

ETRC Board Meeting, 11/1/17
Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)]

Absent, excused: Donna Smith, Rick Fyfe, John Broucek

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present.
Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: Lois congratulated everyone on a successful Fall hunt test, and commented that although most of the work for the year is done, we still have dates to set for upcoming training and spring events.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was 10/7/17; the minutes were approved within a week via email and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as recorded on the website. Michael Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Membership:** End of year 2016 membership was 59. Current membership is 60 including 3 new members pending first reading today & 3 others pending final vote in February. 15 members from 2016 did not renew; several were people who moved out of the area or who were new last year and soon lost interest; there were only a couple who were a surprise.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 11/1/17 is \$23,537.05, which is \$7,825.48 more than we had on January 1, 2017. Bills still owed: one invoice from Patti Gibson for spring food; have not yet received bills for porta potties and dumpster at the Fall test, duck sale receipts from Sherie Catledge (received at the meeting), 2018 AKC dues, and any additional scratches decided upon by the Board.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher. No new information coming out of AKC.

Old Business

1. **Fall Hunt Test: October 21-22, 2017, Lucky Seven Ranch, Sweetwater**
 - a. 154 dogs entered. The grounds are OK for a test that size, but we can't use Lucky 7 for any test that has more than 3 setups. There was apparently a dog injured at the master test – had a cut foot that required stitches. There was some discussion about what happened (probably the rocky soil). We did not hear about the dog actually needing stitches until after the test was over, and still don't have particulars about the name of the dog and handler involved.
 - b. Once again we had an AKC representative on the grounds for the entire test. No one can think of any other test except Fall Line that is so routinely blessed by the AKC's presence. It makes us wonder if they think we are doing something wrong. If there

are any issues identified, they will send us a report within a month of the test date – so no news is good news.

- c. Ken Campbell's grounds fee/donation to the Youth program: Michael will call him to make sure he wants us to internally transfer \$ to the youth fund rather than send him a check and then he sends us a check for the donation. This is the second year that Ken has donated the grounds fee towards this program. Huge thanks!
 - d. Birdkids: McMinnville FFA, things did not work out well this fall, with only 12 out of 20 showing up on Saturday, and 9 out of 20 on Sunday. The FFA teachers had no advance notice that the kids were not planning to come and consequently, neither did we. Considering that they have been the best ones we have had to date for a number of years, and that they gave us a second chance after the unfortunate 'cussing judge' event from the spring, we decided to ask them again for spring 2018 and hope for a better result.
 - e. Chad Suttles has moved the trailer and the duck crates back to Hiwassee, and the trailer is now sitting on concrete pavers to try to preserve the tires. We still need duck crates back from Sherie Catledge and Ken Campbell; Lois will pick up the one from Sherie next Wednesday and John B has agreed to get the one back from Ken. Then we will just have to worry about getting them back to Hiwassee before spring. Thanks, Chad!
 - f. Scratches: Karen has paid all the scratches for people who provided vet certificates. However there were several others who had called in advance notifying us that they were scratching, and our emergency Hunt Test secretary Sherie Catledge was recommending that we do partial refunds on all people who called in advance. This is not our club policy, which was printed in the premium – our policy is that IF REQUESTED and a justification is provided, the Board can DECIDE to do a partial refund on an entry fee. There was only one that looked as if it met this criteria, and that was a dog that Sherie Catledge was slated to handle. The dog was sold the week before the test and the new owners decided not to run the dog. Roberta moved that we refund Sherie's entry other than the \$40 processing fee. Jim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Since there is an ownership transfer involved and it isn't clear who should get the refund, Karen will send the check to Sherie made out in her name, and it will be up to her to determine who should get the money.
2. ***Gun Dog/Puppy/High Point Dogs of the Year rules:*** Karen has revised the draft rules after the September discussion, to reflect changes agreed upon at that session:
- a. Points for passing club trials and AKC Hunt tests will be on a tiered basis: 1 point for a Junior pass, 2 points for a Senior pass, and 3 points for a Master pass.
 - b. Junior dogs may be considered for Gun Dog of the Year award.
 - c. New rules were drafted for three new awards agreed upon at the September meeting: Junior high point dog, Senior high point dog, & Master high point dog. Only tests/trial stakes at that level will be considered for each level (i.e., a dog's eligibility for these awards is not tied to title level, just points for tests passed at each level).
 - d. No bonus points will be awarded for perfect attendance at Club Trials, and the number of points awarded for a club trial will be the highest points earned for which eligible (i.e., if a dog enters 4 events including Master and passes Master, he will get the 3 points for the master pass. The dog does not have to pass every class entered in

