

ETRC Board Meeting, June 8, 2016
Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, Michele Fletcher, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Michael Evans, Patti Gibson, Thomas Art Gibson, Donna Smith, Diane Fyfe

Absent, excused: Alan Bruhin

Absent, unexcused:

Members present:

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

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports

President's Report: Lois Luthenauer: board member Ron Burger has resigned, and we need to appoint a new board member for his term, which will expire Feb 2019. Several names were discussed, and the board decided to contact Luke McCoy to see if he would be willing to serve. He has taken the judges' seminar and was a great help at the recent hunt test. Michael volunteered to call him. If he is willing to serve, Michael will notify the Board and we will conduct a vote via email to approve his appointment.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was April 18, 2016. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since April 21, 2016. Michael moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. Patti Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Correspondence:** None to report.
- **Website changes made & pending:** added minutes from 4/18/16 board meeting, changed the password, posted the June 1, 2016 membership list, changed the dates on the website for various events, etc.
- **Membership:** Current membership is 48, with 20 people from 2015 who haven't yet renewed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 6/8/16 is \$20253.73. Outstanding are bills from MNRC for annual dues (\$50) and an invoice from Cleveland Portables for the porta-potties at the hunt test which has not yet been received.

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

Old Business

1. **Spring club Trial #2, Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm:** May 14, report finalized and included in the June Newsletter. Most of the Board was not at the trial; those who were reported that

although small, it was a good trial and the new Dokkens worked very well. Next year, we need to try to schedule the club trials in March and April rather than in April and May, since so many people are already involved in hunt tests every weekend in May.

2. ***Spring Hunt Test, May 28-29:*** A very good test! We did have problems with time management with one set of Master judges – the tests were very long and the third series did not end until 8:15 on Sunday night which was too long. Our new idea of assigning two specific workers to each pair of judges, and having them set up the test on Friday night, worked well except for Master A where the helpers dumped partial amounts of equipment at the test site, and did not set up until Saturday morning – with at least 5 calls for more equipment that they hadn't gotten the night before. Not sure what we can do about it, except be more aware that everyone might not be following instructions and the hunt test chairman actually go around to each site to check on Friday afternoon. Other than that, the test went well with few issues. Another thing we need to do next time is start on the birdboy process earlier; it has been so easy the last several years that when the group we've been using declined, it was hard to find replacements. All eventually worked out well though. It looks like we netted around \$8000 on the test which can be used for further equipment purchases and upgrades.
3. ***Fall Hunt Test:*** October 22-23, Lucky 7
 - a. Although Hiwassee agreed to make the November 4 weekend available for us, AKC was not agreeable as there was another test too near by to approve those dates. So, we are still looking at trying to get Lucky 7 or possibly Lucky 7 and Dogtown, approved by AKC and TWRA.
 - b. Format: serious concerns about getting even one place approved in the time available, much less two. Alan Bruhin suggested at the May club trial that we consider changing our format for the fall test, and have a single Junior and Senior (one on Saturday, one on Sunday) and two flights of Master in order to be able to fit completely onto the Lucky 7 site while still having a money-making test. Patti moved that we adopt this new format; Diane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Karen will log onto the AKC event website and make these changes, and will also add John Broucek to the hunt test committee to make sure that Ken Campbell is comfortable with his interests being adequately represented.
 - c. Lucky 7 approvals, AKC & TWRA: Lois and Michael are going to be working to get this process started. This will involve getting aerial maps and information about property usage etc. We will also need to develop a written agreement for his signature. This means we need to set a price for our use. After some discussion, Karen suggested and the Board agreed that we should offer \$1000 for the use of Lucky 7 for the weekend test and for the Friday before the test. Karen will draft a simple agreement for consideration by the Board for this purpose.
 - d. Entry fees for test: Michael commented that many tests have gone to \$90 per Master event, and some are even at \$95. Our fees for the spring test were \$65 Junior, \$75 Senior, and \$80 Master. After some discussion (we are still making a good profit so

no need to gouge; having lower fees than some places may attract more entries, etc.), Michael moved that we raise our fees for Master to \$85 and leave the fees for Junior and Senior at the current rate. Tom seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- e. As of July 2, AKC is requiring all tests to have 2 fresh ducks per dog (ducks that have been killed within the past 24 hours of the start of the test). Various ideas were explored about how we can ensure that we provide adequate numbers of non-rotten ducks especially for the Junior dogs on Sunday. Various ideas presented were killing some of the ducks later in the day rather than all of them on Saturday morning; buying a bunch of chamois cloths and making the bird boy who hangs the ducks responsible for drying each duck before hanging; saving back some ducks that have been used for land-only and not having all of them go through the water; purchasing some fans and possibly a generator to run air over the ducks when they are hanging overnight; storing some of the ducks in a refrigerator, etc. For the fall test, one of the things we need to ask Ken Campbell early on is where we can store our ducks both right after delivery and overnight between tests. Hopefully there may be electricity in whatever location he designates, in which case we will buy a few large fans and see how that works. If there is no electricity, Tom has a gas-powered generator that he will loan for the duration of the test, although it is unclear how much gasoline it will hold and therefore how many hours of fan operation it will provide.

