

February 25, 2012 General Membership Meeting

The meeting was preceded by a social ninety minutes/dinner at Calhoun's on Bearden Hill in Knoxville. The meeting called to order by Interim President Carol Stone at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present, with 29 voting members/families present out of 52 total current members.

Present from the 2011 Board were:

Carol Stone, Interim President
Kelley Eller, Interim Vice President
Karen Edwards, Interim Secretary
Chuck Atchley, Treasurer
Ken Wade, Past President
Robert Dodson, Director

Brent McCoy, Director
Tom Beeckman, Director
Trudie Kuka, Interim Director
Mike Evans, Director
Roberta Williams, Hunt Test Secretary

Others Attending:

Marianne Beeckman
Andrew Bolger
Garry and Karen Clausing
Richard Cook
Wes Cosner
Derek Dieterich
Gale Frana
Bill and Sally Gervin
Mark and Patti Gibson
Guy and Sharon Greer
John and Heather Guinn
Hubert and Linda Helton
David and Wendy Knott

Tony Kuka
Kevin and Lois Luthenauer
Valerie McCoy
Matthew and Whitney McCoy
Doug and Sheila Nelson
Fay Norwood
Jim Pearce
Grant and Amanda Rains
Kevin Stone
Lisa Styles
Sandy Sutton
Mitzi Evans
Lois Eller

Officers' Reports

Reading of the Minutes/Secretary's Report

Karen read the minutes of the last membership meeting (7/30/11). Mike Evans moved to accept the minutes as read, Wes Cosner seconded, and the vote was unanimous. There was no other Secretary's report.

President's Report

Carol opened her report with a round of thanks Kinzalow's for use of their farm, Atchley's for use of their farm for club tests and member training, to hard-working Club Treasurer Chuck Atchley, the other officers and members of the Board, and the general membership. She reported that during 2011, the club put on three Club Tests (two at the Chota Refuge and one at the Chuck Atchley Farm), and a spring AKC hunt test. 237 dogs were entered in that event. The Fall AKC Hunt Test was cancelled due to low entries (conflicts with other nearby hunt tests) and our low treasury balance. Carol apologized to everyone who had signed up and perhaps missed attending one of the conflicting tests as a result.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck provided a detailed report on the expenses, income and year end balances from 2004 through 2011. As of 12/31/11, there was a balance in the club Treasury of \$1,259.38. The current balance as of the date of the meeting was \$1,681, and Chuck also announced that Mike Evans had just handed him

\$1,900 from the sale of the extra trailer just before the start of the meeting. This will bring our total up to approximately \$3,600. Tom Beeckman moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted; the motion was seconded by Brent McCoy and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Spring Hunt Test:

Carol reported that the Spring Hunt test will be dedicated to Jim Holcombe, an ETRC member who died last summer.

Date conflict for Fall 2012 Hunt Test

The Fall 2012 Hunt Test will be held September 29 and 30, 2012, at Hiwassee. This will move our dates from conflicting with the Alabama and Kentucky tests and will hopefully mean higher entry numbers. However, this weekend is not available in future years at Hiwassee, so we will have to look for other dates or other venues for 2013 forward.

Financial Situation and Ideas for Improvement

Carol reported on the measures that have been taken to date to improve the club's financial situation, and proposals under consideration for further steps to be taken. These included:

- Cancellation of insurance on towing the trailer (should be covered by the driver's personal insurance)
- Sale of the second trailer and some old equipment that wasn't being used
- More member involvement in such areas as throwing birds for Club Tests rather than hiring bird boys; reducing overhead costs for AKC tests as much as possible, by using minimum bird boys, member reloading, looking at increasing entry fees, asking members to donate items to help cover lunch costs, such as cases of water, soft drinks, lunch meat, etc.; having a pot luck judge's dinner, etc.
- She asked for other suggestions to be provided both now and throughout the year.

Several items were suggested from the floor. One person suggested paying a flat rate for bird boys (rather than a certain dollar figure per person), with specification of a minimum number of boys, but no extra money paid for extra people who come along. Patty and Mark Gibson volunteered to supply the judge's dinners (cost last spring was \$576 for dinners, but that included people other than the judges), and the Kukas offered their property for a potluck tailgate party. Sheila Nelson suggested that we consider having a raffle or silent auction again. Mark Gibson and Brent McCoy commented that the last two raffles we did broke even with the cost of the tailgate party. Others suggested that we could combine the idea of a potluck tailgate party, with food provided by members, with the idea of a raffle or silent auction, and perhaps bring in money that way. Lisa Styles commented that Hiwassee had some problems with facilities – no convenient motels or restaurants nearby – that might contribute some to the issues of low entries. Sheila Nelson also commented about the lack of a lighted pavilion but said that she and Doug could provide lights if it would help. There was general grumbling about the wisdom of increasing entry fees. The consensus is that we are in the middle of the pack on entry fees and that raising them will have a negative impact on number of entries.

