

## **ETRC Board Meeting, Saturday, 2/27/2021 Before the Banquet Cory Smith's Farm, Niota, TN**

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

**Absent, excused:** Peter Torok, Jeff McNutt, Mike Smith

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present when the meeting started, and was bolstered when Lois and Michele arrived. The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.

### **Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports**

**President's Report:** Will be done during the General Meeting following the banquet

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Discussion of last minutes and voting for approval will be delayed to the General Meeting following the Banquet
- **Correspondence:** Will be done during the General Meeting following the banquet
- **Membership:** Report of end-of year membership will be done during the General Meeting following the banquet

**Treasurer's Report:** Report of current financial status will be done during the General Meeting following the banquet.

### **Old Business**

1. **Winter Training sessions:** Report on the completed winter training program will be done during the General Meeting following the banquet. We discussed whether to have any more formal training sessions this winter, without seminars, and decided to wait. Possibly we will try to schedule one in May, and Cory may do an impromptu one from time to time as he did several times last fall.
2. **Spring Hunt Test:** Report on the status of the Spring Hunt Test will be done during the General Meeting following the banquet. However, we need to decide if we are going to allocate 25% or 35% of the Master slots to Amateurs; we had earlier seemed to agree that 25% was probably better, but this was not a formal decision. After some discussion, Jim moved that we set aside 25% of the slots for Amateurs. Tom Gibson seconded, and the vote was unanimous. There was some further discussion on how to allocate worker codes. Often we do not have enough workers who are helping out and also running master dogs to need them all, and in the past we have occasionally given leftover ones to our club pros. At what time do we want Michael to release the worker codes? Since most people who are volunteering in order to get those codes contact Michael weeks beforehand to get their codes, we decided that Michael can release them at 8:00 p.m. (central) on the Tuesday evening, at the same time entries open for worker codes and amateurs. This will give the giftees a full day to use them before the test opens to everyone Wednesday evening at 8 p.m.

3. **Club Trial:** We had to cancel the Fall club trial because the Smiths both were down with Covid. We discussed rescheduling, and back in December decided tentatively to try to have one in March or maybe early April – but wait until the new year to see how the schedule for testing is shaking out. Since that time, Alan has contacted Chuck Atchley to see if we could have one at his place in Sevierville again, as we have done in the past. Chuck was agreeable, and a date of March 20 has been set. Water will be questionable at this site, as there is often not much there other than the stick pond, but the fields are fine. A second Club Trial has been tentatively set for April 10, 21 – possibly at Darryl Miller’s farm in Sweetwater. This is a great place with technical ponds, but the roads leading into the property are iffy at best if there is a lot of rain. Some discussion that this one could also maybe be held at Brian Caldwell’s place instead, if Darryl’s is inaccessible.

### **New Business:**

1. **New Member:** None for first reading. One arrived in the mail this afternoon, but Karen had not had time to open it up and log him in. We will consider his application at the next meeting.
2. **Extra Hunt Tests:** Brian’s place is now approved for hunt tests by AKC. He has proposed having several mid-week Master tests during the spring/summer/fall season, and as necessary a double header Junior/Senior test to meet AKC requirements for balance, at his place. We can have two extra Master Only tests, but if we want a third, we will need to run another Double Junior / Double Senior test, and can use his place as well. Brian will locate birdboys; we will need to provide a hunt test committee and a hunt test secretary, and find judges. There will be lunches needed for the judges and workers and motel rooms for the judges; and judges gifts. With only 66 dogs, this will be a small test and can be handled with just the small trailer if it is packed properly. Brian has asked for a 25% split of the profits. AKC has approved dates of April 6 and 7, a Tuesday/Wednesday for the first test. If this goes well, there would be a second mid-Week Master in the summer and another one in the fall after our fall hunt test. The consensus was that this was a great idea, but there were no formal motions made to approve the arrangements for cost sharing. Details will need to be worked out quickly and approved at a meeting soon.
3. **Judges Seminar, status of grant proposal:** Alan recently talked with the MNRC’s regional rep for our area to get feedback on our proposal which was submitted the end of January. MNRC has received 9 proposals for these grants; the initial idea was to approve one for each region and three of them are from our region. The rep is hopeful that he can get all three approved but this is by no means a slam dunk. This will be decided at the MNRC Board’s next meeting which is sometime in March. The way this will work is as follows: if we get the grant, we will make all the arrangements, pay all the costs up front, and then depending on the number of people who attend, MNRC will reimburse us an amount between \$600-\$1,000. Any extra we spend would be on us. Alan’s initial budget estimates were around \$1,000, but this was very rough depending on the number of attendees and how much food we decide to offer them instead of asking them to pay for themselves. A decision on whether to have a seminar if we do NOT get the grant will have to be made after we find out the status of the

grant. It's been some years since we had a judges' seminar, and it might be a good thing to do anyway, even if we have to pay all the costs. These seminars are useful not just for people who think they might like to become judges, but also for handlers to know how tests are set up, what judges are looking for, etc. Our seminar is tentatively slated for next February, so that hopefully there are no more pandemic concerns remaining.

4. ***New Holding Blinds:*** At the December meeting, we decided to ask Cory and others to inventory the current blinds to see how many need to be replaced while waiting for up to date financial info, which we now have. Cory has not yet had a chance to do this, so we will delay a decision until later. Old blinds will be offered for sale to club members, and hopefully will be announced in the April newsletter along with cost. We have enough good blinds to run the mid-week Master test at Brian's but will need more for the spring hunt test.
5. ***Insurance Premiums:*** For \$800, we can get maximum \$5,000 value per item with a \$250 deductible. This is the rate we have now. For an extra \$200, we can increase the maximum per item value to \$10,000 with a \$500 deductible – for a total insurance bill for of \$1,000. Also, remember we have an \$815 premium due in Sep/Oct for officers/directors liability and insurance. Karen asked if the club wanted to stay with the current amounts or increase our coverage? After some discussion, Cory moved we stay with the current amounts; Luke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
6. ***Any other new business?*** None.

***Adjourn:*** There being no other new business, Luke moved that we adjourn. Cory seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m. as people were arriving for the Banquet.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Mike Smith 2/28/21
2. Michele Fletcher 2/28/21
3. J. Michael Evans, 2/28/21
4. Jim Pearce, 2/28/21
5. Peter Torok 3/2/21
6. Jeff McNutt 3/2/21
7. Karen Edwards 3/2/21
8. Cory Smith 3/2/21