

ETRC Board Meeting, Monday, 1/08/2020 Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Cory Smith

Absent: Jeff McNutt

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 10/7/19; minutes approved and sent to the club website 10/10/19. 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:** AKC membership paid.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of the year was 52 as of 12/31/19, including 4 waiting final vote in February and two for first reading. 17 members have not renewed from 2018; EOY 12/31/18 membership was 61. Karen passed out end-of-the-year membership rosters to everyone on the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 12/31/19 was \$20,355.37 and as of today is \$20,443.43. Upcoming expenses: Have one check that aged out – a scratch from the spring HT. No other expenses in hand. Even after buying the new trailer, we have only \$4,138.68 less in the bank than we had 12/31/18. Karen passed around a detailed report of 2019 income and outgo.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher: There is a new AKC rule coming into effect on March 1 that will no longer require hunt test secretary and event chairman's addresses to be included in the premium list – only the city and state where they live. Despite the fact that addresses are easily available on the internet, somehow they figure this will improve people's security and privacy.

Old Business

1. **Fall club trial:** At the October meeting, we had decided to have a November 16 event at the Retriever Retreat with Sherie Catledge coaching, and try to work out something that will suit for everyone, that combined parts of a club trial with a training session, and open it up to non-members. We did have the event with good participation – about 16 or more people came. We had puppies and beginners in the morning, then ran the puppy stake, then ran the Singles Classic, then moved on to transition and advanced level dogs in a training format. Good session. Thanks to Lois and Sherie for the use of the facilities, for lunch, and for the coaching.

2. ***Equipment:***

- a. Upgraded big trailer: finished, it's wonderful, it's now being stored at Cory Smith's place in West Knoxville.
- b. Equipment sales: advertised duck dryer and shotguns/stands in the Oct newsletter. Mike Smith was supposed to take a shotgun stand home for Donna; no other interest or response. Need to decide what to do with the guns if we couldn't find buyers, but reached no conclusion. Alan commented that there have been problems with several of the shotgun simulators running on MAP gas blowing up and causing injuries, and there is some discussion of whether their use should be banned. He does not know whether these were the actual Thunder simulators like we have, or one of the cheaper knock-offs. In light of this, he suggested that we just sit tight on disposing of any of the shotguns. There is plenty of room in the trailer. Cory will take a look to see how many we still have; we have to have at least 5 for handlers' guns.
- c. New equipment: We have authorized purchase of two more big pop-ups (Lois) and 4 more of the large duck driers and some winger parts (Karen). We decided to do this after the first of the year. Are we ready to pull the trigger on these now? Mike Smith moved that we go ahead with the purchases in time for the spring test; Lois seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. ***Awards Banquet***

- a. Awards nominations: Deadline to have info to J. Michael is 1/14/20. Will send out a final reminder email next week. Title awards, MN and MA awards, member awards. So far, Michael has NO member awards.
- b. Format, location and place: reserved Calhoun's Bearden Hill 2/22/20 (Saturday night), at 6:00 (earlier time – previously 6:30 -- moved by Jim, seconded by Tom, and passed without verbal dissent). New format – we must have a buffet and will not be allowed to order off the menu. J. Michael reported on his discussions with Calhoun's management, and brought along a variety of menu options and costs. This will make it easier for restaurant staff and management, but significantly less convenient for us. The various options were buffets for \$20/person, \$26, \$29, \$30, and \$32. The information sheets were not at all clear about some of the various options, and the woman J. Michael talked with was telling him something a bit different than what the papers seemed to show.

After lengthy discussion, and a motion that was made by Tom and seconded by Alan and passed, we decided to go with the \$26 option which was the 'country hoedown' version. The menu will feature ribs, chicken and rice, fried fish, baked beans, slaw, spinach maria, breads, and chocolate cake. We can make a few minor menu adjustments which J. Michael will explore.

This is a rather steep price, about twice what the same items are if ordered off the menu, and we will have to decide for next year if we want to explore other options for the banquet. The minimum cost will be \$1009, including \$800 minimum for food, tax, and 20% gratuity. At \$26 a person, this will cover 30 people which is around the number we have been having in attendance; the buffet will handle a few extra people at no additional cost. The Club will pay the full bill for the banquet this year. However, we also decided that people will be responsible for going to the bar in the main part of the restaurant to get their own alcoholic beverages should they want any, and the club will not pay for that.

c. Elections: no nominations received from the membership so the slate will be as presented from the nominating committee.

d. Anything else about the banquet? No other items were brought up.

