

ETRC Board Meeting, Monday, 7/30/2020
Pegasus Technologies Yard, Lenoir City, TN

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

Absent, excused: Mike Smith, Peter Torok (attended via phone call)

Absent, unexcused: Cory Smith

Members attending: Chery McNutt

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: To be addressed as the meeting progresses.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 6/10/20; minutes approved and sent to the club website 6/13/20, plus included in the July Newsletter. Luke 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:** None.
- **Website:** New password (retriever); sent out email to members.
- **Membership:** Purged email rolls of 2019 members who haven't renewed. Current membership is 2020 renewals still coming in, we have 48 to date, with 11 who still haven't renewed.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Luthenauer. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 7/29 is \$14,352.95, with one check for \$42 (website) not yet cleared, and two membership deposits for \$50 not yet deposited. The membership fee for the Master National is due, \$100; Lois will get that out Friday.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher: Nothing new to report, other than she has received two AKC Sportsman of the Year medallions which she will keep for our awards ceremonies in 2021 and 2022.

Old Business

1. **Equipment:**

- a. Equipment sales: Still need to get gun stand to Donna Smith, who has paid for it. We have some other excess equipment, mainly shotguns, but have decided to hang onto

these since there is some question whether or not AKC will continue to allow us to use the thunder sticks because of liability issues.

2. *Fall 2020 Hunt Test*

- a.* Dates: October 17/18 confirmed with AKC, but Ken Campbell is not willing to host us under the current circumstances. Lucky 7 is now closed for skeet shooting, training, hunt tests, and field trials for the foreseeable future. However, Hiwassee is available on that date, and TWRA has given us approval. They have said they will give us 10 days notice if they decide to cancel because of the state of the pandemic, so we won't know for sure if the test is on until October 7.
- b.* Old location entered into AKC website and EE, needs changed. Michele has contacted Ledell Pendarvis to ask for her to make the location change, and will work with Entry Express to get the changes made as well.
- c.* Our current format approved by AKC and Entry Express is two flights of Master, double Senior and double Junior. We discussed whether this format was feasible, given the low water situation at Hiwassee in the fall, and decided we needed to cut it down to 1 flight of Master (66 dogs) for the fall test. Michele will also contact AKC and Entry Express to make this change.
- d.* Status of judges: will need 2 MH, 4 SH/JH. Difficulties with some states requiring quarantine for people returning from Tennessee. Alan thinks he has pinned down two Master judges, but the people we had lined up in the spring for junior and Senior have respectfully declined for the fall. J. Michael and Luke are possibilities if we can't find anyone else, but this takes them away from doing all the other work they do for our tests so is not ideal. Tim Nichols has tentatively agreed to judge Jr/Sr, and Lisa Styles has volunteered to also judge, so Alan may put her with Tim. Other possibilities include member Barb Reed and some others that Lois is working with, possibly paired with either J. Michael or Luke. Lois will provide Alan with some contact info for these people.
- e.* Birdboys: Alan has been working with Cleveland College about getting some kids from their Wildlife Management program. The program sponsor thinks he can round up enough. Alan figures we need 16; before we have asked for 20 because there are so many dropouts. Karen will re-send Alan the contract that we have used in the past which specifies costs and other conditions, and Alan will determine which changes he wants to make for this fall in terms of numbers.
- f.* Lunches for workers: will go with purchased subway-style sandwiches this year. There is a Subway in Dayton, 4.8 miles from the Hiwassee WMA. This will be more expensive than making our own, but more acceptable in pandemic circumstances.

- g.** Rooms, Gunners: J. Michael will contact the hotel we usually use for our headquarters, and will reserve 20 rooms again. He will scrounge up some gunners; if you know anyone who is interested, please give him their contact info.
- h.** Liability issues: Karen asked our insurance carrier about possible coverage if someone got Covid and sued us for being liable. Turns out our insurance does cover this situation; they would defend us against the suit, would not pay if it was deemed that we were not negligent, and would pay up to the limits of the policy if it was determined we were negligent. In order to keep the insurance in force, we do need to make sure that we can show that we have taken reasonable steps to comply with all Covid-related requirements and guidance. Lois talked with member and personal injury attorney Bruce Fox, who told her that it would be a hard case to make that our test was where the person actually got Covid, considering they would probably be spending time in hotels, restaurants, traveling, etc. He did prepare a liability release for the club that is generic to any even that we might put on – Thanks, Bruce, we appreciate it! To use this release, we would need signatures from each participant. After some discussion we decided on the following:
- Michele will work with Entry Express to get the AKC guidance on field events in the age of Covid put into the front of the premium. This states general guidelines like encouraging participants to observe social distancing, wear masks, wash hands frequently, etc.
 - Karen will draft up verbiage for signs that will be hung at each stake – on the holding blind? – and prominently displayed at the clubhouse, saying similar things. We may insist on mask usage inside the club house.
 - We will not use the liability waiver for the hunt test but it's great to have for other events like the summer picnic, possibly the future awards banquet if this is still going on by then, etc.
- i.** Equipment: We have some bent feet on the blinds, including the new ones, from driving them into the hard ground at Lucky 7. Before the fall test, we need to do something about getting these straightened out. Jeff McNutt said he has a way to straighten them out and will work with Cory Smith, who has the big trailer at the time, to get them fixed. We also have a number of them in the small trailer which is parked at the Pegasus Technologies Building. We decided not to purchase any more equipment at this time, as the treasury is lower than it has been for several years since we had to cancel our spring test. If the fall test happens, we can revisit this again before the spring test. Also, there was some discussion about buying or borrowing a hammer drill with a foot-long ½-1” drill bit to pre-drill holes in hard ground. Jim Pearce and Jeff McNutt both had some ideas about that.
- j.** Hand Sanitizer: Lois and Michele will both look into buying some for our upcoming events. We will need hand sanitizers at each marshal station, some sanitizer spray for bird boys to spray down the handler's gun before each new handler, sanitizer for the clubhouse, etc.

