

FTC meeting minutes for Tuesday March 24, 2009

Members present: Tom, Hobson, Sue, A.R., Olivia, Buzz, Dede

Guest: Sue Rose

Meeting called to order by Tom at 7 p.m. Central. Prior meeting minutes reviewed and accepted. Tom asked that we be sure to get the minutes out to the people in our respective regions.

Hob reported he had met with the CEO of the AKC asking for advice on how to start the process of initiating the first Amateur Cocker National. It was agreed an AKC Performance person be assigned to work with the FTC on the question. Once we work out a plan it will need to go to the AKC board. It was noted by Hob that early on Sue Rose helped put together a formal letter from the English Cocker and American Cocker Club, requesting an Amateur Cocker National.

At this point we need to make sure we encourage clubs to hold amateur stakes along with the open stakes. We need to show more interest in the amateur stakes. The number of dogs qualified at this point is small but growing. Bottom line, we need more dogs running amateur stakes and more clubs holding amateur stakes.

Discussion will include looking at bench marks to help us focus on the numbers needed.

At this point it looks like we have 14 clubs supporting open cocker stakes. A.R. suggested a letter be written and sent to each club encouraging support of including an amateur trial. We need support from the clubs to promote the amateur. The future of the cocker field trials is dependent on support from the amateur's growing in numbers.

Tom will write a letter to include the number of events we are holding, the number of dogs entered, along with asking for support of the amateur stakes.

Tom mentioned Barbara Haupt will be available for an NCC update. She is traveling at this time.

Sue Wilson is working on some ideas related to the Patron Program and will discuss in more detail at the next FTC meeting. Sue noted the intent for the program is helping defray the cost of the NCC. Tom and Sue will get together in the next week to talk more about ideas.

Print Program: Discussion about the print program and talking about ideas for funding to support the print program. The ECSCA has asked us to come up with ways to help fund the program.

A.R. questioned why the Print Program was not part of the Patron Program. Tom asked the members present to think some on this and discuss next meeting.

Gun Program Status: Tom sent out early this year to committee members, the Gun Program. Tom noted North Dakota has sent two requests for Gun Captain Status.

Judges Committee has been put together. A.R. reported the group has met and Chairman Paul McGagh has put together a committee to evaluate the NCC judge's selection process.

The committee is made up of two pros: Tom Ness and Paul McGagh. Rounding out the rest of the committee to represent the regions will be: Olivia from the West, Marty Calabres from the East, Mark Mercie from the Midwest, and A.R. Ginn from the South.

Paul will be calling a meeting of those committee members to discuss all the aspects of NCC judging. AKC and ECSCA rules will need to be considered in the discussion. Some discussion on the number of judges going from two to four judges. Examples were given as how easy it is to miss things in a field trial, let alone an NCC.

Hob Brown brought up a question about a better trophy for the national. Hob talked to some people who make trophy's for different dog events. Hob shared some of the costs for a national Trophy. Discussion has taken place at a couple of field events as to the need or desire to have a nice trophy. Some discussion on how to raise some money to buy a trophy. More discussion to come at future FTC meeting.

Tom suggested we see if we can get this done for this year, so we have a perpetual traveling trophy. Sue Wilson nominated Vicky Thomas to head up the trophy committee.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday April 28 at 7 p.m. central.

Meeting finished at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Buzz Benson

