

## **ETRC Board Meeting, Saturday, 3/20/21 After the Club Trial Chuck Atchley's Revilo, Sevierville, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Luke McCoy, Mike Smith, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Denise Chambers, Cory Smith, Peter Torok, Jeff McNutt

**Absent, excused:** J. Michael Evans (work)

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

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

**President's Report:** None for now

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

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/27/21; 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. Cory seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
  
- **Correspondence:**
  - AKC officers/Board elections report sent to AKC
  - AKC sent approvals for both scheduled tests
  - Sent premium in for insurance, requested insurance certs
  - Website work to put up awards, new officers, dates – about 75% done, pending receipt of pictures for balance. Made some color changes on home page, added club trial rules as a new menu item on the left, combined “Useful Resources” and “Helpful Links” with no change in content.
  - MARC ballot for election of western region representative – done. It was an uncontested election, so Karen cast the ballot online after consultation with Alan and J. Michael.
  
- **Membership:** Current 2021 membership is 37, including 2 waiting first reading later today. 23 haven't renewed so far this year; will send out reminders at first of April & May. Note: 2 people renewed at the test and 1 rejoined.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance as of 3/17/21 is \$20,561.27.

### **Old Business**

1. **Ad-Hoc Training sessions:** We discussed whether we should try to put on any training sessions during the rest of the year, or wait again till late next fall. In the open discussion that followed, summer sessions were not looked on favorably. More sessions to help prepare for tests seems like a good idea, we will try to set up one for May if possible with all our other activities going on. The idea of mini-seminars along with the training

sessions should maybe be only done in the winter. Since these can be held indoors, we may be able to have the session even if we can't do any actual setups. For now, what is needed most is experienced handlers working with inexperienced handlers on setups.

2. ***April 6-7 Midweek Master Hunt Test:*** We went through the assignments list and updated items as necessary. The test is now open, and we have 60 entries so far out of 66 allowed. Plans for this test are well along. Highlights from the discussion:
  - a. Insurance certs have been received, one has been sent to Caldwell that covers both this test and the May 29-30 test.
  - b. We decided to not have a judges' dinner and just pay for their meals, and to buy sandwiches from Subway.
  - c. Michele agreed to purchase ice and a few softdrinks for the judges' coolers – Keith Maready has requested diet Pepsi and water, no preferences stated for Chaney. Maybe some Gatorade or some generic soft drinks.
  - d. Alan and J. Michael will discuss duck numbers and get with Kiley Buettner to order them soon; since we will not be having live flyers, we will need fewer than normal plus no gunners or ammo. Crates are at Hiwassee; someone will need to go pick them up unless Kiley is willing to wait till the Spring Test duck delivery to get our empties. Either Jody Ware or Brian Caldwell may have a couple of our crates.
  - e. Mike Smith agreed to bring the small trailer from Cory's farm to Brian's by 1:00 on Monday afternoon, April 5, and will bring down the duck gas box. The trailer will be left there till after our Club Trial on April 10, and either Cory or Mike Smith will take it back to Cory's place after that.
  - f. Brian will supply much of the equipment and has 2 ATVs we can use for running around. He will be supplying 4 birdboys that we will pay at our standard \$60/per person per day rate.
  
3. ***Spring Hunt Test:*** We went through the assignment list on this test as well. This test is not open yet, but all items with AKC and Entry Express are finalized. Highlights:
  - a. Motel: Reservations still need to be made for the judges at the Best Western Dayton motel, and after that Karen will send them the letters confirming all arrangements. One judge has not provided an email address so that one will have to go via USPS.
  - b. Headquarters Question: Are we going to be able to use the HQ cabin again this year, or will we need to set up headquarters on the porch again? Need to discuss with TWRA. \*\*\*\*\***Update as of March 22:** We will still need to have check-ins, tee shirt sales and ribbon ceremonies outside, but unless the pandemic worsens, club members can use the office for other activities or for cooling off.
  - c. Marshals: Lois has most of the marshals identified already, only need one more for Master and several more relief marshals.
  - d. Judges' Dinner: We decided not to have a judges' dinner – we may start back with one for our fall test as hopefully by then the pandemic will be pretty well a thing of the past. We also decided to again buy Subway sandwiches for this test – Peter moved that we finalize these arrangements, Jeff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. . Karen will buy the sandwiches and run them around to the sites – BUT, if the breeding we have planned for next week takes, the puppies will be due on May 29. If they

haven't come yet, Karen will not be able to come. If they have come already, Jim and I will swap off puppy-sitting duties and hunt test duties. So, we need an alternate who will deal with the lunches if I'm absent. Michele can be alternate treasurer and pay the bills that need to be dealt with at the test.

