



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE BOD MEETING
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 2024 In Person and Video/Teleconference Board Meeting
(Please see: Attachment A – October 2024 Board Meeting Minutes)

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Submitted by Cindy Lindemer

Per the Bylaws of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA), ARTICLE III – MEETINGS, Section 3, Board Meetings, the following schedule of Board Meetings for the 2025 calendar year shall be held with proper notice via video/teleconferencing utilizing the Zoom software platform:

2025 Meetings Calendar – Wednesday’s via Zoom

February 19

April 16

June 18

September 2, Tuesday, In Person

September 4, Thursday, Annual Membership Meeting

November 12

SECRETARY’S REPORT

None submitted

TREASURER’S REPORT

Submitted by Carolyn Kurth

1st Quarter Financials – Please see **ATTACHMENT B**

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

None submitted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None submitted

AGENDA ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal #1: Updating and clarifying the NSDTRC (USA) Working Certificate Program rules
Submitted by: Paul Kartes (National Field Chair) 630-292-3658 paul@lakotaretrievers.com
Please see **ATTACHMENT C** – Field Rules and Regulations

Proposal Description: Updating and Clarifying the NSDTRC (USA) Working Certificate Program Rules.

Proposal Justification: This is the 2nd version of the field rules after the BOD went over them in the in-person meeting.

Administration:

Financial Implications: Other than printing new rule books there is none.

Specific Board Action Requested: To approve the changed / updated of the Field rules.

Proposal #2: Emergency Fund Disbursement Possibilities for NSDTRC (USA)
Submitted by: Hillare Parfait and Wendy Flemister-Shairs

Proposal Description/Justification: We had several club members and Toller Owners in need of immediate financial assistance during Helene and subsequently Milton. The NSDTRC (USA) had no way to help those in need as tragedy struck our members and the community. We have outlined 3 potential solutions to help our membership.

Administration: 3 choices

1. The Club forms a committee to oversee, obtain and disburse funds.
 - a. Create an account that members can donate to that will be utilize only as a natural disaster fund
 - b. Certain criteria needs to be met to be distributed,
 - i. named storm, government activation, AKC relief mobilization or total lost scenario
 - ii. Must be a voting member or hold membership for over 12 months
 - c. How will this be funded? Add a donate spot similar to H&G and Rescue on membership forum. When disaster hits, have a blast through the registration list
 - d. This committee will also help reach out and orchestrate help whether it be a clean up day or a donation collection depending on hardship need.
2. AKC Relief Donation
 - a. What? Collect donations as needed through the year and donate it to to the AKC relief.
 - b. How will this be funded? Add a donate spot similar to H&G and Rescue on membership forum. When disaster hits, have a blast through the registration list

- c. Once donation are collected for a set time period, do a pass through of donation to the AKC relief.
- 3. TRI and their board (as 501C) can have funds disbursed to them and they will be responsible for the disbursement of those funds
 - a. What? Collect donations as needed through the year and donate it to TRI relief earmarked specifically for Emergency Relief use
 - b. How will this be funded? Add a donate spot similar to H&G and Rescue on membership forum. When disaster hits, have a blast through the registration list...
 - c. Once donation are collected for a set time period, do a pass through of donation to the TRI relief fund.
 - d. This option allows for Tax exemption which none of the other donations allow for

Financial Impact: None required from the board at this time, this is a gathering of donation from the membership to go into a holding wallet to then be either donated in one of the three methods listed

Specific Board Action Request: Choose a donation distribution method to help club members during great time of need.

Proposal #3: NSDTRC (USA) to become a Training Club Member at California Retriever Training Association for 2025
Submitted by: Rob Schell, Schell19@gmail.com 530-220-9622

Proposal Description: I propose that the Club “upgrade” its CRTA membership to a training club for 2025 at the cost of \$360. At this level, and with the required waivers of Subrogation, the Club can host up to 12 training days per year (one per month), and Club Members would be exempted from grounds fees (\$40 per day). An individual Club Member would save up to \$480 per year. This Proposal would be a net cost to NSDTRC (USA) of approximately \$260 more than annual baseline for the past three years.

