

ETRC Board Meeting, October 4 , 2014
Darryl & Sharon Miller Farm, Sweetwater, TN

Present from the Board: [Mike Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, , Robert Dodson, Derek Dieterich, Brent McCoy, Ken Wade, David Knott. Diane Fyfe, AKC Representative

Absent, excused: Guy Greer, Chuck Atchley, Patti Gibson

Absent, unexcused: Lois Luthenauer

Members present: None.

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports

President's Report: Michael Evans. See information on Master National business below under new business, and ETRC Fall Hunt test under old business. Otherwise, nothing to report.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on June 18, 2014. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since shortly afterwards. David Knott moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. Robert Dodson Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. No further secretarial report.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards for Chuck Atchley . Current balance is \$10,142.39. Insurance has been paid, slightly over \$2k spent for Thunder 100 shotgun simulators, stands, and gas canisters.

AKC Representative's Report: Diane Fyfe. Nothing to report.

Old Business

1. **ETRC Fall Hunt Test.** The test is in two weeks. It will close on October 6; presently there are 114 dogs entered in Master, 47 in Senior and 65 in Junior.
 - a. **Judges:** Michael reported on the difficulty finding Master judges this time around. Many were going to the Master National; others had other plans already made. After we had an AKC-approved slate, John Cottenham from Michigan contacted Michael and objected to one of our judges, Mr. Beisner, as being unqualified. Apparently he does not meet the new rule requiring that each Master judge has to have passed a test at the same level or higher within the past 7 years. After a confusing discussion with AKC, where the initial verdict was that it was OK to use Mr. Beisner since the other Master judge in that flight was an 8-point judge who met all qualifications, Jerry Mann overruled this decision and we had to go find another judge. After calling dozens more judges, Michael was finally able to locate a qualified replacement. The fallback position was the Brent McCoy, who is apprenticing at Master, could have become a full judge since he is paired with an 8-point judge. All in all, Michael

called a total of 70 judges. As a footnote, the man who brought this up later pulled his dogs from the competition.

- b. Michael talked with Lois and Kevin Luthenauer several days ago and they verified that they were going to put in a duck order very soon.
 - c. Patti Gibson is taking care of the Friday night judges dinner with help from others; Karen will handle lunches with help from others.
 - d. Poppers: we have about 300 in the trailer, and Patti says she has some. Ken Wade will get with her this afternoon after dropping off ducks to find out how many she has and whether we need to order any more.
 - e. Thunder Simulators: We will be using the thunder simulators for the Master stakes, to limit the number of poppers required. David Knott moved that we buy an extra 6 gas canisters just to make sure that we will not run out; they cost approximately \$10 each. Karen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. David also suggested that we should make some PVC covers to go over the gas canisters to avoid stripping the threads by accidentally hitting the canisters and knocking them off kilter. Derek moved that David take care of this and we reimburse him afterwards; Robert seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was some discussion about whether we wanted to order four more simulators for the fall test; we decided to table this discussion until after the test and hopefully use some of the profits to cover the cost, and get the simulators before the Spring test.
 - f. Wingers: we may need more of the rubber for these. Ken moved that we order another box (available from Lion Country) to have on hand; Derek seconded and volunteered to do the ordering. The motion passed unanimously.
 - g. Gunners: some of the gunners Michael had lined up are no longer available. We are short 2. People need to be 21 or older, but an 18 year old would be OK if paired with someone older. Ken volunteered to ask at the Fire hall to see if anyone was interested.
 - h. Diane Fyfe has arranged for bird boys for the test and will work with the chaperon and school club sponsor to make sure this goes smoothly.
 - i. Porta Potties: Derek is arranging for these.
 - j. Gift Card for Jason at Hiwassee: We decided to ask Chuck to bring one of these along with him to the test so we could do it then rather than having to mail it later.
2. ***Fall Club Trial, just completed:*** See club trial results. We made a total of \$115 on the day after paying for bird boys. Turnout was low; lots of people were watching the UT game or had other things to do on this gorgeous fall day. We tried out the new Thunder Simulators and they were a rousing success. Ken Wade suggested that for the spring club test that we appoint some apprentice judges to work with the people who end up doing this ALL THE TIME so the job can be rotated around. There was general agreement that this was an excellent idea.

