

Minutes for ETRC Annual Awards Banquet and Business Meeting
Friday, February 18, 2022
Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN

People started arriving at the Banquet Hall shortly before 6 p.m. for a social hour. The venue was beautiful and large, with plenty of parking. Inside was a lovely large carpeted room with round tables seating 8 nicely spaced, with a roaring fireplace in the center of the room. There was a bar, with wine supplied by the club, BYOB wine and liquor, and beer that could be purchased from the Banquet hall. Dinner was served at 6:30 p.m. and the food was excellent. Menu selections consisted of a garden salad, beef tenderloin, chicken cordon bleu, twice baked potatoes, green beans almandine, yeast rolls, and banana pudding for dessert.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present from the Board: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Luke McCoy, Denise Chambers, Jim Pearce, Jeff McNutt, Mike Smith

Board Members Absent, excused: Peter Torok, Cory Smith

Members present: Cynthia Bruhin; Victor Burk; Tony Chambers; new member Michael Davis; Mitzi Evans; Jake & Laura Greenwell and their son; Kyle & Tracey Griffin; Jeremy & Holly Majors; Katie McCoy; Cheryl McNutt; Jeff & Nancy Rader; and Donna Smith.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. Sixteen memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 58 (20% would be 12). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Officer's Reports

Greetings and President's Report on last year's activities:

Alan welcomed everyone gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year –

- 7 hunt tests: Spring and fall tests with 2 flights Master, double JH / SH; 4 midweek single-flight master only tests; Midweek quad JH / SH tests. This added up to 8 flights of Master dogs; 8 Junior Hunter Tests, and 8 Senior Hunter tests. No other club in the country put on as many tests as we did last year, and it was a huge accomplishment.
- Three Club Trials this year: 3/20/21 at Chuck Atchley's; 4/11/21 at Brian Caldwell's, and 9/12/21 at Cory Smith's..
- Semiannual Meeting / Picnic / Club Trial / Equipment sale 9/12/21, Cory Smith's
- Thanks to everyone in the club who worked so hard this year putting on all these events, judging, getting judges, setting up events, providing lunches, repairing equipment, running errands, and doing all the other myriad things that it took to put on everything we did this year.
- New equipment: This year we made a major equipment purchase from Lucky 7 and also purchased some other items for a general equipment upgrade.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 19, 2022. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since January 23. Luke moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Mike Smith and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/18/22 is \$37,841.22. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year; this included separate sheets for calendar year 2021 and for Calendar year 2022 to date. Balance in our ORNL FCU account at the end of 2021 was \$23,260.21, of which \$4,616.74 is earmarked for the youth fund. Upcoming receipts are memberships which are coming due, plus \$3,000 which we just received for the sale of one of our club trailers. Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (~\$1600 including hall rental & food, wine and door prizes) , \$560 for awards, \$800 for the upcoming insurance bill, and \$2,700 for ribbons for the upcoming year. This will leave us approximately \$36,000 to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher: The 'bucket rule at the line' will stay. This was loved by everyone – instead of handing the retrieved duck to the judge or a bird tech, the handlers now can drop the duck into a 5-gallon bucket sitting at the line. Instituted because of Covid and social distancing, but a boon for everyone. The Amateurs First rule is also staying – this allows clubs to allocate from 25-35% of entries to amateurs, who can enter Master stakes a day earlier than the general opening of a hunt test. The amateur MUST handle the dog, and cannot use a pro as an alternate handler. The other new rule from last year was allowing clubs to institute a waiting list == this would permit the Hunt Test Secretary to call people on the waiting list after the closing date to fill spaces for people who have decided to drop out. We have decided not to implement this rule yet because of the complications, and will wait to see what Entry Express does about this, and any other club, before we decide to implement this one.

Old Business

Election of New members: Alan Bruhin. We have 3 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. They have passed through first reading, and all sponsors recommended approval. New members are:

- a. Mike & Lisa Vencille, Ceres, VA. He's a pro trainer, she's an experienced handler & insurance broker, they have Labs of their own plus client dogs. Sponsors Mike Evans & Alan Bruhin.
- b. Lloyd and Leigha Montgomery, Knoxville, TN. He's a commercial real estate agent. Have a young Golden, previously were active in hunt tests at the JH level. Sponsors Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce.
- c. Michael & Dana Davis, Greenback, TN. Have a young lab. Sponsors: Mike Evans and Mike Smith.

Jim Pearce moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Karen seconded the motion, and everyone was approved unanimously. Welcome new members!

Upcoming Events Updates: Alan announced our line-up of events for this coming year. Planning is already well underway for the following events, and we will need lots of volunteer support.

