

Minutes: Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 20, 2016
Calhoun's Bearden Hill Restaurant, Knoxville, TN

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Lois Luthenauer, Patti Gibson, Tom Gibson, Diane Fyfe

Absent, excused: Derek Dieterich, David Knott

Absent, unexcused: None

Members present: Alan Bruhin; Ron, Valerie, and Lindsey Burger; David & Sonya Christopher & daughters; Mitzi Evans; Rick Fyfe; Liz Gibson; Wendy, Seth & Savannah Knott; Brent, Val, Taylor and Bailey McCoy; Luke McCoy; Kevin Niethammer; Fay Norwood; Jim Pearce; Donna & Mike Smith; Carol Stone; and Beth White.

Guests Present: Emma (with Kevin Niethammer),

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 20 member families were represented, and the current membership stands at 62 families. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report: Michael Evans. Michael enumerated the events that ETRC put on during the year: a spring club trial, an AKC spring hunt test, summer picnic and seminar with Jody Ware, a large fall club trial at Hiwassee, plus a number of organized training days and of course tonight's awards banquet. We did have to cancel one of the spring club trials because of torrential rains, and we also were unable to put on a fall hunt test last year because of conflicts with the nearby Master National and the resulting inability to find enough judges.

It has been an active year on the club equipment front. Before the 2015 spring test, we purchased 5 more of the Thunder Simulators which we are using to replace the old shotguns, bringing our total up to 11 and meaning that we no longer need to use shotguns at all except for handler guns etc. Given the increasingly expensive poppers, these simulators, which are extremely inexpensive to operate, will shortly pay for themselves. We also purchased 4 new lightweight Zinger Wingers to replace some of the heavy and increasingly troublesome old wingers. Over the summer and early fall, we conducted an inventory of equipment and sold a number of the excess shotguns, wingers, gun stands. We also decided to purchase a small 5'x8' trailer that can be hauled by a car or light truck, to avoid having to bring the large and heavy trailer up from Hiwassee for club trials and training days. We now have the trailer and have fitted it out with some straps and equipment holders, and last Thursday, Michael and Karen Edwards drove to Hiwassee to load it up. It is being stored at Jim Pearce's building, Pegasus Technologies, where it will be convenient for club training days. At the same time at Hiwassee, we updated the inventory. In the spring we will make some decisions on purchasing some more new equipment, particularly some new lightweight folding duck driers, and may have more equipment to excess. We will again give first opportunity to current club members for purchasing any of this equipment.

During the year, we lost two board members/ officers. We are sad to report the death of one of our long-time members, past president, and great friend Kevin Luthenauer. Kevin was a joy to be around and a hard worker, and he will be deeply missed by the club as well as personally by his many friends. Our condolences go out to his wife Lois, another club stalwart. In addition, board member and 2015 Chief Marshall David Knott accepted a promotion within his company and moved to New Jersey in October. We are sad to see him go and will miss his hard work and easy-going personality, but happy for him and his family. We wish them all the best.

Secretary's Report: Karen Edwards. Karen reported that the last meeting was on November 18, 2015. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since November 22. In light of the ready availability of the minutes, Karen called for a motion that we dispense with reading them out loud, and vote formal approval of the minutes as posted. Alan Bruhin so moved; Beth White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. The current bank balance is \$16,142.94; however, there are some bills outstanding for our insurance, to repay Michael for the trailer and some supplies, and a few other miscellaneous expenses. Even after paying these, we will have a healthy balance in our treasury of around \$13,500. Karen passed out two reports – one of them is for Calendar year 2015, and the other is for the 2016 calendar year to date.

