

## **November 9, 2011 Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order by President Carol Stone at 6:52 p.m. at the Shoney's in Harriman, TN.

Present were:

Carol Stone, President  
Kelley Eller, Vice President  
Karen Edwards, Secretary  
Chuck Atchley, Treasurer  
Ken Wade, Past President  
Robert Dodson, Director  
Brent McCoy, Director  
Tom Beekman, Director  
Trudie Kuka, Director  
Mike Evans, Director  
Roberta Williams, Hunt Test Secretary  
Garry Clausing, ETRC's AKC Delegate

Absent:

John Guinn, Director – Excused

### **Officers' and Committee Reports**

#### ***Reading of the Minutes***

Karen read the minutes of the last board meeting (9/24/11). One addition was needed to add a missing word. Brent proposed accepting the minutes as corrected, Robert seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

#### ***Secretary's Report***

None.

#### ***Treasurer's Report***

Chuck provided two detailed reports on the status of current expenses and income, and on a comparison of the last several years. There is a balance in the club Treasury of \$1,209.38. There are no major expenses due before the end of the year. The next major bill is our insurance policy, \$664, but this is not due until after we start receiving club dues. Other expenses coming up are the costs of the banquet, and the monthly fee for the website (about \$25/month). The newsletter will remind members to pay their dues promptly in January, and Carol and Karen will draft up a statement / invoice to be sent out via email to all members in January as well. Tom moved that the Board accept the report; the motion was seconded by Robert and passed unanimously.

#### ***Fall 2011 Hunt Test***

Carol reported that the fall hunt test was canceled because of low entries. Some people have sent in positive comments; others negative. There were some good suggestions received for how to cut costs for future tests.

### ***AKC Representative's Report***

Garry reported on several changes in the AKC rules coming from the AKC Board meeting in October:

- American Water Spaniels (effective August 1, 2011) and Boykin Spaniels (effective December 1, 2011) have been approved to participate in AKC Retriever hunt tests. German Shorthaired Pointers, Vizslas, and Weimaraners were also approved to participate. Titles these breeds earn will have an –R suffix (Retriever) to distinguish them from the pointing hunt test titles they were previously eligible to earn.
- There will be an increase in registration fees effective in March, from \$10 to \$30. Co-owners will also be assessed an additional \$10 fee.
- Several changes have been made to the hunt test rules, as follows:
  - Master Hunt tests have been made more difficult (longer marks);
  - To increase participants, the number of JH and SH tests a club may put on has been increased;
  - The requirements for judging eligibility have been increased.
- The lead time for applications for events has been decreased from 4 months to 3 months.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### ***Insurance on Trailers***

Carol reported that the trailer insurance was canceled effective 9/27/11, and the club received a rebate of \$284.

#### ***Date conflict for Fall 2012 Hunt Test***

Kelly, Tom, Carol and Ken met with Hiwassee manager Jason at Hiwassee to discuss dates for next fall's test. Apparently the Chattanooga club is having a test either the last week of September or the first week of October; we can have whichever weekend Chattanooga doesn't have. The Chattanooga contact will let us know and then Carol will immediately submit an application to AKC to lock in the date. According to Jason, there is supposed to be a bow hunt on one of those weekends, but he feels confident that he can get that changed to a different date. This will hopefully be settled within a couple of weeks.

#### ***Rules Changes for Gun Dog and Puppy of the Year Awards***

Carol collated all the comments and suggestions received for changes to the rules, and provided copies to all the Board members. The following changes were discussed and approved or disapproved as follows:

##### **Gun Dog Award**

- Carol suggested adding the word "Retriever" into the phrase "Any AKC-licensed hunting test" so that new breed dogs who may now compete in other types of hunting tests will only have the retriever tests count towards our award.
- Carol also pointed out that paragraph 5 and 7 are not consistent with each other. Paragraph 5 states that points are awarded only for completed tests, while paragraph 7 awards a point for each test entered, whether or not it was completed, and another point for each completed test. After some discussion, Trudie moved and Brent seconded that no points should be awarded for tests entered but not completed. Nine voted for this change, one voted against. This vote also covered the addition of the word "Retriever" as discussed above.
- Paragraph 6 does not permit a dog to earn points in two divisions, although in certain limited cases the AKC rules now allow this. Carol suggested that we might want to make

our rules consistent with those of AKC. Roberta pointed out that we don't have to be consistent. Tom moved that we make no change to this paragraph; Trudie seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

