

ETRC General Meeting, Monday, 9/14/2020
Pegasus Technologies Front yard, Lenoir City, TN

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

Absent, excused: Lois Luthenauer

Other Members present: Cheryl McNutt, Doug Zelonis.

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 52 individuals/families. Therefore, a quorum would require 11 individuals/families. We had representatives from 12 individual members/families, so a quorum was met. This meeting therefore stands as a general club membership meeting to replace the annual picnic that had to be canceled.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report:

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 7/30/20; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website shortly after the meeting. Luke moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. J. Michael seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** Invitation from National Derby club for us to join. Any interest? After some discussion, we decided that ETRC still is not interested in joining this club although we wish them well.
- **Membership:** Current 2020 membership is 52, including 3 waiting final vote later today and three others for first reading.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards for Lois Luthenauer. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 9/14/2020 is \$14,335.95.

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

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. Angelique & Timothy Burns, Lakesite, TN. Sponsors Lois Luthenauer & Michele Fletcher. Owns a young Golden.

- b. Jeff Coffey, Kingston, TN. Has a black lab, interested in hunt tests, field trials, Club Trials, and dog training. Also a member of MTARC. Sponsors Alan Bruhin and Cory Smith.
- c. Mary & Mart Dowden, Mount Juliet, TN, Retired. Own a year-old Golden Retriever. Interested in Hunt Tests and dog training. Also a member of the Nashville Dog Training Club. Sponsors Sherie Catledge & Lois Luthenauer.
- d. Paul & Alexa Sponcia, Knoxville, TN. Business owner. Own a young Black Lab. Interested in AKC hunt tests. Sponsors Jeff McNutt & J. Michael Evans.

Jim moved that we accept these individuals and families as full members. Peter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Old Business

1. *Fall 2020 Hunt Test*

- a. Alan Bruhin: Dates: October 17/18. At Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Promise from TWRA that they will give us 10 days cancellation notice. After some 40 calls, Alan and others working to find judges finally were able to pin down the final Junior/Senior judge and the panel has been submitted to AKC for approval. However, so far there have been issues that have had to be resolved on three judges; two of them have been resolved and there will be a conference call the next morning with AKC to try to get the final issue resolved. Alan asked Michele to go ahead and put the judges into EE.
- b. Judges letters – J. Michael will send Karen a list of the judges and contact info so she can write them the formal letters concerning their assignment, info on rooms, etc. J. Michael will take care of getting rooms reserved for the judges.
- c. Entries open Wednesday, September 23, 2020 7:00 PM CT; for Workers on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:00:00 PM CT . Closing is Monday, October 5, 2020 at Midnight Central time. J. Michael will pass out worker codes as soon as he receives them; we have had 10 requests for codes, which is all that we are authorized.
- d. Bird techs will be Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society. Contract negotiated, for 16 techs, maximum of \$2,000. Karen has signed and will send the contract to the Society contact for his signature, and will work to get the insurance certificate from Equisure for them.
- e. Judges dinner: After some discussion, we decided to dispense with a judges/workers dinner this year. After set up, we will just tell them to keep receipts for their meal and give it to Lois for payment at the test. There was some discussion about putting limits on the amount they were authorized, but we decided to assume that the judges we have this time will be reasonable.
- f. Lunches during the test: will be ordering from Subway or other nearby (Dayton) fast food place. Karen volunteered to coordinate with Subway and drive over to pick up the lunches and then deliver them to the various test sites. She will ask Subway to put the lettuce and tomatoes in separate bags, and also if it's possible to get mustard

and mayonnaise in separate packages as well, to avoid the bread getting soggy. Tom G will buy water, ice and Gatorade again this year.

- g.* Covid changes: ribbon ceremonies at the test sites, not at the clubhouse; won't be selling or preparing food on site; will post signs at clubhouse and each stake reminding people of the need to social distance and encouraging mask usage; will sell tee shirts outside; lots of hand sanitizer at each stake.
- h.* The clubhouse will be a mask-only zone. We will do everything possible to keep people out by selling tee shirts outside, and Michele will go to each stake to meet with the judges and pass out ribbons.
- i.* Marshalling: Lois has some idea about a new way to do this. May make it easier to keep people socially distanced from the marshals. Peter has talked with her about this, and it involves magnetized numerals on a white board. Other things discussed were to somehow tape off a 6' wide area around the site marshal's chair and to make sure that each site had a large white board and dry-erase markers to post numbers on, in the event some of the marshals preferred using the old system instead. Karen moved we purchase two new large whiteboards, easels and markers. J. Michael seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Karen volunteered to buy the new whiteboards.
- j.* Gunners – two still needed for Saturday morning. Peter said his 27 year old son can probably be one, but will confirm with J. Michael when that is definite.
- k.* Big Trailer – it's at Cory's barn and he won't be able to bring it down on Friday. Luke offered to drive it down Thursday night if we can get Hiwassee's permission to open the gates after work hours.
- l.* Judges gifts --- we already have ones that were purchased for the spring test.
- m.* Dumpsters / porta potties : are supposed to be free because of mixup last fall. J. Michael will call to arrange. He will also call Kiley Buettner about the ducks, which are already partially paid for (\$1,000).

