

ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 4/26/23 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Lois Luthenauer, Denise Chambers. Cory Smith (on phone)

Absent: Alan Bruhin, Jeff Rader (MARC), Luke McCoy (work)

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 8 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/25/23; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website by 2/28/23. Mike Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Lois seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. Membership as of today is 41 including several new members who joined after 11/1/22 and didn't have to renew, one who has rejoined after a year, and two new members. 20 from last year haven't rejoined yet but 3 have told me their checks are in the mail (Tidwell, Montgomery, Styles), and the PO has never delivered the mail from last Thursday which had 2 of these checks in it. Sent out reminders to people on 4/18/23; will send out again in mid-May, then cut people who haven't rejoined from the email list on June 1. Cory Smith is only remaining officer / board member who hasn't rejoined yet.

- **Correspondence:**
 - Got insurance binder, requested/received certs for Brian for May and June tests.
 - Nice thank you card from the Cuddihys, read out. Special call-outs for our 'generous' judges' gifts, and for the delicious sandwiches.
 - Sent thank you email to Robert Brewer about the Wildlife Society bird techs.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$40,044.37. We made a little less than \$4000 on the April test after all expenses paid. Made almost \$1000 on the first midweek master. Sent \$500 to the Wildlife Society as an extra honorarium for Krystal's help with our medical issue at the last test, got a very nice thank you email from Robert Brewer.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele: nothing to report.

Old Business

1. 2023 Hunt Tests.

- a. Other tests: May 16-17, Master only; status? Our judges are still holding firm. Karen will send out letters to them confirming arrangements in the next week. The test opened

yesterday for amateurs and people with worker codes, and 21 were entered already. By the time the meeting ended we were in the 40s. Our entries are being hurt by Middle Tennessee's double master the weekend before us, and possibly by two other midweeks the same day in Georgia and Mississippi. Very crowded schedule!

- b.** June 6-7: Master Only. We have judges and are ready to open. Issue here is whether we order ducks for both May and June tests at the same time (~200 ducks) and keep 100-120 at Cory's for the 3 weeks in between. Otherwise we have to pay higher per-duck costs for the extra shipping without other tests getting ducks at the same time. Karen remarked that the difference in duck prices between our March test, where there were no other concurrent deliveries, and the April test where he had other tests he was delivering for, was only \$1.50 per duck (\$18.50 vs. \$17). Given the cost of feed, which Cory said was \$25 per 50-pound bag and they would likely go through 8-10 bags, plus any possible deaths, would likely more than make up for the difference in price per duck. With feed alone, that would add about \$2.50 value per duck. Jim moved that when J. Michael calls Kiley Buettner, that if the price is less than \$2.50 per duck to have them sent in two separate orders, that we do go with two orders. Lois seconded, and the vote was unanimous.
 - c.** October 21-22 maybe. J. Michael reported that Lucky 7 Ranch is back on the market at \$10.5M, but owner Ken C says that we can use it as long as he is the owner, and if it sells before then, he will work hard to try to convince the new owner to let us use the date anyway. We don't have any judges yet. We discussed the date, which is the weekend before the Master National over in Cheraw. Many people will be already over there working their dogs for a week, so this may be a very sparse test. We looked at the calendar, and asked Michele to contact AKC to see if September 30-October 1 will work instead. There is a test at Mid-South that weekend, but nothing else in the area. Michele will report back, and will make the change if it's open. If possible, she will retain the October date for next year.
 - d.** Nov 14-15 master only maybe, if we can have an October test with some JH/SH. No judges yet, pending on being able to conduct October test.
- 2. *Summer picnic and General Business Meeting:*** After some discussion, we set the date for September 17, Sunday, at Cory Smith's, starting in the morning, with a picnic lunch and afternoon business meeting. The morning sessions will be a club trial and we will have live fliers, one for each dog, for this trial. We will need to hold over some ducks from the June test for this – Cory thinks having 20-25 ducks over the summer is doable in his pen. We decided that for this year we will make this trial free for club members. Others who wish to come will be charged a \$10 fee to partially cover the cost of the ducks and ribbons.
- 3. *Pro Seminars:*** We had discussed having a big name presenter, like Mitch White, come for a one or two day seminar. We decided to set up a committee to make some contacts and present a proposal to the board along with dates. Karen and Lois volunteered to be on the committee, and Mike Evans was volunteered as well. Mike Smith volunteered Donna to serve as well. Mike commented that Tammy Pierce has offered to run a 'ladies only' handling seminar for us if we'd like to do that. This seems like a good idea too. The committee will report back at the next Board meeting with a proposal / proposals.

