

Minutes from Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 22, 2020
Calhoun's Bearden Hill Restaurant, Knoxville, TN

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Cory Smith, Jeff McNutt

Members present: Mitzi Evans; Denise, Tony, Erin, Cade, & Ivan Chambers; Debbie Bruhin; Elena, Hunter, and Abigail Smith; Peter & Mara Torok; Donna Smith; Lisa Styles; Justin Crippen; Gwen & Bill Coon; Katie McCoy; Liz Gibson; Patti Gibson; Kile & Tracey Gibson; Jake Greenwell

Guests Present: Lois's guest Todd McGee, Debbie Bruhin's granddaughter, Abigail Hunter's guest.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. Nineteen memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 53 (20% would be 11). Therefore, a quorum was present.

After a delicious buffet paid for by the Club, the business meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Welcome, and President's Report on last year's activities: Luke gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year –

- 3 AKC hunt tests – Master only in March, regular spring and fall tests.
- Summer picnic / seminar at the Retriever Retreat with Jody Ware
- A Spring Club Trial at Roane Regional and a partial Fall club trial at the Retriever Retreat
- 4 training/ seminars from November through February.
- Thanks to:
 - Darryl Miller, who was willing for us to hold a club trial at this place in the spring until the rains intervened;
 - Ken Campbell for letting us use his farm for our fall hunt test;
 - Lois and Sherie Catledge for hosting the summer picnic and several of the winter training seminars.
 - Lisa Styles and Sherie Catledge for leading the recent training sessions/ seminars during November, December, January and February
 - Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year
- New equipment:
 - Recently, the club has continued upgrading our equipment with the purchase of a new big trailer and the sale of the old one. Much better organized now! Thanks to Jim Pearce, Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Cory Smith, and Luke McCoy for installing shelving and storage inside the container, and to Lois Luthenauer and Karen Edwards for helping with the organization.
 - Purchased 4 new aluminum large duck dryers 2/19/2020, to be ready for spring hunt test.
 - Purchase of 4 new pop-ups: will be delivered before the spring hunt test; Lois Luthenauer is ordering these for us.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 8, 2020. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since January 15. Alan Bruhin moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois and passed unanimously.

Correspondence: AKC report on elections due following conclusion of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/22/20 is \$18,130.70, before paying for the banquet tonight and for the awards. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year;

this included separate sheets for calendar year 2019 and for Calendar year 2020 to date, as well as a sheet that showed the money in and out of our Youth Program fund. Balance in our ORNL FCU account at the end of 2019 was \$20,389.42, of which \$4,413.57 is earmarked for the youth fund. Recent payments were for the first insurance bill of the year, more ribbons, and new duck dryers. Alan Bruhin moved we accept the Treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by J. Michael Evans, and unanimously approved.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher: nothing to report since last meeting.

Old Business

Election of New members: Luke McCoy. We have 6 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

1. Burton Beakley & Heather Ludwig. Live in Signal Mountain, TN, have two yellow Labradors, interesting in training and hunt tests, is a DU member. Volunteers for training supplies. Sponsors Mike Smith, Mike Evans.
2. Dave & Jamie Cope: live in Maryville, TN. Have a black lab puppy, 11 months old. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, is a DU and NRA member. Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Sponsors Mike Smith, Lois Luthenauer.
3. Justin Crippen, Old Hickory TN. Has 2 Golden. Very active in obedience, getting started in field work. Interested in field trials, hunt tests, and dog training. Volunteers for whatever is needed and hunt test set up. Has come to most of the recent ETRC events. Sponsors Sherie Catledge and Jim Pearce.
4. Kyle & Tracey Griffin: Knoxville, TN. Have a young black Lab, just getting started. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, training, club trials, beginners looking to learn. Sponsors Jim Pearce and Mike Smith.
5. Pat Kowalski: Fairfield Glade, TN. Has a young Golden. Previously active in SAR work, interesting in learning about field work. Sponsors Catledge and Luthenauer.
6. Sharon Zickler, Crossville, TN. Sharon has a young golden male, participates in various other dog sports, belongs to the ORKC & the Cuyahoga Valley GRC, is interested in field training and hunt testing. Volunteers for hunt test set up and food prep/supplies. Sponsors Sherie Catledge and Gwen Coon.