order to get master points; he could conceivably fail the senior test and still pass the Master level for 3 points).

- e. Master National and Master Amateur passes are awarded like two master tests since they are 6 series each. Therefore, a dog who passes one of these tests will be awarded 6 points for the award year in which the test was run. Note that points earned for qualifications for these tests may be in a different award year than the test itself, and the point awarded for qualification will be applied to the year in which the qualification is EARNED, not to the year in which the MA or MN event is held.

Karen had sent out the new drafts to everyone several weeks ago, and there was more discussion on whether any additional changes needed to be made. We agreed on the following:

- a. The rules will not be presented to the membership in a vote. The approval of the Board is sufficient to ratify the rules for use in 2018. These rules will be printed in the January Newsletter along with an explanation of the reasons for the change, and will also be discussed at the Awards Banquet in February.
- b. There was some concern about how many ties there may be, particularly for the High Point awards. Michael commented that it was likely that Junior or Senior dogs will not continue competing at that level once they get their title, so that all dogs that title in Senior, for example, may be tied for the High Point Senior title. Karen pointed out that not all dogs will earn all their passes towards a title in a single award year – for example, a dog may earn two passes in the fall and finish up in the spring. Also, some dogs who don't go for the lower level title will need 5 passes at senior rather than four, some dogs will have insurance legs when they are entered in both Saturday and Sunday and title on Saturday, some dogs will have passes at the Club Trials in addition to hunt tests, etc. Jim Pearce then suggested that we use participation in Club Trials as a tie breaker. If two or more dogs have the same number of points for a particular award, then the dog that participated in the most club trials during the award year will be declared the winner. If that still results in a tie, all tied dogs will be given the award. Alan moved that we add this tie-breaker provision to all sets of award rules – Gun Dog, Puppy, and High Point awards. Tom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- c. We will be reconvening the Awards committee next year to look into how to handle awards for field trials and whether to set this up as a separate award or somehow fit it into the Gun Dog award. John Broucek has agreed to serve on this committee along with Karen, Michael and Mike Smith. It is likely that the committee will need to be reconvened again after next awards year when we see how the changed rules are working, and if we want to consider future changes.
- d. At the conclusion of the discussion, Alan Bruhin recommended that the new sets of rules presented before the meeting be approved as amended by the addition of using Club Trials as a tie breaker. Jim Pearce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Karen will prepare a final copy of the rules for distribution to the Board, with further email discussion if necessary on the wording of the new tie-breaker provision for clarity and to ensure that it captured the intent of the Board.