New Business

Committees

Carol mentioned that the Board had discussed setting up some committees on various areas – hunt tests, club tests, training, equipment, seminars – each with a committee chairman and several members. The reason for this would be to pair experienced people with less experienced ones and increase overall club knowledge of how to do things. She asked that people who might be interested in serving on a

committee contact her or any board member. She particularly discussed the need for a training director, who can schedule training days at various locations and arrange for a Board Member to be present to run the training each day. It has been quite a while since the club put on a training day. Carol mentioned that Brent McCoy had put together a training model that worked well for running an efficient training day, and hoped that could be used by others as well.

Retriever News

Carol mentioned that ETRC is being featured in the April issue of Retriever News.

AKC Field News

Several breeds were added last year to those eligible to run AKC Retriever tests: the American Water Spaniel (effective August 1, 2011), the Boykin Spaniel (effective December 1, 2011). Additional breeds (German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla and Weimaraner) are awaiting final AKC Board approval.

AKC's Board also approved several changes to the Hunting Test Regulations which will be effective in 2012. Most notable changes include the following:

- Clubs may offer lower entry fees for junior handlers.
- Dogs may be allowed to enter lower level tests after having titled at a higher level (this would be primarily for the pleasure of the dog and handler and will be most used by owners with elderly dogs or with dogs who need to regain their enthusiasm for competition). No titles will be awarded at the lower levels for dogs that already have a higher-level title.
- Judging eligibility requirements are increased.
- Clubs may hold more junior/senior level tests and fewer master tests, in order to attract more participants new to hunt testing. Clubs that hold more than two tests a year must offer each level at least once during the year.
- Walk-ups may not be done in Junior tests.
- Changes are made to the Master Hunter tests to increase difficulty. The new wording reads as follows: "**Section 6. Master Hunting Test.** Dogs shall be tested in a minimum of five hunting situations as follows: multiple land marks, multiple water marks, multiple marks on water and land, a land blind and a water blind (at least one that shall be a double blind in any combination). There shall be at least three series. At least one of the series shall include a walk-up. Diversion birds and/or diversion shots such as described in Chapter 3, Section 24, must be used at least once. In Master tests, in at least two multiple marking situation the dog's marking/memory will be tested with at least three (3) falls, before the dogs is sent to retrieve. During a double set of marks (2 falls) Master judges shall include additional elements of testing i.e. walkup, diversion bird, diversion shot, blind/s etc. in testing the dog's abilities

ETRC Status as an AKC Member Club

Carol reported that a special board meeting had been called in November to discuss the status of ETRC's AKC Delegate and how this position should be handled. At this meeting, which had a quorum of 7 members out of 12, the Board voted 5 to 1 to withdraw from AKC as a member club and go back to being a licensed club only. She noted that the cost between being a member club or licensed club were negligible; membership saves us about \$70 a year (\$25 member fee, however our first hunt test is free and any others are only \$15 apiece) as opposed to a \$25 fee for every AKC event we would sponsor as a licensed club. This change requires a bylaws change, and the Board decided to put this to a vote of the membership at this meeting since any Bylaws change requires a 2/3 majority vote of the membership and subsequent AKC approval.

Karen Edwards moved to limit discussion on this issue to 12 minutes, with up to 3 people speaking on either side of the issue for no more than 2 minutes each. Mike Evans seconded this motion. Carol noted that Roberts Rules of Order do permit limitation of debate in this way, and that the motion itself is not open for discussion. If there is unanimous agreement to approve the motion, no formal vote is needed. If there is an objection, a 2/3 vote is required. She asked if any member objected to limiting the discussion, and there was one objection from the floor. A vote was taken and the motion to limit discussion passed by a vote of 24 in favor and 4 opposed.

Carol opened the floor for discussion. Sheila Nelson spoke against the recommendation of changing our status. She noted that only 15 AKC Retriever clubs have full member status and that this should make us proud to be one of the few. She also commented that AKC moved last year to only insure for free those AKC events put on by AKC member and licensed clubs, and that this year there is discussion that the insurance may be limited to member clubs only. She pointed out other advantages include access to AKC member-club-only website and information, and the ability for any member of an AKC member club to directly petition the AKC for rule changes and have them considered. The Eastern Time Zone Rep for the AKC Retriever Hunt Test Advisory Committee is Rich Young at RRDucksdogs@windstream.net. She concluded by stating there were lots of reasons to remain a member club, and no reason to give up our status.

