

ETRC Seminar/Picnic/General Meeting, 8/17/19

Retriever Retreat, Clarkrange, TN

Training Seminar, 8 a.m. to lunch

About 25 people were on hand for the seminar. First, we set up in a yard-type area with shade, and Jody worked with a number of people with puppies and young dogs on basic obedience, heeling techniques, and some early pile drills. Then we moved and set up some long land marks and a blind, and Jody worked with people on their handling skills and general line manners. More detailed notes from the seminar will be in the September Newsletter. Thanks to Jody Ware for donating his time and his vast store of training knowledge to the club!

Picnic: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Thanks to Lois Luthenauer who donated food and paper goods for the picnic, to Peter Torok who did the grilling, and to everyone who brought along dishes to share. We had quite a variety – hotdogs, hamburgers and pork chops; several delicious pasta salads, deviled eggs, baked beans, chips, and watermelon; and cookies, brownies and apple betty for dessert. The picnic was held in the Retriever Retreat's spacious outdoor covered kitchen which is located in a shady grove – fully equipped with sink, refrigerator, fancy grill, microwave, lots of prep and counter spaces, and a plethora of comfortable tables and chairs. Maybe best of all, the kitchen also has a number of heavy duty fans that made the area comfortable in spite of the growing heat.

General Meeting: 1:00 p.m.

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, and Cory Smith.

Absent, excused: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Jeff McNutt

Other Members present: Justin Crippin, Katie Cundiff, Patti Gibson, Kyle and Tracey Griffin, John Hewgley, Pat Kowalski, Donna Smith, Hunter and Elena Smith, Lisa Styles, Chad Suttles, Jay Totton, Peter Torok, and Jay Totton.

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. A quorum of the membership is 20% of the voting members. The current membership stands at 48 individuals/families. Therefore, a quorum would require 10 individuals/families. A quorum was met.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: President Luke McCoy thanked Jody, Lois and Sherie, and all the attendees. He noted that this has been an active year for the club and that we still have a number of activities left to go.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 6/12/19; minutes approved and sent to the club website shortly after the meeting. Do we have a motion and a second that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes? Lois moved, Jim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** Completed tax report for 2018, which was due on or before 7/15/19. No taxes due.
- **Membership:** Current 2019 membership is 49 as of today, including 2 waiting final vote later today and 4 for first reading/assignment of sponsors.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 8/14/19 is \$17,309.12 after purchase of new 8'x20'x 8' trailer for \$7,100. Bills for \$501 and \$32 for material for fitting out inside of trailer not yet paid.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher: AKC is bringing the new titles for Master Amateur Hunter up for final vote at their meeting in October. This will be retroactive to the beginning of the Master Amateur program.

First Business: Election of Members

1. New Members: The following new members are up for final membership votes, and their sponsors have recommended approval:

- a. Catherine (Cat) Perry, Mauldin, SC. Pro trainer. Sponsors Mike Evans, Karen Edwards.
- b. Jake and Jesse Webb, Cosby, TN. Has a young black lab puppy, interested in hunt tests, field trials, and dog training. Sponsors Alan Bruhin and Mike Smith.

Jim Pearce moved that we accept these individuals and families as full members. Cory Smith seconded the motion, which passed unamously.

The following are up for first reading and assignment of sponsors: They are here at the meeting so stand up and introduce yourselves:

- c. Kyle and Tracey Griffin, Knoxville, TN, year old black Lab puppy, interested in learning the game. Mike Smith and Jim Pearce volunteered to be their sponsors.
- d. Pat Kowalsky, Fairfield Glade, TN, Golden Retriever, working with Sherie Catledge to learn about field work. Requested Sherie as one sponsor. Lois Luthenauer agreed to be the other sponsor.
- e. Jay /Carol Totton: Kimball, TN, have a young black lab. Requested John Hewgley as one sponsor; Cory Smith volunteered to be the second sponsor.
- f. Justin Crippen: Old Hickory, TN, has a three year old Golden and an 8-month old Golden, does obedience as well. Also a member of MTARC and two general purpose dog training clubs. Requested Sherie Catledge as one sponsor; Jim Pearce volunteered to be the second sponsor.

Welcome to all new members; we look forward to getting to know you better!

Old Business

1. ***Fall Hunt Test:*** 9/28-29/19, Lucky 7 Ranch
 - a. Luke McCoy: We finally have all our judges in place for the fall hunt test. It was difficult finding Jr/Senior judges this time. Michele reported that Mike Evans had entered them into the AKC website and we have AKC approval of the judges. She will finalize us on Entry Express this evening so that we are ready to accept entries on the opening date.
 - b. Entries open: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 7:00:00 PM CT; for Workers open: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 7:00:00 PM CT
 - c. Plans -- workers' dinner via barbecue truck. Karen reported that Michael had contacted the barbecue truck and had gotten prices. He has hired them for the judges dinner, with the number of people to expect still pending.
 - d. Bird kids – Karen reported that the Meigs County Future Farmers of America will again provide bird kids. She has gotten the insurance letter to them and the contract, and has asked for 20 kids with a maximum of 25.
 - e. Lisa Styles raised the issue of lunches during the test. She pointed out that it would be much easier for us to have Patti sell Tee shirts and thereby release someone else to work in the field, rather than having to spend so much of our time on lunches. Karen pointed out that we don't know how much lunches would cost, as the prices and menu items that J. Michael got from them only covered dinner. Lisa volunteered to get cost information from the barbecue company and get a report to Karen within two weeks. Karen will provide her with the cost estimates she put together last fall when we bought sandwiches from Subway, and compared that with the cost of the club's own lunches.

