

**ETRC Board Meeting, April 27, 2015**  
**Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN**

**Present from the Board:** J. Michael Evans, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Lois Luthenauer, Kevin Luthenauer, Derek Dieterich, Patti Gibson, Thomas Art Gibson, David Knott, & Diane Fyfe

**Absent, excused:** None

**Absent, unexcused:** None

**Members present:** None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum was present. The meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports**

**President's Report:** Michael Evans. Michael mostly wants to discuss the upcoming spring hunt test and deferred discussion until then.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on March 9, 2015. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since 3/12/15. Patti moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. Diane Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Website changes made & pending: posted awards info and dates for March-May, several brags, logos for some corporate sponsors.

Membership: So far, 38 paid members for 2015, with 26 not yet renewed. Of the 38, two are new members who will be considered under first reading tonight later on.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU is \$10,850.78. Year to date report is attached. All old Sevier County Bank checks cleared or canceled (see table below for cancellations) and old account in SCB closed out as of 4/13/15. New checks ordered and received. Still need to get with Roberta to get her signatory authority on the account; we will try to arrange something during the next week.

\$80.00	06/02/14	John Stracka - Hiwassee scratch
\$160.00	05/25/14	Kyle Bertram - judge's expense
\$6.90		Roberta Williams - check not cashed

**AKC Representative's Report:** Diane Fyfe. We have been asked if we have any nominations for AKC's lifetime achievement award, which is to honor people who have had a nationwide impact on AKC's dog-related activities. We discussed but decided not to make any nominations at this time.

**Old Business**

1. **Club Trial Revilo:** No expenses, received a total of \$155 in entry fees, there was a disappointingly small turnout considering how lovely the day was. The trial ran smoothly,

and Michael thanked everyone who participated. A copy of the Trial report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

2. ***ETRC Spring Hunt Test.***

- a. Judges have been approved for the Sunday test. We are still waiting approval for one set of Saturday's Master judges – Don Hatfield needed another point in order to be eligible, and he completed that point over the weekend. As soon as that test submits its paperwork to AKC, we will be approved. Michael expects approval not later than next Monday. Letters have been sent to the judges and rooms have been reserved in their name at the hotel (the Best Western Inn, 7835 Rhea County Hwy/State Hwy 27, Dayton, TN, Phone (423) 775-6560).
- b. Changes to Entry Express: Michael talked with David Didier to find out how the 'reserved' entries were going to be handled. This is the new provision that allows clubs to reserve up to 15% of the total entries for workers, to make sure that those who work and also compete will be able to get in, considering how rapidly Master tests are filling these days. Roberta will be assigned 18 individual codes, and people wanting them need to contact her in advance of the opening date. The first 24 hours, entries with those codes will be the only ones who can enter. After that, codes not used and all other entries will be on a first-come-first-served basis. We had some discussion whether these codes should be reserved for MEMBERS, or for VOLUNTEERS. We have members who never lift a finger to help put on any club events, and non-members who volunteer to help out and pitch in. After some discussion, Karen moved that the codes should be reserved for anyone (member or non-member) who has put in at least 4 hours volunteer work for ETRC during the past year, or is willing to sign up for 4 hours at the spring test. The motion was seconded by Diane and passed unanimously. Karen will write an email to all club members (including those from last year who are still considered members until June 1) notifying them that they may request one of the codes from Roberta and the provisions about volunteer work being required. Roberta will have to screen those who haven't worked and sign them up for tasks that need to be done during the test. She will then pass those names on to the people responsible for that activity (i.e., the Chief Marshall for volunteer Marshals, etc.). If there are fewer than 18 people who sign up (and we expect this to be the case, given that there are not that many club members running master-level dogs), the remainder will be allowed to expire and flow back into the general entry numbers.
- c. Michael asked Karen to send out a note to members about the hotel; there are only 6 rooms left in the reserved block.
- d. Roberta verified that the permit from TWRA has been received.
- e. Kevin Luthenauer said that he would take care of ordering the ducks. Since his health has been very iffy lately, David Knott will serve as his assistant and will be able to actually meet the man with the ducks and if necessary take on other duck wrangler duties should Kevin be too ill to do them at the time.
- f. Hunt Test Work Assignments: Karen passed out copies of the master list of assignments and urged people to make sure they had coverage on all the tasks listed under each of the major headings for which they were responsible.

3. **Training Committee and dates:** The next training day will be Saturday morning, May 9, at the Roane Regional training grounds.
4. **Advertising on the website:** Derek Dieterich noted that he had received some \$100 worth of gift certificates from companies who have provided them in return for a logo advertisement on our website. Derek asked what should we do with these? After some discussion, it was decided that we would put a raffle ticket into a box for every 4 hours that volunteers work, and on Sunday afternoon will draw names from the box for the various gift certificates that we have received.
5. **Search committee for new test grounds:** Michael repeated his report from last month, that so far there were no obviously good looking candidates for other test grounds. Private farmers were unwilling to have people trampling all over their farm and the wildlife places were mostly unsuitable or had managers who were not willing to go out of their way to make things workable. Kevin mentioned the possibilities of a paid lease to a farmer; Karen pointed out that we made \$5,000 last year on the spring test and \$4,000 on the fall one, but that this did not include costs such as ribbons. Often we have broken even on the fall test. Therefore, any amount of lease money would have to be fairly low or it would quickly put us in the red. There was a general commitment to keep on looking and to let Michel know of any possibilities. Requirements are for at least 4 ponds, not all of them simple ovals; for 2 master set-ups and a Junior and Senior, we probably need over 300 acres. And, we need to try to stay within a 100 mile radius of Knoxville.
6. **Sale of shotguns:** Tabled for now.

#### **New Business:**

1. **First Reading, New members:**
  - a. Luke McCoy: sponsors assigned are his uncle Brent McCoy and Michael Evans.
  - b. Keith/Lona Garner: sponsors assigned are Patti Gibson and Tom Gibson.
  - c. Wayne Rasbury – past member, no need for sponsorship.Lois moved that new members be accepted on first reading, and that Wayne does not need to go through sponsorship. Diane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Master National Entry Modifications:** Michael has received two ballots asking for our vote on the following issues, and he agrees to be guided by the Board's decision on how we should vote on these measures.
  - a. Should dogs who have achieved Hall of Fame status (by passing the MN three separate times) be exempt from any further qualifying? After some discussion, and given the small number of dogs that this applies to any one year, Karen moved that we vote YEA on this measure. Derek seconded, passage was unanimous.
  - b. Should dogs be required to pass 6 out of 8 Master Tests entered in order to qualify? Discussion included the fact that early on, passing 5 out of 7 was the qualification standard, and that dogs that were unstable enough to pass consistently on the weekend tests were not likely to be able to pass the far more grueling MN. There was general agreement that this would probably reduce the number of dogs who qualify for the

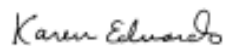
MN, which is the desired goal from the Master National Club's point of view, who are dealing with huge numbers of dogs that enter, making logistical arrangements nearly impossible for the MN committee. On the other hand, several people pointed out that this was likely to reduce entries at the weekend tests – once you flunk three in the fall, there is no point entering any more until the next fall. Also, this was not a good thing for people whose goal is not actually completing the MN, but simply in qualifying for it – which is a big achievement all in itself. Lois moved that we vote NAY on this proposal; Tom Gibson seconded, and it passed unanimously.

3. **Fall Hunt Test:** Our current AKC dates of Oct 18 -19 are right in the middle of the Master National this year which won't work at all. We could expect very low entries especially at the Master level if we are stuck with these dates. Hiwassee will not meet until June 2 to determine their fall dates for hunting, hunt testing, harvests, etc. On the first of July, a new AKC rule change goes into effect allowing hunt tests on the same weekend to be no closer than 100 miles (now it is 200 miles). In light of all this, it was decided to wait until early June, get with Hiwassee on possible dates, then contact AKC as soon as possible after July 1 to explore what dates might be available under the new rules.
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. Two items were decided on today – a raffle for volunteers at the spring hunt test, and the codes for master entries.
5. **List of items not in trailer, farmed out to members:** Karen suggested that it would be a good idea to get a master inventory of all the equipment ETRC owns and track who has what. This was agreed to be a good idea; Karen volunteered to keep the list, and Michael suggested that we take some time during the slow periods at the hunt test to conduct an inventory of the trailer to see what all was there. We can send this list around to the Board and others to see if there are other items that need to be added, and then keep this list up to date as items are trashed/sold or new items purchased.

**Any other new business?** None

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Michele moved that we adjourn. Patti seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

**Changes:**

1. Added motion, second and vote on new members – K. Edwards, 4/28/15

**Approvals:**

- |                              |                            |                             |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Kevin Luthenauer, 4/28/15 | 4. Diane Fyfe 4/28/15      | 7. J. Michael Evans 4/28/15 |
| 2. Michele Fletcher, 4/28/15 | 5. Lois Luthenauer 4/28/15 | 8. Karen Edwards 4/28/15    |
| 3. Derek Dieterich 4/28/15   | 6. David Knott 4/28/15     |                             |