New Business:

1. ***New Member:*** three new members for first reading:
 - a. James / Vicki Langa, Harrison, TN, cell 607-738-7852, email jlanga1@hotmail.com. Recently moved from Pennsylvania, has been training and campaigning retrievers for 20 years. Volunteers for 'whatever is needed,' and training committee. Has two labs, one MHR MH and the other younger one is SH. Member NAHRA, Western NY RC. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, breeding, NRA member, DU member. Volunteers for sponsors: Mike Smith and Cory Smith.
 - b. Wade Leatherwood, Mt. Hickory, TN. Cell 423-290-4321, email wadeleatherwood5@gmail.com. Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Interested in hunt tests, dog training, club trials, judging clinics, breeding, NRA and DU member. Has a black lab. Volunteers for sponsors are Sherie Catledge and Lois Luthenauer.
 - c. Doug Zelonis, Crossville, TN. Cell 931-248-1142. Present tonight, and he introduced himself. He has a 6-month old Labrador and has done a lot of informal

hunt club / club trial work in the past in Ohio. J. Michael Evans and Jim Pearce volunteered to be sponsors.

- d. J. Michael moved we accept these three people as provisional members. Peter seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Welcome all!

2. **Fall club trial:** The spring trials were canceled because of the pandemic. We decided to try to have one on November 21, 2020, at the Roane Regional business park.
3. **Spring 2020 Hunt Test:** there was some discussion about whether we can continue to have two master flights at Hiwassee given the water situation, sharecropping, and the fact that the master judges we get don't like to rotate through setups and work together to share the limited water. We decided to start looking for available land again to see if any other possibilities show up. Also, Luke will talk with Brian Caldwell to see if he might let us use his land, which is only about 15 minutes away from Hiwassee, for a single master flight. This will not be easy, considering that most of the Master dogs are with pros who might also have Junior and Senior dogs to run back over at Hiwassee. The test is currently slated for Memorial Day weekend again. We tried to move it earlier but were unable to find a weekend that would work with both Hiwassee and AKC.
4. **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.

There was general agreement that this format worked well, and that it would be a good opportunity to have the type of seminar we were hoping to have at the picnic. We set the following dates and general topics:

- December 13, Sunday afternoon: Luke McCoy will demonstrate force fetch and discuss rules for Junior Hunt Tests, then will direct people running dogs on setups and provide advice as needed. If the weather is bad, we can still do the first part indoors.
 - January 10, Sunday afternoon: Alan Bruhin will discuss Master set ups and rules, conduct demonstrations, and run setups providing advice to handlers running their dogs at all levels.
 - February 14, Sunday Afternoon: J. Michael Evans will discuss Senior hunt test rules and setups. Michele Fletcher will discuss how to enter dogs in hunt tests. Michael will conduct setups and provide advice to handlers.
5. **Nominating Committee for Officers/Board.** Alan Bruhin: We usually set up the nominating committee at the summer picnic 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, 2020. Since

we had to cancel the picnic, Alan went ahead and appointed Mike Smith from the board to serve as Chairman, and Denise Chambers and Cheryl McNutt to serve as the non-board members. Karen will send out an email to the committee members 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. There are no term limits, so some people may be willing to keep on serving.

6. **MARC:** Alan Bruhin. 2020 test makeup being held in Corning, CA April 18-; the 2021 test will be May 16-23 in Emporia, VA 25 (Alan B is one of the judges). Reminder from the MARC that individual memberships are now due – ETRC is a lifetime member, but in order for your points to count, each person has to be an individual member.
7. **MNRC Ballot:** Mike Evans: We got the minutes and financial statement from last October's meeting and some other documents. However, we never got a ballot so did not return one.
8. **Youth Program Applicant :** Lois Luthenauer: Tabled. Lois is not here and did not provide the application materials.

Any other new business?

1. ***End of the Year Awards:*** J. Michael brought up the fact that we give some awards points towards Gun Dog of the Year for qualifying to go to the Master Amateur and Master National. Since those were counted for the 2020 awards, should they count again for 2021 since the 2020 programs were canceled or massively delayed, and there is no further requirement for qualifying? The consensus reached was NO, they have already been used. If a dog does get to the 2020 MARC and qualifies there, THOSE points will count, as will the ones for 2021, even if they are in the same year – but the points earned in 2019 that qualified then for the 2020 event won't be counted again toward Gun Dog points for this coming year's awards ceremony.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Jeff seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Peter Torok 9/16/20
2. Michele Fletcher 9/16/20
3. Mike Smith 9/16/20

4. Jeff McNutt 9/16/20
5. Jim Pearce 9/16/20
6. J. Michael Evans 9/17/20
7. Cory Smith 9/17/20
8. Karen Edwards 9/17/20
9. Luke McCoy 9/17/20