2. ***Equipment purchases during the year:*** Luke reported that we had used some of our surplus money during the year to buy some much-needed new equipment, including:
 - a. New Popups
 - b. New big trailer (and availability of old trailer as soon as we have the new one ready)
 - c. Thunder remote launchers for club trials, training sessions
 - d. New blinds

Chad Suttles reported that the launchers (which he had set up for the training session) had not been stored properly; a gas valve was open, and the plates were not properly aligned. Karen apologized; we have them sitting in our garage and will need to find a better place to put them and be more careful about making sure all the valves are closed before storage. Chad suggested that a container for them would be a good idea, perhaps a Rubbermaid tote or purpose-built box.

3. ***Fall club trial:*** Saturday, November 16, 2019, Lucky 7 Ranch. Discussion about club trials – should we continue to have them given recent fairly dismal turnout (only one on last 5 has been well attended). Should we change the format? Try having them on Sunday rather than Saturday? Afternoon rather than morning? What would make you want to come?

There was a good general discussion. Several people commented that the early start time was a problem for them since they had quite a distance to come, and suggested that for this next one in November, we start later – 10 a.m. was suggested. Several people liked the idea of a Sunday time rather than Saturday, since Saturdays are always so crowded with sporting events, kid activities, etc. However, another person said that Sundays won't work for them because of church and family activities, even if it were in the afternoon. Some people suggested that we open it up to non-members as well as members. Karen pointed out that this has insurance implications, and she will need to check with our insurance company to see how much this would add to our premiums. This is not an issue for AKC-sponsored events, but for club trials, we are only covered for members at the present time. One person suggested not making multiple changes at once – try making one change to see if it helps, then add others if necessary. Another person mentioned there is a facebook page, East Tennessee Dog Events, which posts events from various dog clubs in East Tennessee, and if we go to including non-members it might be a good idea to post it there. There was some discussion that this forum is a great idea for attracting people to training days, if we opened them up, but that club trials are really not for complete newbies so it might not be the best place to advertise those. Patti Gibson, who handles our club Facebook page, agreed to get in touch with the East Tennessee Dog Events page and see about being able to list our events there.

The final consensus was that we will move the start time for the November 16 trial to 10 a.m and that Karen will contact the insurance company to see what we would need to do to open it up to non-members. We will look at the feasibility of moving the spring trial to a Sunday. Changes will be announced in the newsletter.

4. ***Spring 2020 Hunt Test:*** We are looking to move the test earlier in the year to avoid terrific heat like this year. Mike Evans is working on a date in Late April or early May. He had to work and was unable to attend, but via text, he passed on that Justin has given his approval for the first weekend in May but Mike hasn't yet finalized this with AKC. Luke asked Jody Ware if he would come to the test if it were the first weekend in May, which does conflict with Mid-South. Jody said he would definitely come to ours instead. We will also announce the new date in the newsletter as soon as everything is finalized, plus we will make the changes with AKC and Entry Express. There was some discussion about using Lucky 7 for a spring test, considering that they have now expanded their technical ponds and have purchased more land – should be enough now to run a full test. However, we decided that it is important to not lose Hiwassee, and not rely completely on one place or the other. One person suggested that if we have a third test again this year, we could possibly keep our Memorial Day weekend at Hiwassee for that test. No decision has yet been reached on whether we will try to have a third test again next year.
5. ***Fall/Winter training sessions:*** Last year, we had 'directed training' with highly experienced club members (some pro, some very good handlers) giving instructions on a particular topic and then working with people individually on particular issues – rather than just setting up marks and blinds and people coming out to run their dogs. This was well received by the people who attended, usually about 10 people, usually people with less experience. The sessions were held on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, about one a month. Luke

asked the membership -- do you like this format and should we do it again? Do you want to do something different? Tell us what YOU would like to see and what would make you want to attend. Comments were positive that they liked it a lot and would like to see us do a repeat of the program from last year, with John Broucek, Lisa Styles, and Sherie Catledge back again. Generally the group liked the Sunday afternoon format, but there was a suggestion that we might alternate with Saturdays in order to get some people who can't come on one or the other. Lois offered that some of them be held up at the Retriever Retreat, to give different grounds and also to appeal to people from a slightly different geographical area. Karen will work with potential leaders to get some dates set up & announced.

New Business:

1. ***Nominating Committee for Officers/Board.*** We usually set up the nominating committee at this time to give everyone plenty of opportunity to do the work before the required report has to be submitted to Karen as Secretary by November 24th, 2019. We need two non-board members and one board member to serve as chairman. As part of our tradition, people who don't come to this meeting are most likely to be appointed. For the board member and committee chairman, in the absence of volunteers, Luke appointed Mike Evans who was unable to attend today because of work commitments. Since Sherie wasn't there either, she was suggested and then appointed as one of the non-board members. Donna Smith bravely agreed to serve as the third person, with only minor arm twisting. Karen will send out an email to all of them with the specific information on bylaws requirements, a copy of the most recent membership list, and a list of the positions that have to be filled. Basically, the job is to identify and get agreement from people to serve as officers plus two new board members for the following year. There are no term limits, so some people may be willing to keep on serving.
2. ***Doorprizes:*** The Club Tee shirt went to Lisa Styles. The drawing for the hat was won by new members Kyle and Tracey Griffin. Peter Torok won the night's free lodging at Retriever Retreat, and Jim Pearce won the free handling/training lesson with Sherie Catledge. Thanks to everyone for coming!

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Karen Edwards moved that we adjourn. Justin Crippen seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes: None

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 8/19/19
2. Jeff McNutt, 8/19/19
3. Mike Smith, 8/20/19
4. Jim Pearce, 8/20/19
5. Mike Evans, 8/20/19
6. Cory Smith, 8/20/19
7. Karen Edwards, 8/21/19