

ETRC General Meeting, 8/5/17 Fyfe & Fletcher Farms, Pikeville, TN

Training Seminar, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:

About 27 people (including kids and spouses) and 18 dogs participated in the seminar, which was conducted by pro trainer Jody Ware assisted by his son Nick. For the advanced dogs (7 of them), Jody set up a series of three difficult water blinds. On the first one, the dog was supposed to get out of the water on a point of land, then get back in the water and out to the blind partway up the hill on the other side. If the dog didn't come out right on the end of the point, it was very easy to get sucked up the hill in the wrong direction. The second blind involved a sharp angle entry, swimming close to the shore and then out and up the hill. On the third one, the dog was supposed to skirt one spit of land closely and then out and up the hill. Jody critiqued each handler and helped identify and recommend solutions for problems encountered in the runs.

Next, he worked on starting blinds for a group of about 10 dogs. Using the same setup for blind #1, he had the handler start with the dog out on the spit of land, and Nick showed them where the bumpers were located. The dog was then sent using blind signals (Dead Bird, Back), while the handler then ran around to the pond to stand on the far bank and called the dog back across the point of water. Jody showed us how to add or decrease difficulty using this setup, with each dog getting one or two tries with differing levels of difficulty. Next he worked with several young dogs demonstrating some of the obedience / yard work exercises that he does to get them ready for more advanced work. We then moved to the swim-by pond and he worked with several more dogs there.

It was great to see several junior handlers out there working their dogs – Ivan and Cade Chambers with their Chessies, and Nick helping Jody. Jody has the wonderful talent of 'speaking dog' and can instantly identify issues and offer suggestions to fix them, and although he is quite direct about handler errors, he always manages to get the information across without hurting any feelings. Huge thanks to Jody and Nick for the wonderful morning. Also thanks to the Fletchers and Rick Fyfe for the use of their adjoining farms. Most amazingly, the weather even cooperated – it was almost chilly when we started and even at the end of the session, it was still quite reasonably cool in the shade. The only slight issue was the unbelievable traffic on the main route to the farm – this was the weekend of the Highway 127 Yard Sale, and for people arriving a little late, it took nearly an hour to crawl from Crossville to Pikeville.

Notes from the seminar will be published in the September Newsletter in the Training Corner.

Picnic, 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.

The large open pole barn was perfect for the picnic and meeting. Also thanks to Lois Luthenauer who coordinated the fantastic feast, and to all the members who brought such great food along as their entry fee to the seminar. It was nice to have some time to visit, meet new members, and 'talk dogs'. Unfortunately, at least 10 members who came to the seminar were unable to stay for the picnic and meeting – but we were glad to have you for the morning anyway!

General Meeting: 1:20 – 3:45 p.m.

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Donna Smith, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher

Absent: John Broucek

Other Members present: Liz Gibson, Ashley Goddard, Charles and Connie Lockwood, Mike Smith, Cory Smith, Chad Suttles, Jody and Nick Ware, and Beth White.

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. A quorum of the membership is 20% of the voting members. 16 members/ families were represented, and the current membership stands at 52 individuals/families. Therefore, a quorum was present (20% is 11 families). Meeting called to order at 1:20 p.m. following completion of the seminar and picnic.

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Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: President Lois Luthenauer thanked the Fletchers and Rick Fyfe for hosting us, and Jody and Nick Ware for the wonderful seminar. She also thanked everyone for coming and braving the traffic, including those who were unable to stay for the picnic and meeting. Beth White is moving shortly; Lois thanked her for all the help and support she has given the club over the last several years and wished her and her husband well in their new home over near Raleigh, NC where they are moving to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. Last meeting was 6/13/17; 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. Mike Evans Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Website changes made & pending:** Routine. Password changed, membership notified.
- **Membership:** Current membership is 52 including 5 new members pending final vote this afternoon.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 8/3/17 is \$25,742.59 with bills not yet received from Patti Gibson for spring test dinner, lunches, and judges gifts (\$1,000+); and payback to Lois and Michele for picnic expenses. Paid MNRC membership bill late, on 8/3/17; the invoices are now being sent only via email and neither Mike Evans nor Roberta Williams received them this year. Karen will set up a bill-paying reminder in Quicken for this in future years so we can contact them if we don't receive an invoice. Mike Evans moved we accept the treasurer's report (hard copy handed out showing all expenses for the year); this was seconded by Luke McCoy and unanimously approved.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher reported there are several changes that are coming up for a vote by AKC in August. These include a provision that a club may hold a Master-only test

if they also hold another test during the year that has Junior and Senior categories; a provision change the distance for a walkup from “35-45 yards” to “a maximum of 45 yards”; and language prohibiting subsequent series in a test from being run on the exact same land. More details will be provided in September, but none of these seem to be terribly controversial.

