

ETRC Board Meeting, 8/21/18

Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Cory Smith, J. Michael Evans, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)

Absent, excused: Donna Smith (on vacation), John Broucek (in South Dakota), Carol McCorkle, Tom Gibson

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report:

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 8/18/18; minutes approved and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Lois Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** Sent condolence letter and \$500 check to Melody Williams, memorial tribute to Roberta Williams. Notified past judge Jeff Brown of the URL for her go-fund-me page.
- **Membership:** Current 2018 membership is 57 as of 8/21/18, including 6 waiting final vote and 1 more needing first reading today, and excluding recently deceased member. 14 from 2017 did not renew (Bob Smith renewed at the seminar).

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 8/21/18 is \$22,634.22, with bills outstanding for picnic expenses and possible equipment purchases. Lois said there were no picnic expenses; she donated the supplies that she bought. Thanks, Lois! Expenses since last meeting:

- MN dues, \$50
- Website fees for quarter (including yearly provider fee): \$157.50
- \$500 for Roberta Williams memorial
- \$30 for AKC fees, 2 fall tests

Income since last meeting:

- \$50 from Chuck Atchley, Hazel Holcomb memorial
- \$25 member dues, Shane Doughty

Check outstanding: Alex McDaniel scratch, \$160, no address, no response from email to vet. The board consensus was that when 90 days have passed from the end of the test, we should consider this check no longer valid and void it.

New member dues: Luke McCoy brought in Bob Smith's renewal and check for \$25 which are not included in the monetary figures above.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher: Nothing of particular note to report.

Old Business

1. **Summer picnic / seminar report:** See the notes from the seminar / picnic. Attendance was pretty low although no one got an actual count of attendees. Many of the attendees left before the picnic and meeting, and there were not enough for a quorum. In Karen's absence, Lois made some notes of the discussion, and Cory took some pictures. With Brian being substituted at the last minute for Jody, no one gave him parameters on the type of things to present and he really didn't have time to do much preparation anyway. As a result, it was really more of a guided training session with fewer generalized pointers and tips than we would have hoped for.

The attendance at the seminar was "not bad" but not great, but we need to look again at how to get people to stay for the meeting. Not having a quorum meant that the 6 people who were waiting to be voted in as full members did not get voted in and will have to wait until February. Perhaps we should stress the need for a quorum more in our advertisement of the event, and the ramifications of not having a quorum. The Bylaws require us to have two general membership meetings a year, and the new members have to be voted in at one of the general meetings. There was some discussion of the process for changing our bylaws to allow the Board to vote in new members: a committee would have to be established, the committee would report recommended changes to the Board, the board would have to vote to refer the changes to the Membership, notification of the proposed changes would have to go out around mid-November to give time for consideration, and then would have to be voted on at the February banquet. After that, the changes approved by the membership would have to go to AKC for final approval. No decision was made on whether we should pursue this option at this time.

At the seminar, Brian Caldwell mentioned that there is a new retriever club that has been formed at Lucky 7, replacing the old Northeast Retriever Club that is now defunct. They will be doing just field trials for now, and already have one scheduled for the week following our hunt test. Brian mentioned that they will be looking at putting on hunt tests later on, which could have a serious impact on our ability to schedule tests, have enough workers, etc.

2. **Training dates:** waiting till fall. Offer from Lisa Styles to do a series of training sessions on various types of drills, specific topics, starting in November. Agreement that this was a good idea and we should schedule this soon.
3. **Luthenauer Youth Handler Program:** Lois Luthenauer – status update. Seminar is pending Sherie's move.
4. **Spring Hunt Test:**
 - a. All bills paid. One scratch check returned, attempts to contact person for new address failed. Be sure to update your address on Entry Express if you move; otherwise we lose you!
 - b. Final net (assuming the scratch check is eventually cashed): \$4847.05 including food sales (tee shirt / hat sales accounted for separately). This does not include ribbon costs, since we buy ribbons at different times and they go over several years. Ribbons and

duck bands have cost \$4,234 since Karen's records start October 2015 (after the fall hunt test that year) – so for 6 tests (we have enough for the fall 2018 test), that averages roughly \$706 per test, more for spring than for fall but this is close. So the true net is closer to \$4,100; still very good.

