

## **ETRC Board Meeting, Sunday, 3/10/24 Chuck Atchley's Farm, Sevierville**

**Present from the Board:** J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Jeff Rader, Kyle Griffin, Bob Smith

**Absent, Excused:** Lois Luthenauer, Luke McCoy

**Others Members Present:** Several who stayed after the just-concluded club trial to listen in.

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 2:25 p.m.

### **Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports**

**President's Report:** None.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/24/24; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Jim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2023 was 58. Membership as of today for 2024 is 34, with 24 not yet renewed. Renewals are coming in almost daily, and for those who haven't renewed by April, Karen will send reminders in both April and May directly to those who are still not renewed. Several people have moved out of state and will not be renewing.
- **Correspondence:** Requested all the insurance certs for each of this year's events on Feb 26; received the first one for the Club Trial at Chuck's and forwarded a copy on to him. Others will be coming after the policy has been finally processed (renewal date is March 31). These will cover Hiwassee; Brian Caldwell; Ken Campbell; Chuck; the Wildlife Society. A separate cert request is required for each event but they will combine them on the actual certificate.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$33,290.89. See YTD register report. This includes recent membership income of \$800; Awards banquet expenses of \$2,744.89 including the hall, food, trophies; new ribbons & duck bands for \$1,434.15; security certificate for website for \$359.97, and Equisure insurance general liability policy for \$800.

**AKC Delegate's report:** Michele had nothing new to report. Alan Bruhin announced that he has been appointed to join the AKC Hunting Test Rules Advisory Committee that considers new Hunt Test rules and makes recommendations to the AKC board for adoption. This is not only a tremendous honor for Alan, but gives our club real input into potential changes to the hunt test rules. He mentioned that the committee is currently considering a recommendation that Amateurs can only enter three dogs into Master tests on the day before the test opens; if they wish to enter more dogs, they would have to enter the others at the regular opening time.

### **Old Business**

**1. April 13-14 Hunt Test, s-s Lucky 7, MH Only, 1 flight: Updates**

- Judges Mike Perry, Wesley Bowman: need to make reservations. J. Michael volunteered to make reservations. We had some difficulties with the last motel we used in Sweetwater, so he will call around to determine which one is the best fit. He will let Karen know so she can prepare the letters outlining the arrangements.
- Ducks: We should be OK with ducks for this test, and not have to store a lot of them at Cory's either before or after.
- Bird Techs: Bob Smith has found three bird techs including himself, and is still looking for a 4<sup>th</sup>. We are offering \$100/day per person. Porta potties and dumpster: J. Michael says he will order a porta potty – we decided we only need one for Lucky 7 with a single flight / single location – and Ken Campbell says we can use his dumpster.
- Karen and Jim will provide lunches. Karen is still waiting for the ribbon order, but the duck bands have come in and the ribbons are due before the test.
- Trailers – both? Who will bring? It would be best to have both, or the big one.
- 4 wheeler? We will need one at least for Lucky 7 for re-birding. Mike Smith can bring his, but not if he has to bring the big trailer. J. Michael offered to go pick up the big trailer from Cory's and take it over.

**2. Hunt Test May 14-15: T-W, Caldwell's, MH Only, 1 flight: Updates.**

- Judges Keith Maready, Robbie Griffin: need to make reservations – J. Michael will do this, put them up at the Best Western in Dayton, and let Karen know when the reservations are made in time for the letters to go out.
- Ducks: Should not be a problem to get ducks for this test.
- Bird Techs: Bob has located 3 and is looking for a 4<sup>th</sup>.

**3. June Hunt Tests: Quad JH/SH on June 1-2 at Hiwassee; 1 flight MH only June 11-12 at Lucky 7:**

- Judges: All lined up. Need to make reservations later.
- Ducks: J. Michael mentioned that these are the two tests that we are going to be struggling for ducks. We will probably have to order them all for the first test, and carry over 80 or so for the second test, since Kiley Buettner doesn't have any other tests after the middle to end of May and we would have very high freight charges. There may be an issue at Cory's with him being available to feed the ducks, as his wife now works as well and he is apparently doing reserve duty two weekends a month rather than one. One of the club members will have to go fill in otherwise.
- Will need a porta potty again for the second one at Ken's.
- Bird Techs: the Wildlife Society only has 6 kids available for the June 1-2 Quad test as this is past their school year and many will have gone home for the summer. There is a possibility that we can use some of the day workers for this; Bob knows a location that they gather, but unless there is a crew chief who will come along who speaks English, this will probably not work too well. Bob can probably line up the 3 or 4 for the Master Only test at Lucky 7 in the middle of June, which is all we will need.

**4. Pro Seminars:** Washed out on getting Kevin Cheff. Do we want to try again with Jody sometime this summer? With senior club members doing mini seminars again in the winter?

Bob mentioned that he and Brian have been discussing the possibility of having 'open training days' at Brian's place on a few weekends. Maybe just tell people to come and use the grounds, but leave it unstructured. After some discussion, we all seemed to agree that this could be a good idea, but that it would need to be a bit more structured. Possibly have a

Junior day, where people with young dogs and who were new to the sport would be the ones to come. Another one could be a Senior day, and maybe a third would be a Master day. In most cases, especially the lower levels, it would be important for the club to have equipment there available for use, and at least two experienced ETRC member / handlers there to set up, provide advice, and kind of run the show. This is something we need to discuss and try to set up at our next meeting.