4. **Training groups:** Lois has offered training twice and has some participation. These training opportunities will be featured in the newsletter each month, and Karen will solicit other people to let us know about other training opportunities.
5. **Equipment:** anything to discuss or do before the next test? Jim has two new Map gas cylinders, and will buy a few more before then next test. Walmart has them at a cheaper price but their availability is not stellar as they are mostly sold out.

New Business:

1. **New Members:**

- a. Blake & Kimberly Johnson, Sr. Construction Project Manager, 235 County Road 53, Athens, TN 37303, blake443@yahoo.com, 423-665-0111 home, 617-480-5201 cell. Volunteers for whatever is needed, hunt test set-up. Owns a year-old yello lab. Interested in Hunt tests, field trials, dog training; is a member of NRA, DU, and Delta Waterfowl club. Sponsors: Alan and Cory.
- b. Heath & Nikol Shuler, self employed, 10640 Rivermist Lane, Knoxville, Tn 47922, JHShuler@gmail.com, cell phone 828-550-2803. Volunteers for whatever is needed; has three Labradors 4,2, and 1; interested in hunt tests, field trials, club trials, and breeding. Sponsors: Mike Smith and Mike Evans.

Lois moved we accept these people into membership on first reading; Jim seconded; the vote was unanimous.

2. **Other Membership issues:**

- a. Suggestion from Rhey Houston for lifetime membership option. Would need Bylaws change. After some discussion centered around the difficulties of getting AKC approvals to bylaws changes, and the possible problem with recordkeeping, we decided to keep things as they are for now. Karen will send out reminders each year to people who don't renew by April, and again in May.
- b. Free 2023 membership for Caldwell in thanks for using his property? Karen moved that we extend a free membership to Brian for his support of the club. Mike Evans seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

3. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Do we need to set up a date already, repeat with Bearden Banquet Hall, preferably Saturday, February 24, 2024? Need to get with them ASAP. Mike Smith appointed Alan (in absentia!) to contact Bearden Banquet hall ASAP to get this going.
4. **Webmaster Change:** Mary Hext, who has been our webmaster since before 2011 and maybe longer, is retiring. She has been outstanding and super reasonable in price. Karen will take it over for a while at least starting in July, but we may need a different solution long term. Karen will write a thank you to Mary for her long and quite wonderful service.
5. **Defibrillator / first aid kit:** discussion on whether we want to buy one of these or not – or at least take a new look at our first aid kit which was last renovated in about 2020 by Jeff McNutt. After doing some research, it was obvious that this is more than the club can handle. There are requirements for monthly checks, yearly training, yearly recalibration, and yearly oversight by a doctor of this program. Mike Smith commented that the county

EMTs have trained people and units that meet all the requirements, and one of them attends ball games and similar events in the county. He has asked them to see if they might be willing to come and be on site for our hunt tests, and what the fee would involve. This might be a much better solution. There was no decision reached on revamping the current first aid kit, although the consensus seemed to be that this would be a good idea.

6. **Any other new business?**

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

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Denise Chambers 04/27/23
2. Lois Luthenauer 4/28/23
3. Michele Fletcher 4/30/23
4. Karen Edwards 4/30/23
5. Jim Pearce 4/30/23
6. Alan Bruhin 5/1/23
7. Jeff Rader 5/1/23
8. Luke McCy 5/1/23
9. Mike Evans 5/1/23