



Board Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Cindy Patz home

11800 Lake Butler Blvd.

Windermere, FL. 34786

In attendance: Robin Burket, Robin Bowen, Kristin Sipus, Camille Nasca, Susan Sherman, Cindy Patz, Christine McDaniel, Amanda Fell, Morgan Brooks, Brian Parker, Julie Wangelin (via Zoom) and Musta El Khorchi (via Zoom)

Officer Reports:

1. **President – Robin Burket** welcomed everyone and discussed the board member responsibilities. She will email a copy of the Board Member Responsibilities to the board and tasked us with updating them. We went around the table with quick introductions and asked each person to tell us something we may not know about them, resulting in a few raised eyebrows and a lot of smiles!
2. **Secretary – Cindy Patz** reported that the December minutes will be sent to the board for approval prior to posting to the website. She also reported that the new Google Group for the new Board seems to be complete but will change the settings to make sure that any reply will be a “reply all”. The group also discussed guidelines for the Board text stream, and it was agreed that we would only text between 8am and 8pm unless it’s an emergency. Lastly, Cindy reported she had received the Jackie Mertens Memorial Invite (Top Brass, all performance champions) and asked if it needed to be sent to the membership. Kristin Sipus and others stated that it was posted on various social media outlets and sent out by other clubs so no need to send to our membership. In lieu of flowers the board voted to send a \$100 donation to GRF in her name.
3. **Treasurer – Robin Bowen** and Christine McDaniel had sent the financial reports to the board prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions. One question was asked about the membership income and Christine confirmed that while the membership income looks like we lost members, it is due to timing only. Last year, more members renewed prior to the end of the year and this year, the renewals are coming in a little later.

Committee Reports:

1. **CCA 2025 Date and Health Clinic** – Robin Bowen repeated the dates MADTA has available for the 2025 CCA and the board decided to use August 23rd with July 19th as backup. Robin Bowen also reported that she is still looking for a category 1 evaluator (Julie Wangelin is hoping to have hers by that time) and Camille Nasca will be the Category 2 evaluator. It was suggested that we combine the CCA and Educational Seminar with our Summer Specialty and the chair will investigate that for the 2026

Summer Specialty. As a side note, the Health Clinic is confirmed for May 3rd at MADTA and Blue Ridge Imaging will be there.

2. **Obedience Trial (Aug. 8-10th, 2025) – Susan Sherman** reported that the Rally Trial and Obedience events are registered; Rally Trials have been approved and waiting on Obedience Trial approval. She is currently counting ribbons, and the plan is to purchase the Hunt test and Obedience/Rally ribbons at the same time. Susan also reported that the entry fees will be the same as last year and that the professional photographer does not require a contract. Open items include making hotel reservations for the judges and getting the venue (ODTC) contract signed for the August 8-10, 2025 dates. Cindy Patz asked what support she needed, and Susan said that Camille Nasca is helping her, which is all she needs for now.
3. **Fun Match (March 15th, 2025) – Robin Burket** reported that the application has been sent to AKC and the judges have been secured. Also, the program is ready, and they have all the ribbons needed with the exception of 5 rosettes, but those will be ordered. The Match flyer is in progress and the match will be held at Ann Rowe's home in Sorrento, FL as it has been the past years. The March General Meeting will be held in person at the conclusion of the Fun Match.
4. **July Specialty (July 4th, 2025) – Julie Wangelin** reported that she is coordinating space for the raffle with Vicki Jordan, the general chair. She also reported that Caroline Kendrick asked about sweeps judge, Margie Sarkin. Selecting our own breeder judge for our specialty was discussed by the board and Robin Bowen commented that she was told we would need to have the judge selected at least a year in advance, which brought up a discussion regarding a club judges selection committee (see item 8 under New Business for that discussion).
5. **Hunt Test (Feb. 7-9, 2025) – Kristin Sipus and Brian Parker.** Kristin opened the discussion by remarking on the December test not making money due to lower entries. She reported that she has researched hunt tests in the southeast and most of the southeast has had a 50% reduction in entries. In an attempt to determine the cause (too many tests in the area, too expensive) Kristin found that the Master National has fallen out of favor so not as many pros or amateurs trying to get master passes (a dog must have 6 master passes per year to qualify for competing in the Master National). With that in mind, Kristin and Brian are working to keep expenses down for the February test. One example is judges' expenses; all the judges are sharing a ride down and they will be sharing the same house. They also decided to have a Double Master and a single Senior and single Junior, which eliminates 1 set of judges. Brian suggested a Double Master for March after receiving positive feedback from several pro handlers and will look for a date. Cindy asked about hosting a WC/WCX this year and Kristin said she would chair it at the Eastern Regional we are hoping to host this Fall. She also reported that the Flatcoats club may have one this Spring for anyone interested in competing before the Fall.
6. **Finance Committee – Robin Bowen and Christine McDaniel** reported that the committee had not been too active this past year. They created a budget at the beginning of the year and Christine sent financials every month to the members of the committee. Committee member Jenny Ford still thinks that there should be a set budget, but Christine will explain how that was not effective at their meeting on January 6, 2025. She reported that she will let them know we send out P&Ls to the event chairs for them to follow as their budget. Christine discussed the reasons for having a finance committee as a second set of eyes on the financials. Robin Burket agrees that we should have a finance committee. It was suggested that the committee guidelines and

committee member responsibilities should be better defined. Cindy Patz explained how her service on another Finance Committee is handled and Christine asked if Cindy would help her create guidelines for the finance committee moving forward. Julie Wangelin made a motion to dissolve the current committee and come up with guidelines for the new committee. Brian Parker seconded the motion, and it was brought up for a vote. The motion passed unopposed. It was also suggested that we use last year's actuals for this year's budget.

