

**Board Meeting Tuesday, 1/21/13**  
**Pegasus Technologies Building, Roane Regional**

**Present from the Board:**

Brent McCoy, Chuck Atchley, Karen Edwards, Mike Evans, Carol Stone, Trudie Kuka, Ken Wade, and Patti Gibson.

**Absent, excused:** John Guinn, Roberta Williams, Kelley Eller, Robert Dodson

A quorum is 50% of the Board. A quorum was present.

**Location:** The meeting was held in the Pegasus Technologies' conference room at the Roane Regional Industrial Park, Lenoir City. This is just in front of our new training grounds, and was the first opportunity for some of the Board to see (in the dusk) the pond we can use and just a bit of the land itself.

President Brent McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Officer's Reports**

*President's Report.* None

*Reading of the Minutes/Secretary's Report.* The minutes from the last meeting were amended and approved via Email. Carol moved, and Ken Wade seconded, that the minutes be formally approved for the record. The motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer's Report.* Chuck Atchley brought along the final report for the year. The report, which is attached to these minutes and made a part of them, showed that from an initial balance of \$1,259.38 at the start of the year, we ended the year at a balance of \$9,393.32. This was no change from the totals reported at the last board meeting at the end of October.

**Old Business**

*February Banquet/Meeting planning.* Mike has made arrangements for us to have the meeting at Calhoun's at Bearden Hill, the same place as last year. The date is Saturday, February 23, 2013, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in the month. The party will start at 6 and the meeting at 7. There will be a lectern/speaker's stand and a table for Chuck to sit at and collect dues. Mike needs RSVPs by February 15 in order for the restaurant to determine how many waiters, tables and seats will be needed. Karen will send out several announcements via mass emails, and will make sure the info is included on the website.

**Awards.** Mike has only received two applications for the Gun Dog award, and none for Puppy of the Year. Only 3 title awards have been received. We went over the list of awards that we have, and decided that Karen and Mike will work on an email reminder to go out as soon as possible, asking for nominations for Member of the Year, AKC Sportsman of the Year, Gun Dog and Puppy of the Year, Master National Qualifiers, and all title awards. This announcement will provide criteria from AKC for the Sportsman's award and will set a date of Monday, February 28 for receiving nominations and award justifications. The Board will vote on the nominations ASAP afterwards, via email, as many times as necessary to pick the winners. Mike will contact Roberta to get information on what the Master National Qualifier award plaques look like.

There was some discussion why the Board voted on these awards rather than the membership, and the reason stated was that the board knew more of the members, and having been involved in planning the activities, was better equipped to know which members had been involved in most things. This satisfied the board enough that it ended the discussion. Mike has to have the information for the engravers by February 1, 2013. An earlier reminder on the title awards went out last week.

## **New Business**

### ***Field Trial Rule Change Ballot***

As an AKC Member Club, we recently received a letter from the AKC Retriever Advisory Committee with a ballot on proposed Rule Changes for Field Trials. The letter requested our vote by February 28, 2013.

Two changes are proposed, as discussed below:

1. **A change that would attempt to clarify the definition of an amateur.** It would exclude people who earn money in dog sports in any way OTHER THAN taking money for directly training a dog, training a handler, or handling a dog. In other words, earning money from such activities as writing books, selling training CDs, putting on seminars etc. would not make a person a professional for purposes of their field trial classification. Several of our members do run in field trials. Their concern was that anything that makes it easier for experience professionals to go back to being able to handle in Amateur stakes was not necessarily a good thing for the truly amateur handlers. Carol moved we vote NO on this proposed change. Chuck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. **A change that would prohibit layout blinds in field trials.** This proposed change would prohibit any blind that would require gunners, throwers, or blind planters to lie on the ground in order to be out of sight of the dog. This can pose some safety issues, but there are some parts of the country where finding cover is just not an easy thing to do. Trudie pointed out that having this be a rule at the national level would make it impossible for the field trial committee to do what makes the most sense given their particular terrain. Brent commented that clubs

have an obligation to do what they can to run a very safe trial, particularly where kids (bird boys) are involved, but questioned whether we needed to have a national rule about this. Karen moved we vote NO on this proposed change. Carol seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Brent, as our President, filled out the ballot and signed his name. Karen will copy the signed ballot and send it off in the mail.

***Spring Hunt Test:*** Carol reported that plans are going along well on the spring hunt test. All but three judges are confirmed and the 3 have been contacted and initial discussions are positive. We have decided to take advantage of the new rule that allows us to limit the number of entries, and have limited the Master test to two flights (120 dogs). There was some discussion about how this is going to be implemented, and whether there will be waiting lists in case of drop outs. However, most of the scratches occur at the last moment so this might not be very practical.

***Fall Hunt Test:*** We still have issues concerning the dates for the fall test for 2013 and forward, with conflicts at Hiwassee over the Chattanooga club's dates on our AKC-approved weekend, and with AKC over the Middle Tennessee hunt test dates on the weekend that Hiwassee is available. Chattanooga will lose the date with Hiwassee this year if they don't use it (last year they moved at the last minute to Alabama) but it may be too late for us since they don't have to decide until a month beforehand.

There was some discussion of trying to do a double, 3-day test with the Northeast Tennessee club. This would involve each club having ONE Master, one senior, and one Junior test, with the first Master test starting on Friday. This would mean two masters would be running at the same time on Saturday along with a senior and a junior. There are problems with the places available for Northeast with this kind of crowding; there isn't enough space and/or water at the places used so far (Phipps Bend or "Chad's place"). Trudie, who is also a member of Northeast, will talk with them about possibilities of running a combined test. Middle Tennessee already runs a full double test and has plenty of entries; they won't want to combine with us.

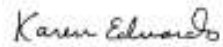
Mike will call his contacts at TWRA and see if they have any suggestions for possible places to run a test other than Hiwassee since it isn't available on the weekend we need it. Brent mentioned Catoosa, which has plenty of water and suitable land, but is way out in the boonies with no nearby services. Hunting times and dates may also be a problem there too. Carol mentioned that she had heard something about a new wildlife area being designated in East Tennessee, but didn't have any details. The Phipps Bend site is owned by Hawkins County, and is a full public use area which might cause some difficulties.

No decisions were reached, but as Mike pointed out, we are running out of time to figure something out, if we are going to run a fall Test.

***Adjournment***

There being no other business, Ken moved that we adjourn the meeting. Carol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Brent declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

- Typo correction on “Regional” under location, Carol Stone
- Removed reference to bow hunting club (fall hunt test), Mike Evans

Approvals:

- Ken Wade, 1/22/13
- Carol Stone, 1/22/13
- Mike Evans, 1/22/13
- Trudie Kuka, 1/23/13
- Patti Gibson, 1/23/13
- Karen Edwards, 1/23/13