

Minutes: Picnic Meeting, Sunday, September 15, 2024 Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater, TN

Present from the Board: : Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Lois Luthenauer, Kyle Griffin

Absent:, J. Michael Evans, Luke McCoy, Bob Smith, Jeff Rader

Members present: Jo Ann and Victor Burk; Tracey Griffin; Caleb & Savannah Kirtner; David Knott; Dick & Jolynn Lamping; Nate Lamping; Brent Naveiro; Jon and Taylor Osteen; Mike and Allyson Osteen; Justin and Allie Pinkston; Zach & Tyra Pry; Donna Smith; Jan Summers; Peter Torok.

Guests present: Stone Payne, Ashley Windelera

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 20 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 65 (20% would be 13). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. following/during a picnic pizza lunch provided by the Club. Thanks to people who brought desserts – Jo Ann Burk for the cookie trays, and Karen Edwards for the brownies. In President Mike Evans' absence, Vice President Alan Bruhin presided.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on activities so far this year:

- Master Only Hunt tests in April, May, and June at Lucky 7 & Brian Caldwell's places.
- Quadruple JH/SH test in June at Hiwassee.
- Our next hunt test will be a double JH, double SH, and single flight Master right here at Lucky 7 on October 19-20. The entries will open Wednesday, September 25, 2024 7:00:00 PM CT (Workers/Amateur Set Aside open: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 7:00:00 PM CT. Entries Close: Monday, October 7, 2024 11:59:59 PM CT.
- Our final hunt test will be 11/12-13, another Midweek Master Only single flight test at Brian Caldwell's.
- Our first club trial of the year was in March, and our second one was this morning. Thanks to all for coming!
- Thanks to
 - Brian Caldwell, who let us use his farm repeatedly this year for mid-week hunt tests
 - Ken Campbell for letting us use his wonderful facilities a number of times including today and in October.
 - All the members who judged, worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year.

- Special thanks to new members the Osteens and Caleb Kirchner who took over manning the blinds and shooting the ducks for us during the hunt test stakes this morning. Great job!
- New equipment: After purchasing quite a bit of equipment the last several years, we have bought some small items this year -- a new first aid kit, some rubber mats, the new ETRC banner attached to the popup we are sitting under, and some burlap duck bags instead of the empty feed sacks we have been using. Anything more that we need before the end of the year? Nothing was mentioned.
- Alan Bruhin asked Mike Smith if he had any updated info about the new Boy Scouts of America property north of Morristown, which is a possibility for events in future years. Mike said he had talked with his contact during the last month and the pond is partly done but won't be finished until next year. Alan also mentioned Heath Shuler's and the Osteen's new venture for hunt training / testing facilities under development, and said that we were hoping that would be something we could draw on in the future.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** The last meeting was on July 2, 2024. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website. Jim Pearce moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Mike Smith and passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:**
 - a. The club has received a thank you card from Bob Smith's daughter on behalf of the family for our donation to their selected charity, the Gideon society.
 - b. Lots of correspondence from the MNRC including voting for our own Alan Bruhin to become a VP for our region. Haven't received the final tally yet, but congratulations....
- **Membership:** Our current membership is 65 people/families.
- **Website:** Karen took over as webmaster at the beginning of July 2023. The website is up to date, and the club purchased a security certificate in the spring so we no longer get 'danger/warning' notices when we go on site. Also renewed the domain name earlier this summer.
- **Facebook Page:** Alan Bruhin has been maintaining this page on a regular basis and it is being effective in driving new traffic to our website and new members to our club. Good job!

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 9/15/24 is \$45,713.60. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the youth fund. Karen had available a single copy of the year-to-date income and outgo, and said that if anyone wants an electronic copy of this, email Karen.

