

ETRC Board Meeting, November 14, 2016 Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Michael Evans, Thomas Art Gibson, Donna Smith, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy

Absent, excused: Patti Gibson, Alan Bruhin

Absent, unexcused:

Members present: Mike Smith, Jim Pearce

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. following a dinner of homemade chili (Thanks, Lois!), chips, salsa, and dips, and dessert of crème cake and ice cream (Thanks, Karen!).

Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports

President's Report: Lois Luthenauer: Lois thanked everyone for working hard to make the fall test a success. Not the least important in the success category, Lucky 7 owner Ken Campbell was pleased with the good care we took of his facility and said he will welcome us back for other hunt tests, club trials, and our summer picnic. There were a few problems, but they were resolved without too much incident and we had enough workers to make things go smoothly.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last two meetings were September 16, 2016 and October 18, 2016. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website within a week of the meeting. Karen moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. Michelle Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Correspondence:** None to report.
- **Website changes made & pending:** added minutes from October meeting, November Newsletter, updated dates for upcoming events.
- **Membership:** Current membership is 58 (11/14), with 16 people from 2015 who haven't renewed. Brian Caldwell did renew at the hunt test.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 11/14/16 is \$17,229.98 with several bills outstanding – mostly, money owed to Patti for picnic bills, judges dinner and gifts (don't have yet) and misc. HT fees. Waiting for receipts on these items. Karen passed out a year-to-date treasurer's report and a separate sheet that showed income and expenses from the hunt test.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher. Michele reported that she is still working with AKC on getting access established to the representatives' site.

Old Business

1. **Club Trials:** We had talked earlier about trying to have a Fall club trial in November at Hiwassee. However, given the late date and the holidays coming up, we decided not to have one this fall. In the spring, we now have four options for places to put on a club trial:

Lucky 7, Brady Collins' Dogtown facility, Chuck Atchley's Revilo, and Darryl Miller's farm. After the first of the year we will pick dates and facilities, and try for one in March and one in April.

2. ***Fall Hunt Test Wrap up:*** Overall, a success! Financially, this was a small test and we lost some money. The exact amount is still up in the air, but it will probably be around \$500-\$1,000 once all the bills are in and paid. This does not include the cost of ribbons, which is impossible to track to a single test without a lot of extra accounting and record-keeping. After discussion, there was general agreement that we would like to hold our next Fall test again at Lucky 7.

Things that went well:

- a. The birdkids were great and we need to strike up a long-term relationship with this FFA group, which were arranged for by Rhey Houston.
- b. The dumpster was a great idea – however, it was too big! We need to try for a smaller one next time. For future tests at Lucky 7, farm manager Brandon Kamps suggested we call him and he can arrange for an extra pickup as part of their own dumpster contract, which would end up being very inexpensive (around \$30).
- c. The traffic problems were not as bad as expected with the alternative pond opened up to us. We could probably handle a bigger test there if (1) there was more use of the big technical pond in the back and (2) we had extra birdkids, possibly with radios, to sit at the pinch points and direct traffic back and forth.
- d. The clubhouse for the judges' dinner was fantastic.

Things that didn't go so well:

- a. We need to develop/reinstate the do-not-call list for judges we would rather not have back, that can be passed on to the next group of people calling judges.
- b. There were issues with two of the judges refusing to sign off on the judges' sheets verifying that pros were pros and amateurs were amateurs. The Master Amateur relies on marshals doing the actual on-site verification and the judges taking their word for it and signing off based on the marshal's word. It is unclear if the contestants in Master A flight will be considered as having a qualifying leg since the judges didn't sign off. Michele was asked to discuss this with AKC before the next test.
- c. The HQ set up down at the barn was very marginal. It worked out OK because we were very lucky with the weather – but if it had been hot, cold, or raining it would have been not only miserable but fairly unworkable for the Hunt Test Secretary. It was also not good for tee shirt sales. Possible solution – a pull-behind camper trailer as HQ, or some way to have the HT secretary set up in the club house (difficult because of the parking situation).
- d. The duck situation: the ducks arrived a day early, in the dark, and the inexperience of both the driver and the farm manager (who gallantly filled in for us since it was too late to arrange for one of us to be there that night) led to all the ducks being let loose in two dog kennels. That resulted in a very messy duck rodeo Friday night which we would not like to repeat. If one of us is not going to be present to receive ducks, we

need to provide very clear instructions to the stand-in about the routine of swapping empty crates for full and leaving the ducks crated.

- e. Test format: We had two flights of Master, a single Junior on Saturday, and a single Senior on Sunday. For next fall, we decided we should go back to a two-day test, with a single Master flight and double Junior and Senior.
3. **Kevin's Fund:** With donations of \$1,575 at the Fall Hunt test, the youth program is fully funded for 2017. We need to schedule a review of the program rules and guidelines for 2017 before the end of the year, and advertise the program again for 2017. We also need to somehow resolve the status of the application from Griffin McDowell, 13, who is Brian Caldwell's Assistant, but who does not have parental signatures on his application. Lois has talked with Brian Caldwell who has agreed to put on a young handler's seminar, date to be determined in February or March, possibly at Lucky 7. It was suggested that Brian be offered a free 2017 membership in return for doing this for the club, similar to the free memberships we have given Jody Ware for doing the summertime seminar.
4. **Workers Raffle:** This took place at the Fall Test and was well-received. We would like to do this again for the spring. Perhaps we should donate a small amount of money, like \$300, to be used for raffle prizes, in addition to a couple of tees, hats, etc. from our stock. This was tabled for a future meeting.
5. **Club Newsletter:** deadline for the December newsletter is November 26.