Proposal Justification: The NSDTRC (USA) (Club) has been a Member Club of California Retriever Training Association (CRTA) over the last three years. The annual dues paid to CRTA have been \$100 per year (2022, 2023, 2024). During that three-year membership the NSDTRC (USA) Region 4 has held four Field Tests (“Spring Fling”), two AKC licensed upland (spaniel) tests, and the 2024 National Specialty Field events including both a breed Field Test and an AKC upland spaniel test component at CRTA.

Each year, the Club has also paid for the CRTA-required waivers of Subrogation for 4 landowner parties that have incurred additional costs to the club of \$312 through the Club’s insurance provider Equisure which provides coverage for up to the 12-month policy period.

CRTA operates multiple properties with the express mission of providing accessible and safe grounds for the training of retrievers and gun-dogs in California where venues for the training of retrievers, and use of game birds and gunfire are limited. Multiple Club members in Region 4 are also CRTA members and can host others for group training, including myself. CRTA membership dues are prohibitive for many (~\$700/year). The membership fee is a financial barrier to casual trainers, lite users (less than 2 days per month), and those on fixed or limited income. Non CRTA-members currently can attend training days and pay day-use fees of \$40 per person per day.

As an example, in advance of the 2024 National and the fall AKC retriever tests, I hosted two training days., and two mock tests drawing 38 individual participants across the four days. If each were a non- CRTA member paying \$40 grounds fees, that would equate to \$1,520. Extrapolated to 12 monthly allowable training days, those costs would be \$4,560. These four training days, including 2 picnic tests also generated \$510 in fundraising for the Club that helped offset the cost of the National field tests.

Throughout the year, and as a CRTA member, I currently host between 6-8 group training days that are focused on Tollers and their owners. Other dual CRTA and Club members also host training days and membership is eager for these opportunities, however the individual CRTA memberships are not intended for this use, and CRTA members have been cautioned about hosting groups of more than 5 people regularly. Continued heavy use of this degree could be throttled in the future through rule changes, which would limit the ability to encourage new people in the sport.

Many of the handlers and their dogs are from our kennel, but many are not. I have personally coordinated with breeders across the Country that have puppies locally and have provided access to the grounds, equipment, birds and training resources to facilitate their interest in the sport. This was in evidence at the degree of local interest and entries at the National in October.

The approval of this proposal will increase the number of opportunities to host Club training days to up to 12 per year, and more generally promote interest and access in field as a retriever sport, interest in tollers through continued exhibition and success with the breed in field sports, and provide material cost savings to Club members and prospective Club members in California and across Region 4. Further, being a NSDTRC (USA) member would provide a cost savings benefit for members of up to \$480 per year. This could drive additional members to the Club in order to realize this benefit.

Administration: There is a membership form that I already complete as a Club member and a CRTA member, and as the Field Chair for the Club sponsored events am the defacto CRTA liaison. Maintenance of the insurance and waivers of Subrogation by the Club Treasurer would also be required. Club training days are posted in advance through FB pages and are otherwise comunially run. No additional administration from the Club is required.

Financial Implications: The cost to the Club would be the \$360 membership fee plus the \$312 for the waivers of Subrogation annually. The Club already is a member at the \$100 level and had paid the waiver fees the last three years associated with formal events. The financial

implication to the Club is an additional \$260 more than the baseline paid in 2022, 2023, and 2024. The membership dues are paid per calendar year, and the insurance is paid annually based on the Club's existing policy with Equisure. The Club is currently covered until the renewal of its policy term which expires on 06/01/2025.

I am a paying CRTA annual member and a Club member. I do not stand to have any financial benefit associated with the approval of this proposal. It is solely to encourage attendance and facilitate interest in the sport and the success of the Breed in field sports and field training.

Financial Implications: \$360.00 per year for membership plus the cost of insurance.

Specific Board Action Requested: I propose that the Board approve the proposal to become a Training Membership Club of the California Retriever Training Association and continue to support the insurance costs associated with the membership and sponsoring events at CRTA managed properties.

Proposal # 4: To approve official NSDTRC (USA) participation in the AKC Meet The Breeds event at the Javits Center in New York City on January 25 and 26, 2025.
Submitted By: Mary Palkowski, Public Education Committee (PEC) Chair

Proposal Description: The AKC Meet The Breeds tour is headed back to NY, and the PEC is proposing that the NSDTRC (USA) be represented at the event.

