodic efforts to clean it up. Trudie volunteered to serve as chairman of this committee, as long as she can round up a bunch of people to help actually do the work of wrestling the stuff in and out of the trailer. She will work up an inventory. There was also some discussion about whether or not we should again look into insurance to cover the contents of the trailer (this was dropped last year since we were so low on funds). This issue can be discussed following an

inventory of what we have. Trudie will call a work day and will be looking for volunteers.

7. **Hunt Test Committee:** we have always had a hunt test committee so this is nothing new. No changes need to be made to modify this committee at the time. Carol and Brent are leading the charge, and may be working to get someone else who will serve as the chairman or at least take over many of the duties.

NEW BUSINESS

Apprentice Judges. Newly approved AKC rules (January 1, 2012) make it impossible for apprentice judges to judge back to back Junior or Senior assignments in one weekend. This means if we want to use one of our own apprentice judges, we still have to bring in a second set of judges for the other day, at additional expenses. We have several apprentice judges in the membership, including Mike Evans, Brent McCoy, and Trudie Kuka. Brent may be grandfathered under the new rules; he will first contact AKC to see if he is exempt from this requirement. Once we know more about this, we will need to look at establishing some kind of club policy on how to deal with assisting members to get qualified.

August Semi-annual General membership meeting and picnic

Last year, this was held at the Lenoir City Park. Roberta reported that the LC Park is only available on August 10, or after Labor Day, which will conflict with hunting seasons, the Club Trial, and the Fall AKC test. Brent mentioned that Guy and Sharon Greer have offered the use of their place for the picnic, which will be much more flexible and free. Patti, as the new Programs/Events chairman, will contact them about this and will also check into Maryville's park, Pearson Springs, which is also available free of charge. There was some discussion that Lenoir City was more centrally located. The Greers' place is very near Lenoir City. Patti will report back soon via email, as we are running out of time to get this planned.

Fall Club Trial

Various dates in September were discussed and discarded. The 1st is Labor Day weekend so is out; the 8th is prime hunting season. The 15th and the 22nd are also still within hunting season, and the 29th is our Fall hunt test. After some discussion, September 22nd was picked as the tentative date, with the 15th as the alternate. We need to pin down a location immediately – Chota is our first choice, as the Atchley, Kinzallow, and Miller farms are all going to be used for hunting those weekends. Roane Regional might be a last ditch possibility but as there is only one pond, it will be a difficult scheduling issue to get all the events in. Kelley will contact Chota and try to get a date lined up.

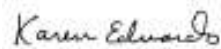
Tee Shirts

After successful sales at the Club Trial and the spring hunt test, our tee shirt supplies are very low. There are almost no short-sleeve tees left, and our visors and hats are almost

gone as well. Suggestions were made for getting drink can holders, and maybe getting camo shirts too. Camo is expensive though, although a digital camo print might be doable. Carol moved that we authorize Val McCoy to take inventory and purchase what she thinks we need in terms of amounts, colors, options, and additional items. Anyone who has places that they think we should check for prices should provide that info to Val. Val should use her judgment in terms of the best prices and the total amount (previously, our purchases have cost around \$800). Mike seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

There being no other business to discuss, it being well into the fifth inning of the Smokies game, and it being time for the dessert cart to arrive, Carol moved that we adjourn. Trudie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

None Requested.

Approvals completed via email 7/12/12:

1. Mike Evans
2. Trudie Kuka
3. Robert Dodson
4. Patti Gibson
5. Carol Stone
6. Roberta Williams
7. Karen Edwards