

## ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 12/11/24 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

**Present from the Board:** Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Bob Smith, Lois Luthenauer, and Luke McCoy

**Absent, Excused:** J. Michael Evans (was rear-ended on his way to the meeting), Jeff Rader (caught up in a trial), Kyle Griffin (weather prohibited him getting home in time.)

**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. Alan Bruhin, Vice President, presided in Michael's absence.

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

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 9/15/24 at the Club Trial / picnic; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website. Lois moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Bob seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2023 was 58. Membership as of today for 2024 is 67, with 2 awaiting first reading and 4 to date pending final approval in February. There were 5 who didn't renew from last year. One moved out of the area and the other 4 just didn't renew.
- **Correspondence:** Paid Officers / Directors liability insurance bill, \$815.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$43,347.83. Karen handed out Year To Date reports showing gross income so far as \$63,467.81, expenses of \$58,178.64, so a net to date of \$5,289.17. This figure will be reduced somewhat as we still have some refunds to make to members for scratches for dogs at Brian's, probably another \$400 or so. We are in excellent financial state.

**AKC Delegate's report:** Michele reported that there is a meeting taking place later this week at the AKC invitational shows in Florida. Alan reported that the Rules Committee has been considering a requirement that all dogs have to proceed from Junior through Senior to Master, in order to increase the number of entries in JH /SH classes at tests, but he is sure that this isn't going to be passed.

### **Old Business**

1. **Taxes:** As discussed last July, we are now making too much money to be able to fire the simple single-page online tax form. We had agreed that I needed to explore finding a CPA who can handle our taxes going forward, or until we no longer have a 3-year average gross income of \$50k. Did some research, and met with CPA Jim Longest on 12/4. He handles a number of non-profits including 501(3)(7)s like us (recreational clubs). Gave him copies of register report to date, info on EIN etc. He charges \$850 for basic tax return. This is similar to / slightly less

than what we are paying for our for-profit businesses. Request approval to use him for our 2024 tax return as we are now well over \$50k a year in gross income over the past 3 years. Lois moved that we hire him to do our taxes in the future, Mike Smith seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

2. **Discuss past hunt testing season.** Financial information, comments, concerns, things we could do better (bird techs, e.g.), how to improve etc. Generally, the only concern is the difficulty in finding bird techs which means club members have to spend a lot of time out in the field throwing ducks. Alan discussed talking with Robert Brewer of the Wildlife society and asking him for about twice the number of techs we need, in order to maybe get enough. We also discussed whether increasing the pay they receive would help any and decided it wouldn't; this rate is what we are asked to pay for the professional bird techs provided by the pros when we have tests at Brian's, and also the money doesn't go directly to the Wildlife Society kids but instead to their organization for use in paying for their trip to the international meeting in the summer, so has less impact on the kids' willingness to actually show up.

Other significant comments were concerning the difficulties in finding judges who actually show up, now that we have to report them to AKC 3 months in advance of the tests or face a fine. This means we will have to have the judges identified for the March test by the end of the year and reported to AKC. We could do what some of the clubs do and put in 'space saver' names; Luke reported that one club regularly lists him as their judge but don't intend to actually ask him to come. We decided that we didn't want to do that. Having fewer judges helps – getting 8 judges for the JH /SH quad tests has been very difficult, and those are extremely hard tests to manage and run although it was our biggest money earner last year.

There was some discussion about the new requirements from AKC about protecting youth from bullying and bad language and the new language and training being required related to this and sexual harassment. Michele reported that Entry Express is making changes to put the required language into every premium list and catalog, so we won't have to take action there. She also reported that apparently AKC is rolling out the training one or several dog sports at a time; she has been through it now as an agility judge but no one has yet contacted us about this for our member judges and show officials. Karen reported she has received an email from an outside group offering training but ignored it, figuring we needed to hear from AKC before getting out ahead on any of this.

