

## **ETRC Board Meeting, Monday, 3/9/2020 Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Lois Luthenauer (via conference call), Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, Cory Smith, Jeff McNutt, Peter Torok (via conference call)

**Guests:** 8 Fern Hill Golden puppies, Jessie x Zoey

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m.

### **Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports**

**President's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/22/20; minutes approved and sent to the club website 2/25/20. Lois moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes; J. Michael Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** AKC report of elections (Still to do).
- **Membership:** 2020 renewals are coming in, we have 32 to date. Membership as of 12/31/19. Two new member for first reading under New Business:

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards presented the Treasurer's report in Lois's absence (Lois was late joining the conference call). Karen and Lois went together to the credit union about a week ago and Lois is now on the account and has the checkbook. We set her up with the Quicken program that Karen has been using since 2011 and did brief familiarization. Karen kept a dozen checks for fill-in when Lois is out of town, and will continue with membership applications /deposits until Lois's return from California in early May. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 3/9/20 was \$16,800.19, reconciled as of 3/1/20. Upcoming expenses: payment for pop-ups, trailer tires/tire irons.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher: the AKC delegates are meeting now and there should be some results at the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

1. **Training:**
  - a. March training: Sunday, March 29, 1 -4 p.m. Roane Regional. J. Michael will lead, assuming all is well with Ivy and puppies. The last training session was attended by a small group of people; attendance was lower because this session was rescheduled twice, with the last one being only a two week delay.
2. **Equipment:**

- a. Equipment sales: Still need to get gun stand to Donna Smith, who has paid for it. There was some discussion about whether we wanted to sell the old shotguns or not. General consensus was to hang on to them for a while, since the thunder sticks have blown up at least once, injuring people, and they may end up being banned as a result.
  - b. New equipment: new large duck driers and some winger parts (Karen) – Have been received. Cory took them home with him to put in the new trailer. Lois has not yet ordered the pop-ups. Michele volunteered to do that, if Lois would send her the information on which pop-ups to order. Lois agreed to pass this assignment on since she will be out of town much of the time over the next two months.
3. **Awards Banquet report:** A number of us have heard comments about how nice it was that we provided a free buffet. General consensus was that we should try to do that again next year if the club finances permit. We need to consider going somewhere else, though – the room was overflowing this time and there wasn't enough room for the people who came. Several ideas mentioned with Calhoun's By The River in downtown Knoxville (wonky parking), Calhoun's at the Marina in Lenoir City; and Buddy's Banquet Hall on Kingston Pike in the Bearden area.
4. **Spring Club Trial.** After some discussion, we decided to try once again to have a spring club trial or possibly two. There is some advantage to these; it is a good way to check your dog's preparedness before the test season, or work on problems. Problems identified with trials in the last several years:
- a. Lack of attendance by experienced club members, leaving the setups and judging to people with less experience.
  - b. Not enough effort made to talk it up.
  - c. Need a separate class for beginners, just to help them get their feet wet, that allows training collars.
  - d. Might help to make it more of a social occasion, with lunch.

We decided the following: We will have a trial on Saturday, April 18, at Chuck Atchley's farm in Sevierville. The water isn't very good there, but the grounds are nice and relatively easy to get to. Word is that Darryl Millerr's farm is unusable at the present time; the road is completely washed out after the rough winter. We will have a cookout – Tom will bring a grill for hamburgers and hot dogs; and either Alan or Jeff will smoke a Boston Butt. Others will bring chips, slaw, deviled eggs, desserts, etc. We will add a 'novice junior' class which will have Junior ribbons awarded. It will be essentially a Junior test but will allow for collars and other training equipment. Still to do: locate judges, decide on the format – whether it will be one setup that everyone will use, or move from one to another. Alan will talk again with Chuck Atchley. Several of the more experienced club members committed to attending.

We will also set aside a second date, May 9, for a second club trial if the first one goes well. If not, we can cancel it after the first one.