New Business:

1. **First Reading, New members:**

- a. Jeff & Cheryl McNutt: Jeff lives in Seymour and has a black lab puppy. Sponsors assigned: Roberta and Tom.
- b. Scott & Joanne Ring: Scott is the territory sales manager for our new sponsor, Midwestern Pet Food, and owns several Boykins. He lives over towards Nashville, in Columbia, TN. Sponsors: Mike, Luke.
- c. Chad & Brandi Suttles: Chad lives on Blythe Ferry Road in Dayton, very near to the Hiwassee Refuge. He has two black labs and is friends with Jody Ware and several other serious dog people. Sponsors: Mike, Luke.

Luke moved that these new members be accepted on first reading. Tom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Karen will notify the new members and the sponsors and the final vote will be scheduled for the winter banquet.

2. **Nominating Committee:** Michelle reported that the nominating committee is close on completing the slate of officers and directors for 2017. She expects to be able to meet the deadline of getting the slate to Karen as Secretary by the stated deadline of November 24. She is still looking for one more board member and we discussed several possibilities. We also mentioned the possibility of assigning Board members to various responsibilities – for example, one board member would take over responsibility for leading the arrangements for the Club Trials, one would serve as Training Director, etc. This might make it so the

work is passed around more equitably among the board members. This discussion is tabled until after the new board/officers are installed at the Banquet. Once Karen gets the slate from the nominating committee, she will notify the membership via the newsletter of the slate, and will call for nominations from the membership through the end of December.

3. ***Winter Banquet:*** possible dates in February are Saturday the 11th and Saturday the 18th. After some discussion, we settled on the 18th. Michael Evans reported that the Calhouns group of restaurants has now imposed a \$150 fee for hosting banquets where groups eat off the menu. We gagged, but decided to continue on with our location at Calhoun's Bearden Hill although it is rather small and crowded. Michael will call and reserve the dates with them and will get the info back to Karen before the deadline for the December newsletter.
4. ***Awards:*** As President, Lois will take over the responsibility for receiving nominations for awards. Michael will continue to coordinate with the awards engravers in Sevierville, and Lois will need to have all the finalized info to him by the 15th. Karen will include information in the December newsletter asking for nominations for Member of the Year, AKC Sportsman of the Year, applications for Gun Dog and Puppy, and for MN qualifiers and title awards to be sent to Lois by January 10. The Board will then have to vote on the member / sportsmen awards and there may be ties that have to be resolved.
5. ***Spring Hunt Test.***
 - a. ***Location:*** There was considerable discussion about whether we should have the spring hunt test at Lucky 7 or go back to Hiwassee. We decided to go back to Hiwassee for the spring – it allows for more separation of tests, has better roads in the event of bad weather, and is better able to accommodate a large number of people. It also has a better Headquarters arrangement. Perhaps more importantly, it is probably better to keep our foot in the door at Hiwassee as long as we can so that we have choices of location for our tests in case one or another is not available for any particular test or becomes permanently unavailable. It may turn out in the future that we have to abandon the WMA entirely, but for now it is still our best option for a large test.
 - b. ***Planning:*** Karen will go on AKC's online event website and set up the spring test as a two-day test with 120 dog limit on Master, double junior, double senior. Roberta will contact TWRA to get the paperwork started for using Hiwassee.
 - c. ***Judges:*** We have several judges already pinned down. One Master flight will be judged by Andy Sonntag and Ken Kogut. Karen has promised to contact Jim and Jan Burnette for judging Junior/Senior. Luke is available as one of the other Junior/Senior judge pairs, and could possibly be paired with Don Hatfield, Brent McCoy, or Neener. Michael suggested Brant Keller and Chris Bodine for the other Master pair of judges. We are hoping to have the judges all pinned down by the end of the year.
 - d. ***Coordination with Hiwassee:*** Michael informed us that Hiwassee's Manager, Jason, no longer lives on the WMA. It will be necessary to coordinate with him to make sure gates are open for such things as duck delivery and delivery and pickup of dumpster and porta-potties. He will confirm the spring dates with Jason and ask him about the gate schedule around the dates of the spring test.

6. Equipment.

- a. *Rubber for wingers:* We used up all the good black ZingerWinger rubber at the Fall test and will need more for spring. Karen volunteered to purchase two boxes from Gun Dog Supply. Michael moved that Karen be authorized to purchase two boxes at the going rate; Michelle seconded and the vote passed unanimously. There was some discussion of setting up a weekend in the early spring to go down to Hiwassee and spend some time with a cooler of beer fixing up all the wingers and other items BEFORE the test. Luke, Michael, and Tom volunteered to do this and will discuss a date later.
- b. *Signs:* Our signs are getting frail and lost. The type that stick in the ground are fine with the moisture level in the soil is high, but at the fall test it was very difficult and we ruined some signs trying to get them in the ground. Also, we had only 3 signs left that point to “AKC Event”, and another of them got purloined during the fall test so now there are only 2. Michael will talk with a sign shop to get estimates; Lois will talk to Bruce Fox to see if he might be willing to sponsor some of the signs; and Michael will talk to our new sponsor Midwestern Food’s and Scott Ring to see if he might be willing to sponsor some as well.
- c. *Radios:* There was some discussion but no decision on buying a few more radios to station at various test sites for traffic control. These could be tuned to a different frequency so that everyone wouldn’t need to listen in on these conversations. No decision was made about ordering additional radios. Also, one of the radios seemed to be having a problem and wasn’t taking a charge, or was incorrectly thinking it wasn’t charged when it was.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Karen moved that we adjourn. Luke seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Michelle Fletcher 11/15/16
2. Alan Bruhin 11/15/16
3. Luke McCoy 11/15/16
4. Rick Fyfe 11/16/16
5. J. Michael Evans 11/20/16
6. Karen Edwards 11/20/16