5. **Equipment:**

- a. Wingers: Jim purchased 4 more, they have been received, \$1,761.86, paid.
- b. Automatic launchers: the board approved buying two of these to help at Club Trials and training days, less time for people in the blinds etc. Cory and Michael both looked into getting veteran's or other types of discounts and were turned down. Cory was directed to go ahead and purchase two and Karen will write him a check to reimburse him.
- c. Poppers: Luke: Michael and Luke have been researching finding some heavy-duty ones that we can buy. They have determined there is no way to get the fancy nice ones with "Purina" or "Gun Dog Supply" on them; these are promotional only and not for the likes of small clubs. There are a number of options for heavier-duty ones and higher prices than we paid for the cheap Walmart ones we bought, and Michael and Luke are still looking to find the best ones at a reasonable cost.

6. **Awards rules:**

- a. Committee (Karen, Michael, Mike Evans, John B) needs to look at rules for title awards to get eligibility codified, and also will look to see what we should do about awards re AKC field trials. Aim is to have this ready in time for 2019 awards year. Not started yet. May be moot with a new field trial club started next door in Sweetwater.

7. **Miscellaneous Club Business stuff:**

- a. **Second Signatory on Checking Account:** Michele is now officially our backup treasurer and has some checks she can use. Michele was previously approved by board vote on January 14, 2018 to be the second signatory.
- b. **History / corporate stuff:** History stuff has been moved from Roberta's home to her daughter Melody's, along with incorporation papers, corporate seal, etc. Michael Evans is trying to set up a time with her for pickup. She warns that some of it has been water damaged.

New Business:

1. **New Member:** Karen received in the mail a membership form from Shane and Mariah Doughty, of Kingston, who have a young Labrador. The form was one that has not been in use since 2011 so provided very little information about the couple. Mike Evans and Jim Pearce agreed to sponsor them, and Michael promised to give them a call right away to get more info.
2. **Fall Club Trial:** set for October 13, Saturday, at Lucky 7, starting early morning (8 a.m.). Possible date change to avoid MTARC test that weekend? We looked at October 6 as maybe being a better date, since there are no nearby hunt tests and it's a non-football

weekend. The key issue will be the availability of Lucky 7 that date. Michael will call Ken Campbell to see if we can change dates but isn't hopeful based on his earlier discussion. We took a quick poll of board members planning to come if it's on 10/13, and only Alan and Michael are going to be there. Others have judging assignments, out of town son's weddings, etc. Attendance from the Board is better on 10/6. Lois said she knew of some grounds with reasonable ponds up near her farm in Sunbright that we could probably use, if we wanted to consider a different location. The consensus of the Board though was that if we can't get the earlier date at Lucky 7, we should just stay with the 13th since it is the date advertised already and people may have made plans around it.

3. *Fall Hunt Test*

- a. Dates are entered into the AKC website; there was a problem with paying for them (website issues); now resolved and paid for.
- b. Carol McCorkle has gotten the test up on Entry Express under a single entry. This will be a 60-dog limit on Master, plus a double Junior, double Senior test. She will enter the Judges into the Entry Express now that they are identified.
- c. Judges: Located. Karen needs to write letters confirming as soon as she has contact info; Luke McCoy will provide. Michael will enter the judges panel into AKC website for approval.
- d. Michele Fletcher will be acting as Hunt Test Secretary and Treasurer at the test this fall in the absence of Carol McCorkle and Karen Edwards (son's wedding).
- e. Bird kids: Karen has contacted the program leader for the McMinn Co. FFA that we used in the spring; Christy Cobble was encouraging but asked for some time to get with her other program sponsors and get back to us.
- f. Judges dinner: Luke talked with Patti at the seminar and she was willing to do the judges' dinner again for us this year. She will do Shish ke babs this year.
- g. Cory will take home the radios tonight, and will have custodianship of them for the club trial and hunt test, since Jim Pearce will be in Oregon on those dates. He will be responsible for bringing over the small trailer, and will also drop by Hiwassee at some point over the next month or so and get the large trailer.
- h. Karen will be sure to get more checks for Michele for the hunt test.

