

**ETRC Board Meeting, 6/13/17, 2017**  
**Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Lois Luthenauer, Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, John Broucek, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)

**Absent, excused:** Donna Smith

**Members present:** Mike Smith

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports**

**President's Report:** Lois discussed the overall spring hunt test, and the need to clear up a few last minute items including a non-formal complaint from a pro trainer concerning whether the Junior marks were too hard for a short Boykin to see.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. Last meeting was 5/13/17; minutes were approved within a week via email and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Jim Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Website changes made & pending:** Routine. New membership list up on the member portion of the website as of 6/1/17. Need to change password; will do that in connection with the email transmitting the July newsletter.
- **Membership:** End of year 2016 membership was 59. Current membership is 52 including 5 new members pending final vote in August. 17 members from 2016 have not renewed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 6/13/17 is \$26,359.05 with bills outstanding for Patti Gibson for dinner, lunches, and judges gifts (\$1,000+); payback to Karen for AKC fees for our two fall tests (\$30); and a partial scratch refund if approved by the Board (\$30).

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher. Not much to report.

**Old Business**

1. **Club Trials:** September 23 or October 7? Michael reported that he called Ken Campbell to confirm a date, and that Ken liked the October date better. He had not confirmed that the 7<sup>th</sup> was available, though. John B said he sees Ken nearly every day and will work to get the date confirmed with him. He asked Lois and/or Michael to text him with the desired date.
2. **Kevin's Fund:**
  - a. Rules: review and make any changes necessary. Karen and Lois have been tagged to do this but have not done it yet. Balance remaining as of today: \$2,175.

- b. Program participants Cade and Ivan Chambers: Ivan & Dead Rivers Southern Belle (Chessie F), JH: failed Saturday, passed Sunday. Cade & Dead Rivers Rascally Reed (Chessie M), JH: passed both Saturday and Sunday. Owed refunds, \$70 x 4 = \$280. Karen sent check and brief letter to them on 6/12/17.
- c. Youth Handler's seminar: Brian had some good ideas about this at our Board meeting on May 13 and suggested that July might be a good time. We need to get with him to firm up a date and plans, and assign people to help with getting this underway. Brian had suggested inviting the FFA kids and earlier discussions had also mentioned asking Ken Campbell's shooter club kids if any wanted to participate. We decided that aiming for 15 kids for the first one would be a good idea – 3 groups of 5 kids each, Alan and Michael Evans helping out, with some loaner dogs from other club members so each kid has a trained dog to work with. There will need to be a small fee; we will need to decide how much to charge for kids not in the Luthenauer program, who would be fully paid for by the club. Lois promised to get with Caldwell to discuss.
- d. Status of application from Griffin McDowell , 13, who is Brian Caldwell's Assistant. Karen reminded Brian about this at the May Club Trial (he was going to work on getting a parental signature). No further news. Lois said she will talk with Brian about this when she talks to him about the seminar.

### **3. *Spring Hunt Test wrap up:***

- a. Financial information: as shown on the Treasurer's report, most of the bills for the test are in except for the \$30 partial refund if approved (see below) and the \$1000+ we owed Patti Gibson for food and judges' gifts. Without these bills, currently we are showing a profit of \$10,999.50.
- b. Complaint: short Boykin: Lois read the email from the trainer, who was complaining that the cover was so high for a small dog, and the bird kid did not throw the duck high enough for the dog to be able to see the second bird on both the Saturday and the Sunday tests. His email did not ask for any remedies, other than for us to discuss it and get back with him. It was not a formal complaint filed with the AKC. This semi-complaint was discussed with Mike Evans and other members of the hunt test committee, and with the judges at the time of the test, and the consensus at the time was that there was not a fairness problem, and that the dog could have seen the bird if she had been looking in the right direction. Michael Evans had just finished running his dog a few before on Sunday, and Luke also spent time up at the test after the complaint was brought up. Mary Gregg (one of the junior judges on Sunday) has a photo of the line showing the cover; the line was not "immediately in back of" 3-4' cover as stated by the handler, and what cover was there was pretty sparse. Particularly since by the time the dog ran (midway through a field of 79 dogs on Saturday and in the same field on Sunday midway through a group of some 30 dogs), the cover was fairly well beaten down with all the traffic. Alan suggested that Lois respond with a general statement that we had discussed the concerns at some length and that we would continue to strive to ensure that our tests were fairly run and leave it at that. Karen will draft a brief statement to that effect for Lois's use in responding.

