

**ETRC Club Trial / Picnic/ General Membership Meeting, 9/12/21  
Smith Farm, Niota, TN**

**Club Trial, 9 a.m. to 2:00:** See Club Trial report for details.

**Equipment Sale, 9 a.m. to Adjournment:** See attached report for details.

**Picnic:** Informal, bring your own and eat when you are hungry

**General Meeting: 2:05 p.m.**

**Present from the Board:** Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Jeff McNutt, Peter Torok, Cory Smith, Denise Chambers

**Absent, excused:** Luke McCoy, Mike Smith

**Other Members present:** Lois Luthenauer, Kyle and Tracy Griffin, Jake, Laura & Baker Greenwell, Andy Buck, Haley Shealy, Parker Smith, Jeff & Nancy Rader

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. A quorum of the membership is 20% of the voting members. The current membership stands at 57 individuals / families. Therefore, a quorum would require 12 individuals/families. A quorum was met.

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

**President's Report:** Deferred to discussion of Old Business later in the meeting.

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

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 7/28/21; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website shortly after the meeting. Michael Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval; Peter Torok seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** New: request for vote on judges for MN, to be discussed under New Business later in the meeting.
- **Membership:** Current 2021 membership is 57, including 6 waiting final vote later today.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 9/13/21 is \$29,934.72 (reconciled amount). Treasurer's Report for 2021 to date was passed around showing details of all monies received and spent.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher: New AKC rule on waiting lists for Master tests, to be discussed under new business later.

## **First Business: Election of Members**

1. ***New Members:*** The following new members are up for final membership votes, and their sponsors have recommended approval:
  - a. Brandon & Jessica Parton, Dandridge, TN Have a young Lab, interested in hunt testing and retriever training. Sponsors Peter Torok, Alan Bruhin
  - b. Parker Smith, Dog trainer with Southern Pro Kennels, Chattanooga, TN. Volunteers for many different assignments associated with testing and training, owns two chocolate labs. Sponsors Mike Evans, Karen Edwards
  - c. Gwen Tidwell, Chattanooga, TN. Has a Golden Retriever. Sponsors: Lois Luthenauer & Michele Fletcher
  - d. Todd and Laura Eldridge, Chickamauga, GA. Have a young black lab. Sponsors: Mike Smith, Mike Evans.
  - e. Kevin and Della Poe, Dandridge, TN. Have two young Labrador Retrievers. Sponsors, Jeff McNutt & Peter Torok.
  - f. Robert & Charlotte White, Signal Mt. TN. DU member, have a young black lab in training with Caldwell. Sponsors: Mike Smith, Cory Smith.

Michael Evans moved that we accept these individuals and families as full members. Jim Pearce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Welcome to all new members; we look forward to getting to know you better!

## **Old Business**

1. ***Spring / Summer Hunt Test Season:*** Alan Bruhin: We have put on 5 AKC hunt tests so far this year, our regular spring tests plus 3 Master-only single flight midweek tests and a Junior/Senior marathon with 4 tests each on two days in mid-April. Results: many local tests for people to go to, reducing travel for our members and making quite a bit of money that we are spending on equipment purchases, improved payment for judges, a pad against hard times, etc. We have two more tests to go. Alan stated we are probably the only club in the country that will have put on 7 AKC hunt tests this year!
2. ***Fall Hunt Test:*** Saturday & Sunday, 10/23-24/21, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater, TN. 2 flights Master, double JH, double SH. Opens for workers / amateurs Tuesday, 9/28/21 7 p.m. CT, all others Wednesday 9/29/21 7 pm CT. Closes Monday, 10/11/21. Alan reported that we have all judges, motel reservations are made, everything is approved by AKC, and we are on schedule for another successful test. Alan requested that Karen send out an email to all members a few days before the opening date, reminding them of the time so they don't miss out.
3. ***November Master Only Hunt Test:*** Tuesday & Wednesday, 11/2-3/21, Caldwell's farm, Georgetown, TN. Single flight Master. Opens for workers/ Amateurs Tuesday, 10/12/21 at 7 p.m. CT; all others Wednesday 10/13/21 7 p.m. CT. Alan reported that he has one judge pinned down for this event, and if he is unable to locate anyone else, either he or J. Michael will judge. Lois won't be there to marshal, but will be looking for someone to take over for her in her absence. As a Master only test, marshaling is pretty easy.