5. **Local Mini-seminars with experienced ETRC members:** Should we try to set some of these up again? If so, where, and who would like to take the lead on this? Next fall /Winter? This was not discussed in detail and will be brought up again later on this summer and fall.
6. **Facebook:** Alan has been doing a great job with the ETRC Facebook page, and it has resulted in several new people showing up today at the Club Trial. One of these has joined and the other one is interested in possibly joining. All members are encouraged to post.
7. **Field Trial Owner / Handler Qual:** We never reached a conclusion on this at our December meeting. After some discussion, Alan moved that we table this for the 2024 season, and look at it again for 2025 – possibly doing a Qual instead of one of the hunt tests, but open the discussion back up then. Mike Smith seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 7-1.

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2. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Do we want to make reservations again for next year with the Bearden Banquet Hall? Date would be Saturday, Feb 22. Alan mentioned that the banquet hall is changing their minimum from 40 to 50, which means it will cost more. We agreed that it may cost more but it's a super nice place with good food – and maybe there would be some leftovers if we don't have 50 people sign up! Alan will call them and reserve the date.
3. **Membership for Brian Caldwell:** For the last two years, we have given Brian a free membership in thanks for letting us use his property for hunt tests. Shall we do the same again? Jim Pearce moved that we do so, Jeff seconded, and the vote was unanimous. So, Brian will now be shown as a full member for 2024.
4. **Club Tee Shirts:** we need a new place to store them, they are too unavailable at Cory's and take up too much room in the trailer. There was some discussion about the entire concept of tee shirt/hat sales. Alan suggested we don't get the wide variety that we are getting now – limit it to unisex styles, maybe just long sleeve and short sleeve, and one or two colors, and only sizes S, M, L, and XL. This way we would still have some variety as we change what we do with each order, but not get such a build-up. Karen commented that the only sweatshirts we have now are a 3XL and 2 4XLs, and that two of the three have sunstreaked fading on them and are not sellable really. They need to be stored indoors, out of the sun, in an air conditioned area, and ideally with someone who will take responsibility for keeping up the inventory and bringing them to our

events. . Mike Smith mentioned that some clubs turn over the tee shirt sales to an online retailer – that the retailer sells them directly online and takes about 1/3 of the price. This would eliminate the problem of shirts being left over, as they usually just print them up when they get an order. If we wanted to still have some to sell at tests, we would have to buy them ourselves and then store what doesn't get sold – but a much smaller quantity of shirts. No one seemed super enthusiastic about this concept. Right now, we have 10 boxes and they do take up a considerable amount of room. Bob Smith said he would look at his place to see if he had enough room. Karen also commented that she sold a number of tees and a hat at the Club Trial – she gave some discounts over the stated price. Total amount received was \$120. No final decision was reached, but we were all urged to think about it and this will be brought up again at the next meeting.

5. **Master National Bylaws Changes again:** we are supposed to vote yea or nay by April 10. Karen has the ballot, and prepared an analysis of the proposed changes. Only one was substantive – eliminating the possibility of a single delegate at the annual meeting (held at the national event) proposing Bylaws changes from the floor. With this suggested change, all bylaws changes would have to be made in writing at least 20 days before the actual or virtual meeting that would be held to vote on them. This seems like a good idea to avoid chaos and unthought-through changes.

Unfortunately, although the changes themselves are not an issue, there are errors and problems in the language. For example, one change would unintentionally make MNRC membership only available for AKC Member clubs, like ETRC, and this would eliminate over 75% of the retriever clubs that are AKC LICENSED to hold hunt tests, but are not member clubs. Other issues include partial sentence fragments that don't make sense, and the switch of responsibilities from the Treasurer to the Secretary that are made in one place but left intact in another, setting up and internal inconsistency.

The general consensus was that the rules weren't really OK as is, and that Karen should clean up her analysis a bit and send it to the MNRC Club Secretary, Dede Patterson, through email with the statement that we can't support the Bylaws changes as worded but would support them with changes made to correct the errors.

6. **Master Amateur Training Guide:** Karen has received a request that we support this again with an ad like we did last year. This year's event is in Washington State, so it is very doubtful that any of our members will be going. Do we want to support them anyway? The cost of ads are: Full page -\$300; Half page- \$200; Quarter page- \$100. After some discussion, Alan moved that we NOT buy an ad in the training guide this year. Michele seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
7. **Jon Osteen**, new manager at Pet Smart facility which Heath Shuler now owns and it's going to be named something else, came to the banquet. He mentioned that they are planning to offer dog training at their facility, and also thinking about offering field training at their 150 acre farm in Loudon. Osteen handled Heath's dog to his MH, and his Dad is a field trial / hunt test pro trainer who may be moving down to take over training at that farm. Jon took a membership form but has not sent it back in yet. J. Michael volunteered to get in touch with him to find out more about this property, with the idea that training classes might be a great fit for our new members, and the property itself might be a possibility for holding some events.

**Any other new business?**

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**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Alan moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes: None

Approvals:

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| 2. Mike smith 3/11/24       | 7. Jim Pearce 3/12/24       |
| 3. Kyle Griffin 3/11/24     | 8. Karen Edwards 3/12/24    |
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