

ETRC Board Meeting, 9/12/17
Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Jim Pearce, John Broucek, Michele Fletcher.

Absent, excused: Lois Luthenauer, Donna Smith, Luke McCoy

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present.
Meeting called to order by Vice President Alan Bruhin at 6:55 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. Last meeting was 8/5/17 general meeting; minutes were approved within a week via email and sent to the club website. Michael 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. Password changed, members notified. Minutes etc. posted.
- **Membership:** End of year 2016 membership was 59. Current membership is 53 including 1 new member pending first reading tonight. 17 members from 2016 have not renewed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 6/13/17 is \$23,361.25 with bills outstanding for Patti Gibson for dinner, lunches, and judges gifts (~ \$800-\$1,000). Patti messaged earlier today that she plans to have all the receipts together tomorrow. Karen passed around a full report of income and expenses which shows a net gain so far this calendar year of \$7649.78. Michael moved it be accepted, Michele seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher. None.

Old Business

1. **Club Trials:** October 7: Michael has called Ken Campbell, Lucky 7's owner, and confirmed the dates for the Club Trial and the Hunt Test. need to remind Ken Campbell of date. Judges?
2. **Fall Hunt Test: October 21-22, 2017, Lucky Seven Ranch, Sweetwater**
 - a. We went over the assignment sheet to make sure we are on track. Status:
 - i. The test is up on Entry Express and will open 9/27 at 7 p.m. CDT (9/26 for workers with codes. We only got 9 codes this time with a 60-dog master. Closing is 10/9, 11:59 pm CDT.
 - ii. Michael has confirmed with Ken Campbell details about the fall test. However, we still need to talk to him about a grounds fee and get him a copy of the insurance certificate.

- iii. Tom is working on getting Marshals for the test. Karen has confirmed with the FFA that they will provide up to 25 kids, with 20 being the requested minimum. This will be more than enough for the smaller test.
- iv. We still need more volunteers for test set-up on Friday (about 3 more people) and for work during the test on Saturday and Sunday.
- v. Roberta needs to buy 500 more sheets of waterproof paper for the judges' books. Alan will print off another 1000 on plain paper. If there are 200 dogs, we need 400 sheets a day so 800 total.
- vi. Lois needs to call Kiley Buettner ASAP about the ducks and ask for delivery on Friday so that someone from the club will be there to receive them. Some concern about duck availability since he also supplies the MN which is running that week. We discussed how many ducks to order, and decided to start with 1.5 which is an increase given we now have to do fliers for Junior. Michael has asked all the judges to do their flier series first each day so we can release the gunners to other duties or to go home. He is planning to provide 6 fresh-killed ducks to Junior and 12 to Senior on Saturday, and the fliers will make up the rest of the birds for those series. On Sunday, probably the same although if the weather is very cool on Saturday we may be able to use some of the best ducks carried over, plus the new fliers for Jr/Sr.
- vii. Karen will ask Chad Suttles, who lives near Hiwasee, if he will be willing to bring down the trailer and the empty duck crates on Friday (or Thursday eve).
- viii. Dumpster and Porta Potties: 2 toilets worked OK last time so we will get the same number this time. Michael will call to order these for delivery on Friday. Ken Campbell has asked for them to be delivered to the front parking lot, and his farm Manager Brandon Camp will move them where needed.
- ix. Test HQ will be set up in the clubhouse this time and not in the barn. We will need to have signs about no parking on the grass, no driving up to the clubhouse, etc. Michael will bring orange cones and crime scene tape, and Michele (?) offered to bring some electric fence poles to help string them up better. We will likely set up in the pavilion unless the weather is bad, in which case we will move into the game room side of the clubhouse. People will just have to walk a bit more!
- x. Gunners: Michael will need 10 gunners this time, 6 on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. He only has 4 and 2 so far so encouraged anyone who knows someone to contact them for interest. He will also need to buy more ammo.
- xi. Michele will bring her large nails and donate them to the club for use in making holes for the blinds. Jim will buy extras suitable for winger stakes. We will make sure to put some of these in each equipment bag that is supposed to go to each site. Last spring, the bags stayed in the trailer & never made it to the sites.
- xii. Michele, Rick, Michael, and Tom all agreed to bring their ATVs. It would be good to have a couple of others as well for running errands.
- xiii. We will meet at noon on Friday for a work session to check equipment and do any repairs. Hopefully the rubber will be OK; our extra rubbers got stuck in the back of the trailer by mistake and stayed there over the summer. This time, we need to make sure to give it to Jim and we will store it inside.