1. **Winter Training:** Field Trial Seminar and Training, next Saturday, February 26, 1:00, Brady Collins place, with Brady, Jake Greenwell, and John Broucek assisting. This is a great opportunity to learn about the other side of field retriever sports, including Derby, qualifying Stakes, Open and Amateur stakes, and more.
2. **Advanced Judges Seminar,** March 12-13, Comfort Inn, Athens, TN on Saturday; Cory Smith's farm in Niota on Sunday. Great way for handlers to learn more about how judges judge hunt tests at all levels, and improve your handling skills. It's also one of the required steps in becoming a full-fledged AKC hunt test judge. FREE to members who joined prior to December 1, 2021: you have to submit your registration fee, but the fee will be returned to you at the conclusion of the seminar.
3. **Training Day on Transition Drills,** Sunday 1 p.m., Cory Smith Farm, Master Hunter judges and competitors Alan Bruhin and J. Michael Smith presenting.
4. **Spring Club Trial:** April 2, Saturday, 9 a.m. Location pending, will be announced in the newsletter next month. Great way to tune up your dog for the hunt test season, and for new competitors to see how close their dog is to being ready.
5. **Midweek Double JH/SH Hunt Test:** April 19 – 20, Tuesday & Wednesday, Brian Caldwell's farm.
6. **Spring Hunt Test:** May 28-29, 2022, Hiwassee. This is usually our biggest event of the year and we need help with set-up, marshaling, and more. Status: up on Entry Express, working on judges. We will have a split location for Master, with one flight being at Brian Caldwell's farm about 15 minutes away from Hiwassee.
7. **Summer Seminar and Picnic:** date and location to be determined.
8. **Fall Club Trial:** date and location to be determined, possibly to be combined with picnic in lieu of a seminar.
9. **Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, September 20-21 (Tuesday – Wednesday), Brian Caldwell's farm.
10. **Fall Hunt Test:** October 22-23, 2022, Location to be determined. We're working on it!
11. **Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, November 1-2 (Tuesday – Wednesday), Brian Caldwell's farm.
12. **Fall Training:** We will pick up with more club training events starting next November.
13. **Awards Banquet:** Next February. Date to be determined, we are likely to come back here to this venue.

New Business:

I. Awards Presentations. J. Michael Evans announced that 2021 was a big year for awards. Usually we only have one or two dogs at each level and this year, we have multiples. Also unusually, we have several dogs that have won titles at different levels during the year. Here's the list:

Junior Hunter: Six dogs earned their Junior Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Powderhorn Callback JH, owned, trained and handled by Jo Ann Burk. This Golden Retriever also has a number of obedience titles including Utility and Rally.
- Powderhorn-N-River Run Georgia Peach JH: owned, trained and handled by Victor Burk. Golden Retriever Peach also has a number of other obedience titles.
- Good Timing Man JH, owned, trained, and handled by Cheryl McNutt
- Fin's Fancy Wild Side of Green JH: owned, trained, and handled by Cheryl McNutt
- Rader's Charley Bell JH: owned and handled by Jeff Rader
- Riverview Farm Highpoint Oak, owned and handled by Kyle Griffin

Senior Hunter: Four dogs earned their Senior Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Radar's Charley Bell SH ("Charley") owned and handled by Jeff Rader
- Fern Hill Py In The Sky SH ("Py"), Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, and handled by Jody Ware and Jim Pearce
- Bear Country's Love on the Rox (Roxie). Owned & handled by Lois Luthenauer and Sherie Catledge, bred by Mike and Barb Reed.
- Fired Up's Maximum Overdrive (Max) owned & handled by Lois Luthenauer, bred by Howard and Charlene Kremer.

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

- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH ("Cin"), bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH ("Py"), Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce and handled by Jody Ware. Py passed 10 hunt tests in a row to get her SH title and her MH title this year, starting in October 2020 and finishing on August 1, 2021.
- Blythe Ferry's Indy Dos MH, Mike & Donna Smith, handled by Donna and Brian Caldwell

Field Trial Champion:

- FC Troublesome Canadian Huntress (Eve), co-owned by Jake Greenwell and John Broucek, handled by Jake & Brady Collins, finished his Championship in November 2021 with Jake handling.

Qualifying at the Master National: Note that our very own Alan Bruhin was a judge at the 2021 Master National. Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to:

- Blythe Ferry's Indy Dos MH, Mike & Donna Smith, handled by Brian Caldwell

- Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH MNH5, David Knott, handled by Brian Caldwell
- RSR's Double J MH, owned by Jeremy Majors, bred by Jody & Leigh Ware, handled by Brian Caldwell.
- Troublesome Fowl Addiction MH, John Broucek, handled by Jody Ware
- Ringtail's Headhunter MH, bred, co-owned, and handled by Brian Caldwell.

