

ETRC Board Meeting, November 11, 2014
Pegasus Technologies conference room, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Evans, Chuck Atchley, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Lois Luthenauer, Robert Dodson, Derek Dieterich, Patti Gibson Brent McCoy, David Knott. Diane Fyfe, AKC representative, was also present.

Absent, excused: Guy Greer, Ken Wade,

Absent, unexcused:

Members present:

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports

President's Report: Michael Evans: none. Will be covered under other items.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on October 4, 2014. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since October 10. Roberta moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. Brent Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

No further secretarial report.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Atchley. Current balance is \$14,562.37. As far as he knows, all bills from the hunt test have been paid including the \$791 event fee to AKC. We made approximately \$4,200 on the fall hunt test (income of \$16,526, expenses of \$12,326).

AKC Representative's Report: Diane Fyfe. The next AKC representative's meeting is in Orlando in December; unfortunately, Diane has a prior judging commitment and will not be able to attend. She will log in to the portal to check on what is happening and let us know if there are any issues that should be discussed.

Old Business

1. **Fall Hunt Test:** Roberta reported two incidents to AKC as required. One was the last minute judging assignment change for Master A, where the judge assigned told us he was not coming on Friday before the test. AKC approved Brent McCoy serving as one of the two judges on that flight. The other item was a report of a verbal complaint in the Senior test on Sunday, where one handler was unhappy that his live flyer landed in the brush whereas other dogs' live flyers landed in the open. His dog refused multiple times to enter the brush so he was disqualified. The handler wanted a no bird declared and another attempt for a live flyer to land in the open. The hunt test committee talked with the judges and several witnesses and

determined that the birds were landing in different areas due to a stiff wind, but that all were handled consistently by the judges, and that the judges acted correctly in accordance with the rules. The handler did not make a formal report.

As far as lessons learned, Michael said that he had learned that it was important to follow up with judges farther in advance to make sure they were coming.

The final item was Roberta's report on the email vote to refund full payment to one family who had entered 3 dogs in Master. The wife was required to have emergency eye surgery the day before the test. This family has entered a number of our tests and in light of the medical emergency, we refunded the full amount on a compassionate basis. 7 board members voted via email for the full refund, which is a majority.

2. ***ETRC Spring Hunt Test.*** Update: The dates will be May 23-24, 2015. Karen volunteered to take care of online AKC approval (with Roberta's help as necessary on the answers to be provided on the form), and this needs to be done before the February banquet. Michael will start calling judges; he has a few who indicated that they were interested in judging for us in the spring. Lynn Gelbman, who has judged Junior/Senior in the last two tests, has requested an assignment for Master in the spring.
3. ***Training Committee and dates:*** Beth White has indicated that she would be willing to become part of a training committee and would be happy to direct some organized training sessions during the week rather than on weekends. Lois said that Kevin Luthenauer would also probably be willing to set up and direct weekday sessions. It was decided that this is a good idea since mid-week sessions will work better for many (but not all) club members. We will try to have at least one training session per month, perhaps two if possible, and alternate weekend / weekday times. For the first one, Roberta will work with Beth on setups and guidelines such as temperatures, weather conditions, how to set up a session, how to call one off, etc. There is a question of whether we need to store some of the training equipment at the Pegasus Building if two people are involved in setting up sessions. This was not resolved. We set a tentative date of December 10, a Wednesday, for our first mid-week session – starting at 11 a.m. Karen will check with Beth to see if this date will work for her, and will contact Roane Alliance to notify them of the grounds use at that time. Also, once details are finalized, Karen will send out a notice to the members.

New Business:

1. ***First Reading, New members:*** None.
2. ***Purchase of additional Thunder Simulators:*** The 6 we have did admirably in the Master Hunter tests this fall. 4 more will cover Junior and Senior and would mean we no longer have to rely on expensive and hard-to-get poppers (we have spent over \$900 this year on poppers and ammo, and this would have been more if we hadn't borrowed Thunder simulators for our spring test and used our own for Master series in the fall tests. Karen moved that we order 5 more simulators and stands (one extra in case something goes wrong or a quad is called for in a Master test), which would cost approximately \$1500. Derek

seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with a general consensus that these are the greatest things since sliced bread. David Knott agreed to purchase the new ones in time for the spring test.