3. **Club Trials:** during the discussion of the new awards rules, there was also quite a bit of discussion on how to improve participation in club trials. In years past (long ago), the Trials would last all day and there might be upwards of 50 dogs entered in Singles Classic. In recent years, participation has dropped off dramatically to the point where we normally have only 12-14 dogs participating in all stakes. The points bonuses in the Awards rules were added to encourage participation, but this is not working. This may be because the points implications of Club Trials are not well understood by club members although the information is readily available online and in newsletter info. Several suggestions were made:
 - a. Open Club Trials back up to pros and encourage them to participate. Apparently at some point in the past, a decision was made by a previous board to exclude any DOGS that were not member dogs, thereby removing most of the pros from participating.
 - b. Combine a club trial with a training session. Since they are ending pretty much by noon or 1:00 these days, say there will be an afternoon organized training session and encourage people to come to both.
 - c. Encourage sponsors to do a better job of communicating with new members, inviting them to Club Trials and explaining to them about the club trials and the awards programs.
 - d. Allow people to bring their bitches in season and participate in Club Trials, subject to some courtesy rules – keep her on the truck till time to run, run her last, etc. This might actually be a good training opportunity to let unaltered males know they still have to pay attention no matter if there are such enticing distractions present.
 - e. Karen will write an article for the Newsletter before the next Club Trial discussing their relationship to awards, the advantages of attending, etc. to try to drum up more interest.
 - f. The subject of club trials will be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting, and also on the agenda for the Awards Banquet for members to express their opinions and offer suggestions.
 - g. The first club trial will be offered March 10, 2018, place to be determined but possibly up at Chuck Atchley's farm in Sevierville. The trial will be followed by a training session in the afternoon which Alan volunteered to lead.

4. **Report from Nominating Committee:** Luke McCoy stated that the committee is very close to having all the positions filled, but he still needs to talk to a person or two about a few things. Karen reminded him that an email or typed letter to her as Secretary is due on or before 11/24/17, outlining the nominations, as required by the Bylaws. This email/letter must be signed by all three members of the nominating committee, but 'signatures' can be done via email chain concurring with the candidate slate.

5. **Kevin's Fund: Status Report**
 - a. Rules: review and make any changes necessary. Karen and Lois have been tagged to do this but have not done it yet. We promise to get it done before the end of the year and have it ready to discuss at the next Board meeting.
 - b. Youth Fund Balance as of today: \$3,675 including Ken Campbell's donation in lieu of grounds fee.
 - c. Program participants: Cade and Ivan Chambers.

d. Youth Handler's seminar: Lois is going to give up on Brian Caldwell and will be talking to Sherie Catledge about putting this on for us, possibly in March.

6. **Equipment:** We need to look at continuing / new equipment needs in time to get anything necessary ordered in time for the spring hunt test. We are now down to 5 decent coolers (four test setups and one at the office) and may need to buy a few more. Discussion tabled until after the first of the year.

New Business:

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

- a. Scott & Libby Chaney, pro dog trainer, McMinnville, TN. Sponsors assigned: John Broucek, Lois Luthenauer.
- b. Brandon Lawson, Customer Service, Church Hill, TN. Volunteered to be a gunner – requested Lois as one sponsor, need a second. Has a 17 month yellow lab. Tom Gibson volunteered to be the second sponsor.
- c. Larry Moody, TDOT, Morristown, TN 37814. Has two Chessies, one has a JH. Lois Luthenauer and Tom Gibson volunteered to be the two sponsors.

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

Renewals at the Hunt Test: Neil & Jodi Martin, who have not been members since around 2003 or thereabouts. Brian Caldwell, lapsed in June and now renewed.

2. **Banquet Planning.** The date will be Saturday, February 17, 2018 with an alternate date of February 24, 2018. Michael agreed to contact Calhoun's – Bearden Hill to see if we can again use their facilities. Michael agreed to once again serve as the Awards coordinator. Awards calls will go out in the December newsletter, with information needed by Michael no later than January 17.

3. **Training Sessions:** The following dates and locations were set for upcoming training days.

- a. Saturday, December 11, Roane Regional. Alan Bruhin will lead.
- b. Saturday, January 13, 2018, location to be determined. Lois will ask Brian Caldwell if he would host us for this one.
- c. Saturday, February 10, 2018, location to be determined. Possibly Lucky 7?
- d. Saturday, March 10, 2018, following the first spring Club Trial. Location to be determined.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Michael moved that we adjourn. Luke seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 11/2/17
2. Jim Pearce, 11/2/17
3. Michael Evans, 11/3/17
4. Luke McCoy, 11/3/17
5. Michele Fletcher, 11/6/17
6. Donna Smith, 11/6/17
7. Karen Edwards, 11/6/17
8. John Broucek, 11/6/17