- Carol proposed that the wording on Bonus points be changed to specify that 10 bonus points will only be awarded if the dog completes all three club tests, not just if it enters all three. Mike moved that we accept the change, Tom seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.
- Bonus points for the singles classic: one of the commenters had suggested giving bonus points for placements (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place) in addition to the single point earned for completion. The discussion centered on how many points, and whether this would cause too much controversy with people feeling that the judge's placements were arbitrary and unfair. Kelley moved that we not make any change to this section, Brent seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.
- One of the comments submitted was to award points towards this award for Field Trials. Although there was general agreement that Field Trials were more demanding than Hunt Tests, the consensus was awarding points for field trials would be unfair to our members who run dogs that are not allowed to compete in field trials – i.e., ILP dogs, or the breeds that can compete in AKC hunt tests but not field trials. This raised the question about consideration of whether or not Specialty tests should be counted, since the Labrador Specialty, for example, is only open to Labs. Since every breed that is recognized by the AKC/Club has its own specialty, it was decided that continuing to award a point for completion of the appropriate test at the specialty was OK.
- Paragraph 11 states that the points will be accumulated over a 14 month period, from January 1 through the end of February. This seemed to be a problem, since the award is usually given out at the annual banquet which is in mid-February. Carol proposed making it a simple January – December time period. Tom moved to accept this change, Mike seconded, and all were in favor.
- Points for Master National: currently, only one point would be awarded for a dog who completed the Master National. After some discussion, Mike moved that one point be awarded for qualifying for the Master National, and 2 points be awarded for completion. Trudie seconded, and nine were in favor with one abstention.

### **Puppy of the Year Award**

- Carol proposed adding a sentence to paragraph 1 that “Puppies between 10 weeks and one year of age are eligible to compete.” Although this was possibly covered in paragraph 2, it seemed like a useful clarification rather than a change, and was accepted.
- Carol proposed the same change as in the Gun Dog rules, that points for entering be dropped. Brent moved that this change be made, Tom seconded, all were in favor.
- Paragraph 8 contains rules on when a puppy can earn points within the calendar year. Carol suggested adding a statement that the owner of a puppy who is potentially eligible in two different award years must pick which year to compete in. After some discussion, Kelley moved that we not make that change; Robert seconded the motion, and nine voted in favor.

### ***Nominating Committee***

No one from the nominating committee was present, but they have already met and completed their work with the exception of the position of AKC Delegate. They provided Carol with the following suggested slate of officers and board members for 2012:

- President: Carol Stone
- Vice President: Kelley Eller
- Secretary: Karen Edwards
- Treasurer: Chuck Atchley
- Hunt Test Secretary: Roberta Williams
- 2 board positions becoming vacant in 2012:
  - Derek Dietrich
  - David Knott
- Board position vacated by Kelley Eller (who moved up to Vice President): Trudie Kuka
- AKC Delegate: nomination pending

The Club Secretary is to send a notice in writing (email) to the club membership not later than December 1, 2011, including the proposed slate and also advising members of the following excerpted from the Bylaws:

“Additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each Club year, in writing to the Secretary, provided that the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position (except for the position of delegate).”

Carol noted that the position of Past President for 2012 should go to Kevin Luthenauer. However, when she contacted Kevin to ask if he would be able to serve on the Board in this capacity, he told her that he definitely could not. So, assuming that Carol remains as President in 2012, Ken Wade will continue on as Past President on the Board.

The election will take place at the annual meeting in February. If additional nominations are received from the membership, there will need to be an actual vote on those positions where there are more than one candidate.

#### ***Report from the Committee on Committees***

Tom Beeckman recommended that the club consider several standing committees, to try to get some support for overworked club members and to spread the knowledge around in the event one of our stalwarts becomes unavailable.

- A Budget Committee headed up by Treasurer Chuck Atchley;
- A Membership Committee with Roberta and possibly Patty Gibson. Tom had not yet contacted her, but will send an email and ask if she would help us with this very important task. This group would contact new members, make them feel welcome and try to get them involved in club activities. It would also follow up with old members who don't renew.
- An Equipment Committee, headed by Brent;
- Club test committee, headed by Roberta

Tom said he still needed to do more work in this area.

