

**Board meeting, Sunday, 06/16/13, 4:15 p.m.  
Smokie's Stadium Sky Box in Sevierville, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Mike Evans, Kelley Eller, Karen Edwards, Chuck Atchley, Roberta Williams, Brent McCoy, Robert Dodson, Patti Gibson, Derek Dieterich.

**Absent, excused:** John Guinn, Guy Greer, Lois Luthenauer

**Other Members Present:** Diane Fyfe, AKC Delegate; Rick Fyfe, Jim Pearce, Val McCoy, Mitzi Evans, Mark Gibson, Lois Eller

A quorum is 50% of the Board. A quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Officer's Reports**

***President's Report.*** None

***Secretary's Report.***

- Last Minutes approved by email vote & posted online. Call for formal approval. Brent moved they be formally approved, Derek seconded, and the vote was unanimous.
- Annual membership list sent to AKC.
- Password changed for website, notice sent to members. Non-renewing members dropped from rolls as of 6/1/13.
- Letter of thanks from Central Carolina Poodle Club for use of Chuck's place and ETRC equipment; they also made a \$75 donation to ETRC.

***Treasurer's Report:*** See attached spreadsheet. The club started the year with \$9,382 and after the Spring Hunt test our balance is \$12,502. We made nearly \$6,000 on the spring test, and this has enabled us to do some necessary work on maintenance of some of our equipment, like \$350 for new trailer tires (the old ones were dry-rotted and very unsafe), repairing the guns for \$950 which now have lifetime guarantees, buying some new shotgun inserts to save us money in the long term on poppers; and buying a full two year supply of ribbons for both the hunt tests and our club trials.

**Old Business**

***Spring Hunt Test:*** See below, as many of the items on this list were the result of issues and problems from the Spring test that need to be fixed.

***Fall Hunt Test:*** Oct 19-20, AKC OK, dates finalized, Hiwassee finalized.

- Carol is working on lining up judges. We have two pinned down so far.
- Carol is turning over her responsibilities for the hunt tests in 2014, and will be working with the following people during the fall test for a smooth transition:

1. Lining up judges: after some discussion, it was agreed that this would continue to be a responsibility of the Club President, and Michael will continue to work with Carol on this.
  2. Handling motel room reservations: Michael agreed to take this on as well. It usually only involves a couple of phone calls as we work with the same motel each year and they are happy to have us.
  3. Keeping and restocking the Marshal's boxes: these are plastic totes, one for each test, that contain items that the Marshal may need for the judges and for setting up the test, including a first aid kit, phone numbers, supplies, tape, etc. There is room in the trailer to store these boxes, and usually the restocking is done the Friday night before the test. Val McCoy agreed that she would work with Carol on the Fall test and would take over this responsibility for 2014.
  4. Keeping the ribbons: Guy and Sharon Greer have been keeping the ribbons for the Club Trials this spring. We will ask them if they are able to store the hunt test ribbons as well. If not, Karen will keep them.
  5. Handling the TWRA contacts for use of the Hiwassee Refuge. Most of the actual paperwork is done by TWRA (Jason Jackson), but we need to let them know the dates and check up to make sure this gets done as soon as possible before each test. Karen agreed to take over this responsibility and will get with Carol for contact information and to see what has been done and what needs to be done for Fall and for 2014. Along the same lines, we usually send a thank you note after each test to Jason and a gift card. Karen asked how it was legal for him to accept a gift card, given the restrictions on Government employees accepting gifts for doing their job. Seems the gift card is actually made out to his wife. Kelley moved that we authorize sending a \$125 gift card to Jason's wife; Robert seconded, and the motion passed. Chuck will be responsible for getting this done.
- New ETRC Duck Wrangler – Kelley Eller is stepping down for 2014 and we need to identify a new person for this very important job. The Luthenauers have expressed cautious interest; Karen will contact Lois and ask them to contact Kelley to find out what is involved and see if they were still interested. This is a critical position and it is very important that whoever takes this on is completely reliable – if we don't have ducks, we can't run a test! We discussed and agreed that we needed to work with our current supplier or find another one that was willing to deliver the ducks to the site the day before the test, rather than what Kelley has done in the past, which is drive to Nashville to get the ducks and maintain them at his home for a week. This is too much to ask now that the club is no longer in such dire financial straits. Huge thanks are due to Kelley for doing this for the last several years, which has saved us quite a bit of money! Kelley and Robert will keep on gassing the ducks for us, at least for now, but we do need to identify someone who is willing to learn how to do this so we have some backup.
  - The sale of left-over ducks: we sell leftover live ducks by the crate (20 each) at the end of the test. This is a good way to make sure we have enough ducks and

selling them is not difficult to do. We informally decided to keep on as we have been doing with regard to spare live duck sales.

