

ETRC Board Meeting, March 9, 2015
Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City

Present from the Board: Mike Evans, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Derek Dieterich, Patti Gibson, Thomas Art Gibson, David Knott, Diane Fyfe

Absent, excused: Roberta Williams, Lois Luthenauer, Kevin Luthenauer

Absent, unexcused:

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports

President's Report: Michael Evans: nothing new to report.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on February 28, 2015. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and were posted on the club website today. Diane Fyfe moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. David Knott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current unobligated balance in the Sevier County Bank (SBC) is \$132.27 . Money pending for deposit into new account: \$10,000 (transfer of funds from SBC) and \$275 in received membership dues. Outstanding bills are \$155.95 to Chuck Atchley for reimbursement of the President's gift card given at the awards banquet.

Karen Edwards, the new treasurer, stated that she would like to move the club's account from SBC to the ORNL Federal Credit Union where she does all the rest of her banking. She also requested that Roberta Williams, the Hunt Test Secretary, be designated as the second person who can sign checks in the event Karen is unavailable at some point. However, Roberta was not at the meeting so we were unable to verify if she was willing to continue in this role. Patti Gibson moved that the account be so changed, that Karen and Roberta each be designated as signers, and that if Roberta was unwilling to continue as a signer, that President J. Michael Evans be designated in her stead. The motion was seconded by Diane Fyfe and approved unanimously. Karen will open the account at ORNLFCU as quickly as possible and will order checks.

There are three outstanding checks drawn on the SBC account that are past their 6 months issuance date. One is to a person who scratched his entry at last spring's hunt test (\$80); one is to a judge from last spring's hunt test (\$160) and the third is to Roberta. After some discussion, Diane Fyfe moved that Karen asked Chuck Atchley to cancel the checks; we will inform the judge & Roberta that if they wish we will re-issue the checks out of the new account. Thomas Art seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AKC Representative's Report: Diane Fyfe. Nothing new to report

Old Business

1. ***Club Trial #1 Final Arrangements:*** The first Club Trial of 2015 is this coming Saturday, March 14, 2015. David Knott will pick up the club trailer at Hiwassee and bring it to the Darrell Miller farm Saturday morning; Michael Evans will take it home with him at the end of the day. Thomas Art Gibson will bring the thawed ducks. David Knott has contacted several people who are willing to serve as judges. Several people have been hired as bird boys including student member Kevin Niethammer, Junior member Seth Knott, and a few others. Everyone will be asked to bring their own food and water. Brent McCoy will bring tee shirts for sale, Karen will bring the ribbons, Jim will bring all the Thunder simulators stored at the Pegasus office and David Knott will bring a few extra; we need six in all. We will cancel the test Friday night if the weather forecast is looking dreadful.
2. ***ETRC Spring Hunt Test.*** Update: AKC approval of the May 23-24, 2015 dates has been received and the application made and paid for. J.Michael has received TWRA approval, although some question remains about necessary paperwork and where that stands.

One thing that needs to be pinned down right away is if we stay with our standard format (double Junior, double Senior, single Master) or if we try something different. J. Michael mentioned that some clubs were doing a single Junior, single Senior, single Master either with two flights of 90 each, or with 3 days and a full double master. Master classes fill better and have higher entry fees, but the down sides are additional work on the part of all of us volunteers, higher costs, and the potential loss of dogs moving through the pipeline up to Master level. It was agreed that we would probably make more money if we went to a single/single/double format, but overall we were doubtful whether the extra money would outweigh the disadvantages. Karen moved that we stay with the same format we have been using – double Junior and Senior and single Master over two days, with a Master limit of 120 dogs. Diane seconded the motion, which then passed.

Judges have not yet been pinned down; Michael has not been able to find anyone yet and asked for assistance. Michele Fletcher agreed to work with Michael on contacting some judges and anyone who knows of any judges that would be good, needs to get this information to either of them quickly.

In other duties: we need a person to be officially designated as head equipment wrangler; Derek agreed to formalize his status in this post and will seek to find some other people to help. We discussed the duck wrangler position which last year was ably handled by Kevin Luthenauer. Given his health issues this year, we decided to appoint David Knott as the Duck Wrangler assistant, and David will be the one to actually meet and take custody of the ducks and participate in gassing them the next morning along with J.Michael. David will work with Kevin to decide which of them will do duck ordering and other related duties. Patti will be lead on the judges' dinner, with Derek providing the smoked meat and Karen assisting as needed; Karen will be primarily responsible for lunches with Patti's assistance. Diane Fyfe will arrange for at least 24 bird boys, trying first for the basketball team and then filling in as needed with other school clubs / 4H etc. Patti will be responsible for the judges' gifts again, and will reprise the extremely successful 'taste of Tennessee' themed gifts from

last fall. Thomas Art has enough poppers to provide the few that we may need for things like Bubba guns; mostly we will be using our new thunder simulators for all events.

3. **Training Committee and dates:** New dates have been set for Wednesday, March 25, and Saturday, April 25. So far, all the dates we have set over the winter have been frozen or rained out. Karen will coordinate with Roberta and Beth White to see if these dates will work for them, and will get notices out to the membership. Training will be held at Roane Regional.
4. **Advertising on the website:** Derek Dieterich: nothing new. He has had two expressions of interest but neither of them seemed interested in providing us anything in return – discounts, tee-shirts to be raffled or given away, etc.
5. **Search committee for new test grounds:** Nothing new. J. Michael commented that he has talked with other clubs who are facing the same issue of shrinking grounds availability and the tendency of public lands being farmed for profit.
6. **Sale of shotguns:** Tabled till another meeting.

New Business:

1. **First Reading, New members:**
 - a. Scott & Heidi Murphy, Sevierville, TN have 4 labs
 - b. Trevor Tucker, student, Knoxville, TN, has a Lab puppy in field training
Patti Gibson volunteered to be a sponsor for the Murphys, and suggested that Roberta living in Sevierville might be another good one. Derek and J. Michael volunteered to sponsor Trevor Tucker. Patti moved that these people be accepted on first reading into conditional membership; Diane Fyfe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Karen will contact Roberta to see if she is willing to sponsor the Murphys and will contact both sets of members to provide them with new member information.
2. **April club test:** at Revilo. We looked at dates of nearby field events and decided that April 11 would be the best date. Karen will check with Chuck to make sure this works for him. J. Michael will bring the trailer and will keep it for a week until Thomas Art can pick it up to take it back to Hiwassee for the hunt test.
3. **Fall Hunt Test:** The set dates now with AKC are October 18-19, which are right in the middle of the Master National. Considering that it is in Cheraw this year, everyone in this area that qualifies will be there and our numbers will be really small. Karen suggested that rather than waiting to find out what the land availability is with Hiwassee, that we contact AKC to see what alternate dates might be available earlier in the fall – like possibly the end of September. Of course, these dates might not work with Hiwassee, but it is certain that if we wait until August to check with AKC, all possible earlier dates will be gone by that time – there may not be any now anyway.

4. *Ideas for encouraging greater participation by membership?* This includes the need to start now for grooming/talking to people about nominations for board/officer positions for next year. This is a difficult issue, and we all agreed on the need to use the sponsor program to try to pull in more helpers and train them up into working more with the club.

5. *Any other new business?* None

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Diane moved that we adjourn. Derek Dieterich seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Michele Fletcher 3/11/15
2. Patti Gibson 3/10/15
3. David Knott 3/11/15
4. J.Michael Evans 3/11/15
5. Diane Fyfe 3/11/15
6. Thomas Art Gibson 3/11/15
7. Karen Edwards 3/12/15