

Idaho Retriever Club 04/20/2017 Board Meeting & Minutes

President Rich Charrier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at his home in Nampa. Also present were VP Ben Echevarria, Treasurer Chuck Kiehn, Secretary Brett Crow and Board members Willie Alderson, Blaine Hyde, Chris Merrill, Cheri Shanahan, and Pat Kilroy. Board member Dale Langhorne did not attend. Dina Perugini and Linda Harger also attended. Meeting topics primarily involved organizational matters for the April hunt test and May field trial.

Chuck Kiehn gave a financial outline, which reported Club dollar assets of about \$42K (\$14K checking and \$28K in two investment accounts). Chuck is still finalizing tallies from the spring sequence of picnic trials, which appear to have lost in the area of \$400 to \$600. Brett will provide detailed entry data to Chuck as the tallies are finalized.

Chuck expressed concerns about the loss and noted the expense of paying for land use and field help. Ideally, the Club would about break even on these events. Ben noted that part of the concern may have been depressed turnout due to poor weather. Linda also suggested that restructuring the events to make them more welcoming might be useful. No decisions were reached, but the discussion will continue with an eye on next year.

Birds for events were discussed, since Northwest Game Birds is presently shut down. A pheasant source at \$10/bird has been found for this weekend's hunt test. Gary Zellner will bring field trial ducks if Northwest remains closed at that that time. Frozen birds will be used as supplements.

Hunt test matters were discussed, with the event just two days away. Rich will deliver the trailer, Chuck will get drinks and snacks at Costco, and Brett has obtained three cases of water. Willie and Dina are checking their various task and equipment lists, and all seems to be in order.

The May field trial was up next. Rich has spoken to the judges about travel and other arrangements. Brett has obtained most motel rooms and will complete lodging arrangements.

Grounds were discussed, since the Treasure Valley Hunting Retriever Club lost use, at a late date, of the same grounds we plan to use—the Shaw ranch property south of Payette. River levels, possible flooding, and liability concerns were cited. Rich and Willie will seek to pin down our use of the grounds and to allay landowner concerns. Brett will provide them with possibly useful information about the Club's liability insurance and general practice of having entrants sign landowner liability release forms.

Also, there was a clear sense that the trial should not be canceled over these concerns. Instead, we will make contingency plans involving Pete Eromenok's property, the nearby duck club property (Leroy Tracy contact), and the Rock Hills property near Emmett.

Brett will modify the premium language to inform contestants of the possible difficulties and ongoing contingency planning.

Help at the field trial was the last item of event business. Rich will check with the Triumph youth program in Salt Lake, but the timing may be untenable. All in attendance were urged to contact Rich with names and their availability, in order to secure enough help.

The meeting then turned to the Club's future, out of concern that IRC may have begun a downward slide, as possibly seen in turnout for the spring picnic trial season. Linda Harger specifically mentioned the need for improved communication in order to help both local clubs succeed. She also suggested that IRC picnic trials might benefit from concentrating more on training than competing. The Board also discussed the possibility of developing a handling seminar, possibly led by some combination of professional and amateur handlers. The Board will continue to discuss these ideas in future meetings.

Finally, the Board clarified that club members handling dogs at the picnic trials are eligible for the annual high point awards when handling a dog owned by a non-member.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.