- Tee shirt and other items: sales went pretty well on these items and we are running low. Sticker sales – we sold about half of them at the test. Michael asked Val McCoy to put together a suggested order for new shirts, maybe some hoodies, and other items that need to be replenished, and these will be put on the agenda for deciding what to order for the Fall and next Spring tests.
- Judges gifts: Patti Gibson will take care of these for the Fall test.
- Michael suggested that we consider adding the post of Head Marshal to the list of jobs the nominating committee is responsible for filling each year. This would not be a position requiring a vote, but would make for some stability and continuity in having the same Head Marshal for both Hunt Tests in the same year. Patti moved that we add this to the responsibilities of the nominating committee, and Robert seconded. The vote passed unanimously.
- Lunches/Judges Dinner: Patti and Mark Gibson will be out of town during the Fall test so we need someone else to take over these responsibilities. Karen agreed to do lunches. Everyone preferred to keep on with our current format for the judge's dinner, a cookout at Hiwassee. Derek agreed to handle the judge's dinner this time, and we're hoping for some of his delicious barbecue.!
- Misconduct of club members and handlers: in the event of incidents, how should we handle? It was decided that a private talk by the Hunt Test Chairman with the offending person was the best way to address such issues. It is important that this be PRIVATE, however, and not in an area where other people can overhear.
- Proper procedure for injured dogs, handlers and/or members: we are supposed to report to AKC any dog that is injured during the test. At the spring test, one of the Junior dogs broke a nail in the water entry and was in enough pain that the handler pulled the dog and did not finish. By the time the hunt test committee found out about this, the handler was gone and has not responded to our telephone calls. We have not filled out the proper paperwork. We need to make sure that Marshals know the requirements and contact the proper people on the hunt test committee to make sure that this is handled properly in the future.
- Proper procedure for "putting a handler on the clock." At the spring test, there was an instance in Junior where the marshal put the handler 'on the clock' and announced to the judge 15 minutes later that there were no more dogs. The Marshal should have contacted the hunt test committee to try to find out where the handler was, and should have also notified the judge that we had a missing dog. This is in no way a fault of the Marshal, as we have not done a good job in training people on the proper responsibilities of what to do, but it is something that we need to correct for the future.

- Michael suggested that we consider setting up some kind of Member Mentoring Program to teach new members how to do certain tasks associated with a hunt test. This will require scheduling twice the number of folks needed for each task ( i.e. Marshaling, lunches, equipment moving, etc...) so the new member has a chance to learn.
  - i. With regard to Marshaling, Karen pointed out that it was not likely that a Marshal could learn the job just by mentoring with another Marshal as it could be that no unusual situations would come up. She suggested that we look into coming up with an instruction sheet to be included in the marshal's boxes, and possibly consider having a training session as well. This seemed to be well received but no motions were made on how this would be handled.
  - ii. As far as other club responsibilities go, Derek mentioned that this needs to be part of the new member sponsor program. The sponsor needs to rope in the new members to help on various aspects of running the tests, as part of getting them properly introduced to the club and brought on board with the idea that everyone needs to pitch in and help.
  - iii. Diane Fyfe suggested that we consider instituting a workers' incentive program similar to what is done at agility trials, which need dozens of workers. She and Rick mentioned free lunches, vouchers for reduced entry fees (\$5 Off). Other ideas thrown out included raffling tee shirts, free entries, etc., with only those who worked at the test being in the raffle pool. One person suggested that perhaps the Chief Marshal could serve as the de facto Volunteer coordinator for this kind of thing, and another person suggested that it would be easier to recruit workers for 4 hour sessions rather than 2.5 days. No firm decisions were reached on how to move forward with this idea, but the consensus seemed to be that this would be a worthwhile thing to do.

**August picnic:** LC park shelter rented for 08-10-2013. Roberta agreed to serve as Secretary for this meeting. Karen will work with her beforehand to provide all the information on what needs to be done for voting in the new members.

**Future Training days:** Haying is going on now at Roane Regional, so it should be ready soon. Karen will contact the board as soon as we have a useable field!

### **New Business:**

**Fall Club Tests:** We need to start planning for this now. Last year's trial at Chota was a disaster, with uncut soybeans and mile-high grass. Darryl Miller had mentioned that he would be willing to host us in the fall at his farm; Roberta will contact him to see if there

are some available dates in late September or early October, and Michael will look up dates of nearby hunt tests. This is an item that will need to be finalized at the August meeting.

***New members:*** The following applicants were up for first reading, tentative approval, and assignment of sponsors:

1. Nick Hodge – Gibsons have agreed to be a sponsor, and Wes Overton will be asked to be the second sponsor
2. Tony Yaniello – Roberta & Michael Evans agreed to be sponsors.
3. Adam Smelcer – He requested Brian Caldwell (Brian is no longer a member, as he didn't renew before 6/1/13; Mark Gibson agreed to chase Brian down and get his renewal money). The Gibsons also agreed to mentor Adam.

Patti moved that these new members be tentatively approved. Robert seconded and the vote was unanimous. Karen will contact each new member and sponsor to get things moving.

***AKC Delegate:***

Diane Fyfe reported that she is planning to attend the December quarterly AKC meeting in December and will be working with us on what our concerns and issues are before that meeting.

Diane also commented that she, Rick and Michelle Fletcher won't be able to be at the Fall Test since they have already accepted agility judging assignments long ago. She asked if future fall test dates were going to be on the same weekend? Various members explained to her that, although the May dates were always Memorial Day weekend, that the fall dates were fluid because of the yearly changes in TWRA's hunt dates, the Master National, etc.

***Adjourn***

There being no other business, and since the food was growing cold and the fourth inning was already underway, Kelley moved that we adjourn, Robert seconded, and the vote was unanimous. We adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

- Patti Gibson: Mark will track down Brian Caldwell and get his renewal so that he can continue to serve as a sponsor.
- Brent McCoy: suggested striking description of incidents at the spring test.

Approvals: (6 are needed as that is more than half of the voting members of the Board)

1. Brent McCoy 6/20/13
2. Derek Dieterich 6/20/13
3. Patti Gibson 6/20/13
4. Roberta Williams 6/20/13
5. Kelley Eller 6/21/13
6. Chuck Atchley 6/21/13
7. Karen Edwards 6/21/13