4. ***Master National Business:*** Dues are paid. The only club member who is going this year is David Knott. Luke will contact him to see if he is willing to serve as our representative and cast our vote; Karen will need this info to fill out the contact form that has to be submitted in advance. The MN board of directors is recommending Bylaws changes that will make it possible to use 8 point Master level judges who have not handled a dog at the MN level over the last number of years. The current restriction requiring such participation means that there are only about 70 judges who are qualified to judge the MN, and they are getting used over and over again and burning out. This is a two-week unpaid commitment and is exhausting. Alan, who is a prior MN judge, was not in favor of this change because of the number of Master judges who run squirrely tests and don't understand the particular problems and requirements for the MN. There are other solutions that were not proposed by the MN board that might work better – using 12 and 15 point Master Judges, allowing no more than half of the judges to be non-MN qualifiers, etc. The lack of judges is a real problem but Alan feels that the proposed amendment is not the way to go. He moved that

we direct our representative to vote No on the proposed amendment; Lois seconded the motion, and there were 4 ayes, 1 nay, and one person out of the room at the time of the vote. The motion carried.

5. **Master Amateur call for Judges:** ETRC has submitted member Alan Bruhin for consideration as a judge for the 2019 event. Got an acknowledgement email but no further response yet.

Any other new business?

1. ***Should we put on a mid-week Master Only test next spring?*** New changes in AKC rules would permit us to put on a single 60-dog Master test on a Wednesday or Thursday. To do this, we would have to submit all three tests to AKC not later than January, including the special test and the spring and fall tests. We could set it up so that all three series were set up on Tuesday evening, and could probably finish on Wednesday since people would only have to move from one to another and there would be no tear downs and set ups needed, no waiting for handlers to come from other stakes, etc. We would only need 4-5 birdboys and not much in the way of communications since we could all be together at the one spot. This would help a lot for those members trying to qualify a MN dog for next year and having problems getting into tests. We decided to pursue this; Michael will get with Jason at Hiwassee to see possible dates in late March or early April and we will move ahead accordingly.
2. ***Should we purchase a defibrillator for use at our events?*** Alan and Michael have both been at field events in the past year where someone went into cardiac arrest, and this brought up the possible need and use of a defibrillator. Michael, who has one in his car as part of his job and receives annual training and recertification on its use, says they are very simple to use but in order to avoid legal liability for the club for the use of a club-owned defibrillator, it is necessary for the user to have received training at least every one or two years. Also, for a unit that is battery operated, there are maintenance requirements. It would not be suitable for parking in the trailer and ignoring between tests. Since defib units cost around \$1,300, this would be a significant enough expenditure for the club that it would be important for someone to step forward and be the 'defib master', keep it as his /her home, and make sure that it is there along with a trained user at every ETRC event. We already have a number of club members who are trained – Cory, Patti G, Jeff McNutt, Chris Miller in addition to Michael – and possibly a number of others. This was tabled for more research, which Michael offered to do, and will be brought up later for a decision.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Alan moved that we adjourn. Michael seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

1. None

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 8/24/18
2. Jim Pearce, 8/24/18
3. Cory Smith, 8/24/18
4. J. Michael Evans, 8/24/18
5. Michele Fletcher, 8/24/18
6. Lois Luthenauer, 8/24/18
7. Karen Edwards, 8/24/18
8. Tom Gibson, 8/24/18