#### ***Hunt Test Dedication***

At the last meeting, it was decided to dedicate the Fall 2011 Hunt Test to the memory of long-time member Jim Holcombe. Since the test was canceled, Carol recommended that we move the dedication to the Spring Hunt Test. Mike moved that we do that, Trudie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### ***Training Director/Training Grounds***

Carol brought up the need to have a person who acts as training director, with responsibility to make sure that a Board member is present at each training day. Roberta and Brent have the most experience in running training days, but it would help if the work were passed around. There was some talk about Brent perhaps taking this job on, but no final resolution was reached.

Karen Edwards mentioned that initial talks with the Roane Alliance meant that they might be willing to let us use the 400 bare acres of fields off Pawnook Farm Road for training grounds on occasions. They asked about the insurance and wanted to make sure that they could be listed as a named insured, plus wanted to come up with a simple agreement on our use of the land. There is a one acre pond on Karen and Jim's business property located there, which would be suitable for water work. Robert moved and Brent seconded that we meet with the Alliance to see if a suitable arrangement could be made for us to use the land. The vote was unanimously in favor. Karen will try to set up a meeting between Leslie Henderson, Alliance chairman, and Carol, Karen and Brent to discuss.

### ***Future Meetings***

Carol raised the question about how often we need to have Board meetings. At least quarterly is required by the Bylaws, but it seems like we need to meet more often than that to deal with matters that come up. She suggested that we aim for every other month, and that we try one via conference call to see if this works. Everyone seemed to be agreeable although no vote was taken; the next meeting will be via conference call to see how it works out.

### ***Awards Banquet***

The Awards Banquet in February also serves as our annual meeting. For the last number of years we have been using Calhoun's in Knoxville. It's a lovely location and the food is good, but we have routinely lost money. The fee is \$25, which each person is supposed to pay at the door, but when we have people who have signed up and then don't come, the club is responsible for paying their fee. We have typically lost \$600-700 a year on this event. Given the current state of the treasury, we can't afford to do this any longer. Carol suggested having the meeting/banquet over at the Sequoyah Room at UT on the Ag campus, which is free, and having it catered by a chicken place from Maryville that will only charge about \$10-\$12 per person. The cheaper price might encourage more people to come, as well.

After some discussion, Mike Evans volunteered to contact Calhoun's to see if we could instead just reserve the room and have everyone order what they wanted off the menu. That way, if they wanted to spend just a little they could; others could order a full meal. We would of course have to pay an 18% gratuity added to everyone's tab. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

### ***Sale of Second Trailer***

The Club owns a second trailer (a black one) that doesn't get too much use and currently is loaded with coolers, buckets and signs. After the major trailer clean-outs that Brent and others have done during the past year, it is very possible that we could combine all the stuff onto a single trailer and excess the second one. We paid \$2,500 for the black one and could hopefully net \$2,000 from its sale. Brent agreed to see what could be done about combining equipment and we will discuss this again after that has been completed or after he determines that it can't be done.

***Member of the Year and Sportsmen Awards***

Carol brought up for discussion whether we should change the way we determine who gets these awards. Currently, it is entirely done within the Board. She raised the question of whether we should open nominations up to the membership, and whether the membership should be allowed to vote on the awards. Points raised in the discussion were that many members don't know each other, and that this would limit consideration only to the most visible and/or popular members. There was no support for turning the awards into a membership vote. Karen moved, and Chuck seconded, that we allow any member to submit nominations (along with a brief statement of why the person is deserving of the award) but that the voting will be done by the Board. This method passed unanimously. The Newsletter will contain a paragraph inviting members to submit nominations and justifications to Mike Evans by January 15, 2012.

***Retriever News Article***

The club has been contacted by Retriever News for an article about our club's history. Carol is heading up pulling together an article which she will pass around to the Board for editing, additions, and comments. She asked if anyone had any old pictures to please provide them to her.

***Spring Club Test***

The Club Test will be held at Darryl Miller's farm in Sweetwater sometime in March. The date has not yet been finalized.

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There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Edwards  
Interim Secretary

Approved at the ETRC Board meeting 3/17/12.