

ETRC Board Meeting, Monday, 12/5/22
254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, J. Michael Evans, Peter Torok (telephone), Lois Luthenauer (replacing Jeff McNutt)

Absent: Alan Bruhin, Cory Smith, Denise Chambers, Luke McCoy.

All Board members: Please remember you are unexcused unless you contact another Board member/Officer via email, text, phone, or in person before the meeting to say you won't be able to attend.

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 6 people present initially, and then 7 after the vote on appointing Lois to the Board. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 11/9/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website on 11/28/22. Mike Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Jim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** AKC wants to know if we want to adopt a new category of junior membership. See item later in agenda
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. 57 today. Issues from last month (money but no application; application with no check) now resolved; to be voted in tonight on first reading.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$37,887.19 after paying all known bills from Hunt Tests. Paid Lin Gelbman (\$542.82) for trip to Kentucky where she got sick. She was super grateful so we have some credit built up there. Costs were for 1 night motel + gas from Minnesota to Kentucky, each way. She didn't charge us for meals or for her time in Kentucky while she was sick.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele reported there will be a meeting next quarter to further discuss whether Springer spaniels can take place in Retriever events.

Old Business

1. **Replacement of Jeff McNutt.**

- a. Lois Luthenauer has volunteered to fill Jeff's unexpired term through February 2025. Karen moved that we approve her appointment to the board. Michele seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Welcome back, Lois!
- b. President Mike Smith asked Karen to send a Letter of Appreciation to Jeff and Cheryl, thanking them for all the work they have done for the club over the last 4 years since Jeff came onto the board, and wishing them well.

2. *Schedule for 2023 Hunt Tests.*

- a. Upon discussion with Brian Caldwell about our tentative schedule for 2023, Brian suggested we move the September Master Only test to June to give more people one last chance to qualify for the MN.
 - i. Pros: gives people one last chance, as stated. Does not interfere as much with preparations for the Master National.
 - ii. Cons: Possible extreme heat. We have been trying to get away from Memorial Day for years because of the heat, and now we set up one in June. Also, this is letting the MN continue to dictate our schedule, wiping out both September and October as viable months for this year. Making it harder and harder for local clubs to plan schedules.

Discussion, motion and vote: There was general acknowledgement that having a test in June is not ideal from a weather standpoint. Most of the Board members thought it would fill well, though, since the MN is in Georgia this fall, and this will be a last chance for many people. Some concern was expressed that the club is extending so much effort on putting on so many hunt tests, that it is not doing much for the people who are just trying to get into the sport. We have been very spotty in having club trials, and cancel them frequently. Several people remarked that there doesn't seem to be a lot of interest, that usually only 4 to 6 people come to the training days / seminars. However, there is also recognition that it is hard for people to learn about how to get into the sport without these kinds of activities and that we should offer them even if only a few people show up.

It was decided that Lois and Karen will work up a poll to be sent to all members, asking them to let us know what they would like to see in addition to hunt tests – more training with other people? Club trials? Seminars? We discussed several options – various groups sending out informal notices of training in different locations, such as up on the plateau at Lois's; down at Cory's; with the Smith's at their training grounds, over near Sevierville with J. Michael and Alan, etc. Lois will stop by Karen's on Wednesday the 7th to work on this, and we will issue a draft to the Board for review before sending.

With this decision, Mike Evans proposed that we accept the change in dates, eliminating the September test in favor of one in June. Michele seconded it, and the vote was 5-1 in favor of the change. Michele will notify AKC and Entry Express of the changes.

- b. Status report on 2023 tests: we need to get cracking on getting these tests going, particularly notifying judges. Also, in January it will be time to get the paperwork in

place with Hiwassee for the April test, and Michele will need to work with AKC to change the format from our usual 2 MH, double Junior, double Senior to a quad SH/quad JH format. Water may be an issue. Judges can possibly all come from the club, with J. Michael, Alan, Luke and Lisa Styles all possibles for this weekend test. Ducks will be an issue, as Kiley Buettner's ducks in March and April are still babies and are small and ratty. But, other places don't deliver. The situation with Lucky 7 for our fall test is still up in the air; the property sale is not finalized yet. J. Michael periodically is in touch with Ken Campbell about this situation and will keep us apprised.

