

PBGA Minutes - January 9, 2011

Clubs Present: Bellwood, Carlisle, Central, Conemaugh Valley, Eldred, Elizabethtown, Hilltop, Jacobus, Indiana County, Lebanon, Lycoming, Lykens Valley, Monroe, Northern Lancaster, Oil Creek, Shamokin, Sharpsville, Susquehanna, Towanda, Webster, West Branch, and York & Adams. Clubs absent from the meeting: Breakneck, Cambria, Mason-Dixon, Pucketos, Rainbow, Rayburn, and Tunkhannock.

Meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m. by President Jim Katchko. A brief prayer was given and then a motion was made by Lycoming to approve the October 2010 minutes, seconded by York & Adams, and the minutes were approved.

Officers and Directors Report:

President's Report - Jim gave a "State of the Association Statement" – 2010 was challenging for us, as we suffered through a difficult winter, making the rabbits scarce all across the commonwealth; and causing rescheduled / postponed trials. I know many of you worked extra hard on your club habitat. I encourage all of you to learn from one another—to share ideas on trapping, and better agricultural practices. Let's hope for a milder winter. Although we only gather 3 times a year, it's important to acknowledge the people who do so much for the association. Each of the officers was acknowledged for their work throughout the year. Jim acknowledged the two new directors: John Elder from the West and Todd Seitz from the East. Jim thanked all the delegates for making the time to be here today. He also acknowledged Mike Luchetta and Purina for the great support they give to the Association.

Eastern Vice President – Blaine reported on our numbers for the trials: Derby trials realized a total of 409 entries, maintaining our average from previous years, and 46 at our derby championship trial. All age entries were 743 at qualifying trials, and 92 at the runoff at West Branch. Blaine emphasized the fact that we should be promoting the beagle as a hunting dog. Be sure you are acquiring judges that judge on hunt. Good Sportsmanship is important to the sport. Inappropriate behavior should not be tolerated. Hire honest judges and consider calling a Field Trial Committee if someone is acting inappropriately. Once again, gas prices are rising, so consider carpooling to trials—let's work hard to maintain our entry numbers for our trials.

Western Vice President – Frank reiterated the same information on the trials regarding judges and sportsmanship. We should take action; use honest, good judges.

Secretary - Kay Coles verified the clubs absent from today's meeting. Raffle tickets are being sold for a variety of prizes to be awarded at the banquet.

Treasurer – Dave Sharer distributed a written report. Balance as of September 30, 2010 was \$6,950.64. Income to date: \$4,014.00, expenses to date: \$3,209.11; leaving a new balance as of December 31, 2010 of \$7,755.53. Motion by Webster to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by West Branch. Motion approved.

Director of Communications – It is the responsibility of the club to monitor their web pages to make sure they are always accurate. All 2010 field trial information and new club officers are up to date on the individual web pages. Please proof them carefully. Tina is happy to post any details on your upcoming trials and the results, provided you send them to her electronically so she can simply cut and paste. New cell phone for Tina: 717-523-2443.

Board of Directors – John Elder reminded all of us to announce that trials will be judged on hunt and echoed the sentiments of Frank and Blaine regarding trials. No other reports from directors.

Political Awareness – John Gible/Jim Katchko/Sam Lauchman – (see attached written report) – Sam asked for clubs interested in acquiring dog training permits or rabbit trapping permits to see him. Jim mentioned that he attended the funeral of the WCO officer killed in Fairfield, representing our association. The attached document addresses the other political awareness concerns.

Show Seminars – Tina Grim/Sam Lauchman/Bill Moyer - PBGA will purchase its own dvd from AKC on show and Tina thanked Cambria for hosting a show seminar last year that trained 9 additional show judges. She acknowledged the fact that Bill has three AKC show champions, so now we have this wonderful level of expertise to help us properly train our people; he's the expert in the field.

Hall of Fame Committee – Jim congratulated all the winners who will be acknowledged tonight at the banquet: Todd Seitz, Dave Sharer, FC G's Line Taco Belle and Bone Hollow Sunshine Sally.

Directory – we will plan to print a directory in 2012, until then any changes should be sent to Tina for updating the webpage (i.e., list of judges, etc.). Tina and Jim will circulate an email to all delegates emphasizing the need to update the list of judges in particular.

Website – Is currently up to date.

Field Trial Committee – Tina announced that our 2011 Field Trial Schedule was given a blanket sanction by AKC. New schedules were distributed and are now posted on the web site.

By Law Committee – Tina made a motion that we address the issue of disciplinary action due to poor sportsmanship in our bylaws if they do not currently meet our needs, motion seconded by West Branch. After much discussion, a motion to table this motion was made by John Gible, seconded by Frank Keene, until the bylaws could be reviewed over lunch.

