

Minutes of Picnic Meeting, Sunday, September 17, 2023 Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater, TN

Present from the Board: : Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Lois Luthenauer

Absent:, Cory Smith, Luke McCoy, Denise Chambers (football game), Jeff Rader (work)

Members present: Kevin Anderson; Jo Ann and Victor Burk; Matthew Eden; Jake, Laura, and Blake Greenwell; Bob Houston; Blake & Kim Johnson & daughter; RETURNING MEMBERS Dick & JoLynn Lamping and NEW MEMBERS Nate Lamping with wife Haley and son; Donna Smith; Lisa Styles; Peter & Mara Torok.

Guests present: Brent Naveiro (who joined at the event)

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 18 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 54 (20% would be 11). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 3:50 p.m. following a Club Trial and a picnic pizza lunch provided by the Club. Thanks to people who brought desserts -- they were delicious!

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on activities so far this year:

- Master Only Hunt tests in March, May, and June at Brian Caldwell's place.
- Quadruple JH/SH test in April at Hiwassee.
- Our next hunt test will be a double JH, double SH, and single flight Master right here at Lucky 7 on September 29-October 30. The entries don't close on this test until tomorrow night at midnight, so there is still time and space to enter.
- Our final hunt test will be 11/14-15, another Master Only single flight test at Brian Caldwell's.
- Our first club trial of the year was this morning. Thanks to all for coming! Attendance was great, the best in several years, and the weather cooperated!
- Thanks to
 - Brian Caldwell, who let us use his farm repeatedly this year for mid-week hunt tests
 - Ken Campbell for letting us use his wonderful facilities today and at the end of the month.
 - All the members who judged, worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year.
 - New equipment: Mike Smith mentioned that we had bought a few new mini poppers and some more blinds. We are in excellent shape for equipment.
- Mike also reported on the Boy Scout Camp property, several hundred acres just north of Morristown that is being developed for off season use as a location for hunt tests among other activities. They have started work on construction of ponds. This property is a possibility for the future if we lose our access to Hiwassee and/or Lucky 7.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** The last meeting was on July 13, 2023. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since July 15. J. Michael Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois Luthenauer and passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:**
 - a. Insurance renewal for our officers' indemnity policy.
 - b. More correspondence from the MNRC to be discussed later.
- **Membership:** Our current membership is 54 people.
- **Website:** Karen took over as webmaster at the beginning of July. The website is up to date, but the ISP didn't transfer the security certificate along with it, so you will get a notice that 'danger, unsafe' when you go there. There is nothing there unsafe, this really only applies when you take money on the site which we don't. Karen need to call GoDaddy and get this straightened out but hasn't taken the hours on the phone this will take to do this yet. It will probably cost more money as well.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 9/17/23 is \$41,039. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the youth fund. Karen made available a single copy of the year-to-date income and outgo, and said that the books are open and if anyone wants an electronic copy of this, to email her. .

Upcoming expenses are for today's event (several hundred dollars), and the Fall tests. Given the low turnout for our October test, we expect to lose several thousand dollars on that, some of which we may make up in the November test. Even with this loss, we will have plenty of money to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher: Michele reported that the only changes that impact the hunt test world this year are (1) a change that makes it possible for Hunt Test clubs to run Field Trials without further approvals; and (2) a change in Junior Hunter where handlers can talk softly to their dog and touch them for reassurance, unlike in the higher levels.

Old Business

1. **Election of New members:** Mike Smith. We have 5 new provisional members who are coming before the membership today for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval. They are:
 - a. Logan & Lindsay Fugate. He works in Logistics, and comes from Georgetown, TN. He runs a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, 4-year-old All Father Odin of Valhalla, and joined 6/9/23 at our hunt test.
 - b. Britton & Julia Keyes. He's a Sales Manager from Ooltewah, runs a 3 year old lab HRCH Harness Creek Top Gun Remington (Remi), and joined 5/16/23 at one of our hunt tests.

- c. Blake & Kimberly Johnson (PRESENT), a Sr. Construction Project Manager from Athens, he owns a 1-year-old yellow Lab, Feathered Star's Farm Hunting Herald, and joined 3/20/23.
- d. Nathan & Haley Lamping (PRESENT). Nathan is an instrumentation and controls technician living in Harriman. He has two black labs, a puppy named Nate's High Flying Wren, and a 4-year old named Nate's Diety Gaia. Joined 7/27/23.
- e. Heath & Nikol Shuler of Knoxville, who own 3 young Labradors, Cane Creek's Fresh Squeezed, Hidden Springs Aha I've Got It, and Cane Creek's Golden Goose. He joined 4/12/23.

