

**ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 11/9/22**  
**254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Mike Smith, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Cory Smith (via phone from Maine), Denise Chambers

**Absent, excused:** J. Michael Evans, Peter Torok (telephone), Luke McCoy, Jeff McNutt

**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 6:55 p.m.

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

***President's Report:***

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

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 08/17/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website on 8/20/22. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Michele seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** ETRC board / directors insurance policy due and paid during the last month.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. 56 today. Have \$25 cash but no form from Matthew Tipton. He will need first reading and vote if we ever get the rest of the stuff from him. Michele gave Karen address for him from Entry Express entry on October test; Karen will write him a letter and send along a form to remind him we need it before he can be considered a member. .

***Treasurer's Report:*** Current balance is \$38,554.39 after paying most of bills from Hunt Tests including scratches.

**Old Business**

**1. *Wrap up on 2022 Hunt Tests.***

- a.** Payment of any expenses for Lin Gelbmann who got sick in Kentucky on her way down to judge our November 1-2 test? As a gesture of fairness and goodwill, Alan moved that Karen send Lin an email offering to pay for her expenses to Kentucky; Jim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. [*Note: Lin was surprised and grateful for our offer as she lives on a retirement fixed income. Her expenses to Kentucky covering gas and a hotel room midway each time, with supporting documentation, amounted to \$542.82; this did not include any expenses for the week*

*she spent in Kentucky recovering nor did it include any meals on the way down or back. I mailed her the check on 11/21/22]*

- b.** Any other comments / concerns? None noted. The September test ran very smoothly with the extra pro birdboys provided by Ryan Stamey. Karen asked if there was any feedback from the judges on the increased amounts we are now giving in the gratuities. Alan said yes, several of them had texted him after opening up their judges' gift envelopes and thanked the club for the generous amount. Hopefully someday this will transfer into meaning it is easier to get judges for our tests.
2. ***New Hunt Test Location, boy scout farm:*** Mike Smith reported that he and Mike Evans had traveled to Whitesburg (north of Morristown) to talk with the camp director Dale Douthat and get an update on what was happening up there. Dale reported that the Corps of Engineers had agreed to start earth moving to build a pond this winter. There is a nice mess hall there and some cabins with a central bathhouse. The land is nice; only one pond limits its usefulness but there may be more in the future according to the camp director. Other issue would be the lack of available nearby motels and restaurants; this place is quite off the beaten path and the nearest facilities are miles away. We will check back with them next spring to see progress.
3. ***Equipment:*** Update from Mike Smith: he bought new pulleys for the wingers, and a new tire for the small trailer. The old tire had a rip in the sidewall. Before spring, we have to take a look and see if we need to order more rubber for the wingers; it's been a while since we ordered any.

Michele had been asked to look into getting decals or magnets for the trailers. There was some discussion about whether we even wanted to do this; it may affect the resale value for the trailers; it may attract thieves; if the trailer is in a wreck it may entice the other people to sue the club, etc. Magnets can reduce these issues; if we remove them when the trailers are parked or moving and store them inside the trailer. Michele has been able to find a place that will do a magnet of our logo in color, on a solid white background; and 18" x 18" magnet would be \$45 so the total cost for putting 2 on each trailer would be \$180. Karen moved we buy four; Denise seconded the motion;; it passed unanimously with one caveat. We need to check to see if the trailers are able to hold magnets; if they are fully aluminum a magnet won't stick.

Duck pen: there are still some issues in working ducks inside the pen and trying to get them into the crate. Two possible solutions were discussed – one is opening up the back panel into the wooden /closed end behind the pen to allow a few to escapee into there where they can be worked more easily; the other is to build a plastic pipe frame with chicken wire and a door in it, so that it can be set up at the back or in a corner and a few ducks at a time forced into there to make it easier to crate them. No resolution was reached, but more thought is needed in how to make this easier and keep the duck handlers from being completely plastered with duck slime while loading crates.

4. ***Report from Nominating Committee:*** Michele Fletcher reported the results, which basically kept all officers the same. Jim had agreed to serve another 3 year term on the board, replacing himself; and Cheryl McNutt had agreed to replace Peter Torok. Donna Smith will replace Lois

Luthenauer as Chief Marshal, which is a non-board position but an important one for smooth running of tests. This information had already been provided to the club secretary as required in the Bylaws, and will be published in the newsletter. However, we now have a new vacancy on the board from now until 2022 (see discussion later) with Jeff McNutt resigning for personal reasons. Michele will contact Cheryl to make sure she is still willing to serve on the Board for the new elections coming up.

5. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Confirmed for Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 25, 2023. Mike Evans had earlier told Karen that he is willing to again handle the awards nominations. Karen will get with him to determine what deadline dates need to be published in the December newsletter.

