

ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 5/4/22
Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin (telephone), Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Peter Torok (telephone)

Absent, excused: Luke McCoy, Jeff McNutt, Cory Smith, Denise Chambers

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 7 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report:

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 3/16/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website on 3/18/22. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Michele seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** None to report.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. 40 people so far have renewed or joined for 2022, including one who paid twice last year and asked for his check to be carried over for this year, two free comped memberships, and a couple of people who joined at the end of the year and their membership carried over. 22 members from last year have not renewed. The membership year started March 1; people are dropped off the rolls if not renewed by June 1. Sent out reminders in mid-April, will send out again before the May hunt test.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$30,848.39. Upcoming: money for sale of 10 ducks to Cory and Alan; May test expenses.

Old Business

1. ***Judges Seminar, June 25-26.***
 - a. Registration: Karen has only received three registrations to date. Michele verified that it is on Entry Express and that Barb and Mike Reed have signed up that way, making a total of 5. Alan says AKC intends to send out a 'blast' email to hunt test judges shortly and may print out some more flyers. Michele and J. Michael both signed up and paid their registration fees at the meeting. Karen and Jim plan to sign up, as does Alan.
 - b. Karen sent \$250 hotel registration fee for the meeting room. Everyone else is responsible for making their own room reservations if they want to stay overnight.

- c. Alan reminded J. Michael that when he orders ducks for the May test, he needs to order some 12-15 extra ducks for the Sunday practical part of the Judges seminar as well. About 9 of them will need to be live flyers.
 - d. We will also need one or two gunners.
 - e. Bird techs: We will need at least 3 for Sunday. Bob Smith is willing to do it, Gavin and Bob Houston are strong possibilities as is Parker Smith who had agreed to do this last time. Karen will confirm their participation.
 - f. Test Dogs: we will need 9 dogs, 3 at each of the JH, SH and MH levels for Sunday. Karen will confirm the participation of the people who had agreed to do this last time.
2. ***Duck Pen:*** Complete, total cost \$6,168.46. The ducks stayed alive; we still have 30 down in the pen. 20 of them have carried over from the April test and will be used for the May test; 4 of them are Alan's when he gets down to pick them up; 6 are Cory's. The club is paying for its 20 ducks; Alan and Cory need to chip in on the feed for their ducks and pay for them at \$16.25 each. Alan and Cory will send checks since they couldn't come tonight.
 3. ***April 19-20 Hunt Test: Tuesday/Wednesday: Double Junior / Senior, Brian Caldwell's*** Done. Looks like we will net around \$1,570 after ducks are paid for. This includes allocated cost of ribbons (\$337) and cost of lunches (24 @ \$5.10 each). Good things? Bad things? Anything to do different next time? General agreement that the test went well and there were no issues with our last-minute fill in Judge, Donna Smith, who performed with panache and aplomb.
 4. ***May 28-29 Spring Hunt Test, Memorial Day Weekend.*** We went over the checklist to make sure everything is coming along OK and on track, and new assignments were made. Karen will update the checklist and get it out to all board members and the Chief Marshal.
 - a. We are still looking for some volunteers to help work, since several club stalwarts won't be there --Alan Bruhin (National Amateur) and Peter Torok (Ireland!) are the ones we know so far.
 - b. We are now facing the situation with the upcoming geographic split in the Master National that both our spring hunt tests and fall hunt tests will be conflicting every year with the national competitions. We discussed trying to change our spring dates again for next year to earlier in the season; unfortunately, we have had no luck being able to do that when we have tried the last several years. And, we can't move all our tests to midweek because AKC insists that at least two of our tests be on weekends.
 - c. We will be using professional bird techs again at the Master stake being held at Brian Caldwell's. The Cumberland College Wildlife Society will be providing 16-20 bird techs for the Hiwassee location; Karen has the signed contract for that, and Alan will follow up with coordinator Robert Brewer to make sure everything is going well there.
 - d. Problem with the porta-potties and dumpster: Fay Portables has gone out of business and J. Michael will look around to see if we can find another supplier in the area.
 - e. The test opened this evening, and as of the close of the meeting there were only 58 master entries out of a possible 132. We may not fill, given that some people will be at the Master Amateur and others are waiting till fall to qualify for next year's master National (the one this year is in Oregon so not many from this area will be going). Only 4 people requested worker codes.

