

**Minutes for Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 24, 2024  
Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Jeff Rader, Lois Luthenauer

**Absent, excused,** Cory Smith, Denise Chambers

**Members present:** Cynthia Bruhin; Gale Frana; Kyle Griffin; Bob Houston; Blake and Kim Johnson; Dick & Jolynn Lamping; Nate, Hayley Lamping and son; Brent & Macy Naveiro; Nancy Rader; Bob Smith; Donna Smith; Ryan Smith.

**Guests Present:** Jon Osteen, potential new member. Manager of the old Petsafe boarding / training facility; has 150 acre Loudon property that they are thinking about offering field training classes /events on.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 17 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 58 (20% would be 12). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. following dinner. The menu included honey pecan chicken, prime rib, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes, dinner rolls, garden salad, and cheesecake for dessert. It was all extremely good! Complimentary wine, water, lemonade, coffee, and ice tea were available, as well as beer that could be purchased from the Banquet Hall bartender.

### **Officer's Reports**

#### ***Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on last year's activities:***

Mike Smith welcomed everyone. He then gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year—

- Our first 2023 AKC Hunt Test on March 14-15 at Brian Caldwell's place. This was a single flight Master Only test.
- April 1 and 2, a quadruple Junior / Senior hunt test, at the Hiwassee Reserve. This was an opportunity to earn a title in a single weekend and was extremely well attended.
- Several club member open training events at Lois Luthenauer's Retriever Retreat during April, May and June.
- Another Master Only hunt test at Brian Caldwell's May 16-17;
- A third Master Only hunt test at Brian Caldwell's June 6-7;
- A fall picnic combined with a Club Trial and frozen ducks, September 17 at Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater. This trial featured two FREE entries for each member!
- Our fall hunt test at Lucky 7 Ranch September 30 – October 1, with a single Master stake and double Junior / Senior.
- Fourth and final Midweek Master only hunt test at Brian Caldwell's, November 14-15.
- Thanks to
  - Brian Caldwell, who let us use his farm repeatedly this year for mid-week hunt tests and for a second flight of Master during our spring test.
  - Lois Luthenauer, for conducting a number of club training events at her place during the spring;
  - Ken Campbell for the use of his wonderful Lucky 7 Ranch;
  - Members J. Michael Evans, Lisa Vencille, Lisa Styles, for judging some of our hunt tests this year, and thanks and congratulations to Lois Luthenauer for apprenticing; she is now able to judge Junior / Senior tests.

- Cory and Elena Smith, for storing our club trailers and for taking care of leftover ducks in the ETRC duck pen on their property.
  - Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year
- **New equipment:** After replacing much of our equipment over the last several years, we are in pretty good shape. We did buy some umbrellas for the bird technicians, a few more blinds to replace ones that are worn out, and a couple of the new smaller thunder boomer shotgun simulators for use at tests. Also, we ran out of duck calls for the bird kids and had to do an emergency re-supply during the fall.
  - **Mike has kept in touch with the new Boy Scout Camp Davy Crockett in northeast Tennessee,** which comprises several hundred acres with a mess hall. This group is willing for us to use their property for some of our events, but at the time of the initial contact, there was no available pond or ponds. Mike recently contacted the camp manager, who relayed that an area has been cleared, and a contract let for digging a large pond. This may be finished by this fall. This camp is located off I81, north of Morristown and south of Rogersville, about 20-30 minutes away from any motels / restaurants.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on December 5, 2023. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since February 2. Alan Bruhin moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois Luthenauer, and passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

- a. AKC report due following conclusion of this meeting, identifying our new officers and board members.
- b. Recent renewal of our Club General Liability insurance policy. Price remained the same at \$815.

**Website, Newsletter and Facebook Page:** We are continuing to try to improve our communications with members and people who might be interested in becoming members. Alan Bruhin is the Facebook page manager, and Karen deals with the Newsletter and website. Please, if you have news to share – a new puppy, a litter announcement, a new title, a dog passing, a new dog-related business – even important personal news like a new baby or a new spouse! – please let us know and we'd be happy to spread the news.

**Membership:** Our current membership is 58 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and new memberships for 2024 are now due. We have brought along a supply of forms which are available from Karen, who will be happy to take your check or cash.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/23/24 is \$37,663.66, which is about \$464 less than we had at the same time last year. Karen had placed two copies of the full Treasurer's report for the past year on each table. This includes all expenses and income from the date of last year's banquet (2/25/23) to today. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the youth fund.

Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$2,800 including awards and food), \$1,145 for ribbons on order, \$136 for duck bands on order, and \$360 for a security certificate for the website so we will no longer get that irritating 'danger/ Warning! Notices when you sign in. This will leave us with around \$33,000 to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

**AKC Delegate's Report:** Michele Fletcher reported that the only changes during the year are ones already mentioned in the newsletter: a change to the Junior Hunter rule change allowing handlers to talk quietly with their dogs and touch them for reassurance; and a change making it easier for hunt test clubs to add Field Trial events to their Hunt Test events.

