ETRC Board Meeting, Tuesday, 12/5/23 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

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

Absent: Cory Smith (unexcused), Denise Chambers (moved away, available on phone if needed)

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 9 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports *President's Report:* None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes**: Last meeting was 9/17/23 at the annual picnic meeting; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website. Luke moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. J. Michael seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2022 was 58. Membership as of today is 57. 10 from last year haven't rejoined. We have three new members to vote on later (included in the 57).
- Correspondence: Insurance policy, officers/directors, received.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$37,899.27. This is about \$4k less than at our last meeting. See report showing overall spending year to date. We lost money on the October test because of low entries, but made over \$4k on the quad JH/SH test, and small amounts on each of the other tests. Our profits for the year for tests were impacted by our higher duck costs, higher judges' gift fees, new entertainment costs, etc. Treasury still doing great, don't need to make any changes at this point but need to keep an eye to make sure we don't start losing money. We are plus \$9.91 for the year, and we had \$105 in donations so without that we would have had a slight loss for the year.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele: nothing to report.

Old Business

1. **2023 Hunt Tests.** We had 6 tests this year -- one quadruple JH/SH, 4 MH only, and one full test in October with 1 flight of Master, double Junior, double Senior. Comments, concerns, issues??? Everyone felt things went pretty well but there was some recognition that this is a lot of tests and can put a strain on our volunteer workforce. Low entries is an issue with dates sometimes conflicting – even if they don't directly conflict, if another nearby club has its test on one weekend, we have ours in the middle of the next week, and then another nearby one is on the following weekend, we are the test that is most likely to be missed. Also, we have used Brian's property so many times and there is only about 8 acres that we have access to for test setup, which means it is increasingly hard to set up anything new over there. Plus, having so

many hunt tests makes it hard to have any other events like club trials, seminars, etc. Nevertheless, the majority of the board feels that as the ones who do most of the work, and having had rather mediocre attendance at other events we have put on, should continue to concentrate on tests as these are what are the most-desired events of the people who are doing most of the work.

- 2. Awards: Awards call went out with December newsletter, asking for nominations for title awards, gundog / puppy / lifetime achievement awards, Master National / Master Amateur achievement awards, member of the year and AKC Sportsman of the year awards. J. Michael Evans agreed to handle all this again for the club. He says that so far, he has received one set of nominations and strongly urged the board members to put a priority on getting these nominations in, especially ones for the Member of the Year and AKC Sportsman of the Year,
- 3. Winter Awards Banquet: Date is set with Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 24, 2024. The deposit of \$250 has been paid and will go towards our final bill. We need to get them a menu. We reviewed the online menu selections and made the following selections, which Alan Bruhin volunteered to relay to the Banquet Hall staff. Two meats: either beef tenderloin or prime rib (Alan will discuss and decide); Honey Pecan Chicken; Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Garden Salad, and Cheesecake. Wine and other liquors are permitted but have to be turned over to the bartender, and beer is available for sale. Alan will buy several bottles of wine. We decided to have door prizes again: the club can again hand out four 'free entry to a hunt test' certificates, plus a variety of ETRC hats and shirts; Alan, J. Michael and Luke (and others) will look through their stash of judges' gifts received to see if they want to donate a couple more to the club. Anyone having something to donate as a door prize should email the info to Alan at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu. Alan still has some raffle tickets, and there may be another roll in the big trailer at Cory's that Mike Smith will get when he goes to pick out some shirts and hats.
- 4. Pro Seminars: We had discussed having a big name presenter, like Mitch White, come for a one or two day seminar. Lois has contacted Kevin Cheff and has arranged to have a seminar at her place on March 22-24, dealing with transition drills and training. She already has four people signed up but is willing to hold the 5 other dog / handler slots for club members first, for a set period of time, as well as unlimited auditing slots. She is happy if the club wants to sponsor this seminar, but will be having it in any event. She will provide info to Karen for the January newsletter. In addition, she has contacted Mitch White but doesn't have an answer from him yet on available dates; and has also contacted another person. Alan mentioned possibly using Matt Griffiths for a presentation on test setup, which would be good for new judges or people planning to judge, as well as for setting up meatier training scenarios. As soon as Lois gets more info, she and Karen will make a proposal to the board for support the club might provide (lower or no-cost participation by club members, etc.).
- **5.** *Training groups:* Although this was one of the hot topics that people said they wanted on the questionnaire we sent out last summer, the several training sessions that were set up did not elicit much interest. Sounds like people think training groups are good in theory but when it actually comes to showing up, people would prefer to stay home and train by themselves or with some of their own friends that are outside the club structure. Lois said she is planning to

set up a few more sessions after the first of the year and will post information on the newsletter inviting people to come.

6. Improved Emergency Care at Hunt Tests:

- a. At our last meeting, Mike Smith had done some research and had contacted Meigs Co Rescue squad (covers Hiwassee and Brian's) could be called beforehand and alerted that we are having a test; this will make response times faster. Mike Smith tried to call Loudon County (covers Lucky 7) to see if we can get a similar arrangement with them, but although he left a message with the person he is supposed to talk to, they never called him back. He will try again.
- b. Peter Torok went over our medical kits, threw out stuff that was out of date, and provided a list up things we need to buy and keep stocked. Donna Smith has been working on this. It turns out that buying the material separately is quite expensive (around \$380) but there are packaged emergency care kits available with almost all the stuff we need for around \$89. She is still working to find the best package deal.

