

**ETRC Summer Festival:  
Jody Ware Training Seminar, Picnic, and General Meeting  
August 15, 2015  
Fyfes and Fletchers, Pikeville, TN**

**Training Seminar, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.:**

This seminar, the first we have held since 2009, was well attended by about 40 people (including kids and spouses) and 30 dogs. Notable were the number of puppies present – 9 in all – and several junior handlers, which is an excellent thing for our club. Jody was informative and helpful, and a huge thanks to him and his wife Leigh (who did not charge ETRC ANYTHING for putting on the seminar!) for a wonderful morning. We are hoping to be able to have a full day seminar sometime in November if we can get the dates worked out. Also, a huge vote of thanks to the Fyfes and Fletchers for the use of their adjoining properties which were perfect for this event. The training pond was great for the higher level dogs, and we got a fantastic lesson on swim-bys in their new swim-by pond. The weather even cooperated – there were a few unexpected sprinkles but nothing serious, and the temperatures were amazingly cool for a day in August, staying below 80 with shade from the cloud cover for the entire event. Karen Edwards and Diane Fyfe both took notes of the things Jody talked about, and will coordinate a single set that we will publish to the membership.

**Picnic, 12 – 1 p.m.**

The Fyfes/Fletchers large pole barn was perfect for the picnic and meeting. Also thanks to Patti Gibson who coordinated the fantastic feast, and to all the members who brought such great food along as their contribution (everything was great but the desserts in particular were spectacular!). It was nice to have some time to visit, meet new members, and ‘talk dogs’.

**General Meeting: 1:00 p.m.**

**Present from the Board:** Mike Evans, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Lois Luthenauer, Patti Gibson, Thomas Art Gibson, David Knott, Diane Fyfe

**Absent, excused:** Derek Dieterich

**Absent, unexcused:**

**Members present:** Jim Pearce, Seth Knott, Rick Fyfe, Liz Gibson, Luke McCoy, Brent, Bailey, Taylor and Val McCoy, Matt McCoy and son Beck, Grant Rains and son Case, Jeremy Shuman, Alex Freire and Roseanne Griffeth, Wayne Rasbury, Jody and Leigh Ware, Nick, Emily and William Ware, Terri and Lane Arthur, Fay Norwood, Jordin Luthenauer and Brice Franke, and several others whose names I did not get.

A quorum is 20% of the Members in Good Standing. There are 48 full members/families at the start of the day (plus two new members whose applications have not yet been processed); therefore, a quorum of more than 10 members/families was present.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports**

**President's Report:** Michael Evans. Michael thanked everyone for coming, with special thanks to the Wares, the Fyfes and the Fletchers, and deferred his comments until discussion of new and old business items.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on June 8, 2015. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since June 15, 2015. Jim Pearce moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. David Knott Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Website changes made & pending:** Routine dates up/down

**Membership:** Currently stands at 50 with renewed members Jody Ware and Matt McCoy, 2 new members who just joined on Friday, and death of longtime member Kevin Luthenauer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Unobligated current balance is \$18,256.51. Year to date report is attached. We made \$8,181.92 on the hunt test this spring.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Diane Fyfe. Nothing new to report that affects hunt testing.

### **Election of New members:**

- a. David & Sonya Christopher: sponsors, David Knott and Brian Caldwell
- b. Philip & Linda Dalton, sponsors Michael Evans and Derek Dieterich.
- c. Alex Freire & Roseanne Griffeth, sponsors Derek Dieterich and Karen Edwards
- d. Keith & Lona Garner, sponsors Patti and Tom Gibson
- e. Luke McCoy, sponsors Michael Evans and Brent McCoy
- f. Scott & Heidi Murphy, sponsors Patti Gibson and Roberta Williams
- g. Jeremy Shuman, sponsors Karen Edwards and Derek Dieterich
- h. Barry & Eva Smith, sponsors Michael Evans and David Knott
- i. Trevor Tucker, sponsors Derek Dieterich and Michael Evans

All sponsors have recommended that these people be accepted into final membership. Jim Pearce moved that these new members be accepted. Lois Luthenauer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Welcome everyone!