3. ***Ribbons Purchase:*** We are essentially out of hunt test ribbons for Master Hunter and Junior Hunter, and are running low on Club Trial Master Hunter ribbons. Karen passed out an inventory sheet showing the number of ribbons in each category, and another sheet showing our ribbon usage over the last two years. She recommended buying 300 Master Hunter ribbons, 200 Junior Hunter ribbons, and 50 of the Club Trial MH ribbons. This would bring us up to a two year or more supply on all ribbons, and would cost around \$1,800 if we save money by going to printing only on the center streamer of each ribbon. In addition, Karen suggested that we buy 50 Title Ribbons (unspecified) that we can give out in addition to the qualifying ribbons. She brought along some samples. If we buy these in the same ribbon style (but different colors) as the other hunt test ribbons, we can get the same overall price break, and 50 ribbons would cost around \$172. Lois moved that the board authorize Karen to order that number of needed ribbons, plus 50 title ribbons, and that we save money by doing printing just on the center streamer. Patti seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.
4. ***Radio Purchase:*** Jim Pearce purchased 6 radios which were used for communications at the fall hunt test. Everyone was in agreement that these worked wonderfully and that two more would work even better. David moved that the club purchase the 3 pairs from Jim and ask Jim to purchase an additional pair for the club. All the radios would be stored at the Pegasus Building as they should not be kept in the trailer. The cost will be approximately \$240 (\$60/pair). Robert second the motion, which passed unanimously.
5. ***Blinds purchase / repair.*** David Knott commented that we did not have enough holding blinds for the setups requested by the judges in the fall test (we had to borrow 3 from an exhibitor), and that some of the blinds were in fairly shabby condition. Many of them had been made for us by a person in Knoxville who makes awnings, and they are not cheap. Brent and Michael did not think that extras were needed; the judges need to be told – here are the number of blinds you have, make it work. There was general agreement that some of the blinds do need to be repaired and some discussion on how this could be done, but no conclusions were reached or responsibilities assigned.
6. ***Nomination Committee for Feb 2015 election:*** David Knott, Chairman, reported that he, Jim Pearce, and Art Gibson had worked diligently but had not been able to locate people to fill the Vice President and President positions. Patti mentioned that she had further bad news: Ken Wade, who is in a board position until February 2017, had called her earlier in the week to ask her to relay that he was resigning and we should fill his position as well (he is retiring and has some exciting travel plans). We will miss Ken, who has been a stalwart over many, many years, and his contributions and the time he has devoted to running the club are deeply appreciated.

Roberta will continue as Hunt Test Secretary, and Karen has agreed to take on the job of Treasurer in addition to Secretary, since Chuck Atchley, who has been Treasurer for many

years, is also stepping down in February. Board positions already agreed to were Diane Fyfe (in addition to AKC Rep) and Thomas Art Gibson, until February 2018. Patti Gibson said she would stay on to fill Ken's position through 2017. Michael said he was willing to stay on as President, but Brent (who has been on the board continuously for 6 or 7 years) is not willing to continue as Past President, which is a voting board position. Lois mentioned that Kevin, who had been unable to serve as past president several years ago because of ill health, might be willing to serve as Past President this year. She will ask him and report back to David. Diane mentioned that Michele Fletcher might be willing to serve as Vice President. She will ask her and report back to David. David did not mention whether the nominating committee had identified a person to fill the Chief Steward position for next year; Jim Pearce, who has done it for the last 3 tests, has asked for some time off. Full results on all positions, along with emails or otherwise written agreements to serve from all candidates, must be in to Karen Edwards (Secretary), on or before December 1. See Article VI, section 4 for details.