Jim Pearce moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Lois Luthenauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events Updates: We have a full line-up of events for this coming year, and planning is already well underway for the following events:

1. **Winter Training:** next date is Sunday, March 29, 2020 at the Roane Regional training grounds, 1:00 – 4:00. Mike Evans will lead (assuming all is well with the new family additions due March 14).
2. **Spring Club Trial:** Not scheduled yet. Luke asked the membership if there was any interest in continuing these events, since they have been very poorly attended for some time. Alan Bruhin suggested that the Board make this an item of discussion at the next board meeting, to try to increase interest in these events. We will need to decide a time and a location, plus identify someone willing to take on running the event, finding judges, contacting the farm owner.
3. **Spring Hunt Test:** May 23-24, 2020, Hiwassee. This is usually our biggest event of the year and we need help with set-up, marshaling, and more. We have a small glitch on one of the judges, who needs to pass a test before AKC approval, plus we need some ideas for bird kids as we will not be able to use the FFA Monroe County chapter again.
4. **Summer Seminar and Picnic:** date and location to be determined.

5. **Fall Club Trial:** Ken Campbell's ranch is available in late September / early October if we decide to continue on with the Club Trials.
6. **Fall Hunt Test:** October 17-18, 2020, Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 Farm. 2 flights MH, double JH double SH, same format as our spring test, dates confirmed with Ken. Info on the test has been entered into Entry Express and the AKC website. Next step is locating judges.
7. **Fall Training:** We will pick up with more club training events starting next November.

New Business:

1. **Awards Presentations .** President Luke McCoy announced the following awards for 2019:

Junior Hunter: 4 member dogs earned their Junior Hunter titles this year. Through an administrative oversight, we only have one plaque ready, but the other two will be coming soon. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball JH ("Cin") and owner / handler Alan Bruhin
- Fern Hill Kepes Arany Sugar JH ("Kepes") and owner / handler Peter Torok
- Falkinburg's Patriot Gold JH ("Kenji") and owner / handler Justin Crippen
- Topbrass El Jefe de Conejitos Espinosos JH ("Jefe"), and owner / handler Justin Crippen

Senior Hunter: One member dog earned her Senior Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo SH ("Zoey"), owned by Jim Pearce and Karen Edwards

Master Hunter: Three member dogs earned their Master Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Chota's Acer the Eraser MH ("Ace") and owner / handler Lisa Styles
- Razor Sharp Retrievers JJ MH ("JJ") and owner / handler Jeremy Majors
- McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name MH ("Echo") and Luke McCoy

QA2: (won Qualified All-Age at field trial Qualifying Stakes twice): Congratulations and an engraved plaque were awarded to:

- Troublesome Oklahoma Girl MH QA2 ("Okie"), Owner/Handler: Jake Greenwell

Qualifying at the Master National/Master Amateur: Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie") and owner / handler Lois Luthenauer.

Congrats also to people who qualified to attend, and either did not attend or did not make it to the finals, for the Master National:

- Alan Bruhin and Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH ("Shine");
- David Knott and Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH ("Coal");
- J. Michael Evans and HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH ("Ivy");
- Luke McCoy and McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name MH ("Echo")
- Lois Luthenauer and Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie")

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2019: Awarded to Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball JH ("Cin") and owner/handler Alan Bruhin.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2019: Awarded to Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie") and owner / handler Lois Luthenauer.

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2019: The honor this year was presented to our Hunt Test Secretary and AKC Delegate Michele Fletcher, who in addition to training and competing in hunt tests is a top Agility judge and competitor.

ETRC Member of the Year, 2019: The award this year went to Karen Edwards, who has served as our Secretary / Treasurer during 2019. Karen also publishes the Newsletter monthly, and is chief nag-in-residence for the Board members.

