

ETRC Board Meeting, Monday, 10/7/19 Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Jeff McNutt

Absent: Cory Smith (work commitment),

Members Present: Cheryl McNutt

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 9/28/19; minutes approved and sent to the club website 10/2/19. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Tom Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** Bill from Holston gas, Master National documents. J. Michael will call Holston Gas about the incorrect invoice for tank rental.
- **Membership:** Current 2019 membership is 50 as of 10/6/19, including 4 waiting final vote in February and one for first reading. 17 members have not renewed from 2018; EOY 12/31/18 membership was 61.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 10/6/19 is \$19,668.30. Upcoming expenses: Holston gas bill, mailing ribbon fee, any further scratches other than Vencilles, further materials for trailer fittings. Have three checks that have not cleared: two are a year old, one is from the spring HT (scratch).

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

Old Business

1. **Fall Hunt Test: 9/28-29/19.**
 - a. Comments, suggestions, what we did well, what didn't go so great: Obviously the biggest things that didn't go well were the hotel snafu with reservations, the birdkids issue, and the lack of porta-potties.
 - i. On the hotel, in the future we need to check a few days in advance to make sure everything is still OK and get it fixed ahead of time if it is not.
 - ii. On the birdkids, this has happened to us before when we have gone to the same group over and over and they just wear out on the job. We will need to find a new source of bird kids for the spring test. Possible ideas: the first FFA group that we used a few years ago before they wore out (new kids now); ask Lisa Styles (ex-principal in Knox County) if she has some possible contacts in schools around the area who might want

to provide birdkids as a fundraiser; Jeff McNutt will check with his school; and ask Cory if he has some contacts with schools that might work.

- iii. J. Michael reported that the owner/manager of Fay Portables called him Monday morning after reading his emails and text messages, and reported that she had just fired the man who was supposed to bring them. He had six deliveries that he failed to make on Friday, so we were just one of the groups that was left high and dry. She begged J. Michael give them another chance, and said that she would not charge us for the dumpster this time (which did arrive) and also would not charge us in the spring for either the dumpster or the porta potties. This is very fair and we will continue using them.

Things that did go well: lots of positive comments about the judges' dinner and the improved quality of the lunches. Facilities were great, equipment all worked pretty well, and the test ran smoothly. Ken Campbell reported to J. Michael that he was happy with the way we left the property after the test was over.

- b. Money: With a few bills outstanding, our current net is \$1,745.85 and will probably end up around \$1,700. If we had spent the amount we normally spend on birdkids, portapotties & ducks, we would have gone into the hole, and may still if we consider Ken's request (and our agreement) for us to sponsor his dinner for the hunt test as grounds rental. Given below is a chart comparing the two fall hunt tests at Ken Campbell's:

Judges & Hotel	2018	\$1,530.40
	2019	\$2,392.12
Ducks	2018	\$2,900
	2019	\$3,420
Food (dinner & lunches)	2018	\$350.69
	2019	\$743.12
Bird Techs	2018	\$2,820
	2019	\$1,150
Dumpster/Potties	2018	\$411.61
	2019	0
Scratches	2018	\$760
	2019	\$230

Costs for judges included increases in both their personal expenses and in the hotel bill. The room rate was actually \$5 cheaper this year, but more judges brought dogs at \$20 a night per dog which jacked up the prices. Increases in personal expenses were all reasonable and were just a reflection of the higher price of meals etc. The two judges from Florida cost quite a bit in mileage, but they were sharing the same car and the same room, so it wasn't out of line with the others. The judge from New York got a very cheap plane ticket and had no other expenses, so he was in the middle of the pack as well. We got into a discussion about how unfair it was that judges don't get paid; not much we can do about it (AKC rules), but it's still a problem with keeping judges in the system when they donate their time for no compensation and judges for other dog sports (e.g., agility, obedience) do get paid at a rate per dog with a minimum for the weekend.

Scratches – Michele reported that she has not received any other vet bills or written requests for refunds and the 7 day limit has passed. One pro judge who scratched 3 dogs at the test (without notifying the office at the test) called on Saturday and said two of the bitches were in heat and the other was injured, but has not sent in vet certificates and the time frame for receipt has now passed. We had a discussion about how seriously we should follow the stated rules in the premium about payment for scratches; Karen pointed out that since at least the last several years since she took over payment for scratches, we had not made exceptions to the stated rules for time frames. Karen moved that we not pay any scratches for people who do not follow the stated rules in the premium list. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. If the gentleman in question ever submits his documentation, Michele will notify him that he is too late.

