

ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 1/18/23
254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

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

Absent: Cory Smith (work commitment); J. Michael Evans (work commitment)

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 9 people attending. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 12/5/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website by 12/10/22. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Michele seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. Renewals starting to come in; 2023 membership so far is 9 including several new members who joined after 11/1/22. Have sent 12/31/22 roster for inclusion on the members only part of the website.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$37,825.89. Have one check outstanding for scratch (\$100) from November 4 – Jeff Rader. Will follow up with Jeff to see if he got it. Michele handed in a receipt for AKC hunt test approval fees and the cost of the 4 decals for the trailers, and was given a reimbursement check at the meeting.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele: No new actions relating to hunt testing.

Old Business

1. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Confirmed for Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 25, 2023, and initial fee paid. We looked over the menu options offered, and selected the following from the Dinner Buffet: Pecan honey chicken, Beef Tenderloin, new potatoes, green beans, garden salad, rolls, and chocolate cake for dessert. Alan will coordinate with the Banquet Hall and tell them our decisions and will relay the info to Karen for payment.
2. **2023 Hunt Tests.** We have the following lineup of 6 tests for this year:
 - a. March 14-15, Midweek Master Only, Brian's;
 - b. April 1-2, Weekend Hiwassee quad JH/SH test
 - c. May 16-17, Master only, Brian's;
 - d. June 6-7: Master Only, Brian's.

- e. October 21-22 maybe, if we can find land.
- f. Nov 14-15 master only maybe, if we can have an October test with some JH/SH.

Alan and Mike Smith have been working on judges and don't have much lined up yet. Alan is concentrating on the Master judges, and Mike S on finding Junior / Senior judges. We are trying to get 4 of our club judges for the Jh / SH quad tests in April; J. Michael, Alan, Luke, maybe Lisa Styles. Lois wants to apprentice on one of those Junior tests and work the next day. Donna & Mike Smith are also taking the judges seminar and are interested in getting involved in judging, but probably not at that set of tests since Mike will be running a couple of dogs there. Lois volunteered to contact some of her friends who are also judges, and we talked about trying to get the Luthys, and possibly Lisa Vencille. Ducks are another issue; J. Michael told us via phone that he will contact Kylie Buettner this week to try to get ducks lined up for the march and April tests in one run. Cory has agreed to house them in his duck pen in the two-week interim between tests. Bird flu may be an issue. We have not contacted Robert Brewer yet about providing bird techs from his wildlife club for the April test, nor have we talked to Brian yet about lining up some pro techs for the Master tests.

3. **Membership Poll:** Lois and Karen worked together on putting together an initial questionnaire that could be answered online, and Lois worked with the questionnaire website to download statistics from the results so far. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine level of interest in some proposed new initiatives (training groups), plus overall training, club trials, and seminars. Sent out link with newsletter for January, and also sent a reminder email on January 14. So far we have had 22 responses. Five of the respondents reported they are either just getting started or are preparing to run Junior / Started hunt tests. Four are in the process of moving up to Senior, 3 are moving past Senior, and 9 have Master or finished level dogs. 15 out of 22 are 'extremely interested' in club-level training at a local location; 13 are 'extremely interested' in club trial events; and 13 are 'extremely interested' in informal training sessions / local training groups. Saturday is the winning day for club activities, with Sunday following closely behind. There is some interest in mid-week activities but not as much. Either mornings or afternoons are preferred, and just half a day each. Traveling to events doesn't seem to be too big of an issue; most people said they would travel 50 miles, almost as many said 20 miles. 16 or 17 out of 22 indicated 'extreme' or 'somewhat' interest in attending seminars by local experienced members or by nationally known trainers. The interest in a full weekend or a full one day event was about equal. Money of course was a consideration; while all but one person indicated they would pay some money to attend a pro-presented training session, it was almost evenly split between people who would only pay \$50 or less; \$50 to 100; or more than \$100.

- a. So far, the results of the poll show there is interest in doing something beyond hunt testing. The problem with this year is that we are putting on so many hunt tests it is going to be hard to find any time to do anything else.
 - i. Club trials make the most sense at the start of the spring or fall hunt test seasons, but we are having tests so early this spring and fall that it's not very feasible to try to cram in club trials.
 - ii. Training groups in local areas seem like a good way to go, but will take some work to find locations, find people who want to work together, and get them going. Everyone has different schedules for doing their training, and often it's difficult to find land to train on.

5. **Equipment:**

- a. Update on decals for trailers (Michele): They are in, and quite lovely! Michele left them with Karen, who will get them to Mike Smith fairly soon.
- b. Duck Pen modifications: The new system that Cory put in seems to be working well so nothing needed so far.
- c. Ribbons: Karen did a ribbon inventory. It looks like we are good on everything this year except for MH ribbons, where we have an estimated shortfall of about 71 ribbons. We only have 12 MH title tabs so need a new order for those as well. Although we could just buy 100 new MH ribbons, if we buy 200 we won't have as big an order for next year. Lois moved that we buy 200 Master ribbons and the Master tabs. Michele seconded this, and Karen will get with Hodges Badge company while their sale is still on (mid-February) to get these on order. Cost should be around \$1,200 or thereabouts.

6. **Awards Nominations:** Call for awards published in the December & January Newsletters. Last day for getting awards nominations in to J. Michael for dogs and people is Friday, 1/26.

New Business:

1. **New Members:**

- a. Donna / Richard Post, 6920 Flagstone Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363, 727-560-5259, email blackdogs4@me.com . Interested in dog training, hunt tests, club trials. Have a yearling Flatcoat Retriever. Used old membership application (from 2005) but eventually it came to me when Chuck Atchley forwarded it. Got Mary Hext to go online and kill that old form. Sponsors: Mike Smith and Michele volunteered to serve as sponsors.

Jim moved we accept these people into membership on first reading; Lois seconded; the vote was unanimous.

2. **Any other new business?** Peter Torok, who was present via telephone, remarked that this was probably his last meeting as a board member since his term is expiring in February. He said that he had enjoyed working on the board and we certainly all enjoyed having him! Don't be a stranger, Pete!

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Alan seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

Approvals:

1. Alan Bruhin, 1/19/23
2. Luke McCoy 1/19/23
3. Jim Pearce 1/19/23
4. Peter Torok 1/19/23
5. Michele Fletcher 1/19/23
6. J. Michael Evans 1/20/23