Voting in of New Members

We have five new members who are to receive final approval today. All sponsors have recommended their approval. They are:

Daniel	Blevins	2136 Blankenship R.	Maryville	TN	37803	M.Evans, T. Gibson
Jim	Harrison	105 Maple Drive	Smyrna	TN	37167	M.Evans, L.McCoy
Konrad / Tricia	Heider	1020 Reunion Drive	Chattanooga	TN	37421	H.O’Neal, A.Bruhin
Lorrie / Joe	Johnson	10639 Forest Crest Rd.	Knoxville	TN	37922	K.Edwards, A.Bruhin
Charles / Connie	Lockwood	1143 Tellico St. South	Madisonville	TN	37354	M.Evans, B.Caldwell

Luke moved that all five be approved as full members of the club; Mike Evans seconded, and they were unanimously approved. Charlies and Connie Lockwood were at the meeting, and everyone wished them welcome to the club.

Old Business

1. **Fall Club Trial:** October 7, Ken Campbell’s Lucky 7 Ranch. Everyone is encouraged to come; this is a good warm up for our fall hunt test at the same site just two weekends later, and a great opportunity for people to become familiar with the grounds.
2. **Kevin’s Fund:** Rules: Karen and Lois will be reviewing and will have revised rules proposal to the Board for this fall, for next year. Balance remaining as of today: \$2,175.
3. **Spring Hunt Test Report:**
 - a. Financial information: Very successful test, profit of almost \$10,000. Final figures pending receipt of bills from P.Gibson for meals, food, judges gifts.
 - b. Complaints: 2 minor complaints about the test/judging, both on the Junior test, and both resolved informally. One was about a Boykin that the handler said could not see the mark over the high grass, and the other one was from a dog that brought back a bird, spit it out at the line and wouldn’t pick it back up. One concern about a guy who purchased pictures from a photographer (not the one that was authorized beforehand) and hadn’t yet received them. Another member had the same problem and had called him, to find out that he had a heart attack. He had told that member that he would definitely get the pictures out but needed some recovery time. The person with the original complaint said he had tried calling and the man was accepting his calls. We discussed that people should be cautious about writing checks for photographs to people, especially unauthorized photographers. The other photographer has a website and you can buy pictures through the website.

4. ***Equipment purchases:*** Some purchases need to be made before our fall test; others can wait a while longer.
 - a. 2 more pairs of radios: with this big a test and another stake, we didn't have enough radios. The board authorized Jim Pearce to buy two more sets; these have been purchased and are on hand.
 - b. More duck driers: issue of buying some or making some. Luke and Michael recommended that we make some out of 2x4s with rebar feet, that can hopefully be knocked down easily and stored in the duck gassing box. These can be made inexpensively. There are still some concerns about space available in the trailer; the final consensus was that Mike and Luke are authorized to make 3 for the fall test and we'll see how they work. The aluminum duck driers are quite expensive.
 - c. 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 has done research and has suggested that we get half 4-pole blinds and half 3-pole blinds, from Gun Dog Supply, half in Marsh Grass and half in Bush Buck colors. Also, we need to add spikes to drive holes into dry ground and put these in the tool kits. Alan moved that we buy these up to a cost of \$1,500; Mike Evans seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Alan will purchase the blinds.
 - d. More /better seating for bird kids. We have plenty of buckets, but they tend to melt together in the heat of the trailer and become very difficult to separate; plus, they take up a lot of room. They are very cheap though. Mike Evans has been researching various ideas (folding chairs with hoods, canvas folding stools, etc.). He reported that we can buy the folding camp stools for about \$14-\$17, and these can be strung up on a cable that runs up at the top of the trailer from side to side, taking up very little room. Michael also discussed possible chairs for \$6, but several people commented that chairs at that price point do not hold up at all. Karen moved we buy 25 of the folding stools, Michele seconded, and Michael Evans will take care of buying them. The motion passed.
 - e. Coolers: Lois threw out the ones that had broken handles. New ones in the 48 qt size (which is a good size) cost about \$16 at Walmart. We are not sure how many we have after the spring purge; Lois thought we only had two left; Michael and Alan thought it was more like 6-7. We decided to delay action until the fall hunt test where we can see exactly how many we need. We think that 6 would be a good number – one for each stake, one for a possible extra stake, and one for the clubhouse.
 - f. Popups: We needed 3 more to bring us up to a total of 10; Tom G. just bought 3 more blue ones so we are good there.
 - g. We need more ponchos before the next hunt test. These are inexpensive. Cory Smith offered to buy about 20 of these that we can keep on hand; this number should last us for a couple of years.
 - h. First Aid Kit: at the spring test, nurse Patti Gibson and paramedic Jeff McNutt went over our two first aid kits with an eye to throwing out stuff that was out of date and making a list of new things we needed. Karen needs to contact them to see if we can get a list so that we can restock the kits before the test.
5. ***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. However, Michael has talked with Hiwassee manager Jason who says the hours are 8 a.m. to dusk, Monday through Saturday. We decided this was probably OK. However, there is still an issue of the brakes for the trailer needing to be fixed. Chad Suttles says he is willing to call a truck and trailer repair shop in Chattanooga and can haul it down for repair since he lives close. The biggest issue is whether or not it has to be unloaded first, as there is no place to put all the stuff. Either Mike Smith or Chad Suttles might be willing to move the trailer to Sweetwater, to be determined later.