Also, we may need to build a duck rack at Lucky 7, a temporary one made out of scrap lumber (Lois has plenty of scrap lumber) so we can store the ducks off the ground overnight.

- f. Traffic and property use: There is one road running around the perimeter of Lucky 7 and then a road that runs up the middle and dead-ends at the clubhouse. This will make it challenging to ensure that we have adequate access to the various sites, can avoid interference with the tests, and don't get trucks/trailers stuck up at the clubhouse area. We discussed the need later on in our planning process to use the aerial maps for deciding on various issues before the test – tentatively where to place the different stakes, traffic patterns, where to place signs, where to set up the check-in and operations center, etc. This should make set-up on Friday go smoother although we may have to change some tentative decisions once we are actually on site. Initial thoughts are that we should only use the very nice clubhouse for the judges' dinner, and that on Saturday and Sunday, the Headquarters needs to be set up in the barn right near the entry to avoid traffic issues.
- g. Judges: Michael has already asked Luke McCoy to be a Junior judge for the fall. However, he will not be able to be one of the senior judges the next day, so this means we will need one more person who will only be needed for senior one day. He has also pinned down one Master judge. Karen suggested that we contact Jan and Jim Burnette again for Fall. Michael mentioned that Jim Burnette said he would like to judge master, so if they agreed, we would only need one more Senior judge and two more Master judges. Diane mentioned asking Ken Kogut again; people seemed to like him a lot and Master B went very smoothly. Costs were higher for Ken – his

only cost was airfare at \$680; other judges' costs were around \$450 or so. Judges were cheaper this time as we had two couples who shared rooms.

4. ***Kevin's Fund:*** Youth members Bailey and Taylor McCoy's entry fees were refunded out of the Luthenauer fund, leaving a balance of \$880. Bailey also titled her Junior dog during the test – the youth fund's first hunting Title! During the test, we received a fund application from Griffin McDowell, 13, who is Brian Caldwell's Assistant. His parents are not members and there may be an issue about them wanting to pay money for Griffin to join the club. Various people have offered to pay his membership, but we do need to have a signature from a parent on the application. Lois is working with Brian on getting this accomplished. Karen moved that we approve his membership in the Youth fund, pending receipt of parental permission and a \$25 membership fee from somewhere. Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Lois mentioned she is working with Brian Caldwell to set up a Young Handler's seminar sometime this summer.
5. ***Dokkens:*** 30 were purchased earlier as a trial. Since they seemed to work well, Karen raised the question of whether we wanted to buy more so we could more easily run a full Club Trial without constant rebirding? Patti moved that the club buy 30 more Dokkens and two more decoy bags (\$770); Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Michael, who purchased the first batch, agreed to contact Dogs Afield and get some more which will be sent to Karen and Jim for storage in the small trailer. Michele mentioned that the dokkens we purchased did not come equipped with the little plastic balls at the end of the rope that make it easier to hand throw them. A quick review of the online price indicated that Gun Dog Supply sells these for \$2.50 each which seems very high. Several board members offered to see if they could find these for a cheaper price and bring back to the Board a proposal to buy 60 of them.
6. ***Workers Raffle, Website advertising:*** After deciding at the last meeting to convert the raffle to a workers raffle, where everyone who worked at least 4 hours at the test would be automatically entered and a drawing held on Sunday, we all forgot. Karen suggested that we delay the drawing until the Summer picnic and hold it there, with everyone's names entered. There was no vote taken but there seemed to be general consensus that this was a good idea.
7. ***Jody Ware Spring Seminar.*** Lois talked about this with Jody and he suggested we use the same format as last year, combine the seminar with the annual picnic. He said to notify him when the picnic would be and he would make himself available for it. This was agreeable to the board, and we set the date for Saturday, August 20, at the Fyfes' and Fletchers' adjoining farms in Pikeville again.
8. ***Club Newsletter:*** deadline for July newsletter is June 25.

New Business:

1. ***First Reading, New members:***

- a. Andrew Sellin, environmental engineer, Tellico Plains, TN, has Golden Retrievers. Sponsors: Jim Pearce volunteers, Thomas Art as well. Andrew helped out a LOT at the hunt test.
- b. Bob & Margaret Smith, Cleveland, TN. Was at hunt test & ran a lab; owns a young lab as well. Requested Brian Caldwell as one sponsor; Michael volunteered to be the second sponsor.
- c. Erik Zrucky, Lansing, TN, retired AF. Has just bought a John Guinn puppy, requested John as a sponsor. Lois volunteered to be the other one as Lansing is not far from her farm.

Diane moved that these new members be accepted on first reading. Michael seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Karen will notify the new members and the sponsors, and the final vote will be scheduled for the summer picnic.