- k. No junior flyers will be used because of safety issues with the locations that we have to work with at Hiwassee.
 - l. Ducks: We have a \$1000 deposit with Kiley Buettner, so our duck purchase is already partly paid for.
 - m. Ribbon Ceremonies: decided to send the ribbons back down to the stake after the judges tell us how many we need, and will have the ribbons passed out down there. This avoids having to have a bunch of people hanging around inside the Clubhouse. This will need to be prominently announced, maybe the judges will need to announce in the scenario, and maybe have a sign stating that at each stake.
3. **Summer Seminar:** August 15 is now available again for using the Retriever Retreat, so we decided to move it back there from the 22nd since more people from the board would be able to attend then. Based on discussions with Jody Ware and from several members, we have decided to do the following this year. Instead of a 'bring your dog and we'll work with you individually' type seminar, it will be a lecture/demonstration format. It will start at 8 a.m. Central time, and go until noon. People are encouraged not to bring their dogs. The seminar will take place in the covered pavilion, which has fans and plenty of chairs, and enough space to have up to 40 people sitting 6' apart. There is a bath house a few feet away.
- a. Topics and presenters will be as follows:
 - i. Force Fetch: Luke McCoy, Jr/Sr Judge who is now working with pro Brian Caldwell, will demonstrate Force Fetch on his 6-month old puppy who has just finished. Lois will provide tables that can be used for force fetch, and J. Michael will bring along items to be used.
 - ii. How Do I Enter A Dog In A Hunt Test: Michele Fletcher, our hunt test secretary and liaison with Entry Express, will go over what it takes to get your dog entered in a test.
 - iii. Junior AKC Hunt Test Rules: Luke McCoy will go over the rules and also the little fiddly things that will get your dog dropped – when to talk to the dog, when you can touch, leash rules, etc.
 - iv. Senior Hunt Test Rules: J. Michael Evans, MN competitor and Jr/Sr. judge, will go over the rules for Senior Hunter, emphasizing the difference between the Junior and Senior level.
 - v. Master Hunt Test Rules: Alan Bruhin, Master National Judge and competitor, will go over the rules for Master Tests.
 - b. Lunch will be at noon. Attendees will be asked to bring their own cooler with a sack lunch and drinks.
 - c. Business meeting will be at 1:00. We will need a quorum in order to conduct business, including final voting in of new members.
 - d. Karen will post this info in the newsletter, mention it in the cover email, and will send out a separate email about a week before the event to remind people. Lois volunteered to call members and encourage them to come.

New Business:

1. ***New Member:*** One new member for first reading:
 - a. Angelique / Timothy Burns, Lakesite/Soddy Daisy, TN. No occupation listed, ancient form sent to Chuck Atchley and forwarded on to me. Phone 407-718-6868, email angeliqueburns@me.com. Has a year old GR, interested in Hunt tests, field trials, dog training, club trials. No other info on old application form.
 - b. Volunteers for sponsors: Lois Luthenauer and Michele Fletcher.
 - c. J. Michael moved we accept Angelique Burns as a provisional member. Luke McCoy seconded, and the vote was unanimous

2. ***AKC Request for input on revamping Bylaws approval /modification process:*** Update. Karen and Michele have discussed and don't feel we have anything to contribute to this discussion, so we will not respond to AKC.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. J. Michael seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Lois Luthenauer, 7/31/20: Change "Goose's Gallery" to "Goose's Galley"

Approvals:

1. Mike Smith, 7/31/20
2. J. Michael Evans, 7/31/20
3. Michele Fletcher, 7/31/20
4. Peter Torok, 7/31/20
5. Jim Pearce, 7/31/08
6. Karen Edwards, 7/31/20
7. Alan Bruhin, 7/31/20
8. Luke McCoy, 7/31/20