

Minutes: Banquet and General Membership Meeting
Saturday, February 27, 2021
Smith Farm Barn, Niota, TN

The Banquet this year was held in the Smith's large open heated workshop, as pandemic restrictions precluded us from using a restaurant and still maintaining adequate 8' plus clearance between tables and family quarantine groups. Rothchild's Event Planning provided 6' wide round tables, chairs, two other tables for food and awards to be laid out and table linens. Smokin' F Barbeque catered the event, with smoked brisket and chicken breast, bacon mac and cheese, peach baked beans, green beans, banana pudding, coffee and tea.

Greetings: President Alan Bruhin welcomed everyone and started the festivities. The first hour was devoted to eating, drinking and talking, and at 7 p.m. Alan called the meeting to order.

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

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

Members present: John Broucek; Cynthia Bruhin; Andy & Pam Buck; Denise, Tony, & Erin Chambers; Mitzi Evans; Liz Gibson; Jake Greenwell & Son; Kile & Tracey Griffin; Katie McCoy; Cheryl McNutt; Jim and Vicki Langa; Elena Smith; & Lisa Styles.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 16 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 58 (20% would be 12). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Officer's Reports

President's Report on last year's activities: Alan gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year – which was sadly impacted by the pandemic

- 1 set of AKC hunt tests – Spring test canceled by Hiwassee because of Covid. Fall hunt test in October; Master with one flight, double senior, double Junior.
- Our summer picnic / seminar was canceled due to Covid; we did have a Board meeting in September that doubled as a General business meeting with membership.
- Spring and Fall Club Trials were canceled because of the pandemic.
- 3 training/ seminars from November through February, plus several informal training sessions (Thank you, Cory!) during October and early November.
- Thanks to:
 - Cory and Elena Smith, for generously sharing their new farm and huge barn for events during the fall and winter, and for allowing us to have our socially distanced banquet here tonight;
 - Luke McCoy, Alan, and J. Michael Evans for sharing their judging expertise with us during the winter training/ seminars.
 - Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on December 13, 2020. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since late December. Mike Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Cory Smith and passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

- a. AKC report due following conclusion of this meeting.
- b. Received approval of judges panel for the spring hunt test.

Membership: Our current membership is 58 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and new memberships for 2021 are now due. There are boxes set on the table by the entry with forms and supplies for renewing your membership.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/27/21 is \$22,370.66. Karen handed out three copies of the full Treasurer's report for the past year; this included separate sheets for calendar year 2020 and for Calendar year 2021 to date. Balance in our ORNL FCU account at the end of 2020 was \$23,260.21, of which \$4,616.74 is earmarked for the youth fund. Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$1,500 including awards, catered food, heat, and rented equipment) and \$800 for the insurance bill. This will leave us with just at \$20,000 to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher: no significant changes during the year, other than the new rules for amateurs getting a full day to sign up for Master before anyone else can.

New Amateurs First rule: AKC has passed a new rule that is in effect as of April 1 and applies to all AKC Hunt Tests with limited master entries. Worker codes will still be given out as in the past, and people with codes can sign up a full day early (open at 8 p.m. central time on Tuesday). However, this year, 25 to 35% of all Master slots in every hunt test will be allocated initially for Amateurs, and they will also be able to sign up starting Tuesday evening at the same time as the test opens for workers. If someone signs their dog up as an Amateur, they will HAVE to handle the dog in that stake and cannot turn it over to a pro. They will not be able to sign up with a second handler either, which means that you can't put down anyone, pro OR amateur, as an alternate handler. As of Wednesday evening at the regular opening time, all slots not filled will then be available for anyone to sign up.

Old Business

Election of New members: Alan Bruhin. We have 7 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

- a. Brian / Lara Fretwell: Cleveland, TN, Cory Smith and Luke McCoy, sponsors
- b. James / Vicki Langa, Harrison, TN. Have two Labradors, are active in hunt testing. Sponsors Mike Smith, Cory Smith.
- c. Wade Leatherwood, Old Hickory, TN. Sponsors Lois Luthenauer & Sherie Catledge.

- d. Sydney Parks, Chattanooga, TN. Has a young Black lab puppy. Jeff & Cheryl McNutt, Sponsors.
- e. Cameron Pemberton, Chattanooga, Has a black lab puppy . Jeff & Cheryl McNutt, Sponsors.
- f. Wayne / Tina Rich: Dandridge, TN. Has a 2.5 year old black Lab. Alan Bruhin and Jeff McNutt, sponsors.
- g. Kelli & Joseph Riggs, Odessa, FL. Have a number of flatcoats. Jim Pearce and Lois Luthenauer are sponsors.

Michael Evans moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Lois Luthenauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Welcome to all new fully fledged members!

Upcoming Events Updates: We have a full line-up of events for this coming year, and planning is already well underway for the following events:

1. ***Mid-Week Master Hunt Test, single flight:*** April 6-7, 2021, Tuesday and Wednesday. This is an extra event that will be held at Brian Caldwell's place. We are hoping if this works out to have another mid-week Master in the summer, and possibly a double Junior/Senior and a third mid-week Master after our fall hunt test. This would be a great opportunity for club members to be able to enter a number of tests without lengthy travel.
2. ***Spring Club Trials:*** These are great ways for people to get your dog out in a new and strange place with other dogs, and see how close they are to being ready for official AKC hunt tests. We have tentatively scheduled two this spring: the first on March 20 at Chuck Atchley's Farm in Sevierville; the second on April 10 at either Darryl Miller's farm in Sweetwater, or at Brian Caldwell's in Georgetown. Information and directions on these will be in the Newsletters.
3. ***Spring Hunt Test:*** May 29-30, 2021, Hiwassee. This is usually our biggest event of the year and we need help with set-up, marshaling, and more. Status:
 - a. Judges and sites are approved, this is up on Entry Express. Will open Wednesday, 5/5 (Tuesday 5/4 for Amateurs and workers) and close 5/17/21. Ready to finalize on EE
 - b. Bird Techs: hoping to get the wildlife club from the Cleveland State community college again; they have been contacted and are eager to work.
 - c. We will have a split location for Master. Hiwassee's got too much share cropping going on to have a second Master there comfortably; one Master flight will be at Brian Caldwell's, which is only about 10-15 minutes' drive from Hiwassee.
4. ***Summer Seminar and Picnic:*** date and location to be determined.
5. ***Fall Club Trial:*** date and location to be determined.
6. ***Fall Hunt Test:*** October 23-24, 2021, Hiwassee and possibly Brian's place for an extra Master flight.

7. **Fall Training:** We will pick up with more club training events starting next November. Alan asked everyone to provide him with information on what topics they would like to see covered in these sessions.
8. **Advanced Judges' Seminar:** ETRC has put in a grant application for AKC support for putting on an advanced Judging Seminar in February 2022. Tentative location would be at the Athens Comfort Inn, with meeting rooms and overnight accommodations there, plus practical demonstrations at Cory Smith's farm in Niota. We do not have an answer on whether our grant proposal will be approved; there were three proposals from clubs in our region and initial word is they will approve at least one of them.

New Business:

1. **Awards Presentations.** President Alan Bruhin, with assistance from Luke McCoy, announced the following awards for 2020. Numbers were down for the year, reflecting the shortened hunt test season and other perturbations caused by the pandemic.

Junior Hunter: 2 member dogs earned their Junior Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Calamity Jane's Special Brew JH ("Chai"), Golden Retriever bred, owned, trained and handled by Michele Fletcher.
- Fired Up's Maximum Overdrive, Labrador Retriever owned, trained and handled by Lois Luthenauer.

Senior Hunter: Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Ned's Dedication SH ("Bauer"), Chesapeake Bay Retriever owned and handled by Cory Smith, who also did much of the training himself.

Master Hunter: Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo MH ("Zoey"), Golden Retriever bred and owned by Jim Pearce and Karen Edwards

Last year, we were missing several title plaques and one had an error, and these were also handed out – just a little late:

- Peter Torok and Fern Hill Kepes Narany Sugar JH.
- Luke McCoy and McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name MH ("Echo")
- Lisa Styles: new plaque to correct misspelled name.

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2020: None this year.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2020: Awarded to HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH ("Ivy"), with 26 points, Yellow Labrador Retriever owned, trained and handled by J. Michael Evans. Even with the abbreviated season, this award was as always a close fought battle among several top dogs.

ETRC Member of the Year, 2020: Cory and Elena Smith. In addition to Cory's service on the board and work at every event and in between, he and Elena have graciously allowed us to use their new farm this fall for training sessions, seminars, meetings, and this banquet. Elena has provided us with enough delicious food and beverages to feed an army! Well deserved.

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2020: Alan Bruhin, for his work as ETRC President, sharing his knowledge as a multiple times Master National level judge and competitor with the membership, and as a breeder of excellent Labrador Retrievers.

Youth Program: Lois Luthenauer – no entrants for 2020, but Lois described the program, which will pay entry fees to AKC and ETRC events for Juniors, and encouraged anyone who knows of a Junior who is interested to join the program for 2021. She displayed the perpetual trophy that goes with this award.

2. **In Memoriam:** It's all about the dogs. Sadly, they don't live as long as we do. For those people who have lost dogs during the year, we do have an 'in memoriam' page on the website and in the newsletter, and welcome pictures and tributes to any member dogs who pass on. Please send the info and photos to newsletter editor Karen Edwards.
3. **Election of Officers/Board** (*Slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee is presented for approval. There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the Bylaws, and nominations are now closed.*)

1. President: Alan Bruhin
2. Vice President: J. Michael Evans
3. Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
4. Board Member 2021-2024: Denise Chambers
5. Board Member 2020-2024: Cory Smith
6. Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
7. AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
8. Past President: Luke McCoy (non-elective)
9. Chief Marshall for 2021 tests: Lois Luthenauer (non-elective)

Remaining on the board are: Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt until Feb 2022, Jim Pearce and Peter Torok until Feb 2023. Going off the Board: Tom Gibson – thanks for your years of service and your hard work at every event! Alan commented how Tom is always there, always brings the ice, and how much we appreciate his last 6 years' service on the Board.

Alan called for a Motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot. This motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Cory Smith, and passed unanimously.

4. **Statement by New President:** Alan Bruhin commented that he had already made enough statements to last the evening, and proceeded directly on to the Door Prizes.

5. Door Prizes: Alan Bruhin. We had some nice door prizes this year. Each number was called, and the person could then come up and pick what they wanted. Results were as follows:

- a. Cory Smith selected the Tritronics Collar and Transmitter.
- b. Denise Chambers selected the duck decoy carved out of a fence post; we used these as judges' gifts last year.
- c. Luke McCoy selected the ETRC Camo hat
- d. Mitzi Evans selected the ETRC Sweatshirt
- e. Cynthia Bruhin was left with the pillow sham showing an upland hunting scene.

Any other new business? None

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by multiple people including Luke McCoy, Cory Smith, and J. Michael Evans, the vote passed, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Adjusted list of attendees, J. Michael Evans, 2/28/21

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