## Old Business

**Election of New members:** Mike Smith. We have 3 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

- a. Melissa Dobson, Calhoun, GA. Melissa is a pro trainer who comes to most of our tests and does very well with her dogs. Sponsors Mike Evans and Luke McCoy.
- b. Brent & Macy Naveiro: Clinton, TN. Have a young black Lab. Sponsors Mike Evans, Mike Smith. Brent and Macy are here tonight, so welcome!
- c. Christi Williams, Acworth, GA. Christi runs an Irish Water Spaniel and came to our fall test. Sponsors are Karen Edwards & Lois Luthenauer.

Karen Edwards moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. J. Michael Evans seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**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. **March 10:** Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3:00? Chuck Atchley's farm, Sevierville. Good practice for the hunt test season. The location at Chuck's farm is confirmed; Alan or J. Michael will get with Chuck to get a street address so this can be advertised in the March newsletter for GPS purposes. Rain date will be March 17.
2. **April 13-14:** Weekend Master Only Test, limit 66 dogs, tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater.
3. **May Midweek Master Only Hunt Test:** 1 flight, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 14-15, Brian Caldwell's farm.
4. **Spring quadruple JH / SH Hunt Test:** June 1-2, Saturday and Sunday, Hiwassee WMA. Unlimited entries.
5. **June Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, June 11-12 (Tuesday – Wednesday), tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch.
6. **Fall Club Trial, Picnic, Business Meeting,** September 15, Sunday, tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch.
7. **Fall Hunt Test:** October 19-20, tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch. This will be a full test with double JH, double SH, and at least one MH flight, possibly two.
8. **November Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, November 12-13 (Tuesday – Wednesday), Brian Caldwell's farm.

9. **Other Activities:** We are looking at adding some other activities such as a summer seminar with a pro trainer that would be free or reduced cost for members; big and small group training sessions, etc. We need your feedback on what you would like your club to offer.

## **New Business:**

1. **Awards Presentations.** J. Michael Evans announced the following awards for 2023:

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

- Dick's High Flying Lazer Teal JH ("Teal"), owned and handled by Dick Lamping;
- Gus The Ol' Goose Getter JH ("Gus"), owned and handled by Brent Naveiro.

**Senior Hunter:** One dog earned a Senior Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Fern Hill Fiona McCool SH ("Fee"), Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce, trained and handled by Jody Ware.

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

- Cane Creek's Fresh Squeezed MH ("Juice"), owned by Heath Shuler and handled by Jon Osteen.
- Spitfire's Whiskey Teal MH ("Teal"), owned by Janet Summers and handled by Brian Caldwell.

**Qualifying at the Master National:** The Master National Invitational Hunt Test was held in Thomasville, Georgia in October 2023, with more than 1100 dogs showing up to start. Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to one ETRC member for making it all the way through all very tough series:

- Ringtail's Headhunter MH ("Clyde"), bred, owned and handled by pro trainer Brian Caldwell.

**Qualifying at the Master Amateur:** Two ETRC members made the trek to Giddings, Texas in April 2023 for this national invitational event and made it through all 6 series:

- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH ("Cin"), owner / handler / breeder Alan Bruhin
- Rader's Charlie Belle MH ("Belle"), owner/handler Jeff Rader

**Congratulations also** to the following ETRC members and their dogs who qualified for the National events, but either did not go or did not make it through all the series. Just qualifying for an invitation is a huge achievement!

### ***Master National Invitees***

- McCoy's Precious Gem Of The South MH, owned by Luke McCoy & handled by Brian Caldwell
- Blythe Ferry's Indy Dos MH, owned by Mike and Donna Smith & handled by Brian Caldwell
- CrossPointe's Blindside Blitz MH, owned by Noah and Rhey Houston, handled by Brian Caldwell
- L7troublesomewhataboutbob MH, owned by Bob Smith & handled by Brian Caldwell
- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, bred, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- Gator Pts Don't Mess With My Toot Toot MH, owned by Barbara & Mike Reed, handled

by Mandy Cieslinski or Alan Sandifer

**Master Amateur Invitees**

- Gator Pts Don't Mess With My Toot Toot MH, owned by Mike Reed
- Trinity's Zoey Love MH, owned by Barbara Reed

While we are on the subject of National invitation events, Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce would also like to brag that a puppy they bred, **Fern Hill Panda's Sunday Best \*\* MH40 MAH FDHF, "Violet"**, owned and handled by Bruce Hayes, Berkeley, CA, also earned her MAH title and qualified for the Hunt Test Hall of Fame at this year's Master Amateur. She has two previous Master National passes but didn't go this year. Violet is a daughter of Panda (Fern Hill Pandemonium MH WCX OD), and is a littermate sister of Zoey (Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo MH).

**Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2023:** The award winner this year, consisting of a plaque and a year's custodianship of the Perpetual Trophy, is:

- Fern Hill I Mint To Do That ("Mint"). Mint is bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, and was shown to her qualifying wins in puppy stakes and club trial JH stake by Jim prior to her first birthday. She is now in training with Jody Ware and hopes to make her Senior Hunter debut this fall. Mint is by Wynwood's Over The Top MH13 QA2 CCA and out of Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH.

**Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2023:** This award goes to the dog who during the previous year has earned the most points in Hunt Tests and Club Trials. For the third year in a row, the award (an engraved plaque to keep and custodianship of the perpetual trophy for the year) goes to:

- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, bred, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin. This talented pair is obviously hard to beat, with 34 points during the year!

**Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award, 2023:** This is a new award honoring charter member and long-time club officer Chuck Atchley. The award is intended to honor one dog yearly who over its lifetime has made significant contributions in the field, breeding shed, and other dog-related endeavors. Although the award is in the name of the dog, this is a team activity, and lots of credit also goes to the owners, trainers, and handlers involved in achieving these accomplishments. The inaugural award for 2023, which consists of a plaque for the owner to keep and custodianship of the new perpetual trophy, goes to:

- **Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH:** Coal was owned by David Knott, and was trained and handled by both David and by Brian Caldwell. He has at least 5 Master National passes, passed some 46 out of 48 Master Hunt tests entered, and is a top sire of many fine dogs who are already competing and earning accolades. Coal died last year, but his impact on the sport will continue for some time.

**AKC Sportsmanship Award for 2023:** The award this year goes to President Mike Smith, who has worked his socks off at all our events during the year, led the club, made all the contacts with the Boy Scouts for possible use of their property in the future, and has taken up handling his own young Labrador.

**ETRC Member of the Year, 2023:** The Member of the Year is Donna Smith, who served as Chief Marshal, filled in on lunch duty for one test, took care of updating the club's first aid kit, all while running her dog(s) in multiple events.

**Special Award:** Mike Evans presented a special honorarium for outgoing president Mike Smith, who has guided the club tirelessly for the last two years. He was presented with a \$250 gift card for Bass Pro, and a thank you card signed by all the Board members and officers present.

2. **Election of Officers/Board: Mike Smith.** The slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee as listed below is presented for election . There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the Bylaws, and nominations are now closed.

1. President: J. Michael Evans
2. Vice President: Alan Bruhin
3. Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
4. Board Member Feb 2024- Feb 2027: Bob Smith
5. Board Member Feb 2024- Feb 2027: Kyle Griffin
6. Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
7. AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
8. Past President: Mike Smith (non-elective)
9. Chief Marshall for 2024 tests: Donna Smith (non-elective)

Remaining on the board are: Luke McCoy & Lois Luthenauer (through February 2025); and Jim Pearce and Jeff Rader (through February 2026).

Thanks so much to Cory Smith and Denise Chambers, who are going off the board, for your service these past years. Denise, you didn't have to move to Mississippi to get away from us!

Mike Smith called for a Motion to approve the slate of candidates by voice vote rather than by secret ballot. This motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Michele Fletcher, and passed unanimously.

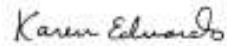
Then J. Michael Evans moved that we approve the slate of candidates as listed. Jim Pearce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. **Statement by New President:** J. Michael Evans urged everyone to get involved in volunteering to help run events. Doesn't have to be long – an hour or two a day will be a big help. With us putting on so many tests, and always having the same people doing all the work, it's wearing people out. He also thanked ETRC's Secretary Treasurer Karen Edwards and Hunt Test Secretary Michele Fletcher for all the work they do behind the scenes, and asked for a round of applause in appreciation. J. Michael mentioned that we are going to be losing Hiwassee altogether very shortly, so if anyone knows of any other locations we can possible hold hunt tests, to please be thinking about it. He is looking forward to a busy and productive year, and wished everyone the best.
4. **Door Prizes:** Alan Bruhin brought along raffle tickets and made sure each person attending got one. During the meeting, Mike Smith called out numbers for 2 or 3 prizes at a time, finishing up with the last door prize just before adjournment. There were a variety of door prizes, including 3 reimbursement vouchers for entry fees for ETRC tests (worth up to \$100 each); decoys, gift certificates from Rural King, fresh farm eggs, leashes, etc. There were enough door prizes that everyone who attended got one!

***Any other new business?***

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lois Luthenauer, the vote passed unanimously, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Typo on amount of special award for Mike Smith. (J. Michael Evans, 2/25/24)
2. Correction on name of AKC Sportsmanship Award (J. Michael Evans, 2/25/24)

Approvals:

1. J. Michael Evans, 2/25/24
2. Mike Smith, 2/26/24
3. Kyle Griffin, 2/26/24
4. Alan Bruhin, 2/27/24
5. Michele Fletcher, 2/27/24
6. Jim Pearce, 2/28/24
7. Karen Edwards, 2/28/24