4. ***Equipment purchases / Sale:*** We purchased a trailer full of equipment from the now-defunct Tennessee Valley Retriever Club, have replenished our supplies and are offering surplus equipment for sale today. If you haven't already gone over to check it out, please do so now. Fire sale prices will apply for anything not yet sold! Michael Evans will take over selling the trailer on Craig's List or similar, but first will call member Robert Dodson who is refurbishing and reselling trailers. We will hold other unsold equipment for the Fall hunt test and have it displayed for sale at the headquarters building.

#### **New Business:**

1. ***Nominating Committee for Officers/Board.*** Alan Bruhin: We usually set up the nominating committee at this time to give everyone plenty of opportunity to do the work before the required report has to be submitted to Karen as Secretary by November 24th, 2021. We need two non-board members and one board member to serve as chairman. Cory Smith volunteered to be the Board representative and chairman of the committee; Cheryl McNutt and Lisa Styles agreed to be the two non-Board representatives. Karen will send out an email to all of members with the specific information on bylaws requirements, a copy of the most recent membership list, and a list of the positions that have to be filled. Basically, the job is to identify and get agreement from people to serve as officers plus two new board members for the following year. There are no term limits, so some people may be willing to keep on serving.
2. ***MNRC Ballot:*** Alan Bruhin: We need to vote on three judges for our region for the 2022 MN event which will be held in Washington State next October. Alan read off the names and after a brief discussion, Michael moved that we vote for Carol Hynes, Blake Lemish, and Jack Gravely. Michele seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously. Karen will respond with our vote to the Master National committee. [Done 9/14/21].
3. ***Next Year's Hunt Test Schedule:*** We discussed how much to cut back on our hunt test schedule for next year. It's nice to have more local tests to go to, and as long as Brian Caldwell is willing to host some extra tests at his farm, it's not too much work having single-flight Master tests there. However, everyone was in agreement that we don't want to have 7 tests next year, and no more mid-summer tests! In order to have more than one extra Master test, we need to have another double JH /SH test (one JH and one SH each day for two days).

After some discussion, we coalesced around the idea of having two extra Master Only tests, and a double JH/SH test at Brian's, all midweek. Yes, weekends are nicer for people who work, but getting dates from AKC is very hard because of the number of weekend tests and AKC's rules on geographical spacing. This would be a total of five tests during the year – our regular spring and fall tests, and the 3 extra mid-week tests. We will try to have them all in early spring or fall, and not have any more in the middle of the summer. We lucked out this year with remarkably mild weather on our late May, June and July test dates, but can't count on that! Lois moved that we aim for the 5 tests as discussed; Jim seconded the

motion, and it passed unanimously. Selection of dates will be at a later meeting after discussions with Brian and AKC.

There was also some discussion about possibly asking if we could move our Spring test to Ken Campbell's, if he hadn't sold the farm yet by that time. However, we don't want to lose our weekend date at Hiwassee, so we decided to think about possibly having a big test at Ken's if he is willing and the farm is available, and having a smaller test at Hiwassee, like possible just the extra JH/SH test, for example. This will be discussed at future meetings.

4. ***Judges' Seminar:*** Last year, we put in a grant request for an Advanced Judges' seminar with the Master National. We did not get the grant, but have been thinking about having a basic judges' seminar even without the grant. Now MNRC has announced a new round of \$600 grants, again for the advanced seminar. This time, they want clubs to have approval from AKC before submitting the grant proposal. Alan contacted AKC to see if they would approve us for an advanced seminar, and we are approved for Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13, with the Saturday lecture day being at a Sweetwater motel, and the Practical day on Sunday at Cory's farm. AKC Representative Russ Reavis would be the presenter.

Alan doesn't know, but will ask, if an advanced seminar can be substituted for a beginning seminar for people who are considering getting into judging and would like to come. Also, attending this seminar would be great for handlers who just want to know more about the judging process and how judges are thinking. A poll of raised hands indicated that a number of members present would be interested in attending. Cory moved that we submit a grant proposal to the MNRC for the approved dates, and that we pay whatever registration fee we set for Club members who want to attend. Peter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Costs of the seminar will be about \$150 for use of the motel's conference room, a \$500 fee to AKC, and some minor amounts for snacks and drinks for attendees. We have to have 20 people sign up. People wanting to stay at the motel will be responsible for their own motel fees. How much we will charge for registration is still to be determined. We will advertise this on Entry Express, send info to nearby clubs, etc.