Garry Clausing, ETRC's current AKC Delegate, also spoke against the Board's recommendation. He noted that he had attended 5 of the quarterly meetings and had provided information back to the club, although he understood that the information was not widely disseminated within the club. He repeated Sheila's points that membership is a proud thing, and that many clubs try to get membership and are turned away. He noted that we don't have to have a delegate if we don't want to, but that dropping our membership altogether removes the option of us having a voice at the delegate meetings.

No other members asked to speak on the subject, so a vote was called. A 2/3 majority is required to pass the Board's recommendation and initiate action to change our status. The vote was 11 people in favor of changing our status, and 14 against. Therefore, ETRC will remain an AKC Member Club.

Awards

Roberta Williams announced the Club awards for the year. First were the title awards. Each dog/owner earning a title was awarded an engraved plaque with the title, the owners' and dog's name, and the date the title was earned. The other awardees were given an 8x10 engraved plaque. All people receiving awards were also given a big round of applause by the other members.

Junior Hunter:

- Adirondac Sir Charles JH, Richard Cook, October 14, 2011
- Tennessee Troublesome Ty JH, Bruce Fox, November 13, 2011

Senior Hunter

- Delta's Black Jet Allison SH, Tim and Vandy Earick, November 5, 2011
- Luthenauer's Troublesome Coon Creek Susie SH, Kevin and Lois Luthenauer, May 28, 2011
- McCoy's Acappella Adirondac Crescendo SH, Brent McCoy, October 29, 2011

Master Hunter

- Fern Hill SuperCalifragilistic MH CD, Karen Edwards/Jim Pearce, May 15, 2011
- Kelleys Cane Hollow Jethro Gibbs MH, Kelley Eller, October 29, 2011
- Rowdy Tennessee River Backwaters MH, Hubert and Linda Helton, October 14, 2011

- Stella's Duck Delivery MH, Tony and Trudie Kuka, May 21, 2011

2011 Puppy of the Year: Gabby's Hunt Em Up Big Cy, Grant Rains (14 points)

2011 Gun dog of the Year: Kelley's Cane Hollow Shadow MH, Kelley Eller (35 points)

2011 Member of the Year: Robert Dodson

2011 AKC Sportsman of the Year: Hubert Helton

2011 Master National Pass: Poe's Rapping Tapping Raven MH, Lisa Styles

Election of Officers and New Board Members

Ballots were passed out by Marianne Beeckman who served as Teller. Each voting membership received a single ballot for a total of 29 ballots passed out and returned. Results were as follows:

President: Carol Stone: 14 votes, Brent McCoy 14 votes

Vice President: Kelley Eller, 27 votes

Secretary: Karen Edwards, 26 votes

Treasurer: Chuck Atchley, 28 votes

Hunt Test Secretary: Roberta Williams, 28 votes

Directors (two were to be elected):

- Derek Dieterich: 5 votes
- David Knott: 2 votes
- Patti Gibson: 16 votes
- Sheila Nelson: 11 votes
- Mike Evans: 21 votes

Since there was a tie for the office of President, new ballots were passed out and returned (28) for the vote of President. Results were 13 votes for Carol Stone, and 15 votes for Brent McCoy.

Brent McCoy will be our President for 2012; all other officers were elected unopposed; and Mike Evans and Patti Gibson will be the two new Board members. It is noted that Brent McCoy's Director position is now open and the Board will need to meet to elect a new director to fill his unexpired term (one year). Carol Stone will remain on the Board as Past President, as Kevin Luthenauer's health will not permit him to serve in this capacity.

Brent gave a short speech following the election. He noted that Kevin Luthenauer will be receiving a small memento for his service as President during the first half of the year. Kevin acknowledged that award and thanked Carol for so capably filling in for him after his health issues caused him to resign.

Brent continued with acknowledgement that this past year has been a tough one in many ways, but that we will work hard during the coming year to get back on our feet financially. We will need all the members to pull together and help out and to be very active as we move forward. The next event is the Club Test on March 17 at the Holt Farm in Sweetwater. In response to a question from the floor, whether the club tests should be considered more as tests or as training, Brent responded that each handler can decide for him/herself whether to train or test. If someone wants to use a collar and do other things not authorized at tests, that is OK. However, it will be run as close to a test as possible for people who wish to use it that way.

There being no other business, Tom Beeckman moved that the meeting be adjourned; Wes Cosner and several others seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Edwards
ETRC Secretary

Approved at the 3/17/12 ETRC Board meeting