2. *New Equipment/stuff needed:*

- a. **Graphics for the new trailer:** Earlier, a suggestion was made that we consider getting a logo put on both sides of the trailer or Camo decorations or something. Michael suggested that we continue to table this idea, but that we instead authorize Small Trailer Custodian Jim Pearce to spend the money necessary to set up the inside better – one of the straps pulled off the wall, some of the holders are not working well, etc. Michael volunteered to help Jim put it all together.
- b. **Other Equipment purchases:** Jim Pearce, who was Chief Marshal at the spring test, passed along a recommendation that we put together 4 toolkits, one for each test site, that includes the following:
 1. Vegetation cutters/loppers
 2. A tool kit for the wingers: pliers, adjustable wrench, wire cutters, zip ties, cotter pins, a small sledge hammer, and Loctite; as well as some winger-specific hardware including replacement basket eyes, washers, and nuts. Rubber, and not the flimsy tan kind that breaks rapidly.
 3. Camouflage umbrellas and stands for the bird kids and the dogs/handlers standing at the various holding blinds. We would need 5 for each master flight, and 4 for Junior and Senior each for a total of 18.

Discussion was positive about these ideas. Michael suggested that there be a separate tool box be purchased to put these items in, separate from the Marshal boxes. There was some discussion about whether to purchase actual rubber replacement kits or continue to use bulk rubber, possibly already pre-cut. The kits cost \$25 each which is pretty expensive, but with the variety of wingers we have it might be difficult to ensure that we have the proper lengths of rubbers for the particular wingers in use at a particular test site. As for the umbrellas, there was some concern that some judges might not like or approve of umbrellas. Michael suggested using the chairs with built-in shades, and Patti offered to see if she could find some good bargains on these in a dark color. This would not solve the problem for dogs and handlers standing in holding blinds. Karen was asked to relay to Jim the Board's request that he come up with some specific items and costs, and this be presented at the next meeting which is likely to be the summer picnic.

c. **Ribbons:** Before our next test, we need JH ribbons and title ribbon tabs for Junior and Senior. We are running a low on Master tabs and will need title ribbons after next test. Recommend buying some now. Last time Karen ordered 200 Juniors and they sent 200 Masters instead so we are way oversupplied on Master! Lois directed Karen to buy what we needed. Karen said it would cost around \$1000 to re-supply ourselves, and she will wait till the ribbons go on sale before ordering. This time she will also double check the order to make sure they don't send the wrong thing this time!

3. **MNRC proposal:** do we vote yes or no on the proposal to change the MNRC bylaws to allow bylaws amendments to pass with a simple majority of those present (25% is a quorum, so this is 12.5% of the membership) as opposed to 2/3 of those present? Our vote is due by July 5. Karen has researched the proposal, the current Bylaws, and AKC's bylaws rules, and does not think this is a good idea. The bylaws already permit changes to be done by only considering votes of those already PRESENT, not of all member clubs, assuming there is already a quorum present. Michael, who has talked with other MNRC delegates, says that the concern is that there is never a quorum present at the yearly meeting at the MN hunt test. Karen responded that in that case, changing it to a majority instead of 2/3 wouldn't make any difference since no business can be transacted if there is not a quorum present. Michael said there is concern that proposals get passed by the MNRC Board without any input from the membership – but that is true of all clubs. The MNRC Board cannot, however, pass bylaws changes without putting it before the membership at either the Hunt test meeting, another meeting, or by sending it out to all member clubs like they did this time. Karen moved that we vote NO on this proposal; Roberta seconded, and it passed unanimously. Michael will prepare and return the ballot recording our No vote to the MNRC board secretary prior to the July 5 deadline.
4. **Training days:** Karen noted that the fields behind the Pegasus Technologies building have been mowed and that we could schedule a training day on the grounds. However, after a discussion of the intense heat expected in the next several weeks, it was decided to delay any further training sessions until fall.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Diane moved that we adjourn. Michael seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Addendum 6/13/16: Michael Evans contacted Luke McCoy to see if he would be willing to serve the balance of Ron Burger's term as a board member (through Feb 2019). Here is the response from Michael, quoted from an email dated 6/12/16:

"I spoke with Luke McCoy about assuming Mr. Burger's Board position and he not only agreed, but was very excited. His only concern that he wanted us to know is that he is a student taking night school classes and works a full time job. He said he would happily be at every meeting he could but he might have to miss on certain nights throughout the next year and a half. I explained that would be no problem."

I called for an email vote on 6/13/16 with the following results: Michael moves that we appoint Luke and votes Aye; I second and vote Aye; ayes also received from Patti Gibson, Donna Smith, Alan Bruhin, Diane Fyfe, Michele Fletcher. Others may still vote but this is a majority of the Board, so Luke is officially appointed as a Board member.

Changes to Minutes:

Diane Fyfe: add mention of looking into the cost of plastic balls at the end of the Dokken ropes.
Michele Fletcher & Mike Evans: correction -- some clubs have raised prices to \$90 for MASTER tests, not senior.

Approvals:

Michele Fletcher, 6/9/16
Diane Fyfe, 6/9/16 & 6/13/16
Donna Smith, 6/10/16
Tom Gibson, 6/10/16
Michael Evans, 6/12/16
Patti Gibson, 6/13/16
Karen Edwards, 6/13/16