- c. Request for scratch reimbursement: Roberta received a request from Anne Wills for a refund for her dog, who was scratched from the Junior test 7 days after the test closed (her dog titled already at another test). According to our premium list, the board can decide whether or not to refund the entry fee, less a \$40 handling fee. Alan moved that we refund \$30, John seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. Karen will send her a check.
- d. Equipment purchases: Some purchases need to be made before our fall test; others can wait a while longer.
  - i. 2 more pairs of radios: with this big a test and another stake, we didn't have enough radios. Michael moved with ask Jim Pearce to purchase two more pairs; Rick seconded, the vote was unanimous.
  - ii. More duck driers: We need compact ones that can hold a lot of ducks. The ones we have now don't hold enough. They are aluminum, lightweight, take up very little space in the trailer but are expensive (and one of them got run over by a 4-wheeler during the hunt test and is destroyed). For \$10 more, there is a larger model that will hold twice the number of ducks. Alternatively, we could make some out of 2x4s that can be disassembled for storage. Alan and Luke will research options and will provide alternatives at the next meeting.
  - iii. More holding blinds: the club is in desperate need of 10-12 new blinds; ours are in sorry shape and we don't have enough anyway. Alan B will research various ones available from Lion Country, Gun Dog Supply, etc. – and will look for ones where the material attaches to the top pole with grommets so it isn't destroyed when people use hammers on the top of the poles. We also talked about getting bigger blinds, the 4-pole type instead of the 3-poles, to get more coverage of the bird kids. Alan will report back at the next meeting. We will also look to get some spikes for driving holes into the ground, rather than pounding on the blinds themselves. These spikes will be added to the tool kits so that each stake has one on hand.
  - iv. More buckets to sit on: it turns out we actually did have more buckets than we thought; there were a number of them in the small trailer that never got used at the hunt test. However, we do need to look at better options for seats for our bird kids. Earlier, we had thought about buying chairs with canopies but nothing ever happened with that; we could use the very compact folding canvas stools also. Buckets are very inexpensive, but tend to melt together in the heat of the trailer and become very difficult to separate. Mike Evans will research various ideas and costs for bird kid chairs and will get back with alternatives at the next meeting.
  - v. Popups: we had only 4 popups and bought 3 more during the hunt test. This is enough for a small test but it if is extremely hot or raining, more are needed. Now is the time of year when these are easily available for cheap prices; Michael Evans moved we ask Tom Gibson to buy 3 more (non-white) ones; Luke seconded the motion which then passed with no dissenting votes.
  - vi. We need more ponchos before the next hunt test. These are inexpensive and we can get them later on.

- e. Location of big trailer at Hiwassee has become a problem now that we can't get into Hiwassee without calling ahead and only on limited days of the week. We discussed moving the trailer elsewhere for ease in getting material in and out. This is particularly important right now because all our new winger rubber (\$200) got stuffed into the front of the trailer at the end of the hunt test, and everyone was too tired to unload the whole thing to get it out. If it stays there till fall, it will be ruined. We decided to ask Brian Caldwell if he will store it at his place, which is still close to Hiwassee but more accessible. Mike Smith mentioned that the brakes don't work on the trailer which makes it a scary proposition to drive. We need to look into getting the brakes fixed! It may be a simple wiring issue. Lois will talk to Brian and if that won't work, we will revisit at the next meeting.
- f. Raffle: is it worth it or not? We spent \$411.46 on raffle (winger and tickets) and only brought in \$353 on ticket sales. General consensus was that it is worthwhile to do, but we need to do a better job of people going out to the individual stakes with the tickets and a sign, and getting more tickets sold. Michael mentioned that the photographer who was here at the test wants to come back in the fall with a more thorough set-up and more photographers, and has offered a couple of his wildlife/hunting pictures to be used as raffle items.
- g. Lessons learned?
  - i. The dumpster is great.
  - ii. We need to look into having two people assigned to each stake, plus the marshal(s). These people would need transport and would be responsible for calling HQ whenever they need something (lunches, ammo, more ducks etc.) and then coming up to HQ to pick things up, and for tearing down/moving and setting up for the next series. This should work better than having a small central crew that gets dispatched out everywhere; but it will take more people. We would have needed 10 people on the equipment/errand crew instead of the 4-5 that we had.

4. ***Fall Hunt Test: October 21-22, 2017, Lucky Seven Ranch, Sweetwater***

- a. Karen has gone online & filled out the AKC applications for the two tests: 1 junior, 1 senior, 1 60-dog master on Saturday, and a Junior & Senior on Saturday. The fees are paid and we are now listed as 'pending' until they give us formal approval. Time to start working on judges ASAP. Alan suggested a woman named Kim Bridgewater who travels with a group from Michigan. He will contact her to see if several of them would be available to share a ride down our way to reduce expenses.

5. ***Summer Seminar/Picnic:*** August 5, Fyfe/Fletcher farm. Need to firm up plans for seminar & food. Patti G, who usually does such a great job of supplying food for the picnic part, will be moving that week to a new house and won't be available to help. Need a volunteer to take over this job for August 5!

6. ***Committee to look at Dog/Puppy of the Year rules:*** Karen, Michael Evans, Mike Smith – Have agreed on editorial changes and some other minor changes. Will be meeting after the

Board meeting concludes and should have a report to the Board for next meeting, in time for this to be presented to the membership in August.

**New Business:**

1. ***First Reading, New members: None***
2. ***Freezer at Patti Gibson's:*** Needs a new home by September, when she moves. Michael suggested that Tom or Patti put this on Craig's List and just try to sell it. Since we are no longer using ducks for our club trials, we don't need it any more. Price? Maybe \$100 and take \$75. There are still two bags of frozen ducks in it; if sold to a retriever person, will throw them in for free. Karen will also mention the freezer's availability in the next newsletter, and John will ask Ken Campbell and Brady Collins if they might be interested.

***Any other new business?***

***Adjourn:*** There being no other new business, Mike moved that we adjourn. John seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

**Changes:**

1. Change Michele Fletcher from AKC Rep to AKC Delegate – Rick Fyfe, 6/14/17
2. Extraneous “b” under item 1 on Old Business – Jim Pearce & Michele Fletcher 6/14/17.

**Approvals:**

1. Alan Bruhin 6/14/17
2. Luke McCoy 6/14/17
3. Rick Fyfe 6/14/17
4. Jim Pearce 6/14/17
5. Michele Fletcher 6/14/17
6. Karen Edwards 6/17/17
7. J.Michael Evans 6/21/17