Election of New members: Michael Evans. We have 7 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

- Ben & Rhonda Rogers of Chattanooga, TN. The Rogers own a young Labrador. Sponsors are David Knott and Brian Caldwell.
- Rhey and Jennifer Houston of Ooltewah, TN. They own two labs, a boykin and a Brittany. Sponsors are Karen Edwards and Brian Caldwell.
- Jordin Luthenauer and Brice Franke, who live out of state currently but may be moving here soon. Sponsors are Jody Ware and Lois Luthenauer
- Waylon and Vanessa Oran of Kingston, who have several labs. Sponsors are Ritchie Grigsby and Karen Edwards.
- Brad & Shonda Anderson of Knoxville. They have a young lab puppy. Sponsors are John Guinn and Karen Edwards
- Geoff Card is a student who lives in Oak ridge and has a young lab puppy. Sponsors are John Guinn and Lois Luthenauer.
- Seth & Amanda Wagner of Chattanooga who own a young Labrador. Sponsors are Karen Edwards and Richard Cook.

Lois Luthenauer moved that we accept these applicants as full members into the ETRC. Carol Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Old Business

- **AKC Representative's Report: Diane Fyfe.** Diane reported that there was not much new to report this year. There have been some minor changes, and there is some interesting discussion concerning a possible Amateur National, but nothing has been decided.

- **Spring Hunt Test 2016 update: Michael Evans.** Michael reported that plans are coming along well for the spring hunt test, which will be at Hiwassee on May 28-29. He has secured all but two judges, and has contacted two who will give him a firm answer on Sunday. If they turn us down, he has two backups who have indicated that they will be willing to fill in. AKC has approved the date, Hiwassee has approved the date, and we have some of the key worker positions filled. Michael urged everyone to volunteer to help out as it takes a lot of time and effort to run a hunt test and is much easier if many people pitch in.
- **Fall Hunt Test 2016 Update: Michael Evans.** We are having problems as usual with our fall hunt test. This is one of the years when AKC's method of counting weekends conflicts with the method used by Hiwassee, so our normal weekend for AKC is October 22-23, and for Hiwassee is October 15-16. AKC won't authorize us to have a test on the earlier date as it conflicts with Middle Tennessee's dates. Hiwassee is not available on the 22-23rd because of a scheduled hunt. Halloween weekend is also not available for Hiwassee, nor is the weekend of the 7th and 8th of October. However, we might be able to get the first weekend of October. That is ordinarily the date that Hiwassee reserves for Chattanooga's field trial, but Chattanooga is having the same problem with AKC's dates this year so can't hold it on that weekend. AKC may be OK with that early date, but unfortunately that conflicts with the Master National again this year. So – we are still exploring options including trying to locate another possible venue for our test and have a few thoughts in mind. If anyone has any ideas and knows of any other possible large farms with plenty of ponds (4 or more), please contact Michael and he will get in touch with them to see if it might be workable.
- **Kevin Luthenauer Fund: Lois Luthenauer.** When Kevin died last August, Lois and his family decided to make ETRC the beneficiary of any donations that people wished to make instead of flowers. The family also made a generous contribution, and at the present time the fund stands at \$1,050. The family requested that this money be used to encourage kids to become involved in hunt testing, hunting and dog training. The board has come up with several ideas and are in the process of trying to formalize a program. Some of the features will include paying entry fees for junior handlers in our club's hunt test, and other ideas are in the works. We will be requiring juniors to write a brief statement why they are interested in being sponsored by the club. Details will be sent out to members shortly.
- **Website changes: Karen Edwards.** Karen commented that our classified ad section is behind the firewall – and is not accessible to anyone who is not already a member with a password. She suggested that we move this sections into the public area so it is more useful to the membership. In response to a question, Karen clarified that non members and members could post ads, but not be able to automatically post themselves; they would need to send a message to the listed club contacts (Karen and Roberta) and we would then ask the Webmaster to post it. This gives us a filter to ensure that it is only dog-related stuff that gets posted. Brent McCoy moved that we make this change; Carol Stone seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

New Business:

1. Awards Presentations: Mike Evans.

Junior Hunter: 2 dogs earned their Junior Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- **McCoy's Golden Nugget**, owned and handled by Junior member Taylor McCoy.
- **McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name**, owned and handled by Luke McCoy.

Senior Hunter: 2 dogs earned their Senior Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- **Dave's Rapid Remington Reload Remy**, Owned by David Christopher.
- **Crosspoint's Steady Teddy Noah Lott**– owned by Rhey, Jenifer and Noah Houston

Master Hunter: 1 dog earned its Master Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- **Luther's High Grade Black Coal** – owned by David Knott and handled by David and by Brian Caldwell.