7. ***Advertising on the website:*** Derek has had some offers including people who provided us with free gift certificates and other goodies, and have asked for some advertising space on our website in return. Karen checked with Mary Hext, our webmaster, who has said it is not a problem from her point of view and she will be glad to take care of putting up whatever we decide on, with links to the sites. We discussed offering space to Mary for her website service; to Day's Inn who are so helpful as the hunt test motel, and several others. Derek volunteered to take the lead on pursuing some possibilities and will get info and logos to Karen for transmittal to Mary Hext.
8. ***AKC Rule Changes:*** There are new rules in effect for January 15, 2014, on how many events can be held a year by clubs and restrictions on what types of events can / must be offered. AKC has asked for comments. Karen read out the letter; it really does not impact on anything we are already doing, so we had not comments. The letter will be posted along with these minutes.
9. ***Master National Proposals for handling growth:*** Michael needs to get comments back to the MN committee by the end of the year on the proposed option we like the best – or dislike the least. The four options presented by the MN were
 - a. limit the number of dogs to 500, 8 days, 6 series. This would seriously impact on pros who would not be able to take large numbers of dogs.
 - b. Unlimited dogs, 6 flights, move from 8 to 10 days. Biggest problem would be difficulty in finding grounds, equipment, etc., which would increase entry fees.
 - c. Have two Master Nationals, one Open, one Amateur. Lots of work to set up and could possibly lead to the same split in regular weekend Master Hunt tests which would put a much larger burdens on clubs sponsoring such events.
 - d. Reduce the number of series from 6 to 5, keep the 8 day format and unlimited numbers of dogs.

Discussion included other options that were not being considered – increase the number of qualifying passes, make it so that a dog had to pass 5 out of 7 tests entered, regional MNs, etc. These were just touched on in passing since the committee is not looking at

these proposals and each of them also has drawbacks – such as reducing the # of dogs at weekend tests, increasing costs for exhibitors trying to qualify. We quickly decided that the only options that we liked at all were b and d, and neither of them is ideal. Brent moved that we vote for Option D (reducing the number of series); Karen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Michael will respond to the MN with our conclusions.

10. Search Committee for new hunt test grounds. Michael suggested that we set up a committee to look into the possibility of using other grounds for one or both hunt tests. We are having some increasingly serious problems with Hiwassee – the sharecropping is increasing and is not likely to be phased out since it makes money for the state. This limits our use of fields and in fact Michael is worried that there may not be enough land to run two master flights in the spring since the crops go in the ground in February. With the fall tests, we don't have a fixed date and can't get one; we are blocked by the AKC rules on tests within fixed differences, the changing schedules for the MN which causes a hardship; and Hiwassee not even setting their fall schedules until the end of July. We discussed Yuchi WMA, which is not far from Hiwassee. It is already pre-approved for field trials, but the manager there is hostile to the idea. Public land would be preferable, but farms may also be considered although they would undoubtedly cost us money to rent for a weekend. Karen volunteered Jim Pearce to do a Google map search of East Tennessee to see if he can spot some places that look likely. If he finds some, Michael volunteered that he and David Knott and possibly some others will call to see about possibilities.

11. Sale of Shotguns: With the decision to buy the Thunder simulators, we all of a sudden have an excess of club shotguns. These are not high quality guns and some of them are in iffy shape. We have probably 35-38 guns in all. Michael said he would like to have more discussion on this in the next meeting – how many do we need to have for handler guns, should we offer the excess to club members first, and then to nearby clubs, price, etc. Karen moved this be tabled till the next meeting; Lois seconded, and it was tabled.

Any other new business? NONE.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Brent McCoy moved that we adjourn. Robert Dodson seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. J. Michael notes that on November 12, 2014, he sent off the ETRC vote on the preferred Master National option (option d, see above) to the Master National committee.

Approvals:

1. Derek Dieterich

2. Chuck Atchley
3. Robert Dodson
4. Patti Gibson
5. J.Michael Evans
6. Karen Edwards
7. Roberta Williams
8. Brent McCoy