Upcoming expenses are for today's event (several hundred dollars), and the Fall tests. We will have plenty of money for the winter banquet and to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

Lois moved that we accept the Treasurer's report; Jim Pearce seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher: There are several changes to the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations made during the year that we need to be aware of. These changes are effective as of October 1, 2024. They are:

- Hunt test applications to AKC must now be made at least three months before the date the test opens for entries. This means that a completed judges' panel is also required at this time, and fines may be imposed for late submission of the Judges Panel. This is different from how we have operated in the past and we need to be sure to get our judges lined up earlier than we have up till now.
- A change to clarify that the exact point at which honoring begins is when the working dog is sent for a marked retrieve;
- A clarification the judge shall call the next dog to the line by saying the word "Dog" or the number of the dog, rather than the name of the handler of the dog.
- A clarification that a blind must be clearly marked by a conspicuous object.
- A clarification that inspection of birds is required by a judge when the damage to a bird is suspected due to a hard mouth or unusual situation; and
- Specification that for a senior test, blinds shall not be run between marks unless the blinds are run first.

Old Business

Election of New members: Alan Bruhin. We have 5 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

1. Matt & Katie Neil. He works for Cigna Group. Address 8234 Trout Lily Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363. matthewJNeil10@gmail.com, (423)618-9081. Has a 2-year old Labrador, interested in hunt tests, dog training, club trials. Will volunteer for 'whatever is needed.' Sponsors: Kile Griffin, Donna Smith.
2. Justin & Allie Pinkston. He's a wildlife officer, she's an RN. Live in New Market, 37820. JustinpinkstonTTV@Gmail.com, phone (423)736-8442. Has a young Black Lab, interested in hunt tests and field trials. Sponsors are Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans.
3. Zachary & Tyra Pry (PRESENT): he's a truck driver. 447 Mountain Gap Road, Thorn Hill, TN 37881. Waylonharley3@gmail.com. 865-469-4215. Volunteers for hunt test set-up, bird tech / coordinator. Interested in AKC hunt tests, field trials, hunter's safety course for his wife, dog training, club trials. Has an SHR 2-year old black lab. Sponsors: Donna Smith, Lois Luthenauer

4. James "Ryan" and Briana Troup: self employed. 304 Royal Oaks Drive NE, Cleveland, TN 37323. TheTroupFam@gmail.com(423)943-8977. Volunteers for training committee, test/training grounds search, Raffle/fundraising, duck wrangler/assistant, Board of Directors, Club Officer, Gunner, Marshalling, Awards Committee, Judging at club trials, Hunt Test Chariman, Training Supplies, Ribbons Handler. Interested in Hunt tests, field trials, dog training, club trials, judging/judging clinics, breeding, and is a member of NRA and Ducks Unlimited. Has 2 young black labs, was at our Quad test and earned a number of JH ribbons. Sponsors: J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin
5. Dennis & Nora Wilcox, Facilities Manager, 107 Sioux Ct., Hendersonville, TN 37075, dennisRWilcox @gmail.com, cell 615-414-8273. Requests Mike and Donna Smith as sponsors, has 4 labs of various ages, is a judge of HT and FT, interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, club trials. Sponsors: Mike and Donna Smith.

Dick Lamping moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Lois Luthenauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

We also have 4 new member families that are ready for first reading and assignment of sponsors. They are:

1. Luke & Julie Campbell. He's a licensed professional counselor, 5255 Howardsville Rd, Apison, TN 37302, email luke.g.campbell@gmail.com, cell phone 847-445-2136. They have a four year old black lab and a puppy yellow Lab. Will volunteer for whatever is needed, are interested in AKC hunt tests, field trials, hunter's safety course, dog training, club trials, breeding, and are DU members. We received their membership application in mid-July. Sponsors: Mike Smith and Jan Summers.
2. Caleb & Savannah Kirtner. He is a dog trainer, lives at 4835 King George Way, Apt 2401, Knoxville, TN 37918. Phone is 540-875-4064; email is calebKirtner@gmail.com. Volunteers for 'whatever is needed' and volunteered today for manning gunner stations and assisting with setup. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans.
3. Jon & Taylor Osteen. He is the owner/manager of a west Knoxville pet facility, they live at 280 Crestwood Drive, Lenoir City, Tn. Phone number is 229-376-0464; email address is jon.osteen@petresorts.com. The family owns a 3-year old English Labrador and a 2-year old English Springer Spaniel. Interested in AKC hunt tests, dog training and breeding, will volunteer for 'whatever is needed' and volunteered today for manning gunner stations and assisting with setup. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans.
4. Mike and Allyson Osteen. Mike is a professional retriever trainer. They live at 221 Lancaster Drive, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Phone is 910-280-0076, and email is mosteen2@gmail.com. Owns a chocolate Labrador, interested in Hunt tests, field trials, dog training, and club trials. Will volunteer for 'whatever is needed' and volunteered today for manning gunner stations and assisting with setup. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans.