Qualifying at the Master National: Congratulations and a picture plaque to:

- **Razor Sharp's Lucky Charm MH MNH**, “Chloe”, owner Leigh Ware, Jody Ware handled. She also earned her MNH title with this pass which was her third.
- **Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH**, “Coal,” owner David Knott, handler Brian Caldwell

Qualifying for the Master National but did not go or did not qualify: No award plaques, but congratulations for the significant achievement to:

- **Fern Hill SuperCalifragilistic MH WCX CD OF OAJ NA**, “Callie”, bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, and handled by Jody Ware.
- **HRCH Gives YA All's She Got! MH** (“Camo”), owned by Terri and Lane Arthur, handled by Mike Pierce. Qualified to go, did not attend.
- **Luthenauer's Coon Creek Susie MH**, “Susie,” owned by Lois Luthenauer
- **Razor Sharp's Riptide MH**, “Rip”, owned by Leigh Ware, handled by Jody Ware

Qualifying Master National Member Handlers: Kudos to the following ETRC members who successfully handled dogs at the 2015 Master National. These men are a pair of fine pros and fine individuals. We are extremely proud to have these gentlemen in our club and appreciate not only their talent but how generous they are with their time and knowledge.

- Jody Ware, who year after year qualifies multiple dogs at the MN; and
- Brian Caldwell, who is following in Jody's footsteps with two qualifiers this year.

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year:

- **McCoy's Golden Nugget JH**, Owned and Handled by Junior member Taylor McCoy, with 25 points. Taylor received the Austin Williams loving cup trophy and a huge round of applause for her and Nugget's achievements during 2015.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of the Year:

- **Grady's Tennessee Moonshine**, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin, with 19 points. Alan received the Holcomb perpetual award trophy and a big round of applause. Congratulations!

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2015:

- **Michael Evans**. This award, a plaque with a mounted AKC Sportsman's Medallion, was presented by Lois Luthenauer. Nominated by the membership and voted in by the Board of Directors, Michael was recognized for his dedication to the club, the good work he does in promoting the sport and helping others, and his outstanding talents in training his dog.

ETRC Member of the Year:

- **Derek Dieterich.** Unfortunately, Derek was unable to attend the banquet this year but was awarded the Member of the Year plaque in absentia. Nominated by the membership and voted in by the Board of Directors, Derek was selected for his willingness to pitch in at every test and club trial over the past year. He has served as both the Equipment Chairman and also the website advertising coordinator. He is retiring from the Board for 2016, but we appreciate his past efforts and hope that he is not a stranger in future club activities.

- **In Memoriam: Lois Luthenauer.** This year, in recognition that our dogs are the main reason why we are in the ETRC in the first place, and that they are in a sense members of the club as well, we decided to honor those member dogs who have died during the club year. Listed in order of the date of death, with the statements provided by their owners:
 - **HRCH Brandy's Queen Anne of Knox MH (Annie). Owned by J. Michael Evans.** April 22, 2008 - July 17, 2015. Annie passed 40 out of 48 Master Hunt tests. She passed 27 out of 28 HRC Finished tests. She had one AKC Master National pass out of 2 tries and one HRC Grand Pass out of 3 tries. She achieved 500 points in the HRC, and was ETRC's Gun Dog of the Year for 4 out of the past 6 yearsAnd I miss her every day because she was my VERY BEST FRIEND! My world was a much better place simply because she was in it. – J. Michael Evans.

 - **Frontier's Apache Spirit (Spirit), owned by Roberta Williams.** March 10, 2001 - September 14, 2015. Sire: AFC Teddy's Ebonstar James QAA x Frontier's New Millennium JH. Spirit was a purebred AKC "Rescue" Yellow Lab. Fully trained. Abandoned by her family, Spirit lived with me at Sharp Hollow Kennel for nine years until gastric cancer took her away from my care. Spirit's sire was a son of NFC/NAFC Lean Mac.

