

Minutes for Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 25, 2023 Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN

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

Absent, excused, Cory Smith

Other Members present: Cynthia Bruhin; Tony & Ivan Chambers; Ricky Fletcher, Gale Frana; Kile & Tracey Griffin; Bob Houston; Jeff & Nancy Rader; Gavin Sigmund; Donna Smith; Ryan Smith; NEW MEMBERS Matthew, Kristi, & Chandler Tipton; Mara Torok.

Guests Present: None

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 15 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 58 (20% would be 12). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on last year's activities:

Mike Smith gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year –

- Seminar at Brady Collins place on February 26, going over the difference between hunt tests and Field Trials, and letting participants try their dogs on some field trial marks. Thanks, Brady and John Broucek for doing this for us!
- Training day and Mini-Seminar put on by Club Members and Master-Level AKC judges, Alan Bruhin and J. Michael Evans. This mini-seminar focused on transition drills and pattern blinds – how to move your dogs from Junior to Senior to Master levels, with an opportunity for attendees to try each.
- A spring Club Trial April 2, with Singles Classic, Junior, Senior, Master, and Puppy stakes. This gave members an opportunity to test their readiness for the hunt test season.
- Our first AKC Hunt Test on April 19-20 at Brian Caldwell's place. This was a double Junior / Double Senior stake.
- May 28-29, our second AKC Hunt test. We had double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master. This test was held at Hiwassee Reserve with one Master at Brian Caldwell's.
- An Advanced AKC Hunt Test Judges Seminar on June 25-26, put on by AKC and free for ETRC members. This included one day of classroom training, and one day out in the field learning to set up and judge tests, with critiques by AKC presenters. Great not only for those of us who are judges (and the people who came from outside), but wonderful info for handlers to learn how judges are judging us!

- Two additional Master-only AKC hunt tests in September and November at Brian Caldwell's.
- Our fall hunt test at Lucky 7 Ranch the end of October, with a single Master stake and double Junior / Senior.
- Thanks to
 - Brian Caldwell, who let us use his farm repeatedly this year for mid-week hunt tests and for a second flight of Master during our spring test.
 - Cory and Elena Smith, for generously sharing their farm and huge barn for events during the year, for storing our club trailers, and for taking care of leftover ducks in the ETRC duck pen that they have allowed us to build on their property.
 - Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year
- New equipment: After buying much of the field trial club's equipment last fall, we didn't need much for this year. Some new darker colored 5-gallon buckets for hunt tests, some decals to identify our trailers, and general supplies including winger repair parts and new rubber were about it.
- Possible new grounds: Mike has been working with Mike Evans and Alan Bruhin to explore possibilities for using the Davy Crockett Boy Scout camp near Rogersville, in the future as a possible hunt test site. The property owners are interested, and have gotten a grant for the Corps of Engineers to dig a technical pond. This pond is due to be dug this next week, weather permitting.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 18, 2023. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since January 23. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois and passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

- a. AKC report due following conclusion of this meeting, identifying our new officers and board members.

Membership: Our current membership is 58 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and new memberships for 2023 are now due. Several people renewed during the course of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/23/23 was \$37,027.95, which is \$1,155.27 less than we had at the same time last year. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year; from the date of the banquet (2/18/22) to yesterday. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the youth fund.

Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$2,500 including awards and food), \$1,276.55 for ribbons on order, and \$100 for an ad in the MARC training guide. This will leave us with around \$33,000 to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

AKC Delegate's Report: our AKC rep Michele Fletcher reported there were no significant changes during the year.

Old Business

Election of New members: Mike Smith. We have 10 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