Jim Pearce moved that we accept this people into provisional membership into ETRC for final vote at the February banquet. Dick Lamping seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

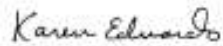
1. **Update on Master National Stuff:** Alan Bruhin: The Master National is coming up very soon in Paducah, Ky. People are already getting ready to go there to assist with setup. David Knott has been asked to help out again and will be leaving on Saturday to assist. Best wishes to everyone who is going.
2. **Nominating Committee:** Alan Bruhin. We need to have one board member and 2 regular members for this committee; we are also supposed to have two non-board alternates. The committee has to have a meeting (virtual, emails, phone or in person) before November 15, and must report to the Secretary (Karen) their nominations before November 24. If you agree to serve, Karen will send you the full details of what is involved and which positions are to be filled. Alan appointed Mike Smith from the board to serve as chairman of this committee, and Brent Naveiro and Nate Lamping to serve from the general membership.
3. **Tailgate Party After Last Hunt Test:** Jan Summers has volunteered to coordinate a tailgate party after the final midweek Master hunt test at Brian Caldwell's. This will be open to anyone who attends that test; more details will be printed in the October and November newsletters.
4. **Pheasants at Hunt Tests:** Because of problems acquiring ducks, the Master invitationals have warned people that they may be facing pheasants in some series rather than ducks. As a result, Donna Smith asked it would be possible to have pheasants as part of the marks at our fall hunt tests. After some discussion about the difficulties of finding pheasants on such short notice, the fact that we are supposed to state which kind of birds are used in the premium lists for these tests which are already set, and the possibility that it might keep down attendance at the hunt tests for people who had never had access to pheasants before, we decided not to try to do this for the fall hunt tests. However, this might be a good idea for our spring club trial event, to give people the opportunity to try out pheasants in a low-cost setting that doesn't count towards titles or national eligibility. Dick Lamping mentioned again that he has provided information on a new (to us) duck supplier in Alabama who can provide delivered ducks for \$16.50, and who may have pheasants. Karen has passed this information on already to Mike Evans who is our duckmeister.
5. **Increased Entry Fees for Hunt Tests:** Dick Lamping raised the issue that the new \$10 increased fees for all our hunt tests starting next January (currently \$80 / \$90 / \$100, going to \$90, \$100, and \$110) is going to put increasing pressure on participation in the sport, especially for people on fixed incomes as many of us older hunt testers are. He asked why we had decided to raise the rates and whether this could be revisited, especially for the Junior and Senior levels where a weekend usually involves a double test and therefore a double entry. At these prices, he is concerned that new people may be priced out of the sport as well. Alan responded that our entry fees were amongst the lower levels this year; many clubs have already raised prices, and costs of running tests are continuing to increase. However, the Board vote to increase prices was not unanimous and if we end up losing attendance we may make another vote in the future. We can't put on hunt tests and lose money, however;

we do need to make a profit on these so we can support other activities like this club trial with free lunch and live flyers, our seminars, the winter awards banquet, equipment purchases, etc.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Peter Torok, the vote passed unanimously, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

1. Jeff Rader didn't attend, move him to Excused. Michele Fletcher
2. Change Smith to Evans in Paragraph 6 – Mike Smith

Approvals:

1. **Alan Bruhin, 9/17/24**
2. **Michele Fletcher, 9/17/24**
3. **Mike Smith, 9/17/24**
4. **Kyle Griffin, 9/24/24**
5. **Jeff Rader, 9/24/24**
6. **Karen Edwards, 9/24/24**
7. **Jim Pearce, 9/24/24**