 - **PACH Sundance Indigo Swing CD MX MXJ MXP5 MJP7 MJPG PAX2 ThD CGC (Apache), owned by Carol and Kevin Stone.** April 17, 2002 – September 26, 2015. Entrusted into our care by Victoria Hoffman and delivered back into her waiting arms– RIP Victoria and Apache. It is with heavy hearts that we had to say goodbye to our sweet Apache this year. Though he was only with us 15 months, it seems like he was always with us. We couldn't have loved him more if he had been with us since he was a pup. We take comfort in knowing he left our loving arms to go back to his precious Victoria. He didn't have to wait on the Rainbow Bridge. He is where he belongs. We feel truly blessed that she entrusted us with his care and treasured each moment we had with this special boy..Rest easy sweet boy. You'll always have a place in our hearts. We miss you!

- **Double G First Class Annie (Annie), owned by Roberta Williams.**
February 17, 2006 - October 16, 2015. Sire: FC-AFC Rebel with a Cause, Dam: Cosmic Jett Stream MH. Purebred AKC “Rescue” black Lab, succumbed to mammary cancer. Annie was given to me by the Gossett family who had to move to Birmingham to find work as a contractor. Annie could easily mark birds at 300 to 400 yards. Her lineage included the legendary Cosmos retrievers.
- **Adirondac Hilfy of Fern Hill CDX TDI OD CCA (Hilfy), owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce.** May 6, 2002 - January 4, 2016. Hilfy was our first competition dog and the foundation of the Fern Hill breeding program. She had 26 wonderful puppies including our Callie and Penny, and many grand and great-grand puppies including our Panda. The accomplishments of her offspring earned her the Golden Retriever Club of America’s Outstanding Dam title, and her good looks won her the GRCA Certificate of Conformation Assessment. She never got to play the field game although her parents were both Master Hunters – but she loved digging up moles, catching low flying birds, mice and varmints of every sort on the farm. She was joyous, free-spirited, a little bit sassy, beautiful, and a wonderful companion always. –

2. **Election of Officers/Board** (*Slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee is presented for approval. There were no additional nominations from the membership during the allotted December time period, and nominations are now closed.*)

1. President: Lois Luthenauer
2. Vice President: Michele Fletcher
3. Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards
4. Ron Burger (2016-2017): Ron Burger [filling David Knott’s unexpired term]
5. Board member (2016-2019): Alan Bruhin
6. Board member (2016-2019): Donna Smith
7. Hunt Test Secretary: Roberta Williams
8. AKC Representative: Diane Fyfe
9. Past President: Michael Evans (non-elective)
10. Chief Marshall for 2016 tests: Jim Pearce (non-elective)

Remaining on the board: Patti Gibson until 2/17; Diane Fyfe and Tom Gibson until 2/18.
Going off the Board: David Knott (moved to New Jersey); Derek Dieterich and Lois Luthenauer (terms expired).

Jim Pearce moved that we elect the nominated slate by acclamation via a voice vote. Beth white seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The new slate is now officially installed, and Michael Evans handed over the gavel to new President Lois Luthenauer.

Lois mentioned that Michael was going to be a hard act to follow. She made a special award presentation to him – an ETRC special endurance award from the Board – for guiding us

through the last three years as president. Michael received a plaque with the ETRC logo, a \$150 honorarium, and a standing ovation from the attendees.

Any other new business? None.

Adjourn

There being no other business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn; Diane Fyfe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



ETRC Secretary / Treasurer

Changes:

1. Corrected name of Dog of the Year – Alan Bruhin
2. Website changes -- Only the Classified section is behind the firewall – Karen Edwards
3. Some member and guest name additions – Ron Burger
4. Corrections on the spelling of 3 dog names – J.Michael Evans

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 2/21/16
2. Michele Fletcher, 2/21/16
3. Ron Burger, 2/22/16
4. Donna Smith, 2/22/16
5. Diane Fyfe, 2/22/16
6. J.Michael Evans, 2/23/16
7. Karen Edwards, 2/23/16