Club VP Annie Garwood has been submitted to the AKC as onsite booth coordinator on the booth application. We hope for an assistant coordinator to work with her and are working on recruiting other toller owners to bring dogs. Our application to participate has been received by AKC, so they will be assigning booth space to us unless we revise or cancel our involvement.

For each of the Meet The Breeds events, AKC has developed standard booths for participating breeds. No additional decorations are required, although it is fine to bring some. It will be the NSDTRC (USA)'s responsibility to have dogs at the booth to meet visitors, and to provide handout materials.

All volunteers at the booth will be required to sign the NSDTRC (USA)'s approved waiver.

The Meet The Breeds event will comply with all local and federal health and safety requirements in effect at the time of the event.

Proposal Justification: In previous years, AKC has organized Meet The Breeds events in several cities throughout the country. During the worst days of COVID, the NSDTRC (USA) declined to participate for safety reasons, In 2024, AKC held MTB events in NYC, Chicago and Columbus. The NSDTRC (USA) participated in all three cities. So far, the PEC has information about only the NYC event. If others are announced by AKC, the PEC will consider the volunteer base in those areas and costs to participate, then make additional proposal(s) to the BOD regarding participation in them.

The PEC believes we should participate in the NYC event - and others – as long as we are able to “do them right”. That means having enough dogs present for the attendees to meet and having enough volunteers to manage and care for the dogs that are being asked to meet and greet the public. We believe these events, which are well-organized by AKC and well attended by the public, are an opportunity to fulfill our obligation as an AKC parent club to educate the public about our versatile breed and responsible dog ownership.

Financial Implications: As they did last year, the AKC has announced that a \$300/day stipend will be available for parent clubs that have at least four dogs at their booth, and \$500/day will be available for parent clubs that have five or more dogs. That means our club will receive \$1,000 for the NYC booth, assuming we are able to have at least five dogs present each day.

In addition to the stipend to the parent club, AKC has announced it will again provide free admittance and lunch vouchers for volunteers.

The PEC would like to ensure that our volunteers feel valued for the time they give to work at the booth. Most live a distance from the Javits Center so we are planning to use the stipend toward reimbursement to our volunteers for mileage to the event and parking. New in 2025 is our decision to also provide up to \$250/day worked toward a hotel room. Volunteers who work one full day at the event would receive that reimbursement for one night. Volunteers who work two full days would receive that reimbursement for two nights,

In addition, we will provide volunteers with a grooming apron to wear at the event and take home as a memento. The aprons have an important purpose at the event; they help visitors to the booth identify the booth volunteers. We have enough aprons left to cover volunteers for the NYC event, so there will be no additional cost incurred for them.

The PEC will also provide a minimal number of handouts. We have enough handouts left from last year and will not incur expense reprinting them. Last year, we provided coloring pages for kids, plus a very small set of crayons. Again, we have enough of them left from last year. We may have to purchase additional crayons. If we did, the cost would be under \$40 and we would have enough for a future MTB event, as well. The only other cost would be business cards that visitors can easily slip into their wallets. The business cards spotlight the Club web url and Facebook page so visitors can learn more about tollers after they return home. Cards will cost under \$40, which would give us enough for the NYC event and one additional future MTB event.

In summary, the AKC stipend should cover hotel rooms. The NSDTRC (USA) would cover mileage and parking, plus \$40 for business cards (only \$20 of which would be for this event) and \$40 for crayons (again only about \$20 of which would be for this event). Last year, the BOD approved the PEC proposal with a budget that included the AKC stipend plus allowed the PEC to spend up to \$300 from the NSDTRC (USA) budget. We ran under budget for both the NYC and the Chicago event. In order to make the NYC event even more successful this year, the PEC is proposing that the BOD agree to invest up to \$500 in addition to the AKC stipend for the NYC event. That should be plenty to cover mileage and parking for volunteers plus the crayons and

business cards we will need for the event. It will also give us a head start on materials needed for future MTB events, which will be in cities where volunteer expenses are expected to be lower.

Specific Board Action Requested: Approve the proposal to officially participate in the AKC's Meet The Breeds event in New York on January 25 and 26, 2025, approve Annie Garwood as on-site coordinator, and approve NSDTRC (USA) expenditures of up to \$500 in addition to the AKC stipend.

Proposal # 5: Application to Host the 2026 National Specialty
Submitted By: Terri Krause, Region 3

Please see **ATTACHMENT D**

ADJOURNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT