

ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 6/12/19 Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Lois Luthenauer (via telephone), Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans,

Absent: Alan Bruhin (ill), Cory Smith (work meeting), Jeff McNutt

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at [6:40] p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report:

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 5/13/19; minutes approved and sent to the club website. Jim moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. J. Michael Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** MNRC dues notice, paid. Sent out ribbons from HT. Annual report for State done and sent in.
- **Membership:** Current 2019 membership is 45 as of 6/1/19, including 2 waiting final vote in August. 17 members have not renewed yet from 2018; EOY 12/31/18 membership was 61. Have purged membership rolls and mailing list, have sent out new membership list to be posted on website. Changed password on website and notified members. Sent updated lists to Board members.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 6/7/19 is \$25,040.82. No bills currently due and not paid. Passed out report showing all income and expenditures for the year to date.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher: Nothing new to report.

Old Business

1. ***Spring Hunt Test:***

- a. Financial info: Looks like we made just under \$5k on the test; current report shows \$5069 profit but we don't have Patti's invoices for the lunches yet.
- b. Confusion over closing dates: Karen relied on old info from Entry Express on how to compute closing dates when entering the info into AKC. When Michele provided the correct dates, Karen sent an email to AKC asking for a change but did not follow up to make sure AKC got it and actually made the change. It wasn't made. Karen has already changed the dates for the fall test and has confirmed that it was made so we won't have an issue again.
- c. Heat: serious issues with how miserably hot it was. We had a couple of dogs that had some heat stress but fortunately recovered with some first aid. Likewise we had a few bird techs that had some heat issues. It was just NOT FUN. If we keep on with the

Memorial day weekend date, we need to have an easier way to transport loads of water to the site (50 gallon tanks for swimming pools for dogs, hoses to fit the spigots at the reserve, etc.), perhaps buy even more pop-ups, sell water at the actual test sites, instruct the kids and chaperones not to drink energy drinks like Red Bull, etc.

2. **Equipment:**

- a. Popups: The new, heavy duty pop-ups were great and very stable.
- b. Anything else we need before fall hunt test: a water hose, more tent stakes for the pop-ups.
- c. Upgraded big trailer: discussion, pros and cons. Not many cons were discussed except it's a lot of money to buy a new one. However, we have about \$5k profit from our spring test, and another \$1k from the mid-week master test, plus we can get \$1-2k for the old trailer – so out of pocket expense is not all that great and we will still have around \$16-18k left in the treasury -- plenty to run our fall hunt test and other planned activities comfortably.

From initial research J. Michael has done, it looks like we can buy a new 20' by 8' by 8' high trailer for around \$10k. If we buy a new one, we have a chance of trading in the old one and don't have to worry about selling it ourselves. The new trailers are actually lighter than the one we have currently, which is 16' x 6' x 6' high, even though it is bigger. Also, we do not have working brakes on the old trailer and we have so much equipment now that some falls out when the doors are open, plus it is impossible to get just one item out if we need it at some point between tests. We will need to fit out the interior with shelves/strapping points and that will be a few hundred extra dollars plus some time from a couple of club members to do the work. Jim and Karen volunteered their workshop and parking area in front of it for the refit, and Tom Gibson also volunteered his similar facility. J. Michael will ask Jason at Hiwassee if we can store the contents of the trailer in one of the stalls there while we are making the transition.

Karen moved that we authorize J. Michael to buy a trailer up to \$10,000, with a trade-in if possible. Michele seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. We instructed J. Michael not to drive a long distance just to get a slightly better deal.

Karen was instructed to advertise the current trailer to members only at a price of \$1,200. She will place this advertisement in the next newsletter unless J. Michael can get a better deal on a trade-in beforehand.

3. **Summer picnic:** August 17, Saturday, at Lois Luthenauer's place, 3508 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN. Date is set, Jody is OK with date. Lois and Sherie will provide meats and a grill; we need to ask members to bring items to share. Karen will post this in the newsletter and ask for RSVPs to Karen or to Lois; Lois will coordinate food contributions. We discussed possible ways to incentivize people to come – and decided to offer a few doorprizes. Lois will ask Sherie to donate a private handling lesson, Lois will donate a night

at their Retriever Retreat accommodations to go along with it, and the club will donate a couple of tee shirts and hats. Must be present to win!