- e. Ducks are still to be ordered. Alan and J. Michael will deal with this.
- f. Bird Tech contract has been sent to the Cleveland State Wildlife society coordinator and he says he will get this back to me as soon as possible after spring break. He is trying to line up kids to work now. I have sent him the insurance cert. The contract only calls for 16 techs to be provided; this was based on the assumption that Brian would have his workers do the tech work for the master flight at his place. Need to pin this down soon, so we have time to ask CCC for more techs if he's not.
- g. Judges gifts: Michele recommended that we consider personalized signs, which don't have to be ordered until about 3 weeks or so before the test. The website for these is [AJDMetalDesigns.com](http://AJDMetalDesigns.com), and she requested that all Board members look this site over before our next meeting and decide if this is what we want to do. Denise suggested we also consider personalized duck calls. Each of these items would cost around \$100 each, considering tax and shipping. Decision to be made next time.
- h. Ribbons: Karen needs to inventory the ribbons ASAP to determine if we will need more before the spring test. We had enough, but may not with the extra master and possibly a double/double JH/SH test before the spring test.

4. ***Other Tests:*** Dates need to be finalized ASAP and gotten on the AKC schedule. Penalties for dates not 3 months in advance (\$65 instead of \$15, although it is possible this can be waived if Michele calls them in person).

- a. Double double SH / JH: in late April or early May? This test would be necessary if we want to have 3 mid-week Master tests at Brian Caldwell's. It would also be at Caldwell's. Issues discussed:
  - i. Suggested format is two Juniors each morning, and two seniors each afternoon. Both Juniors in the morning will start at the same time, but one will start on the water series and the other one on the land series. The same format will be used for the afternoon Senior tests. The judges have to swap, though, so that not more than two tests are judged by the same judging teams, in order for all four passes to count towards a title. Thus, Judges A and B will judge one Junior test, and C&D will judge the second. The next day, it will be Judges A and C (for example) and B and D. Alan is not sure if AKC has completely bought into this scenario yet, and J. Michael, who is working with them about this, was not here to give us a status update. The advantages of this are that dogs will potentially be able to finish a title in one two-day test. Downside of this – if we have too many dogs, it will be a nightmare, and we can't limit Junior or Senior. Plus, if there are more than 50 Senior dogs, we have to split the test and there is not enough room at Caldwell's place to run three series. However, for the last couple of years, the weekend tests have only had about 30-35 Juniors and about the same number of seniors (although there is the memorable test a few years ago where we had over 90 dogs), and presumably there will be fewer at a mid-week test.

- ii. Timing: Brian Caldwell and Jody Ware are both pushing for this to be done early in the season. Midweek tests can only be done on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday – so we have to go either Tuesday-Wednesday or Wednesday-Thursday. Having it on the weekend is pretty near impossible with the already-full test schedule. We decided to look at dates and felt that April was completely impossible, but early May might be doable. Karen moved that we try to set up a test on Tuesday May 4 – Wednesday May 5. Mike Smith seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissenting votes. J. Michael will go back to AKC to try to get tentative approval.
  - iii. Judges: we had hoped to use club judges, but Luke McCoy can't do it during the week. Alan is going to be very tied up with puppies due the end of April, and his Master Amateur 2-week judging assignment in May, so will try to find another pair of judges to go with J. Michael and Lisa Styles.
  - iv. \*\*\*\*\*Update as of March 22: AKC has approved the basic format as discussed above, has no problem with the dates, and Michael and Michele are working with them to get the test set up in the Event Management system so it can be put up on Entry Express.
- b. Summer Midweek Master : June - September? Decided to table this for now and revisit at our next meeting. We are close to the 3-month in advance AKC lead time on this one, may need to pay the penalty \$50 fee if we don't get a date pinned down quickly. Because of the pandemic, AKC is granting waivers to this fee for now, if you call them and ask. Don't know how long that waiver will last, and it's not so much money that it's a big deal anyway.
  - c. Fall Hunt Test: AKC has us down for October 23-24, 2021 but we haven't entered the data and details yet.
  - d. Late Fall Midweek Master: November? Decided to table this for now and revisit at our next meeting.
5. **Club Trial**: Today. Good turnout, good day. Very pleased how this turned out. See attached report of the club trial, which is made a part of these minutes.
  6. **Club Trial #2**: tentatively set for April 10, location maybe Darryl Miller's. After some discussion, we decided to move this to Brian Caldwell's. That way, we can leave the small trailer there after the mid-week master test, and can be more assured that we won't have to cancel because of heavy rains which often block access to Darryl's farm. This will be a 'bring your own lunch' affair.
  7. **New Holding Blinds & Other Equipment**: Cory has completed the inventory of good club blinds. We have 4 that are new, 5 others with no problems, and some others that are serviceable. Some can possibly be fixed. The discussion of buying new ones was tabled for now, as J. Michael is following up a lead he has for purchasing a number of second-hand blinds that might work for us. We will definitely need more before the big spring hunt test.

Once we finalize the number we are buying and decide which ones can be repaired, we can offer some old blinds for sale to club members.

### **New Business:**

1. ***New Members:*** Two for first reading:
  - a. Robert / Charlotte White, works Servpro of Chattanooga, lives at 607 Ohio Avenue, Signal Mountain, TN 37377. Email [RWhite@servpro9594.com](mailto:RWhite@servpro9594.com); work phone 423-326-1406, cell phone 423-505-5000. Has a Black Lab, 2 years old, in training with Brian Caldwell. Interested in hunt tests, dog training, club trials, breeding, and is a DU member. Will volunteer for awards committee and to help with ribbons handling. Requested Brian Caldwell as a sponsor, but it's hard to get feedback from him and a signature on the form. Cory Smith and Mike Smith volunteered to serve as his sponsors.
  - b. Kevin & Della Poe, circuit court clerk, Jefferson County. Live at 725 Grace church Road, Dandridge, TN 37725, email [kpoe2000@gmail.com](mailto:kpoe2000@gmail.com). Cell phone 865-696-1024. Have two young Labradors, 6 mo & 1 year, interested in hunt tests, field trials, club trials. Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Peter Torok and Jeff McNutt volunteered to serve as sponsors.

Luke moved we accept these people as provisional members. Mike Smith seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor. Karen will contact each of the new members telling them names and contact info of their sponsors; sponsors will have access to the new members' contact info through these minutes when completed.

2. ***Judges Seminar, status of grant proposal:*** Alan: No update on status. Once we get info on whether our proposal is accepted or rejected, we will need to have a discussion about costs, how much grant would help, do we need grant to proceed, do we want to have a judges' seminar even without grant if we're not approved, and if so, one of the basic ones or an advanced one?
3. ***Free Membership for Caldwell:*** We have given Jody a free membership for 5 years, expiring next February, for holding so many seminars for us. Karen moved that we offer a two-year free membership in ETRC to Brian Caldwell to thank him for offering to host so many events at his farm this year. He is not asking for any financial remuneration for the use of his land (it does, after all, greatly benefit him not having to travel to so many tests), and this is a small way we can show our appreciation. Michele and Mike Smith both seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Karen will notify Caldwell of his new status.
4. ***Any other new business?*** None.

***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 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Michele Fletcher and J. Michael Evans: updated section on the Double Double JH / SH test to reflect info they got from AKC on March 22.
2. J. Michael Evans: update on use of Hiwassee cabin during spring test.

Approvals:

1. Michele Fletcher, 3/22/21
2. J. Michael Evans, 3/22/21
3. Jeff McNutt, 3/22/21
4. Mike Smith, 3/22/21
5. Peter Torok, 3/23/21
6. Luke McCoy, 3/23/21
7. Cory Smith, 3/23/21
8. Jim Pearce, 3/23/21
9. Karen Edwards, 3/23/21