Jim Pearce moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. J. Michael Evans seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

2. ***Update on Master National Issues:*** Alan Bruhin reported that after the three motions about how to change the Master National to cut down on numbers of entrants all failed, he has not heard any new rumors about where we go from here. Karen Edwards reported receiving a new proposal and ballot this morning from the MNRC Secretary. A Bylaws change has been put on the table that would eliminated the paragraph that prohibits professional dog trainers from serving on the board as a director or an officer. Also, there is a vacancy for the MNR Region 2 Vice President. Two candidates have applied for the office – Frank Barton, who has previously been MNRC Event Secretary, Club Secretary, and Treasurer; and Matt Griffiths, who is currently on the MNRC board. Many of us know Matt Griffiths, since he judged for us at one of the Master Only tests. Some of the members also know Frank Barton.

Alan Bruhin pointed out that pros have so much financially at stake in the Master National test that he has concerns about conflict of interest if they are allowed to serve in director and officer positions. He moved that we vote NO on this proposed Bylaws amendment. J. Michael Evans seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no dissent.

Alan Bruhin then moved that we support Matt Griffiths for Region 2 Vice President, and Lois seconded that motion. This motion also passed unanimously.

Karen will fill out the ballot and mail it in so that it arrives before the October 16 deadline. [Note: this was mailed out on 9/18/23].

New Business:

1. ***Nominating Committee:*** Mike Smith. Need to have one board member and 2 regular members; are also supposed to have two non-board alternates. The committee needs to have to have a meeting (virtual, phone or in person) before November 15, and must report to the Secretary (Karen) their nominations before November 24. If you agree to serve, Karen will send you the full details of what is involved and which positions are to be filled. Look for this before the end of September but after she returns from her trip to Oregon on September 27. Alan Bruhin 'volunteered' to serve as chairman of the committee. Donna Smith and Peter Torok agreed to be the other two non-board members.
2. ***Off-Season Seminars:*** one of the newer members asked if we had any plans for seminars or mini-seminars during the late fall and winter like we did for two years prior to the last year.

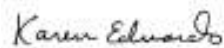
He said he got a lot out of those and would like to see them reinstated. Lois Luthenauer mentioned that we were working on a possible 2-day pro handler seminar in February or March, that would be at a reduced or no cost for ETRC members. Blake Johnson suggested a seminar on field first aid for your dog, whether it's at a hunt test or when the dog is out hunting. This would include how to recognize heat stroke, hypothermia, and wound care. He mentioned Charley Lowry, who is the local DU representative, and his wife Carey Lowry DVM as possible people to contact about this. The Board agreed to look at this topic and try to set up some mini-seminars for this winter.

3. ***Junior Handlers Being Helped Too Much At the Line?***: Lisa Styles mentioned that at one of the recent hunt tests where she was judging Junior, a parent stood in the holding blind behind the line and loudly and repeatedly told the Junior handler what to do. She asked if any of the other judge members had faced this issue? J. Michael and Alan said they had seen parents giving advice from behind the line, but that in the incidents they had witnessed personally it was not disruptive and they did not believe this fell under the prohibition of 'double handling' as outlined by AKC. They did comment, however, that there is nothing in the rule books that addresses this situation, so every judge just needs to use their own best judgment about how much help from a parent was too much in the case of a junior handler.
4. ***New Proposed Award:*** Alan Bruhin suggested that the club consider a new award – a lifetime achievement award to be given out once a year. No dog could win it more than once. He suggested that first consideration should be given to the dog's overall achievements in the field; second consideration to its achievements in the breeding shed; and third to achievement in other dog sports. After some discussion, Alan made this into a motion, and that the award be named the Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award, in honor of charter member Chuck Atchley who, among other roles, served as Treasurer of the club for 17 years. Jim Pearce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Secretary Karen Edwards volunteered to draft up a strawman description and set of criteria for this award to use at our next meeting to finalize plans for the award.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, J. Michael Evans moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lois Luthenauer, the vote passed, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin 9/18/23
2. J. Michael Evans 9/18/23
3. Michele Fletcher 9/19/23

4. Karen Edwards 9/27/23
5. Jim Pearce 9/27/23
6. Lois Luthenauer 9/27/23