5. ***Fall/Winter training sessions:*** Last year, we had mini seminars on Junior, Senior and Master Hunt tests and how they are judged; info on how to enter hunt tests, and 'directed training' with highly experienced club members who are also judges, giving instructions on a particular topic and then working with people individually on particular issues. This was well received by the people who attended, usually about 10 people, usually people with less experience. The sessions were held on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, about one a month.

Alan asked the members present if they liked this format and if we should do something similar again? Any ideas for something different?

Karen mentioned that Jake Greenwell, who had to leave early, had told her that Brady Collins said he would be willing to have a demonstration / seminar at his training grounds in Dogtown about owner / amateur Field Trial Qualifier event. Alan commented he would like to consider putting on such a qual, maybe at our next year's fall test, on Friday – and several

other people indicated they would be interested in this – maybe they might like to try one, and at least find out what is involved.

Another person suggested it would be a good idea to maybe have a session on ‘what to do at your first hunt test’ – walk attendees through entering on Entry Express, how to sign in at a test, how to recognize a marshal, rules covering line manners and getting to the line, when you can touch or speak to the dog and when you can’t, the ‘junior snatch’, etc. – and then follow this up with some directed training with Junior marks, force fetch, etc.

Another suggestion was to have a session just on different transition drills and let dogs try them with advice from the presenter.

The general consensus was that we will try to have three sessions in January, February, and March, probably on Sunday afternoons again toward the end of the month, at Cory’s place so we can be inside if it rains (except for the one at Brady Collins’ grounds). We will work to get these set up and will announce them in the Newsletter.

6. ***New AKC Rule on Waiting Lists.*** AKC has approved a new rule that is effective this fall, that will permit waitlisted dogs to still be able to enter Master Hunter tests after the closing date, if an entered dog’s handler notifies club management that the dog will not be present. However, they are supposed to be accepted in waitlist order, and AKC is leaving it up to Entry Express and the Clubs to figure out how to do this, within very general guidelines. Michele emails Entry Express about whether they would be willing to provide us with the waiting list and phone numbers after the closing date, and got no response. Since our Fall test is already up on Entry Express with the premium, and this is supposed to be announced in the premium, Michele recommended that we not institute this for the October test – but do we want to try it for the November test? There was some discussion about whether it was likely that the November test would fill up, given it’s late in the year and many people who just got back from the Nationals will be wanting a break. Lisa moved that we not make a change to our waitlist procedures this year, and wait to see what Entry Express and other clubs work out for next year. Jim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### ***Any other new business?***

1. ***February Banquet:*** Denise Chambers suggested we have a preliminary discussion on the location of the next Awards Banquet in February. She very much liked having the extra space in Cory’s barn and having it catered, and thought the barbecue place that catered it last time was wonderful. However, although this was a great option for pandemic times, it put Cory and Elena to a lot of work, cost a lot of money for the caterer and for the rented chairs, tables, costs to cover the heater, etc. Several people suggested that we had outgrown Calhoun’s, and did not want to be crammed back into that tiny room again. Michael Evans mentioned Buddy’s Banquet Hall, which is in West Knoxville and holds large numbers of people. Jim Pearce also recommended this venue. Rothschild’s is another possibility. Someone suggested that we maybe look at having a mid-day fancy

lunch instead of dinner, to avoid people having to drive at night. Cory moved that we look into Buddy's first and see what the costs would be to have it there, and discuss this more at the next meeting. Peter seconded, it passed unanimously. Alan said he would call Buddy's to see what they have to say and whether they have February 19 free. He will report back at the next meeting.

2. **Live Flyers:** Lisa Styles stated that she did not like not having live flyers at our hunt tests, that this made it much less like a real hunting scenario. This is inarguably true, although not having flyers does make it easier to manage the test – can have stakes closer together, need fewer volunteers and fewer ducks, etc. But, the main reason we didn't have live flyers at the tests at Caldwell's farm is because he asked that we not use live ammo with his small children and cow herd roaming around his farm, and that was approved by AKC. We can still have live flyers at Hiwassee as long as they continue to let us use the land, which is getting iffier. The landowner gets to make the call on whether or not they will allow live ammo.

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim Pearce, Cory Smith and about 5 others moved that we adjourn/seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Again, big thanks to Cory and Elena for hosting us!

Respectfully Submitted

*Karen Edwards*

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Mike Smith, 9/14/21
2. Jim Pearce, 9/16/21
3. Michele Fletcher, 9/16/21
4. J. Michael Evans 9/16/21
5. Peter Torok 9/16/21