

## Idaho Retriever Club 01/25/2018 Board Meeting & Minutes

President Rich Charrier called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm at his home in Nampa. Also present were Treasurer Chuck Kiehn, Secretary Brett Crow, and Board members Cheri Shanahan, Chris Merrill, and Blaine Hyde. VP Ben Echevarria, and Board members Willie Alderson, Pat Kilroy and Dale Langhorne were absent. Board member nominees Ron Borton, Larry Hill, and Grant Settle also attended, as did George Rogers.

The reading of prior minutes was waived and the minutes were approved with a voice vote.

The Treasurer's report showed the Club's year-end balance only slightly higher (from about \$40,706 at 12/31/16 to about \$42,829 at 12/31/2017, with \$1,663 in uncleared checks, for a net gain of about \$460). The small gain resulted from investment increases of about \$4,051 (to \$30,460) that outpaced an operating loss of about \$3,591. Picnic trials were the only bright spot among events, with a net positive of \$380, while the Club's licensed AKC events all lost money: \$841 at the April hunt test, \$1,570 for the May field trial, and \$2,026 for the September field trial. The May trial suffered from losing the large entry of a professional who experienced equipment problems, and the September field trial endured only non-refundable costs due to the fire-induced event cancellation. We will hope for a better 2018. The report was accepted on a voice vote (Blaine motion, Chris second).

The spring picnic trial season was discussed and its schedule slightly altered. Brett will inform Club members. The events will be on Saturdays 2/17 (Rock Hills near Emmett, with Blaine organizing, Blaine and Brett judging), 3/3 (Barb Young property near Nyssa, Rich organizing), 3/17 (Rock Hills, Larry organizing), and 3/31 (Ben & Heather Echevarria property near Kuna, Grant Settle organizing). Organizers may use two paid helpers, maximum, and were advised to rely on a single set-up, in order to prevent very late days.

The Club's April Hunt Test with Owner-Handler Qualifying will be held on April 21-22 at the Rock Hills property near Emmett. Dale Langhorne will chair the event. The Board discussed the future of this event, with a consensus that the event helps provide valuable communication and overlap between IRC and the Treasure Valley Hunting Retriever Club, while also serving as a useful way for IRC to support the retriever efforts of TVHRC and its members.

Grounds for the May field trial were discussed, and a resolution will be challenging. Last year's arrangement near Payette fell through and is unlikely to be feasible this year. Homework will proceed, with the hope that a combination of the Pete Eromenok, Jan Holshevnikoff, and Rock Hills properties might provide a workable solution. Open judges will be John Poer and Jeff Edwards, Linda Harger is seeking Amateur/Qualifying judges (possibly Gary Ratzlaff with Dan Morin), and Brett volunteered to judge the Derby, possibly with Gordon Shafer.

The September trial is again planned for the Davis Ranch in Cascade. Rich has two of last fall's judges set to return (Debi Nichols and Don Grenseman), has found David Zalunardo unavailable, and is trying to reach Arnie Erwin to see if he can make it.

Details are largely set for the upcoming Saturday 1/27 banquet at Louie's restaurant in Meridian.

Rich discussed a Jerry Patopea and Pat Burns seminar to be held in and near McCall on July 6-8, with preference given to local retriever club members. Cost will be \$600 for each dog/handler team, with a limited number of participants, and \$175 for observers. Dave Alexander is seeking grounds in the area.

The meeting's last main item was an open discussion towards what Board members might see as the future of IRC, relative to such things as participant and member numbers, working well with TVHRC in the interest of retrievers and retriever sports, the difficulty of finding training and event grounds, and so on.

A variety of observations came forth. Both clubs can work together in various useful ways, with inter-club communication being valuable and perhaps currently lacking, and specialization may or may not be the most appropriate path. It is helpful for IRC to hold a hunt test, but addressing the event basics of chair, gun captain(s), head marshal, event secretary, and foodstuffs is both mandatory and difficult for both hunt tests and field trials. Communications to members can be improved, with perhaps more award and recognition types and better ways to seek and to thank event volunteers. A Facebook page may be useful, and Grant Settle stepped up to begin that process. Ducks Unlimited is holding a major late June event at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa, where a joint IRC/TVHRC retriever booth and retriever demos may be possible. Rich thanked all for their current ideas, thoughts, and efforts, and commented specifically on the usefulness of outreach and communication.

Also in the internet realm, Cheri Shanahan informed the Board that a new Club webmaster will be needed, as she will be moving to Montana later in the year. We thank Cheri for service in that area and on the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.