3. ***Club Member Hunt Test Fee discounts for member workers:*** discussed last month. Michele presented a brainstormed list of ideas including (1) refunds without vet certs for bitches in season and injuries for working club members; (2) refund of one entry fee for one dog per year if a worker met a certain minimum requirement for working at tests; (3) possible payment of motel fees for hunt test chairman as well as HT secretary; (4) payment of meals on Saturday night at hunt test for workers (or alternatively, gas money for people who drive back and forth every day); (2) free seminars with well-known trainers like Mitch White once a year for club workers, etc. Discussion: we need to be careful as some of these can be expensive and could possibly run us into the red; we only made about \$1,500 on our fall hunt test which is less than average. It may be a good idea to start with just a few ideas and then expand them as we go. Michele will send the Board copies of these ideas for more fleshing out and editorial suggestions, and we will consider these either at a January board meeting, or with a board email vote. The plan is to present this to the membership at the February banquet as an incentive for people to volunteer for more worker opportunities.
4. ***Equipment:***
 - a. Update on decals for trailers (Michele): the trailers are all aluminum, so magnets won't work. Vinyl decals will work, and can be peeled off (but not reused) if we decide to sell the trailers at some point in the future. We agreed that the vote at the last meeting, to authorize Michele to spend the approximately \$180 to buy 4 decals, covers this situation and Michele will get them on order.
 - b. Duck Pen modifications: Still working on this. Cory has bought materials and plans to extend the pen to the back of the barn area. Possibly this can be done so the netting can be detached from the sides and used to squeeze the ducks into a smaller space to avoid so much mess in wrangling them. Mike Smith will get with Cory in January to work on this.
 - c. Winger repair: Mike Smith has bought the rest of the parts we need for maintenance on the wingers, including some additional rubber. Bill presented and paid.
 - d. Thunder stick: Jim can't repeat issue of flameout with gas cylinders; suspect it may have been an issue with the gas cylinder that was being used, or possibly a sticky button which came unstuck.
 - e. Anything else we need? No one could think of anything at this time.
5. ***Nominating Committee:*** Changes made to slate to replace Cheryl McNutt with Jeff Rader for the 2026 director position. Printed in the December newsletter; we are obligated by Bylaws to

accept nominations from the membership up until December 31, which are to be sent to Karen as Secretary. None so far.

6. **Awards Nominations:** Call for awards published in the December Newsletter. Be sure to get your title awards, invitations to MNRC and MARC, nominations of your own dogs for Dog of the Year and Puppy Of The Year, and nominations for Member of the Year and AKC Sportsman of the Year in to J. Michael by January 5. We can accept a few late ones. J. Michael suggested that Karen issue a correction to his email address as published in the last newsletter; it's his old one. He still has access to it but doesn't like to use it.
7. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Confirmed for Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 25, 2023. Will need to get with them and set up menu. Alan did it last year, and in his absence was volunteered to do it again this year.

New Business:

1. **New Members:**

- a. Matthew / Kristi Tipton; 2845 France Court, Maryville, TN 37803. Tiptonmd83@gmail.com, phone 865-696-0797. He's an electrician, volunteers for whatever is needed, interested in dog training and is a DU member. Own a 10 mo old female chocolate lab 10 with a JH title. No other dog club memberships. Joined 11/15/22. Sponsors: Mike Smith and J. Michael Evans agreed to be sponsors.
- b. Kevin / Tami Anderson, 2955 Hodges Landing Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920. Kevinsoar@gmail.com, 865-216-3459. He's a retired CRNA, volunteer activities 'to be determined,' belong to the AKC Merican water spaniel club, interested in AKC hunt tests, dog training, is a DU member, and is looking for hunting buddies to start up again now that he is retired. Own a standard poodle puppy. Joined 9/2/22. Sponsors: Lois Lutheanuer and J. Michael agreed to be sponsors.

Lois moved we accept these people into membership on first reading; Michele seconded; the vote was unanimous.

2. **New Membership Category for Juniors:** AKC sent out an email notifying us that we can add a new category of membership to our bylaws without getting AKC approval, as long as we use their standardized language: "Junior – open to children under 18 years of age; a non-voting/non-office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular membership at age 18."

Our current Bylaws contains a Youth membership as follows: "Youth Memberships shall be available to persons over the age of ten (10) but under the age of eighteen (18). Youth members shall not be entitled to vote nor to hold office. Youth Memberships shall automatically convert to Regular Membership upon the youth member attaining his or her eighteenth (18th) birthday. Each application for Youth Membership shall include parental signature of permission and waiver of liability."

If we wanted to adopt the new language, we would need to follow our own bylaws which would require a 2/3 vote of members (ALL members, not just board) before adopting the change, and then we would send the new Bylaws to AKC.

Since we already have similar but more explicit language in our bylaws, it was general agreed that no further modification was needed.

3. ***Any other new business?*** None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, J. Michael moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Michele Fletcher: cost of decals is \$180, not \$175. Corrected.

Approvals:

2. Luke McCoy, 12/6/22
3. Peter Torok, 12/7/22
4. Alan Bruhin, 12/7/22
5. Lois Luthenauer 12/7/22
6. Jim Pearce 12/7/22
7. Karen Edwards 12/7/22