7. Webmaster Change:

- a. Status of website: Karen as Secretary has taken it over and has updated it with new officers, last year's awards and pictures, dates of events, etc. There are still a few transition issues
 - i. The certificate is not current on the new website for some reason and Karen will have to contact the provider, Go Daddy, to get it updated so there aren't a lot of 'unsafe website' notices that come up when people go to it. This will probably cost money.
 - ii. The members only page has been taken down. Bylaws, newsletters, and minutes are now in the open. Membership lists were attached to the July newsletter and will be attached to the January newsletter as well.
- 8. *Facebook:* Alan is our moderator for that endeavor; things are going well. However, he has been telling people to download the membership form from the website, and they haven't been able to do that probably because they are scared off by the 'danger / warning' signs. Karen suggested that he just provide them with her email address and she will send them the form.
- 9. *MNRC Rule Changes:* anything new to report? Rumors? Nothing is up on the blog, none of our MN-involved people have heard anything. The MN for 2024 will be in Paducah, KY so still will interfere badly with our fall schedule.

New Business:

- 1. New Members:
 - a. Melissa Dobson, pro trainer, 287 Bray Rd, SW, Calhoun, GA 30701770-547-7671, <u>southerncomfortgundogs@aol.com</u>. She joined at our Nov 16 test, paid \$ and gave me the contact info but did not fill out a membership form and said she would send it later. Haven't gotten it. Since she joined after 11/1/23, this is also for a 2024

membership per Bylaws. Sponsors: Luke and J. Michael volunteered to be her sponsors.

- b. Nathan / Hayley Lamping. Instrumentation & Controls Tech, 1088 Hassler Mill Rd, Harriman, TN 37748, 865-466-4025, <u>nlamping@hotmail.com</u>. He's the grandson of a long-time former member who has also since rejoined, has been at our last several events. Has two Labradors, a puppy and a 4-year old dog. Requests as sponsors John Broucek and Lois Luthenauer.
- c. Brent / Macy Naveiro. He's an RN. 108 Teakwood Ct, Clinton, TN 37716, <u>bnaveiro12@gmail.com</u>, 484-651-7745. Has a lab, Gus, who has a JH title. Requests J. Michael to be one of his sponsors. Mike Smith volunteered to be the second sponsor.

J. Michael moved we accept these people into membership on first reading; Lois seconded; the vote was Unanimous.

- 2. **Schedule for 2024:** After a lengthy discussion and referral to Entry Express and the calendar, we have come up with the following ambitious event schedule for 2024. These dates are subject to confirmation with AKC, Hiwassee, and other landowners as appropriate, so are still subject to some changes.
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 - b. March 22-24, Friday Sunday: Kevin Cheff Seminar at Lois's. Degree of sponsorship by ETRC still to be determined.
 - c. [March 30-31, Saturday Sunday: this is our AKC date for a test of some flavor at Hiwassee, but as this is Easter weekend it will not work at all for 2024 and we are parking this date for possible use in 2025.]
 - d. April 13-14, Saturday Sunday: This date will have to be approved by AKC. Master Only test #1, one or possibly two flights depending on location (Brian's, Lucky 7?).
 - e. May 14-15, Tuesday Wednesday: AKC date already OK, location to be determined. Midweek Master Only test #2, probably Brian's.
 - f. June 1-2, Saturday-Sunday, Quad JH / SH test at Hiwassee. Need confirmation of dates from AKC and Hiwassee.
 - g. June 11-12, Tuesday Wednesday: Master Only Test #3, dates must be confirmed with AKC and landowner (Brian? Lucky 7?)
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- *k.* November 12-13, Tuesday Wednesday: Midweek Master only #4. Probably at Brian's pending his approval. These are pre-approved dates from AKC.
- 3. Field Trial Owner / Handler Qual: Several members have expressed interest in putting one of these on, and member John Broucek is willing to help in any way possible, including judging and helping us find judges, set-up, etc. The board has very mixed feelings about this, with some members wanting to try it, and others feeling like it is too big an ask of our standard volunteer workers who show up at every test. If we do this, it would need to be the Friday before our fall test, and if we can't use Lucky 7 we have no other land that would be suitable. Lois will call Brady Collins, and Karen will contact John Broucek, to find out what would be needed, whether they can locate judges for us for this, how many bird techs will be needed, etc., and how much help they will be willing to provide. Karen and Lois will report back to the board at the next meeting about findings and we can decide then whether or not to go on with an owner / handler qual.
- 4. **Equipment** Any more needed for 2024? Seems like we are in pretty good shape, with the possible exception of umbrella stands to have out in the field for the bird techs for the tests that are in hot weather. Also, Michele mentioned that she had tossed out most of the sunscreen since it was 2-3 years out of date, and we might need to get more.

5. Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Lois seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwardo

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Typo correction, Lois Luthenauer 12/6/23

Approvals:

- 1. Lois Luthenauer, 12/6/23
- 2. Denise Chambers, 12/6/23
- 3. Jim Pearce, 12/6/23
- 4. Alan Bruhin, 12/6/23
- 5. Luke McCoy, 12/6/23
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