- a. Walter & Maleah Van Skiver, Friendsville, TN. They have a black lab and joined in April. Sponsors Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt.
- b. Ryan Smith (PRESENT), a realtor in Maryville, owns a young Lab, joined in March. Sponsors are parents Mike and Donna Smith.
- c. Bella Martin, youth member, and her mother Lisa Martin. The Martins live in Lynnville, TN, and Bella is running a Black Lab, earned a Junior Hunter title this year at our May test when they joined our club. Sponsors are Lois Luthenauer and Jeff McNutt.
- d. Janet and Bruce Summers, She's a doctor in Soddy Davis who joined May 29 who runs a yellow lab. Sponsors are Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce.
- e. Thomas & Madeiline Gavin, a retired couple from Signal Mountain who have a young black lab. They joined May 27, and sponsors are Mike Smith and J. Michael Evans.
- f. Jordan and Leah Adcos, who joined 8/22/22 and have a Labrador. Sponsors are Mike Smith and J. Michael Evans.
- g. Kevin and Tami Anderson, a retired CRNA who lives in Knoxville, TN. They joined September 2, 2022, have a standard apricot poodle, and sponsors are Lois Luthenauer and J. Michael Evans.
- h. Matthew & Joy Eden, a chaplain in Johnson City, TN who have a young black lab and joined November 1, 2022. Sponsors are Mike Smith and Denise Chambers.
- i. Matthew, Kristi, and Chandler Tipton. He's an electrician, they live in Maryville and joined 11/15/22. They have a young chocolate Lab, and sponsors are Mike Evans and Mike Smith.
- j. Donna and Richard Post, of Ooltewah, TN. They joined 11/12/22, and have a young Flatcoat Retriever. Michele Fletcher and Mike Smith are sponsors.

Jim moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Peter seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events Updates: We have a full line-up of events for this coming year, and planning is already well underway for the following events:

1. **March Midweek Master Hunt test:** Tuesday and Wednesday, 1 flight, March 14-15, Brian Caldwell's farm. This test is already full (66 dogs) with an 8 dog waiting list.
2. **Spring quadruple JH / SH Hunt Test:** April 1-2, Saturday and Sunday, Hiwassee WMA. Unlimited entries, open now.

3. **May Midweek Master Hunt Test:** 1 flight, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 16-17, Brian Caldwell's farm.
4. **Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, June 6-7 (Tuesday – Wednesday), Brian Caldwell's farm.
5. **Fall Hunt Test:** October 21-22, Location to be determined. We are hoping this will be a full test with double JH, double SH, and double MH but it is conflicting to some extent with the Master National so it may be canceled altogether if we don't get enough entries by the closing date.
6. **Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, November 14-15 (Tuesday – Wednesday), Brian Caldwell's farm. We can't have this test if we are unable to have the Fall test (AKC rules about having certain numbers of lower-level tests before you can have Master tests).
7. **Other Activities:** We are looking at adding some other activities such as a summer seminar with a pro trainer that would be free or reduced cost for members; a summer picnic and general business meeting, big and small group training sessions, more club trials, and more. We need your feedback on what you would like your club to offer – more later under another topic.
8. **Member Incentives:** We have been discussing a variety of member incentives to make participation in club activities more rewarding. One area we have decided to do, is for members who have been members for at least a year, and who are running bitches - we will refund your entry fees for any test of ours that you enter, and your bitch goes into season and can't compete, without a vet certificate. Other items under consideration are refunding one entry fee for people who volunteer at some tests, and we will get back with you once we have figured out details about how this would work.

New Business:

1. **Survey Results:** Lois Luthenauer. Lois presented the results of our recent survey on what people would like to see the club offer. Most interest was around Club Trials, methods to see whether people were test-ready; club-wide training sessions, and localized training groups. There was also a fair amount of interest expressed in attending free seminars/training sessions put on by some of our more experienced club members who are AKC judges and also Master National competitors. Over half the respondents also indicated strong interest in a seminar put on by one of the pro field seminar specialists, if money were no object. Most of these pros are booked a year in advance, so we may not be able to get this done in a hurry, but we will look into this with the possibility that the club may be able to cover some or all of the attendance fees for club members.
2. **Awards Presentations.** J. Michael Evans announced the following awards for 2022:

Junior Hunter: One dog earned his Junior Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to: Razor's Coal Cotton JH "Cotton", owner /Handler: Mike Smith

Senior Hunter: One dog earned her Senior Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to: Fern Hill Kepes Arany Sugar SH "Kaypesh", Owner / Handler: Peter Torok

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

- Rader's Charley Belle MH "Charley" and owner/ handler Jeff Rader
- Bear Country's Love on the Rox MH "Roxie", owner / handler: Lois Luthenauer

Qualifying at the Master Amateur: Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH "Cin", owner / handler / breeder Alan Bruhin

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2022: Tennessee Gentleman Jack "Jack", owner / breeder / handler Alan Bruhin. 4 points.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2022: Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH "Cin", owner / breeder / handler Alan Bruhin, 28 points

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2022: This year the award went to Cory Smith.