## **Old Business**

1. **ETRC Fall Hunt Test.** Dates are Oct 17- 18. These are right in the middle of the Master National Hunt Test in Cheraw, SC, which is causing difficulties with us finding judges for our tests. Good news though – next year, we will be the week after the Master National finishes. In the past, our usual format has been double Junior (single flight), double Senior (single flight), and a limit of 120 Master Dogs in a single Master test with two flights. Michael asked us to discuss whether we wanted to limit the number to 60

Master Dogs this time (a single flight) in recognition of the difficulty of getting judges this time around – we would only need to find two instead of four. The chairman of the Master National is asking judges to come assist in putting on the test which is also reducing the available pool of judges, and Michael has found that AKCs judging rolls are woefully out of date with many people listed as active judges who are retired or even dead. After some discussion about the impact on income (we will need full Junior and Senior tests, and a full 60-dog Master test, to break even), Karen Edwards moved that we limit Master dogs to 60 for the Fall test. Diane Fyfe seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- a. Judges: if anyone has any ideas or wants to volunteer to assist Michael in making calls, please contact him at Fowl\_Mouth\_K9@aol.com.
  - b. Birdboys: We have a new contract in place for use with groups willing to provide birdboys. Diane Fyfe will continue to be the Birdboy Liason for the fall test. We discussed the number of birdboys that will be needed, given that we are reducing the number of Master flights, and decided that we would be safe with 20 although we could possibly get by with several fewer (with two flights we need 25). We will set this as the number for full pay (\$60 per person).
  - c. Ribbon order: We need to order 200 Junior, 200 Senior, and 100 title ribbons and tags. Karen has been waiting to see if Hodges will have a discount, but needs to order soon whether they do or not.
  - d. Raffles: last spring we had a small raffle for member workers that was kind of a nice way of thanking people for volunteering their time. Michael asked if we want to expand this for the fall and maybe have a few slightly better prizes? Tee shirts? Hats? Also, we had been discussing having an overall raffle for everyone as a way of making some money for the club. Kevin Luthenauer had done some work on this – Michael asked if anyone was willing to volunteer to continue on with planning, with the proviso that if it didn't happen in time for Fall, that it could be aimed at Spring instead. Lois Luthenauer volunteered to carry on this work on Kevin's behalf.
2. ***Inventory, Sale of shotguns and equipment, purchase of new/improved equipment:*** An inventory of our equipment is underway and will be completed at the Fall Club Trial. Consumable supplies (poppers, MAP gas canisters, toilet paper etc.) need to be inventoried separately.
- a. It would be nice to have a small pull-behind closed trailer, maybe a 6' model that can be pulled behind a car. This could be loaded with enough equipment to serve for training days, club trials, and events like this training seminar, without having to haul around our huge trailer. Michael has been looking around to get prices on such a trailer but has not found a suitable one yet. If he does, he will contact the board quickly via email to see if we want to buy it.
  - b. Wingers: We have 4 old black wingers that are a worry from a safety standpoint, particularly using birdboys who may have never used a winger before. Michele

looked online and found that prices on new wingers such as Zinger Wingers is about \$350-\$400? at Lion Country and other places. She has not yet called places to see about the possibility of a club discount, gift certificates, or some other form of consideration (possibly something for the raffle?) if we decide to buy multiple wingers from a particular vendor. Decision to buy 4 wingers?

- c. Shotguns: with the new thunder simulators (which work great and which are now specifically permitted by AKC) we have no need all the shotguns currently owned by the club. Michael has researched the legalities of gun sales these days, and that we can sell them to club members without any problems, but not to non-members. Mike Lett, a gun shop owner in the Knoxville area, has said that he will sell them for us on consignment. The consensus in the discussion was that it would be a good idea for us to keep a total of 7 shotguns (5 to be stored on the big trailer, and 2 for our possible small trailer) which can be used for handler guns and bubba guns at the tests and during training. would mean that approximately 14-15 guns would be available for disposal. Diane Fyfe moved that we sell all but 7 of our shotguns; offering them first to Club Members at a price still to be determined, and that we send the balance to Mike Lett for disposal. Jim Pearce seconded the motion, and the ayes carried the day. The Board will need to set prices for the guns and notify members of their availability.

3. *Tee Shirts etc.* Time to order new ones. We are almost out of M, L, and XL sizes and completely out of camo shirts which sell well. Lois Luthenauer volunteered to work with Val McCoy, who was our previous Tee Shirt guru, and get some more ordered before the Fall test.