6. **Raffle:** Is anyone willing to take over as the raffle coordinator for fall? We have two sponsors (Purina, Midwest) and one of our photographers has offered some pics to be used as raffle items. Do we want to buy something to raffle? Costs last spring exceeded income; we need people to get out to the test site and sell raffle tickets. After some discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a raffle, Karen moved that we not have a general raffle this fall. If there is any donated material, we can use this for a workers' raffle. Beth seconded the motion which then passed.

7. **Fall Hunt Test: October 21-22, 2017, Lucky Seven Ranch, Sweetwater**
 - a. Application has been submitted to AKC, judges are approved. Will be double Junior, double Senior, single Master flight with 60-dog limit.
 - b. Junior/Senior Judges are:
 - i. Kim Bridgewater bridgewaterkim@live.com
 - ii. Judy Merians mikemerians@yahoo.com
 - iii. Lisa Neel doctor.spock@yahoo.com
 - iv. Robert Wolfe 901-755-9294
 - c. Master Judges:
 - i. Bill Skeels skeels@fairpoint.net
 - ii. Joel Hardy turkeychsr@bellsouth.net

Need volunteers to help with all kinds of stuff – contact any of the Board members. We are looking into a new way of dividing up work at each stake for the fall. In addition to the Marshal, one person would be assigned to each stake as the designated runner. This person would be responsible for coordinating with HQ on site needs (lunches, ammo, more ducks) and will be the one who goes to wherever to get the needed stuff. We would still have a crew of 4-5 people to help with setup and teardown. It might work best to have two additional people plus the Marshal at the Master tests.

We are now required to have live flyers at Junior tests. This means we will need more gunners. For Fall, we will need 6 gunners on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. If anyone knows a gunner who would be interested, please provide contact info to Michael Evans.

8. **Committee to look at Dog/Puppy of the Year rules:** Karen, Michael Evans, Mike Smith – Have agreed on proposed changes and this is to go before the Board at the next meeting before being referred to the membership.

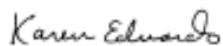
New Business:

1. ***MNRC delegate:*** Jody Ware is willing to be our delegate this year, if our late dues submission doesn't preclude us from being represented. Karen will contact MNRC to see if we are now entitled to have a rep, and if so will get a proxy set up for Jody.
2. ***Input from the membership:*** ideas and suggestions for things you would like the club to do, instead of or in addition to what we talked about already. Suggestions for improvements, ways to get more people working so we don't burn people out so bad, etc. There were no suggestions at this time.
3. ***Nominating Committee:*** We usually set up the nominating committee at this time to give everyone plenty of opportunity to do the work before the required report has to be submitted to Karen as Secretary in the fall. Lois called for volunteers – we need two non-board members and one board member to serve. Luke McCoy volunteered to be the member from the Board, and Cory Smith and Chad Suttles agreed to serve from the membership. Karen will send out an email to all of them with the information on bylaws requirements, a copy of the most recent membership list, and a list of the positions that have to be filled.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. Donna Smith seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin 8/6/17
2. Rick Fyfe 8/6/17
3. Jim Pearce 8/6/17
4. Michele Fletcher 8/6/17
5. Luke McCoy 8/7/17
6. Mike Evans 8/8/17
7. Karen Edwards 8/8/17