### 3. **Set Dates / Formats / Locations for 2025 hunt tests:**

- a. Current test dates would be: Sat/Sun April 12-13; May13-14 (T-W); May 31-June 1 (S-S); June 10-11 (T-W); October 18-19 (S-S); and November 11-12 (T-W)
- b. Master National for 2025 is in Giddings, TX, a 17 hour drive from here. Dates are Thursday, October 30, **2025** - Sunday, November 9, **2025**
- c. Michele reminded us that we have agreed to increase our rates for hunt tests this year from \$80 / \$90 / \$100 to \$90 / \$100 / \$110.
- d. After a lot of discussion, comparison with calendars for Entry Express and our own, the table below shows the tentative calendar we developed for 2025, including club trials and the 2026 Banquet. Bob Smith will check dates with Brian; J. Michael with Ken Campbell about Lucky 7 and with Jason for Hiwassee; Michele will check dates with AKC, provide paperwork for Hiwassee's Nashville office, and coordinate with Entry Express.

## Tentative ETRC Calendar for 2025

Date	Day	Event	Location	Comment 1
02/22/25	Sat	Awards Banquet	Bearden Banquet Hall	reservation paid
03/09/25	Sun	Club Trial #1, Fz.Ducks	TBD: Cory's?	
3/29-30/2025	S-S	Master Only #1	Hiwassee / Brian C.	Need AKC date approval
04/06/25	Sun	Club Trial #2, Fz. Ducks	Brian Caldwell's	Cookout???
4/26-27/25	S-S	MH, JH Sat, SH Sun	Lucky 7 Ranch	AKC reserved dates 4/12-13
5/13-14/25	T-W	Midweek MH Only	Brian Caldwell's	Need AKC date approval
5/31-6/1/25	S-S	2 JH, 2 SH	Hiwassee	AKC dates OK
9/9-10/25	T-W	Midweek Master Only	Lucky 7 Ranch	Need AKC date approval
09/21/24	Sun	Club Trial #3, business Meeting	Lucky 7 Ranch	Business Mtg. / Picnic
10/18-19/24	S-S	Fall Test (2JH/2SH/MH)	Lucky 7 Ranch	AKC dates OK
02/21/26	Sat	Awards Banquet	Bearden Banquet Hall	not confirmed w/BBH

### 4. Club Trial Dates:

- a. Spring Club trial last year Sunday, 3/10 (3/9 this year). This first trial (March 9-10, 2025), will also involve a work session following to make sure all our wingers are reassembled and the thunder boomers all work. We hope to have this at Cory Smith's, which is where the trailers are located. This would be a land-only trial. We will use either frozen ducks or dokkens and possible a few frozen pheasants.
- b. Spring Trial #2: Also on Sunday morning. Possibly this trial will include a cookout, as was scheduled last fall but had to be canceled because of the Parvo situation?
- c. Fall trial / Business Meeting / picnic last year Sunday, 9/15 (would be 9/14). Last year's was a live flyer day, had great turnout. We decided to move this to September 21, and will again have this be a live flyer day.
- d. After a brief discussion, we decided again to make Club Trial entries free for members for the first two entries, and in the fall, one duck per dog will also be free with additional ducks that can be purchased if desired.

5. **Seminar Program this year?** For several years, we had a series of combo training days / seminars presented by some of our more experienced handlers on transitions, drills, starting puppies etc. Should we try to re-start this again, and if so, can we set some dates? Do we want to try a pro seminar again? Jody might be willing, it's been a few years and he does a good job. Fancy pro seminars? Last year we tried and even with ETRC footing the bill couldn't

get enough interest to make it work. We decided to delay discussion of this item until a meeting in January. We could possibly work this in with a training day but we are running out of dates to do any of these.

6. **Facebook:** Alan reported that he is continuing to post items here and that the number of followers is slowly increasing.
  
7. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Reservations made for Saturday, Feb 22, 2025 at Bearden Banquet Hall. Paid \$250 deposit in April.
  - a. Alan says he will get in touch with the Banquet Hall over the next several weeks and bring a menu for discussion and decision at our January meeting. .
  