### **New Business:**

1. *Near-loss of Use of Hiwassee Facility*

Jason Jackson, Hiwassee manager, called Michael in June and told him that ETRC and the Chattanooga club were no longer going to be allowed to use the Hiwassee facility for hunt tests and field trials. After this spring's test, there was too much mess – he didn't know for sure if it was Chattanooga's fault or ours – so was just banning us both. Apparently there were a large number of dead and rotting ducks left out back near where we had set up for the Junior test; there were a number of torn-open garbage bags full of garbage left in the woods; and several large trailers had turned around in the corn field, destroying part of the crops. That last item was definitely at the ETRC test, since Jason had inspected all the fields in the week between the Chattanooga field trial and out hunt test. He was polite but firm.

Michael called club member Attorney Bruce Fox and Chad Baker, the current chairman of the TWRA and a big field trial fan, and also called Representative Jamie Satterfield. They agreed to intercede in our behalf and were able to convince the Nashville office of TWRA to reverse this decision with regard to ETRC (Michael does not know about Chattanooga's status). However, we are obligated to do a better job of policing the grounds during and after to test to clean up messes, do more roping off of planted fields to keep people from driving in them, and have a person whose job it will be to be a roving patrolman during the entire hunt test.

Some of the members expressed irritation with TWRA's recent policy of doing so much sharecropping that Hiwassee is more like a commercial farm, making it almost impossible to have enough land to run a hunt test or a field trial – and especially that there are no places to air dogs or turn around a large trailer. As taxpayers, this land is supposed to be held for public use, not to make the state money as a commercial farming operation. Michael explained that as he was told, no actual money comes to the state as a result of the farming operations; the state instead gets a percentage of the crops that are grown. So the state may end up with, for example, 6 acres of corn which they can then chop down and allow the wildlife to eat during the winter. This saves the state money on either planting and tending the crops with state employees, or with buying food for the animals in the wintertime. Someone asked if we could pay fees to ensure use of the land; apparently this has been discussed and it is too complicated for the state to want to get involved in such an arrangement. So for now, we are good to go for our fall test, but we **MUST** make sure that we are a responsible user and that we leave the refuge as clean as it was before we came.

2. ***Outreach Opportunity:*** TWRA is putting on a Juvenile Hunt over at Hiwassee on Saturday, September 5, 2015. Jason has invited the club to put on a demonstration on duck retrieving, and Bruce Fox has agreed to go and take along his dog. Tom Gibson also expressed interest in going. If anyone else is potentially interested in participating, either with a child or as a duck demo / pickup dog, please contact Michael Evans as soon as possible at Fowl\_Mouth\_K9@aol.com.
3. ***Fall Club Trial:*** Time to set a date and location. This is always difficult given hunting seasons; it turns out that the first dove season this year ends on September 29 and the second one doesn't start until October 11. Michael will contact Darryl Miller to see if his farm might be available to a test on October 3 or 10, and will get back to the board to finalize a date. Once finalized, Karen Edwards will notify the membership and post the date on the website.
4. ***September Training Dates:*** Never an easy time to find any available training dates. UT has nearby football games on September 5, 12, and 19; only September 26 is available. We will tentatively set up training for that date and hope for decent weather, not everyone gone to dove hunting, low-enough grass on the training grounds etc.
4. ***Nominating Committee:*** The nominating committee report is not due until November but we usually try to get a committee appointed at the summer picnic, as it is easier to do most of the work at the Fall Club Trial and Fall Hunt Test. Michael appointed Derek Dieterich to be the board member representative on the committee. No one at the meeting volunteered to serve and we still need two non-board members. Michael will be calling around to see if we can get this moving.
5. ***Spring Test Dedication:*** Michael Evans suggested, Karen Edwards moved, and Diane Fyfe seconded, that the Spring Hunt test be dedicated to Kevin Luthenauer, long time member and past President, who died on Saturday, August 8, after a several –year illness. The vote was unanimous. Waiting until spring will allow more time to get together a meaningful memorial, plus there will be more people in attendance.

**6. Final words:** Michael thanked Jody Ware again for the seminar, and presented him with a gift bag of useful products that David Knott had put together on behalf of the club.

**Any other new business?** None

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, a number of people moved that we adjourn. A number of other people seconded the motion which then passed unanimously, to loud acclaim. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Central time.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

**Changes:**

Additional names of attendees were provided by David Knott and Lois Luthenauer

**Approvals:**

Michele Fletcher, 8/16/15

Diane Fyfe, 8/17/15

David Knott, 8/17/15

Lois Luthenauer 8/17/15

Tom Gibson 8/18/15

Karen Edwards 8/18/15