- xiv. Patti Gibson has agreed to do the judges dinner again and help with lunches. If Patti will do the buying, Karen will work on lunch making. Patti will need a rough head count of workers a week before the test so she can figure out how much to buy.
 - xv. Judges gifts: Patti has asked to be relieved of that this time around. Jim moved, and Alan seconded, that we make our judges' gifts this fall a crisp \$100 bill inside a thank you card. The motion passed unanimously and Karen will get these fixed up.
 - xvi. Workers' raffle: no open raffle. If we get some donated items, we will enter all the helpers' names in the pot and have a workers-only raffle this time.
 - xvii. Ribbons / Duck Bands: Karen inventoried and we are fine for this fall. Will need to reorder for spring, including duck bands.
 - xviii. Karen cautioned that we are probably going to lose money on this test. We made lots in the spring, so no overall financial worries and we probably won't lose a whole lot and will still be well in the green for the year.
- b. Equipment purchases: status update
- i. 2 more pairs of radios: Jim purchased and they are ready for fall.
 - ii. More duck driers: Luke & Michael will make them before the test.
 - iii. More holding blinds: 10 new ones received, now in the small trailer.
 - iv. Bird kid seating: Michael is going to buy some camp chairs. Patti has 6 outdoor chairs she is donating for marshal chairs.
 - v. Popups: Tom bought 3 more so we now have 10.
 - vi. Ponchos: Cory Smith bought, Karen has.
 - vii. First Aid Kits: Jeff McNutt and Patti are going to buy extra needed items for these and will have them ready by the hunt test.
- c. Trailer repairs: Mike Evans. Brakes were too expensive to replace (~\$1,600; more than the value of the trailer) and can't be fixed. Chad Suttles took it to a Chattanooga trailer repair place; they recommended removing the brakes altogether to make it easier to tow. At the same time, bought new tires, had the axle repacked etc. Total price \$807.74 of which \$339 were for the tires. Tires dry rot rapidly while sitting on grass; consider buying 4 16" pavers @ \$4.75 or rubber mats (~\$40) to preserve tires longer. Tom says he has a number of these that he will bring along to the hunt test and donate to the club. We will keep the trailer at Hiwassee for now, the gates are open on a M-F schedule at reasonable hours for access. Alan raised a concern about club liability if we are involved in a wreck without brakes; after discussion, we decided that since the trailer is only moved once a year, it is probably an acceptable risk for now. If we make a lot of money on our spring test, we need to consider replacing the trailer. About \$3,000 should buy us a slightly larger trailer than this one with working brakes.
3. **Club Freezer at Patti Gibson's:** Patti sold it to a co-worker for a nominal sum. The Board agreed that she should keep the money – she probably spent it on electricity during the years it was at her house.
4. **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. The proposed revisions and a

discussion of the changes had been sent out previously to club members. There was still some concern about the points system, particularly the very heavy weighting given to club trial events. There was general agreement on the puppy rules changes about giving 2 points for a JH pass and only 1 point for a club trial pass, but the board rejected the idea of bonus points for perfect attendance at club trials for both puppy and dog rules. After considering several different options (1 point for entering, 1 point for passing with a maximum of 2 points per trial; lesser number of points bonus for perfect attendance; and staggered points for recognizing that a senior pass should count more than a junior pass, and a master even more), the following was decided. Karen will revise the draft rules to reflect that BOTH club trials and AKC Hunt tests will be worth points only for passage not entrance; 1 point for a Junior pass, 2 points for a Senior pass, and 3 points for a Master pass. With this scheme, we will remove the exclusion of Junior dogs for Gun Dog of the Year award that is in the draft rules. No bonus points will be awarded for perfect attendance at Club Trials and the number of points awarded for a club trial will be the highest points earned (i.e., if a dog enters 4 events including Master and passes Master, he will get the 3 points for the master pass. The dog does not have to pass every class entered in order to get points). There was general recognition that we can't address all fairness issues such as percentage of attempts vs. passes, money/time inequalities among owners, training inequalities among different pro and amateur owners, etc. But, the Board generally felt that improvements as outline would go a long way towards improving the program. Karen will make these changes and get them out to the board before our next meeting, which is scheduled for after the Club Trial on October 7 at Lucky 7 Ranch. We will vote on approval for the 2018 awards at that meeting and get the changes out to the membership in the January newsletter.

We also discussed whether we should look into possibly adding points for Field Trials into our awards program. As of now, we have nothing in our club to offer for field trailers, except for the very minor inclusion of the Singles Classic event at Club Trials. As a result, we currently only have one field-trialing member of the club (John Broucek) although we used to have more. John mentioned that Ken Campbell is interested in talking to the Club about possibly doing something in the field trial world, not necessarily as a quid pro quo for being able to use his property, but as a general good thing, and that Ken felt he could supply enough workers to make this not be a huge burden on the rest of us. After discussion of the pros and cons, the board Agreed by consensus to expand the Rules committee (Karen, Michael, Mike Smith) to include John and that after the first of the year the committee would look into how/if we could fit field trials into club awards. Any changes from this would be for the 2019 awards year.

New Business:

1. *First Reading, New members:*

- a. Danny / Robin Lawson, Georgetown, TN, have Labradors, past members of Chattanooga retriever club. Will volunteer for equipment maintenance, hunt test set up.

Tom volunteered to be one of the sponsors, and Karen agreed to contact Wayne Rasbury who knows Lawson about being the second. Rick moved that these new members be accepted on first reading. Michele seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Karen will notify the new members and the sponsors and the final vote will be scheduled for the February banquet.

2. **MNRC Business:** Current club contact is Roberta, and Michael is our delegate and has sole power to vote for the club. Jody will be going to the meeting and can attend without us getting him a formal proxy this time. MNRC items:
 - a. Proposed rule change: dissolution clause. Required by AKC, specifies what happens in the MNRC is disbanded. After discussion we agreed this was reasonable and Michael voted Aye.
 - b. Proposed rule change: Qualifying dates: allows clubs with tests that go across the qualifying date to have their test counted for the next year instead of this year. This also seems reasonable and after discussion, Michael decided to vote Aye.
 - c. Event judges: pick two: One is dead, one we had a bad experience with in the past. We selected Dave Kress and Jace Tramontin.
 - d. Region 4 VP: Reaction to Jimmy Hughes, who is well known by the club, was very favorable. We don't know Mike Collson but voted for him anyway.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Tom seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 9/13/17
2. Jim Pearce, 9/14/17
3. Michele Fletcher, 9/15/17
4. Rick Fyfe, 9/15/17
5. Jim Pearce 9/17/17
6. J.Michael Evans 9/18/17
7. Karen Edwards 9/18/17