### **New Business:**

1. **New Members:**

- a. Matthew & Joy Eden; 172 Ridgeland Drive, Johnson City, TN 37601, mattedden22@gmail.com, phone 719-645-9202. They own a young black lab and are willing to work as a duck wrangler, gunner, or assist with computer / website.

Denise and Mike Smith agreed to be sponsors. Alan moved we accept him / them into membership on first reading; Denise seconded; the vote was unanimous.

2. **Board member replacement:** Jeff McNutt sent an email to Mike Smith resigning for unspecified personal reasons. Mike has reached out to him to thank him for service and make sure that this isn't something that is the club's fault in some way. Meanwhile, Alan contacted Jeff Rader who has agreed to fill in for Jeff McNutt for the remainder of his term, which will expire in February 2025. Jim moved we appoint Jeff Rader to the unexpired term; Alan seconded, and the vote was unanimous. **NOTE:** *this was later changed to have Jeff be a new board member replacing a new Board member from the nominating committee who withdrew from the slate for next year; the Board will appoint someone to fill Jeff's unexpired term through February 2026.*

3. **Hunt Test Schedule for 2023:** Mike Smith reported that he, Mike Evans and Alan Bruhin had gotten together and are proposing a change to our hunt test schedule for this year. Our already-approved Spring hunt test, which is 2 flights of Master, double Senior and double Junior, would have no Master tests and would instead be a quad Senior quad Junior test, with two Junior Tests and two Senior tests each day. We would also have four other Master midweek tests at Brian's, and tentatively a fall test at Lucky 7 (if it's available) which would be two masters, double junior, double senior. We looked at dates and came up with the following tentative schedule pending AKC approval and approval of all landowners:

- a. March 14-15, 2023: Midweek Master Only, 66 dogs Brian Caldwell's
- b. April 1-2, Spring Hunt Test, Quad JH / Quad SH, Hiwassee
- c. May 16-17: Midweek Master, 66 dogs, Brian Caldwell's
- d. September 19-20: Midweek Master, 66 dogs, Brian Caldwell's

- e. October 21-22: 2 flights Master, double JH, double SH, Lucky 7
- f. November 14-15: Midweek Master, 66 dogs, Brian Caldwell's

The last two tests are tentative. The October test is a direct conflict with the Master National, which will be in Georgia this year. The November test would be just after the MN is over. We will revisit these dates and plans later in the year and may well end up canceling both of them. Also of course, there is the question of availability of Lucky 7.

Jim proposed that we accept this schedule; Denise seconded and the vote was unanimous. Michele will start working with AKC to get the dates finalized and make changes to the format for the spring test at Hiwassee.

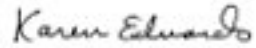
4. ***Credit / Debit Card for the club:*** Several people have had difficulties lately using their personal credit cards for the club. Michele, who is now being asked to send her credit card info in an unsecured email to AKC, was triple charged because AKC is screwing up for the number of dogs in our last test, and she has been unable to get that corrected yet. Mike Smith's card, which he used for guaranteeing the rooms at the motel for the November hunt test, got charged because no one was able to make it to the hotel before noon to provide them with a check. Mike suggested that we get a club credit card. Karen, as Treasurer, is very opposed to this idea as it makes tracking expenses and keeping financial control over club expenditures more difficult. Also, dealing with credit card companies in the event of issues and fraud issues is increasingly time consuming. She promised to always get payment to the individuals who are using their own cards for expenses before the credit card bills are due to be paid, and this has not been a problem in the past. As far as the AKC issue goes, this needs to be worked out with AKC, as whether it's a personal card OR a club card, it is inappropriate to provide credit card info in an unsecured email. They need to either set up a secure payment system, or accept a check in the mail and set up systems to make sure it gets credited to the appropriate place.

After some further discussion, Alan moved we table this topic for the time being and maybe bring it up later. Jim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. ***Club member hunt test fee discounts for workers.*** Currently, the club offers two incentives for people to work at tests – free lunches, and worker codes if they own a Master dog that they want a pro to run, so they can enter early and be assured of a spot. Michele mentioned that one incentive we could offer is accept Bitch in Season scratches with full refund of entry fees, without a vet certificate, for workers that we know are not cheaters. The second suggestion kicked around was to offer refunds of one entry fee for one dog per year for worker / club members who spend a certain amount of time working at one or two tests – such as at least half a day working. This would be an after the fact refund – work first, then refund. Issues would be how to keep track of how much a person works. Michele will draft up a proposal and pass it around to the Board for comments and editorializing, and we will discuss this again at the next meeting. We would hope to be able to finalize it at that meeting so it could be presented to the membership at the February banquet.
6. ***Any other new business?*** None.

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Cory seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 11/10/22
2. Jim Pearce, 11/10/22
3. Mike Evans 11/13/22
4. Michele Fletcher 11/10/22
5. Peter Torok 11/26/22
6. Luke McCoy 11/27/22