

ETRC Board Meeting, Thursday, 1/9/25 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, and Luke McCoy

Absent, Excused: Mike Smith, Lois Luthenauer, Kyle Griffin, and Jeff Rader all had prior commitments. Bob Smith was unexcused.

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 6 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 12/11/24 minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Luke seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2024 was 67, with 6 pending final approval in February.
- **Correspondence:** None to report.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$43,420.63. No other immediate expenses until we order new ribbons and have the Banquet. We are in excellent financial state.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele: Nothing new to report.

Old Business

1. **Taxes:** Karen will provide tax information to our new accountant, Jim Longest, in the next week. He will charge \$850 for doing our taxes for 2024.
2. **Planning for hunt testing season.** All judges have all been approved for the first 3 tests of the year. All dates have been initiated with AKC, and we have approvals back for the first 3 tests. All tests have been entered on Entry Express. Land approval for the two Hiwassee dates have been requested and paperwork submitted. Jason has given us verbal OK for both dates. Bob was going to check with Brian about dates at his place, but isn't here to tell us what he found out. Ken is OK with all the dates, with the proviso that if the land sells all this may go away. We still need 4 pairs of Junior/Senior judges, and 4 more Master judges for the later tests.

There may be an issue with ducks for the March test. Kiley says he is trying to round up some more customers – pro trainers who need ducks etc. – but cannot make a trip just to bring us 80-100 ducks and also if the weather is terrible at his farm, this may not happen. Alan mentioned that there is a duck supplier in South Carolina, but we would have to drive over to

pick up the ducks and bring our own crates. Luke said he would be willing to make the drive if necessary. J. Michael will ask Jason at TWRA about what the requirements are for permitting to bring ducks into Tennessee, and what would we as a club have to do, and what does the duck supplier have to do. If these aren't too onerous on us, Luke's offer may be a fallback if Kiley can't get us ducks.

3. **AKC's Training Requirements for protecting youth:** Michele reported that Entry Express has made additions of the mandated language into all the premium lists/catalogs. Still no word from AKC on when field judges / management staff are supposed to take their online training.
4. **Club Trial Dates:** Cory is OK for using his place on 3/9/24 (frozen ducks/dokkens). Waiting for Bob on whether or not Brian is OK for us using his place on 4/6 (frozen ducks/dokkens), and Ken is alright, with standard caveat, for using Lucky 7 on 9/21 (combined with business meeting and live flyers).
5. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Reservations made for Saturday, Feb 22, 2025 at Bearden Banquet Hall.
 - a. Set menu: We looked at the options. Everyone agreed that the Grilled Tenderloin we had last year was wonderful – but because we ordered another meat in addition, they only gave us enough for 25 people of the beef. We decided to go for the tenderloin instead, plus get an hors'd'oeuvre plate of chicken tenders (they provide 2 per guest, minimum 50 guests), and ask that they be put out at the same time as the rest of the meal. We decided on sides of rosemary new potatoes, steamed vegetables, garden salad, dinner rolls, and chocolate molten cake for dessert. Drinks included with the mea are tea (sweet and un), Coffee (decaffeinated and not), lemonade, and water. Also, beer is available for individual purchase from the Banquet Hall. We will again request a bartender, and Alan will purchase a few bottles of wine. Karen will mention in the newsletter that if anyone wants to bring their own bottle of liquor, that is acceptable but they will have to give it to the bartender for service.
 - b. Speaker: Michael Evans has made arrangements with Dr. Monica Webb, DVM, of Countryside Vets, to give a 30 minute presentation with Q&As on Canine Field Triage. Michael will ask her to bring a handout with the points so we don't have to take notes. She will be bringing her husband as a guest and has been invited for dinner and to stay for the entire evening.
 - c. Door prizes status: Karen will print out 4 free test entry forms. Lois will bring a selection of 10 tee shirts / hats . Alan is planning to look among his old judges' gifts to see if there are some good things to donate, and Mike Smith agreed to canvas a few places to see if they will provide some stuff. No updates on these items, but Michael reported that Brent Naveiro has said he will contact a few businesses to see if they might donate something, and Alan will contact Purina for some coupons. Karen and Jim offered up a pint of upstate NY maple syrup.
6. **Awards:** Status and voting on awards . Michael reported that he has 7 nominations for Member of the Year and 8 for AKC sportsman. He is still waiting for a few and will then send them out to the board for a vote.
 - a. Michael has received two nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award. One 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. The current rules state that the dog must be owned by an ETRC member in good standing, which would not cover someone who was dead. After some discussion, Alan moved that we change the award criteria for next and future years to allow nominations and awards to dogs who were owned by people who are now dead, but who were members in good standing at the time of their death. The dog in question can be re-submitted for next year, and Jim Pearce said if the original nominator didn't resubmit them for next year, he would. This motion was seconded by Luke and passed unanimously. Karen will draft language to implement this change and will get it out to all the Board members for a vote, to be effective in the 2025 award year.