Qualifying at the Master Amateur: No ETRC dogs competed at the Master Amateur this year, either the 2020 makeup or the actual 2021. However:

- a dog bred by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, Fern Hill Panda's Sunday Best MH WCX, qualified at the 2020 makeup test for the first time, and also at the Master National. She's a littermate sister of their Zoey, and a half sister of Py.

Congrats also to people who qualified to attend, and either did not attend or did not make it to the finals, for the MN / MA:

- Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH (Miss Ivy), yellow lab owned and handled by J. Michael Evans, who decided to come into heat just before the Master National;
- McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name MH (Echo), Golden Retriever owned by Luke McCoy, who qualified for the Master National with Brian Caldwell handling.
- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball ("Cin"), Alan Bruhin, qualified for the Master National with Alan Bruhin handling.
- Coon Creeks Backwater Quackhead MH (Woodie), owned and handled by Lois Luthenauer, chocolate lab qualified for the Master Amateur 2020, the Master Amateur 2021, and the Master National 2021, but did not attend any of these events.

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2021: the award this year went to J. Michael Evans, who competes at the highest level, does most of the training on his own dogs, breeds on occasion, judges at the Junior / Senior / Master level, is one of the hardest working club members every year, helps other people out with their training issues, and still finds time to duck hunt and help with the Labrador Retriever Rescue group. In addition, he holds down a very demanding job as one of the Knoxville Sheriff's Departments top cops, and has several side jobs as well. He must have found a day stretcher somewhere! Michael was too bashful to read out his own accolades and just said "Thanks for the honor", but I'm adding some stuff here in the minutes so people who don't know him all that well can see just exactly why this award is so well deserved.

ETRC Member of the Year, 2021: Alan Bruhin was the unanimous selection for this award for 2021. As president, he led the club to its biggest year EVER. Leading, in his case, meant doing a huge amount of work himself in terms of finding judges for 7 AKC hunt tests and taking a major role at every event to make sure things ran smoothly. It's a good thing he retired last year, because he couldn't have done all he did for the club if he were still working. In addition, he judged at the Master National this fall in Idaho – a huge commitment in time and effort. Having a judge of this stature in the club is an honor!

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2021: For the first time this year, two puppies tied for this award. We engraved both names on the plaque, and luckily did not have to worry about

splitting time with the trophy since both of them were owned by the same person. So, congratulations to Cheryl McNutt and their two puppies: Good Timing Man JH, and Fin's Fancy Wild Side of Green JH.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2021: The winner this year was Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH , Bred./Owned/Trained/Handled by Alan Bruhin. What a dog, she also took some time out to have her first litter!

2. Election of Officers/Board (*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: Mike Smith
2. Vice President: J. Michael Evans
3. Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
4. Board Member Feb 2022- Feb 2025: Jeff McNutt
5. Board Member Feb 2022- Feb 2025: Luke McCoy
6. Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
7. AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
8. Past President: Alan Bruhin (non-elective)
9. Chief Marshall for 2022 tests: Lois Luthenauer (non-elective)

Remaining on the board: Jim Pearce and Peter Torok until Feb 2023, Cory Smith and Denise Chambers (Through Feb 24).

Alan called for a Motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot. This motion was made by Karen Edwards, seconded by Jim Pearce, and Passed unanimously. Mike Evans then moved we approve the slate as read out. Jim Pearce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Alan heaved a huge sigh of relief and figuratively handed the gavel over to new President, Mike Smith.

3. Statement by New President: Mike Smith. Mike thanked Alan for his service, and handed him a Cabela / Bass Pro gift card as a thank you for his service during the past two years. He went on to state that we have another busy year ahead of and he was looking forward to working with everyone on another successful year.

4. Door Prizes: Alan Bruhin got back up and called out numbers for door prizes. We had a selection of 12 items including bumpers, glow-in-the-dark collars, 30' puppy leads and more. The winners in order were: Jeremy Majors, Victor Burk, Michele Fletcher, Luke McCoy, Jeff McNutt, Jim Pearce, Denise Chambers, Katie McCoy, Kyle Griffin, Karen Edwards, Mike Davis, and Jake Greenwell. Congratulations everyone!

Any other new business? None.

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

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Michele Fletcher
2. Mike Evans
3. Jeff McNutt
4. Jim Pearce
5. Karen Edwards
6. Denise Chambers