ETRC Member of the Year, 2022: for her unflagging work, cheerful demeanor, and willingness to do any task asked of her, the Member of the Year is our Hunt Test Secretary and AKC Representative, Michele Fletcher.

Special Award: A special plaque was presented to J. Michael Evans for his and Miss Ivy's success in the HRC Grand National in spring 2023.

- Youth Program:** Lois Luthenauer gave a brief overview of the club's youth program, which is in honor of her deceased husband Kevin Luthenauer, and was initially funded by donations from family and friends shortly after his death. Since then, major donations have been made by Ken Campbell, who has re-donated the fees for use of his grounds several times back into the treasury, earmarked for the Youth Fund. In order to qualify for this program, youths must write a brief one page essay each year they want to participate, about why they want to join the program and what working with dogs means to them. The fund refunds the entry fees for participation in any AKC hunt test after entry into the program, and also pays for any costs for club-sponsored events such as club trials. This year the trophy and plaque go to Bella Martin, who put a Junior Hunter title on her Labrador at our spring hunt test. Bella was unable to attend this evening, as she is a multi-talented teenager currently participating in a dance competition in Chattanooga this weekend. Congratulations, Bella!
- Election of Officers/Board:** The slate of officers was picked by the nominating committee and advertised in the December, January, and February newsletters. No nominations from the floor were received, so the slate is as presented:
 1. President: Mike Smith
 2. Vice President: J. Michael Evans
 3. Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards

4. Board Member Feb 2023- Feb 2026: Jim Pearce
5. Board Member Feb 2023- Feb 2026: Jeff Rader
6. Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
7. AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
8. Past President: Alan Bruhin (non-elective)
9. Chief Marshall for 2023 tests: Donna Smith (non-elective)

Remaining on the board: Cory Smith and Denise Chambers (Through Feb 24); Luke McCoy & Lois Luthenauer (filling Jeff McNutt's unexpired term) (through Feb 2025).

Thanks so much to Jeff McNutt and Peter Torok, who are going off the board, for your service these past years.

Mike S. Called for a Motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot. This motion, along with an addition to approve the slate of candidates as presented, was made by Lois Luthenauer, seconded by Jim, and passed unanimously.

5. **Statement by New President:** Mike Smith: Mike encouraged everyone to become more active in the club and encourage like-minded friends to join as well. He thanked everyone for coming and expressed enthusiasm for the activities on line for 2023.
6. **Door Prizes:** Mike Smith indicated the table by the door which were full of various door prizes – 2 free entries to one of our hunt test, a number of hats, visors, tee shirts and sweatshirts; a camp cooler, a chair, a Labrador candle lantern; an ETRC hand carved clock, a gift certificate for \$60 of Pro Plan dog food, a knife, and more. Winners were:
 - a. Karen Edwards – free entry to hunt test
 - b. Cindy Bruhin: dog food coupon
 - c. Bob Houston: free entry to hunt test
 - d. Gale Frana: Lantern
 - e. Kyle Griffin: camo back pack
 - f. Jim Pearce: camo performance tee
 - g. Tracy Griffin: camo hat
 - h. Lois Luthenauer: ETRC Clock
 - i. Nancy Rader: Cooler
 - j. Luke McCoy: visor
 - k. Gavin Sigmund: tee shirt
 - l. Matt Tipton: folding chair
 - m. Michele Fletcher: sweatshirt
 - n. Alan Bruhin: Tee shirt
 - o. Mara Torok: Tee shirt
 - p. Mike Evans: knife
 - q. Peter Torok: hat
 - r. Chandler Tipton: hat
 - s. Rick Fletcher: Blue tee shirt

- t. Donna Smith: Tee
- u. Mike Smith: Hat
- v. Denise Chambers: Tee
- w. Tony Chambers: hat

Any other new business? None

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

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. .

Approvals:

1. Michele Fletcher, 2/26/23
2. Alan Bruhin, 2/26/23
3. Mike Evans, 2/26/23
4. Jeff Rader, 2/26/23
5. Lois Luthenauer, 2/26/2
6. Jim Pearce, 2/26/23
7. Karen Edwards, 2/26/23
8. Luke McCoy 2/27/23