2. ***Spring 2020 Hunt Test(s) –***

- a. Dates: May 23-24, 2020, on our normal Memorial Day weekend. Alan has started working on judges – he has 6 pinned down and is waiting for a couple from Texas (one Master judge, one Junior/Senior judge) to get back to him with a commitment. Judges will be: Master: Dave Christianson, Link Huffman, Mary Williamson, Matt Griffiths. Jr/Sr: Mary Gregg, Hilda wood; Terrie Leafstedt and Vicki Christianson. The Christiansons are the couple still not committed. J. Michael will submit the judges panel to AKC when ready; Alan will give Karen the names and emails for judges' letters.
- b. Basic information needs to be entered into the AKC website very soon (Karen).
- c. Alan will be the Hunt Test Chairman this year for both tests.
- d. At the last meeting, we decided to raise our entry fees for Master competitors, so the fees will be \$70/\$80/\$100. We decided not to revisit this decision.
- e. New birdkids will be needed. J. Michael will contact his old high school in Cleveland to see if they might be interested, and others are going to think about possibilities. If anyone wants a copy of the contract we have been using, to discuss with the possible schools, Karen can provide it via email.
- f. Michele has contacted TWRA and has gotten the paperwork done for using Hiwassee this spring.
- g. There was some discussion about not having good water for the second Master flight at Hiwassee. The best solution for smooth running of the test would be to set up four sites and have a round robin for land/water/land-water. Judges are often unwilling to do this, but Alan will make the attempt to get this going especially since we will be having even more dogs in Master this year (66 per flight instead of 60) and this would definitely improve time management in terms of setups, gunners, etc.

3. ***Fall 2020 Hunt Test***

- a. Dates: September 26-27, 2020 are our AKC-authorized standard dates. However, once again this will conflict with the Master National which is running from September 20-27 this year. We decided to try for dates in October. Michele, our hunt test secretary, has judging commitments on October 24-25 and the Halloween weekend, but would be available on any of the first three weekends. Based on last year's schedule, Chattanooga will have their test on October 10 weekend, so we will

aim for October 17. J. Michael will get in touch with Ken Campbell to make sure this date is OK with him and won't conflict with the TVRC's fall field trial, and then will call AKC to see if we can get that date instead.

- b.* Assuming we can find a date that works with both AKC and Ken, we will go with the same format as spring – 2 flights of master, double junior, double senior this year. We can have one Master flight over on Ken's new property entirely.

4. *New members:* the following have applied to become members of the ETRC:

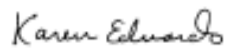
- a.* Burton Beakley & Heather Ludwig. Live in Signal Mountain, he is an anesthesiologist. Willing to help with training supplies. Has two yellow labs, one 10, one 5, interested in hunt testing and dog training, is a DU members. Was active in the past and wants to get back into it.
- b.* Sponsors: Mike Smith and J. Michael Evans agreed to be sponsors.
- c.* Tom moved that we accept him/them into membership, and Alan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Any other new business?

- 1. Lois brought up the issue of tee shirts. We are no longer able to get the nice hot-selling performance camo tee shirts, unless we want to order 144 of the same size. She brought along samples of two other 'camo' style shirts in the same performance fabric. One of them was a digital black and white camo that was absolutely migraine-inspiring (also available in neon green), and a fairly nice dark gray/black camo with dots that we decided is fairly classy looking – i.e., most of us would wear it. It's also available in neon. We authorized Lois to buy a small run of the latter shirt in gray/black to see how it sells this spring. The logo will need to be done in a lighter gray so it shows up.

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

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes: None

Approvals:

- 1. Alan Bruhin 01/19/2020
- 2. Jim Pearce 01/09/2020
- 3. Mike Smith 01/09/2020
- 4. J. Michael Evans 01/09/2020
- 5. Cory Smith 01/09/2020
- 6. Michele Fletcher 01/12/2020
- 7. Karen Edwards 01/12/2020