5. **Spring 2020 Hunt Test(s):** We went over the assignment sheets, made reports on status, and confirmed leads/ helpers for more of the tasks.
- a. Dates: May 23-24, 2020, on our normal Memorial Day weekend. Opens 4/28/20, closes 5/11/20. All approved by AKC and Entry Express, AKC fees paid. Turns out EE, for a \$25 fee, will take care of the coordination and application to AKC for hunt tests, if we want to hire them for that. Michele will check into this and find out more about it; we may consider it for the spring 2021 test (the fall test is already entered).
  - b. Judges: approved. Letters to judges confirming appointment (Karen) a little closer in when we have room reservations. We will ask them to be at the grounds at 2 p.m., and Alan is going to push very hard to have them all use the same setups and just rotate through them so there is no mid-test setting up necessary. We have an apprentice judge on Senior; Michele will get her name into the premium list.
  - c. Marshals: Lois will make sure to get marshals lined up beforehand.
  - d. Helper codes: J. Michael will assign worker codes; Karen will put an announcement into the next newsletter about how to get a code. We will be getting 19 codes.
  - e. Judges sheets: since Alan has now retired, we will need to find a new way to get more plain paper copies, maybe at a print shop, maybe purchased. Michele will look into this.
  - f. Ducks: J. Michael will order ducks and make arrangements to meet the driver on Friday at Hiwassee before the test, after 2 p.m. Michael, Tom and Alan will be on the duck crew. The board decided to request judges not to have live flyers in the Junior tests, given the possibly tight quarters (safety) and the number of extra ducks that will be required.
  - g. ATVs: J. Michael, Mike, Lois, Jeff and Tom (if necessary) will all bring ATVs to the test for running errands.
  - h. Tom will continue to be responsible for buying ice and water.
  - i. Judges dinner: The restaurant last year was good, but cost a fortune (bar bills for some of the heavy drinking judges) and took forever. There are no other restaurants in the area. So, we decided to look into catered dinner at the Cabin. Mike Smith will call a couple of caterers listed online to see what they can offer; Mike Evans will call Smokin' F and see if they will deliver that far away. If all else fails, we might try Kentucky Fried Chicken if there is one anywhere close, or something similar.
  - j. Lunches: Michele volunteered to buy food and be the chief lunch prep person. We will continue to use our upgraded sandwiches from last year. Alan offered his wife Cynthia's help in making sandwiches.
  - k. Judges gifts: Michele looked up some wooden duck decoys carved out of cedar posts. They are attractive and only \$105 (plus tax and shipping). So, Michele moved, Mike S. seconded, and the board voted to authorize Michele to buy 8 of the decoys as judges' gifts this year instead of giving \$100 bills.
  - l. Ribbons – 200 MH ribbons ordered, should be OK on everything else for the rest of the year.
  - m. New bird techs will be needed. Alan has contacted the statewide FFA coordinator and has some names to contact. One of them is Brittany Davis, who is the Monroe County coordinator. She was our contact for birdkids several years ago and did a great job for a couple of years before the kids wore out on it. May be a new crop by now. Also there is a possibility of Bradley Central in Cleveland and one in Hixon.

Nothing definite yet. Lois mentioned that Sherie knows someone down towards Chattanooga that arranges bird techs for various clubs. We will try to get this info in case one of these other possibilities doesn't pan out.

**6. Fall 2020 Hunt Test**

- a. Dates: October 17/18. OK and confirmed with AKC, Ken Campbell.
- b. Entered into AKC website and EE: 2 flights MH (132 dogs), double JH, double SH.
- c. Status of judges: will need 4 MH, 4 SH/JH. Lois offered to help Alan by finding SH/JH judges.

**New Business:**

**1. New Members:**

- a. Paul & Alexa Sponcia: Knoxville, TN. 'business owner'. Cell 865-740-0679, email [psponcia@gmail.com](mailto:psponcia@gmail.com). Will help with training committee, hunt test setup, Board of Directors, Food prep / supplies. Has a 9 month old black lab, interested in Hunt tests, hunters safety course. Jeff McNutt and J. Michael Evans volunteered to be sponsors.
- b. Mary & Mart Dowden, Mt. Juliet, TN. Retired. Cell 615-289-1433, email [mcdow52@gmail.com](mailto:mcdow52@gmail.com). Will help with test/training grounds search, duck wrangler/assistant, food prep/supplies, and ribbons handler. Have a year old Topbrass Golden Retriever, belong to the Nashville Dog Training Club. Interested in hunt tests and dog training. Lois Luthenauer volunteered herself and Sherie to be the sponsors.

Karen moved we accept these people as provisional members. Jim Pearce seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

2. **Judges seminar:** It has been a number of years since we had one. Time to do it again? J. Michael moved that we postpone consideration of holding such a seminar until after the spring test. Cory seconded the motion, which passed on a voice vote.

**Any other new business?**

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, J. Michael moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes: None

Approvals:

- Alan Bruhin 3/11/20
- Cory Smith 3/11/20

- Mike Smith 3/11/20
- J. Michael Evans 3/11/20
- Jeff McNutt 3/11/20
- Jim Pearce 3/11/20
- Peter Torok 3/11/20
- Luke McCoy 3/11/20
- Lois Lutheanuer 3/11/20
- Karen Edwards 3/11/20