Selecting Judges for the Derby Championship Trial – ballots were distributed for voting.

Lunch recess was called at 12:33 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:07 p.m., at which time Tina and West Branch rescinded the motion for the by law committee, due to the fact that the issue is sufficiently addressed in the current by laws. Tina and Jim will distribute an email to all club delegates and field trial secretaries since we do have a responsibility to make sure all field trials are conducted appropriately and reflect positively on the association.

Treasurer's Audit - will be held immediately following this meeting and a report will be given at the June meeting.

2011 PBGA Sponsors – Mike Luchetta, Purina, announced that Todd Seitz will be the ambassador for Purina in Mike's absence. He announced that there have been some changes to the Purina High Points Competition. Federations can now have a double point Purina hunt. He did address the issue that Purina can feed the hounds at licensed trials, but you must give them a 60 day advance notice and Purina must be in the ad. Bags will actually be sent, not coupons. Purina Banquet at Nationals will be the same as always. Hounds & Hunting has been sold so has new ownership; Art Slike will still be around for one year to help with the transition. Mike announced that if H&H will not continue to print our field trial cards as a free service, Purina will pick up the tab. Remember that Purina monies are available for grants for various clubs and organizations (the junior handler program received \$5,000 this year). Mike thanked

everyone for their support and reminded everyone that their weight circles should now be designated on the website to earmark the funds. Donors needed for the derby and all age trials. Give any leads on donations to Jim and Blaine so they can follow up. PA Outdoor News is a good contact and Blaine has been working with Tractor Supply.

Purina Funded Rabbit Habitat Review – John Gibble reported that a final write up will be available at the end of February.

Trapping Regulations – already addressed earlier in the meeting.

AKC Advanced Seminar – Jim was asked to pursue an advanced seminar. We do not have a date, since AKC is down a few representatives (2 people less). Jim will continue to push the issue, although everyone should know that the Brace advanced seminar will count for our judges as well). The Maryland Beagle Club also has one forthcoming (refer to page 14 of the H&H magazine).

Championship Trial Review - Hilltop – Frank Keene announced that their club has a new roof, is wheelchair accessible, has camper hookups, and has plenty of rabbits. Sam Lauchman announced that York & Adams has good running grounds, large club house, and all the basic needs to host the runoff.

Election of Derby Judges: Leading vote getters - East: Edgar Burdette, Gary Keller, John Cable, Don Wagner West: Kevin McEwen, John Elder, Jim Roush, and a tie for a fourth judge: Ed Sankey, Doug Pears, and Terry Gregory. Blaine will secure the judges. Show - Bill Moyer.

Consistency Award 2010 Winners – see attached list, to be awarded tonight at the banquet.

2010 Outstanding Hound Award - G's Line Taco Belle, to be awarded tonight.

Sire and Dam Award – to be awarded tonight.

NBGF/BAC Update – Jim made it clear that it should be the responsibility of the NEBGF to monitor the requirements of the judges selected from each association to ensure they are in compliance with the new rules.

AKC Licensed Event for PBGA All Age Runoff – UBGF did this with questionable results. The BAC has created a proposal of a GRAND CHAMPION (to be voted on in June). Bob Silva from the NEBGF represents our association/federation. Apparently all federations and select large enough associations (PBGA is one) could offer this new title which requires 2 wins and 70 points. Past reaction from our delegates was that we do NOT want this option. However, Mike Luchetta announced that if we maintain our same October date for the runoff, that it negatively impacts this award since it conflicts with the National Gundog Brace Championship Trial and several of our members attend that event as well.

2010-2011 Raffle Review – Dave announced we are doing really well this year with raffle sales. Those who are interested in taking more tickets, please do so. Anticipated profit is c.\$2000.00 Sharpsville made a motion we continue the same sort of raffle for 2012; Towanda seconded. Motion approved.