There was also some discussion about whether we could pick more than one dog a year for this honor. There was some concern that this might water down the criteria and the general consensus after the discussion was that it would be best to keep on with just honoring one dog a year. There was also discussion that even if only one dog was nominated, if the Board did not feel that it met the criteria for this award, it would not be awarded.

7. **Seminar Program this year?** After a brief discussion it was decided that we don't have room in the schedule for any of these programs this year. However, it was decided that we would look into having another basic Judging seminar next February.
8. **Facebook:** Alan reported that he is continuing to post items here and that the number of followers is slowly increasing. Thanks to new members Zach and Tyra Pry for sending along some good hunting photos.

New Business:

1. **New Members:** None this time.
2. **Proposed New Award:** Our Gun Dog of the Year Award is limited to hunt testing. This means that one of our members who got an AFC and an FC this year, and was #2 in the nation for Amateur points and #8 for Open points, is not eligible to be considered for this award. Although we only have 4 or 5 members who participate in Field Trials, we only have about 10-15 who participate in Hunt tests either. Because our club is intended to include furtherance of all types of field sports, this does not seem to be fair that our premier dog award every year excludes Field Trial competitors.

Karen moved that we establish a new award, Field Trial Dog of the Year, and has drafted proposed rules for consideration, to be effective in 2025. This award would have a new Perpetual Trophy and would also be awarded an annual plaque that the winner would keep. Karen has worked with John Broucek on these proposed rules.

Karen also moves that we retire the Holcomb Gun Dog Of The Year award, and get a new perpetual trophy named ETRC Hunt Test Dog Of The Year award. The rules would be the same as the current Gun Dog rules, with only a name change. This would essentially make two separate but equal top awards every year, one for hunt test dogs and one for field trial dogs.

Further, Karen moves that we make changes to the Puppy of the Year trophy to include points for puppies under a year for any Derby points awarded. Although unlikely, if a

puppy is good enough to gain Derby points at less than one year, that should be recognized in our Puppy of the Year award.

Because it was late by the time we got to this item on the agenda, and because we were missing 5 of our board members, we decided to table this until the next meeting. Before then, Karen will send out copies of the proposed language for this new award and changes to the other awards to everyone on the board, along with a list of areas for more consideration and discussion. The intention is to get these put in place for the 2025 award year.

3. **Ribbon Order:** Will need to make a new order in February, Ribbons have been inventoried, and it looks like we will need 200 more MH ribbons and 100 more JH ribbons. We should have enough SH and title ribbons to last, unless we get a larger than usual number of Senior dogs, and we are still OK on club ribbons. This will cost around \$1,900.

Any other new business?

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 8:30 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Lois Luthenauer 1/10/25
2. Kyle Griffin 1/10/25
3. Michele Fletcher 1/11/25
4. Luke McCoy 1/11/25
5. Jim Pearce 1/11/25
6. Jeff Rader 1/11/25
7. Mike Smith 1/12/25
8. Karen Edwards 1/12/25

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