- c. We discussed raising entry fees for next year. A number of other hunt tests have raised their fees; some are \$75/\$85/\$95; others are \$80/\$90/\$100. Others are still at the rate we charge -- \$70/\$80/\$90. With Junior/Senior, they are paying double in a weekend for two tests, so are already paying \$140 for 2 Junior tests. It would bring in the most money, even without raising fees, if we added another master flight at our fall test – an additional \$5,400 in entry fees as opposed to \$600 for increasing the fees for master only and running one flight. With Ken's new land and ponds, it is most likely that there will be enough land next fall to run a full two flights of master, double junior, double senior. We discussed just having a double master, Junior on Saturday and Senior on Sunday, but felt this was too much kowtowing to the pros and not working to keep the pipeline of amateur owners in the sport. J. Michael moved that we raise our master entry fees to \$100 and keep the other stakes the same price. Michele seconded. After some more discussion, there were 6 ayes and 3 nays. The nays were concerned that the higher fees would tend to drive away amateurs, and would have preferred seeing an increase to \$95 instead.

2. **Fall club trial:** Currently scheduled for November 16, at Lucky 7, 10 a.m.. J. Michael has not talked with Ken Campbell about this yet. We took a tally on who would be coming from the Board, and at least 5 board members had other commitments (like Luke getting married!) and could not attend. We discussed three options: (1) have the club trial as scheduled, assuming Ken is OK with us using his property; (2) see who comes and if it's all new people who really aren't ready for a club trial, switch it to a training session; or (3) start our winter training program early, aimed again at people with little experience if that is the group that comes. Alan pointed out that if we do the third option, we are not offering anything that would entice more experienced members to come anyway. We discussed setting up training days differently; maybe starting with junior/beginner dogs at 10 a.m and presenting something just for them with intense coaching; doing transition-level dogs at 12-2 with coaching and drill work; and experienced dogs at 2-4 mostly with set-ups. The pros of this are that we would be offering something for everyone, without tying up everyone while the other levels were being worked. The cons are that it would take all day for the presenters (Sherie, John B, Lisa Styles, Alan, J. Michael, whoever) and not just half a day. Also, for the junior people, it would be good for them to see what they are aiming for. Also, it would be good to open the session up to non-members as an introduction to the club, and to possibly

provide trained dogs for utter newbies with puppies or complete beginner dogs so they can see what they are aiming for.

Lois moved that we have the November 16 event at her place with Sherie coaching, and try to work out something that will suit for everyone. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed without open dissent. Karen and Lois will have some discussions about the format and will sent it out for comment to the board.

3. ***Master National Ballot:*** We had sent in the earlier ballot with judges selection. J. Michael thinks there are other items on a new ballot, but couldn't find it on his email and Karen couldn't either. If he finds it and there is anything possibly controversial, he will email us. Otherwise, good luck to J. Michael both at the event and as our representative!
4. ***Equipment:***
 - a. Old trailer sold to Robert Dodson. Michael gave Karen the check for deposit.
 - b. Upgraded big trailer: Still work to do on fitting out the interior for efficient/stable storage. We scheduled Wednesday, October 16 as our next work party – Edwards/Pearce farm, 4:30 or as soon as you can get there.
 - c. Equipment sales: advertised duck dryer and shotguns/stands in the Oct newsletter. No response so far. We discussed what to do with the guns if we couldn't find buyers, but reached no conclusion.
 - d. New equipment: we need 2 more of the big nice pop-ups, since it seems like our hunt tests are going to be in the mid-90s from now on. Also, we need 4 more of the duck dryers in the bigger size. In addition, we need some repair parts for the wingers – a few baskets, eyelets, etc. We will inventory what we need at the work party. Plus, one of the wingers has a popped weld from one of the judges banging on a crossbar with a sledgehammer. Jim has the tools and equipment to fix it. Lois moved that we order the equipment identified above. Mike S. seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Lois will order the pop-ups after the first of the year; Karen will order the dryers and winger parts.

New Business:

1. ***Spring 2020 Hunt Test(s)*** –
 - a. The hunt test will be May 23-24, 2020, on our normal Memorial Day weekend. Alan has started working on judges and has identified the 4 Master judges already. Lois is working on a Junior/Senior pair but doesn't have them pinned down. The information needs to be entered into the AKC website not later than the first of the year.
 - b. New member: the following have applied to become members of the ETRC: David & Jamie Cope. Audiologist, lives in Maryville. Has a 5-month old black lab puppy, will volunteer for anything that is needed. He is interested in hunt testing,

field trials, and dog training, and is a member of Ducks Unlimited and the NRA.

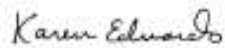
Sponsors: Mike Smith and Lois Luthenauer have agreed to be sponsors.

Lois Luthenauer moved that we accept him/them into membership, and Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed by email vote conducted 10/9/19.

Any other new business? None remembered.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Jeff seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Karen: added the results of David/Jamie Cope's first reading and assignment of sponsors to the minutes. Approved by the people below.

Approvals:

1. Mike Smith, 10/9/19
2. Lois Luthenauer, 10/9/19
3. Jim Pearce, 10/9/19
4. J. Michael Evans 10/10/19
5. Jeff McNutt 10/10/19
6. Tom Gibson 10/11/19
7. Karen Edwards 10/11/19
8. Michele Fletcher 10/11/19
9. Cory Smith 10/11/19