Good of the Association

Jim shared with members an article in The American Hunter and distributed copies for those interested. Monroe Beagle Club was acknowledged for their great write up in their local paper on their field trials and encouraged other clubs to follow suit. Tina thanked Jim for representing the association at the recent funeral for the WCO near Gettysburg and thanked Sam, Jim, and John for their great work with the PA Game Commission. Having no further

business, a motion was made by Towanda and seconded by Webster to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Attachments:

- 1) Award Recipients
- 2) Political Action Information

Attachment #1

2010 DERBY CONSISTENCY WINNERS

13" derby female consistency

WINNER: ORR LANE SALLY
OWNER: CHUCK ORR
RUNNER UP: CAPTAINS LITTLE DOONA JR.
OWNER: JOSH HERRING

15" derby female consistency

WINNER: Z'S HURRICANE HOLLEY
OWNER: RONALD & MARTA GOUGER
RUNNER UP: HUNTER'S CREEK DAYTONA
OWNER: ROGER GEORGE

13" derby male consistency

WINNER: KEEN-LINE CRACKER JACK
OWNER: FRANK KEENE III & CHARLES
MARTZ
RUNNER UP: BUCK'S BRANCH GEORGOUS
GEORGE
OWNER: JOSH RISSINGER

15" derby male consistency

WINNER: HUCK'S RUN BRUISER
OWNER: MIKE & MATT JOHNSON
RUNNER UP: NICKTOWN BIG BROCK
OWNER: JOHN SMYCHYNSKY

SIRE OF THE YEAR: FC LEE'S LA PUTT PUTT -14 OFFSPRING

DAM OF THE YEAR: FC CABLE'S AMY -5 OFFSPRING

OUTSTANDING HOUND: FC G'S LINE TACO BELLE, OWNER: JIM GIRAFALCO

HOUNDSPERSON OF THE YEAR: JARED SHADE

HALL OF FAME: TODD SEITZ & DAVE SHARER

FC BONE HOLLOW SUNSHINE SALLY & FC G'S LINE TACO BELLE

2010 ALL AGE CONSISTENCY WINNERS

13" all age female consistency

WINNER: FC G'S LINE TACO BELLE
OWNER: JIM GIRAFALCO
RUNNER UP: FC VALLEY VIEW LORI
OWNER: JOSH HERRING

15" all age female consistency

WINNER: FC LONE WILLOW TIARAE HANNA
OWNER: JOSH HERRING
RUNNER UP: FC CABLE'S BABE
OWNER: JOHN CABLE

13" all age male consistency

WINNER: FC J-LINE BULL DOZER
OWNER: JAY LONG, EDDIE GOOCH, GINO
CASSERI
RUNNER UP: FC COALHILL TOM TUCKER
OWNER: KEVIN McEWEN

15" all age male consistency

WINNER: FC ELDER'S REBEL RUN MAJOR
OWNER: JOHN ELDER
RUNNER UP: FC C & R MAG'S DUNCE
OWNER: CHARLES KEHRES

Attachment #2: POLITICAL ACTION REPORT

Pennsylvania Game Commission:

1. Extended rabbit season: One of the conditions of extending the rabbit season this year was to recruit new hunters. If you take one or a group of new or junior hunters to the field this year, take pictures and drop a note to John Gible. We need to back up our promises to the Commission if we expect to have an extended season next year.
2. Youth Rabbit Season: We had one club sponsor an organized youth rabbit hunt. Many folks took youngsters hunting on their own accord during the season. Again, pictures and a note would reinforce support from the Game Commission.
3. We have a group that will be meeting with the Game Commission to discuss laws and regulations affecting beagle clubs. Specifically we want to address needing special permits to trap predators, signage, and some inconsistencies in the rules. We may need legislative support on this.
4. Game Commissioners take public comments in their scheduled hearing on January 30 in Harrisburg. It wouldn't be a bad idea to have PBGA members show up and testify to their support for the extended rabbit season.

Legislature:

1. Change to Republican House and Senate will be good for us. Representative Cassorio who authored a number of the dog law changes and additional bills at the behest of animal rights activists was not re-elected and we won't miss him.
2. HSUS has scheduled a "lobby day" at the state capitol on April 12. The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs is planning a "counter HSUS lobby day" on the same day. We will be coordinating with PA Fox and Coyote Hunters Association to present a package of "hound issues" to distribute to new legislators on that day. Any help with meeting legislators would be appreciated.
3. Several items that we could use legislative support for include provisions for recovering dogs from private property, changes in laws supporting dog's shelters, changes to the dog license system, preventing a dog license increase, and prohibitions for local governments enacting "dog limit laws".

Spay and Neuter the HSUS:

1. Frank Losey, a well-known animal welfare advocate has filed a complaint with the U.S. Office of the Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service, charging in a 1,400 page expose' that HSUS has violated numerous provisions associated with tax exempt status, specifically a prohibition on lobbying.
2. Losey is asking that individuals e-mail the OIG, demanding that the investigation of HSUS be given priority status. The OIG e-mail address is Complaints@tigta.treas.gov and the case file is 55-1005-0025-C. Please courtesy copy Frank Losey at f.losey@insightbb.com if you send an e-mail. Losing 501C tax exempt status could severely cripple HSUS and expose them as what they are.