4. ***Fall club trial:*** We usually plan to have the fall club trial before our fall hunt test. However, with our new fall dates being so early – September 28 and 29 to avoid current and future conflicts with the Master National – this would be a potentially hot and miserable event. Also, it would mean we have virtually no events scheduled during the final quarter of the year. We tentatively settled on a date of Saturday, November 16, at Lucky 7 if Ken Campbell is willing. J. Michael will ask him if that date is OK. Left undiscussed at the time was ways to generate more interest in these events.
5. ***Fall Hunt Test: 9/28-29/19.***
 - a. New dates set with AKC, Entry Express, and Lucky 7 owner Ken Campbell. The test is up on Entry Express as ‘not finalized’ but the dates are visible.
 - b. The new grounds will not be ready in time to have two master flights this year; however, with a new technical pond and another new large field added farther down Erie Road, by next fall we should be able to have a double master flight.
 - c. Need to get started on judges: Neener is committed for one of the Junior/Senior judges; need three more. Karen suggested Ken Kogut and Andy Sonntag for the Master judges and Luke will give them a call. Luke mentioned that even as early as we are, the MN is getting a number of judges to come two weeks early to start setting up, and others who are planning on competing are going there several weeks early for training groups.
 - d. Judges dinner – Ken is having some kind of event Friday afternoon, at a location on the hill across from the clubhouse. He has hired a barbecue truck to come on out and provide that group with lunch and wants to know if we would like to talk to them about staying on for the judges’ dinner. Jim and Karen can attest that the barbecue is pretty great – this is the same company that provided the meal for the Field Trial Ken put on over there a few months ago. We decided to look into the price for that – at least this way we aren’t responsible for the judges’ bar bills. One judge in particular had around \$100 in drinks at the spring test and didn’t even finish a couple of them.

New Business:

1. ***Spring 2020 Hunt Test(s) –***
 - a. There was a lengthy discussion on whether we should change our end-of-May hunt test dates to some time earlier in the year because of the incredible heat we sometimes get. This year was particularly bad, but we have at least one other year in the past 5 that was also seriously unbearable. There are pluses and minuses to going earlier – the second weekend in May runs into Mother’s day, and the first May weekend conflicts with Midsouth which is close enough to draw off some participation. Dates in April run the risk of colliding with Easter. And, no matter which dates we pick, we are likely to have some periodic conflicts with the Master Amateur but that is unavoidable. The first weekend in April is clear; second weekend is the Buckhead,

GA test which is outside the 200 mile limit but still may draw off participation; the third weekend is tests in Lower Alabama and Cheraw which probably are not much to worry about, and the fourth weekend conflicts with Middle Tennessee. Next year, the Master Amateur will be in California and start April 19 so isn't much of an issue.

J. Michael will contact Jason at Hiwassee to run various April and May dates by him to see if any of them will work. He will also contact AKC to confirm that they will approve a date change if Hiwassee is good with one of more of them. If he can find one in April or earlier in May that will work with both AKC and Hiwassee, he will jump on it for next year.

b. Judges – best if they are in place before end of year but obviously we need dates first.

2. Info from the Master Amateur – Lois, who just finished successfully running Woodie in their first Master Amateur in Montana (Congratulations!), reported via phone on several topics that came up at the meeting there with some of the AKC reps.

a. There was much discussion about the difficulty of getting dogs entered into Master tests. All over the country, tests are filling up within 2 minutes of opening. Various solutions were discussed, but the one that AKC seems to be most seriously planning is to increase the numbers of dogs per flight by 10%. In other words, there would be 66 Master dogs per flight in a 2-day test, and 99 in a three day test. This will cause problems with judges who already have serious time management problems, as AKC will be unable to decree that daylight has to last longer.

b. One of the problems is that there are various bots that many of the pros have purchased that permits them to enter any number of dogs with one keystroke. At a test recently that one of the board members attended, there were 60 dogs in Master and 22 of them were from one pro. Also, the pros that have these bots are entering amateur-handled dogs for some of their friends, which helps out those people but makes it harder for others who don't have a pro friend who will do this for them. Entry Express is making some software changes to eliminate the use of bots and hopes to have that in place soon. Other possible solutions that were mentioned were that no one can handle more than a certain percentage of dogs at a particular test, say 10% for example. There are ways around that though, have the owner enter as the primary handler and the pro as secondary.

c. AKC is going to require Entry Express to make full refunds for dogs who are scratched before the closing date, less a \$4.50 handling fee. Apparently now EE only refunds \$10, and also charges \$14.50 for being on the waiting list (plus, if they get moved up, the full entry fee on top of that). This is discouraging people from scratching early – they can wait, get a vet cert for bitches in heat for example, and get a full refund from club management. It also means the waiting list isn't worth much. AKC is considering letting club management continue to fill slots from the waiting list after the test closes and scratches are received.

3. *New Members:* None.

Any other new business? None.

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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

- 1.

Approvals:

1. Mike Smith 6/13/19
2. Jim Pearce 6/13/19
3. Alan Bruhin 6/14/19
4. J. Michael Evans 6/15/19
5. Jeff McNutt 6/20/19
6. Karen Edwards 6/20/19
7. Cory Smith 6/20/19
8. Michele Fletcher 6/20/19