2. **Youth Program:** Lois Luthenauer spoke concerning the youth program and its current status. The two backbones of our sport are Amateurs and young people coming up who will become our next group of working amateurs. Participating in retriever sports can be an expensive hobby for families, and the Youth Program, in honor of Lois's deceased husband Kevin Luthenauer, was developed to help families be able to afford for young people to participate in hunt tests and other club activities. Lois thanked the Board and Ken Campbell for providing funding for this program. Unfortunately, there were no entrants in the program for 2019, but we have back awards for 2017 and 2018, and the introduction of our new perpetual Young Handler of the Year trophy. The McCoy sisters were on the plaque for their participation in 2017, and Erin and Cade Chambers who shared the honor for 2018.
3. **In Memoriam:** Luke McCoy mentioned that for those people who have lost dogs during the year, we do have an 'in memoriam' page on the website and in the newsletter, and welcome pictures and tributes to any member dogs who pass on during the year. Please send the info and photos to Karen Edwards.
4. **Election of Officers/Board.** The Slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee is presented for approval. There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the Bylaws, and nominations are now closed.
 1. President: Alan Bruhin
 2. Vice President: J. Michael Evans
 3. Secretary: Karen Edwards
 4. Treasurer: Lois Luthenauer
 5. Board Member 2020-2023: Jim Pearce
 6. Board Member 2020-2023: Peter Torok
 7. Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
 8. AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
 9. Past President: Luke McCoy (non-elective)
 10. Chief Marshall for 2020 tests: Lois Luthenauer (non-elective)

Remaining on the board will be: Tom Gibson & Cory Smith until Feb 2021 and Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt until Feb 2022. Going off the Board to new positions: J. Michael Evans and Jim Pearce.

Motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot, and to approve the slate as presented was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Lois Luthenauer, and passed unanimously.

5. **Statement by New President:** Alan Bruhin thanked Luke McCoy for his past two years as President, and presented him with a picture plaque, a gift card from Bass Pro, and a thank you card. Alan announced that he was excited to serve as our President for the upcoming year, and with the strong Board, has some ideas that he is hoping will make the club even stronger.
6. **Door Prizes:** Alan Bruhin handed out slips for door prizes and called up recipients. Prizes awarded included bumpers, lighted-up nighttime collars, whistles, and a variety of club tee-shirts and hats.

Any other new business?

Several of the members present thanked the Board for the free dinner, which made the Awards Banquet feel more festive and was a very nice thank you to the club members.

Lois urged people to get involved in the Master Amateur program. This year's event will be held in California (and Lois and Woodie are again going), but next year's will be much closer. The judges are the same caliber as the Master National judges, and at this point it is still a much more manageable event with 150 dogs last year in two flights, as opposed to the Master National which is now running at nearly 1000 dogs a year. The eligibility period for next year begins March 1, and Lois urged people who are considering making a run for the test to join the MA Club now so their passes in the spring can be counted for qualification.

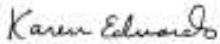
New Treasurer: Outgoing Treasurer Karen Edwards made the following motion: "The Board of Directors authorizes new Treasurer Lois Luthenauer to be added as a signatory to the Club's ORNL Federal Credit Union Account #0004060650, with authority to endorse and make deposits, sign checks, withdraw funds, and otherwise operate the account on behalf of the Club. Karen Edwards and Michele Fletcher will also remain as authorized signatories on the account. It is recognized that ORNL Federal Credit Union shall have no liability whatsoever for any transaction undertaken by any one of the persons listed above."

The motion was seconded by J. Michael Evans and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mike Smith, the vote passed, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:30.

Alan Bruhin called the new officers and board together to say he hoped to call for a board meeting in early March, and we would be getting info out to everyone soon about possible dates.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Change "Woody" to "Woodie", per Lois Luthenauer 2/24/20. I knew that! Brain cramp.... DONE.
2. Add more stuff about why Karen is Member of the Year for 2019 – Lois Luthenauer 2/24/20. DONE.
3. Woodie and Lois also qualified for the Master National for 2019 – Lois Luthenauer 2/24/20. DONE.
4. Change date for training from Sunday, March 28 to Sunday, March 29 – Peter Torok, 2/24/20. DONE.
5. Changes to names and titles for award winners – J. Michael Evans 2/25/20. DONE.

Approvals:

1. Mike Smith 2/24/20
2. Lois Luthenauer 2/24/20
3. Jim Pearce 2/24/20
4. Michele Fletcher 2/24/20
5. Jeff McNutt 2/24/20
6. Cory Smith 2/24/20
7. J. Michael Evans 2/25/20
8. Karen Edwards 2/25/20