5. **Other Hunt Tests in 2022.** we have the following dates and locations:
- a. September 20-21, Tuesday / Wednesday: Midweek Master Only (66 dogs), Brian Caldwell's. On Entry Express, Caldwell is OK with using his farm.
 - b. October 22-23, Saturday / Sunday, 2 flights Master, double Junior, double Senior. On Entry Express, AKC application not yet completed. Ken Campbell has verified that we can use his place although that may be subject to change.
 - c. November 1-2, Tuesday / Wednesday, single flight Master, Brian Caldwell's. On Entry Express, Caldwell is OK with using his farm, AKC status?

None of these have been approved by AKC yet; Michele will go ahead and enter them in the system. No judges yet for any of these tests; Alan, Mike Smith, and Mike Evans agreed they will start making some calls to try to get these pinned down.

6. **Equipment:** any repair or equipment issues unresolved from the fall test? Jim was able to get pins for the wingers. Do we have enough rubber? Anything else needed? Consensus was that we were fine for May and will have to revisit for our fall tests.

New Business:

1. **New Members:** Two for first reading:
 - a. Ryan Smith (Donna and Mike's son; they will be sponsors). He is a real estate agent in the Maryville area and has a black lab over with Caldwell. He is primarily interested in hunting, but Donna and Mike may do some hunt tests with him.
 - b. Bunkie & Maleah VanSkiver: Friendsville, TN, 865-308-0440; bunkieVanSkiver1414@gmail.com. Clients of Parker Smith. Requested Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt as sponsors, came to club trial. They are a younger couple who train with new member Michael Davis over in the Greenback/Friendsville area, and have a nice puppy who did well there.

Karen moved that these people be accepted as provisional members with the requested sponsors; Jim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Welcome!

2. **Possible New Hunt Test Location:** Several of the Board members have been approached by Boy Scout Davy Crockett Camp, which is located in Whitesburg, TN sort of between Morristown & Rogersville, about 1.5 hours from our meeting location. They have many hundreds of acres, about 900 cleared and a lot in woods. No water so far, but they have grant money to build a pond or ponds. They are looking to expand the use of the facility beyond summer camping, and think that dog competitions would be a great use of the property. Several of them came to our April hunt test and looked at what we do. They also looked at Brian's technical pond and said they could build one like that plus possibly another simpler pond as well. Other facilities include about 30 cabins and bathhouses; plus 12 cabins that have en suite bathrooms, and a brand new cookhouse. They would

charge us \$250 to use the property for the weekend; rent us cabins at \$25 each for judges and other exhibitors who wanted to stay on site; and would have their kitchen staff available to provide breakfasts for \$8, lunches for \$8, and dinners for \$10. The nearest motels and restaurants are about 20-25 minutes away in Rogersville and Morristown. They realize that we are booked up for this year but would hope to have the property available for 2023. Depending on how the land lies and how much water they put in, this could be an excellent option for possibly our fall test or for a midweek test.

3. ***Date and time for summer/early fall meeting and shindig:*** It's not too early to get this on people's calendars. After some discussion, we decided to make this an all-day event combined with a Fall Club Trial. We could run the club trial in the morning, and then around 1:00 break for lunch and a business meeting. After some discussion dates, we decided to have this on September 24 or 25 (either Saturday or Sunday), which is the weekend after our mid-week Master test. The very best place to hold this would be at Ken Campbell's place, since our fall test the next month will be there and this would give people a chance to practice on what will eventually be the test site. J. Michael will ask Ken about this.
4. ***AKC Master X Title:*** apparently AKC is discussing have a Master Excellent title. This would involve longer distances – up to 250 yards for marks and 150 for blinds; no creeping at all allowed; total silence on the honor; and much stricter requirements for precision, cast refusals, etc. Passes at this level would count extra towards qualification for the Master National and Master Amateur. If a club decided to run this test, the club would only provide ONE judge for it; AKC would provide the other judge to make sure the test was held to AKC's standards. No word on when this would happen. We would not have to offer those series, and frankly, around here it would be very difficult to find land that could accommodate the longer distances. Mike Evans thinks this may not happen, or not for long, and may instead lead to a higher standard for perfection in the current Master tests.
5. ***Any other new business?*** None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Mike Evans seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Still light outside!

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. Peter Torok: added accidentally omitted word "Camp" in New Business #2 paragraph.
2. Michele Fletcher: fixed typo on number of Master entries for May test.

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin 5/5/22
2. Peter Torok 5/6/22
3. Mike Evans 5/6/22
4. Jim Pearce 5/6/22
5. Michele Fletcher 5/6/22
6. Jeff McNutt 5/6/22
7. Karen Edwards 5/6/22