  - b. Michael Evans had earlier talked about bringing in a vet to speak on Canine field triage at this event. We will need to finalize this with him at the January meeting.
  
  - c. Door prizes? We decided to do this again, but not to make an effort to have one prize for every attendee. We decided to have 4 free test entry forms. Karen reported that three of the four from last year had been redeemed; the fourth was hers and was not redeemed because the dog we planned to use it on went into heat just before the test. We decided to do 4 again this year. Alan will look among his old judges' gifts to see if there are some good things to donate, and Mike Smith will canvas a few places to see if they will provide some stuff. Lois will bring a selection of 10 tee shirts / hats .
  
  - d. We decided to use the same format as last several years – no charge to members and guests for the dinner.
  
  - e. Nominations: Mike Smith went through the nominations for Officers and Board positions as reported in the December newsletter. We may receive other nominations through the end of the month, but as it stands now, the nomination committee nominations are President, J. Michael Evans; VP Alan Bruhin; Past President Mike Smith; Hunt Test Secretary and AKC Representative, Michele Fletcher; Secretary / Treasurer Karen Edwards; new board members Luke McCoy and Nate Lamping; Chief Marshal Donna Smith; and retiring board members Lois Luthenauer and Luke McCoy (Renominated).
  
8. **Awards:**
  - a. Call went out in December 1 newsletter for title awards, special awards nominations for dogs, and for people. Karen will send out another email shortly before or after Christmas to remind people to get their nominations in.
  
  - b. Question about Lifetime Achievement Award: a nomination has been submitted for a past member's dog. Both the dog and the person are now dead and we have no contact for any of the survivors. Should we limit this award to dogs who are / were owned by people who are current club members? After some discussion, we decided to wait on this to see if this is the only nomination we receive, and if so, then decide at the January meeting.
  
9. **Club Tee Shirts:** Lois reported nothing to be discussed.

## **New Business:**

### 1. ***New Members:***

- Randy & Dianne Clark, 489 Short Creek Road, Springfield, KY 40069. [dianneclark@comcast.net](mailto:dianneclark@comcast.net), 425-299-4252 (Dianne), 425-220-0554 (Randy) He's retired, she's a Master-level judge, they just moved from Washington State where they were very active in retriever sports. Have two labs (MH, MNH, MAR) , willing to volunteer for whatever is needed, , belong to two retriever clubs in Washington State, interested in AKC hunt tests, dog training, and judging / judging clinics. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin & Michael Evans.
- Jane & Scott Tully, 4200 Crestview Drive, Red Bank, TN 37415, [janemillartully@gmail.com](mailto:janemillartully@gmail.com), 254-749-0438. She's a postdoctoral fellow/instructor at UT Chattanooga, has a young golden Retriever female in training with Jody Ware, and will volunteer to help with the newsletter and website / computer work. Primary interest in AKC hunt tests and training.

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

### 2. ***Update on Possible new grounds –***

- a. Boy Scout camp: Mike Smith tried to call the guy who is in charge of the camp over the last few weeks but didn't get an answer or a callback. He had visited in August and at that time, a pond was being dug. No real news.
- b. Shuler / Osteen dog venture: last info we had was at the fall test, where they told us a pond was being dug.

### 3. ***Ribbon Order:*** Will need to make a new order in February, but will need to know how many tests we are going to put on first. Karen will put together an inventory and make the order; will report on the status of this at the January meeting.

***Any other new business?*** Alan asked Karen to get with President Mike Evans shortly to set a date for a meeting in January.

***Adjourn:*** There being no other new business, Luke moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Michele Fletcher, 12/12/24
2. Alan Bruhin, 12/12/24
3. Kyle Griffin, 12/12/24
4. Luke McCoy 12/12/24
5. Mike Smith 12/12/24
6. J. Michael Evans 12/13/24
7. Lois Luthenauer 12/13/24
8. Karen Edwards 12/14/24
9. Michele Fletcher 12/14/24
10. Kyle Griffin 12/14/24