New Business:

1. ***First Reading, New members:*** None this time.

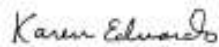
2. **Master National Business:** As our Master National delegate, Michael received a ballot with three items on it that must be returned shortly, and another item regarding changes to the MN format that is due by the end of the year. Michael brought these topics up for discussion at the club and will use our advice in filling out these ballots. He will return them at the appropriate times. Items were as follows.
 - a. **Judges:** Michael received a ballot asking us to vote on two out of three judges for next year. The choices are Beckman, Morrow, and Carol Hines. Roberta mentioned that we had a prior problem with Beckman, and nobody knew much about any of the others, so it was logical that Beckman should be the one scratched.
 - b. **MN Board of Directors:** Michael also received a ballot asking him to vote on nominees for the MN Board of Directors. Since there was only one name on the ballot for our region, there wasn't much to discuss.
 - c. **Amendment on Master National Judges' Qualifications:** some of the Southern clubs have proposed an amendment to the qualifications of Master National judges that would require them to have handled one of their own dogs at a Master National Test during the past 7 years and have qualified (i.e., earned a plate for completion) before being eligible to judge a Master National. This is in line with the new AKC requirement for hunt test judges at weekend hunt tests. The rule would go into effect in January 2016, which means that current judges who do not already meet this requirement would have only one year to meet it. There was some spirited discussion on whether or not this is a good idea. There is strong feeling among some of us that there are some judges used over and over again for the MN who are unfair and should not be judging, and having to meet this requirement is likely to eliminate them from the judging pool. On the other hand, at the present time, there are only 40 judges who would be qualified to judge the Master National under this new rule, which would make it difficult for the club putting on the test to locate the dozen or so judges needed each year. Further, there is no guarantee that just having qualified a dog means that judges are going to be more fair in judging other people. Karen moved that we vote NO on this amendment as written (with particular concerns about the timing for implementing the requirement). The motion was seconded by Derek Dieterich. There were four people who voted AYE and three who voted NAY so the motion carried.
 - d. **Requested input on 'Strategic Planning for Growing the Master National':** Michael was sent a six-page document outlining a number of different strategies for handling the increasing size of the Master National. He asked that we all read this and provide him feedback. This will be an agenda item for our next board meeting (date not yet set), and anyone who wishes can also provide him feedback via email. Club input is to be provided back to the MN Board before December 31, 2014, for discussion at the MN Winter Board meeting in February, 2015. This document is scanned and attached to these minutes for review.

3. **Training dates:** Several of our members have asked about the possibility of having organized training days on days other than Saturdays. There are people who are retired; many conflicts on Saturdays with family and other dog events, etc. Karen raised whether we should allow people to use the Roane Regional training site, and what kind of parameters should we set – such as a Board Member present each time, etc. After some discussion about the pros (increased training opportunities) and cons (people not respecting the parameters of our use and we lose the use of the site), it was decided to table this for another meeting. At issue is whether we should set up a training committee that consists of someone in addition to Roberta, who might be willing to take on responsibility for managing off-Saturday training. There was some discussion whether having fixed dates might be a good idea – i.e., 1st Saturdays, 3rd Wednesdays, for example.

Any other new business? NONE.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Brent McCoy moved that we adjourn. Ken Wade seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Piper, not Nina, was the dog that passed Senior on the Club Test report. (Ken Wade & Michael Evans)
2. Change date in title on club trial report to October 4, not April 19. (Roberta Williams)

Approvals:

1. Ken Wade, 10/6/14
2. J. Michael Evans, 10/9/14
3. Patti Gibson, 10/9/14
4. Derek Dieterich, 10/9/14
5. Roberta Williams, 10/9/14
6. Brent McCoy, 10/9/14
7. Karen Edwards, 10/9/14