Old Business:

1. **New Title Rosettes – Susan Sherman** reported that there were only 35 applications for new title ribbons and the day of the board meeting is the last day to apply.
2. **Renewing Memberships – Christine McDaniel** reported she still needs to chase down 70 members for renewal before the January 31st renewal deadline. Musta suggested having multi-year memberships. Amanda Fell offered to help update roster with new contact information.

12:30pm – took 30-minute lunch break and resumed the meeting at 1:06pm

3. **Website Update – Cindy Patz** reported that Clubistry is working diligently to launch the website as soon as possible. Robin Bowen agreed to create a mfgrcinfo@gmail.com email address so Cindy can create a YouTube channel to host the educational videos to link them to the website. This email address can also be used for the general email on the website that can be monitored by multiple board members. Cindy said she would also ask the developer about having a multi-year Membership option as suggested by Musta. Another board member asked about storing documents on the website and Cindy will ask the developer about the best way to do that. Getting the hero photo (the main photo on the home screen) taken is a high priority and Robin Burket said she would get some availability dates from Jon Burket. Kristin Sipus also suggested we get a “golden retriever colors” shot to add to the bottom of every website page.
4. **Tom Misilo website services** – The board decided to pay Tom for 1 more year of service until the new website launches.
5. **Volunteer Rewards Program – Kristin Sipus** is working with Susie Rezy to have a tracking volunteer rewards event. She is looking at then 1st weekend in March at Pam Ginn's property or Kristin's property. Kristin also reported that she hopes to have an Obedience Rewards Event in addition to a Handling and Grooming Rewards Event.

New Business:

1. **New Member Applications – Christine McDaniel** read 1 new application to the board. It is a family membership from Carolee Boyles and Richard Marshal in Loxahatchee, FL. They are sponsored by PJ Lisette. The application was unanimously approved and will be brought up for a vote at the next general meeting once they attend a meeting. Cindy Patz mentioned an email she received requesting information about our club (especially about our support of cancer research) from Richard (Rick) Brinker and asked the board if it was okay to invite him to join a general meeting. The board said he would be welcome to sit in on a meeting so Cindy will reach back out with a zoom invitation.
2. **Calendar for first 6 months – Robin Burket** asked the board if Tuesdays are good for everyone to attend meetings. It was decided that we would keep them the same this year.
 - a. Board meetings on Tuesdays at 6pm and General meetings on Tuesdays at 7pm. The January General Meeting will be January 21st and for February, the Board meeting will be February 4th and the General Meeting will be February 11th

- b. Barn Hunt Fun Day: Last March, Michele Throm organized a barn hunt fun day and Robin Burket said she would reach out to her to see if she wanted to organize another one this year. It was noted that the location we held last year's barn hunt fun day is no longer available.
 - c. Dock Diving Fun Day: Morgan Brooks offered to host a Dock Diving Fun Day at her place in March 2025.
 - d. February Field Training: both Kristin and Brian are unavailable, so Kristin will ask Anney Doucette if she would like to host it either Feb 15th or 16th at their place.
 - e. Conformation training at Anne's: Possibly expand the training options to include having it at Morgan's sometimes or at the Brooksville showgrounds
3. **Perpetual Trophies and Year End Awards – Robin Bowen and Camille Nasca** proposed that we eliminate the perpetual trophies and only have keepsake trophies. Cindy Patz proposed we do both, keeping the large trophies in our possession and continuing to add nameplates for each recipient and giving the recipient keepsake trophies. Cindy offered to take care of trophies and make any repairs necessary until the board finds someone that would be passionate about being the caretaker. Robin Bowen brought an example of the type of keepsake trophy we could use, and the board all liked the choice, especially since we can change the color based on the discipline. It was proposed that we replace the magnets and plaques with this same style of keepsake trophy and the board agreed.
4. **Volunteer Positions**
- a. **Hotel coordinator** – looking for someone to coordinate hotel and/or Airbnb accommodations for all events. Robin Bowen said we have an Airbnb account and club credit card rewards available to use for accommodations and that she would provide an SOP to the hotel coordinator. It was decided to send an email to the club to see if someone would like to fill the hotel coordinator position.
 - b. **Fundraising position** - for matching/etc. on the grant awarded by PRTA, Professional Retriever Trainers Association to MFGRC to aid in the removal of lily pads at Persimmon Farm. Kristin Sipus motioned we match the \$3k and Robin Bowen seconded the motion. The motion passed but was later amended that we would reach out to the club to see if anyone wanted to donate. Once the club has donated, we match whatever the club donates as well as the \$3k. It was decided to give the club 30 days to donate due to the timeliness of the lily pad treatment. It needs to be started before the weather warms up. Robin Burket offered to draft an email, working with members of the board to send to the club asking if anyone would want to contribute to the project. To help the Board understand the extent and expense of lily pad removal, Brian Parker shared that he brought in equipment to cut and remove lily pads prior to the last hunt test, and it cost \$2200 per day for 2 days to do 2 ponds. If chemicals are used instead, then it must be treated 3 times being careful how much is treated so you don't kill the ecology of the pond and then remove the dead vegetation, or you'll end up with an algae bloom and in worse shape than you started. A few names were mentioned as to who might be good fits for the fundraising position and they will be contacted individual to gauge their interest.
 - c. **Trophy curator** – as stated above, Cindy Patz will take the trophies for a year and inventory and repair as needed.
 - d. **Maintain a list of events and who chairs them** – Historian. Camille Nasca offered to create the initial list.

5. **Leslie Anderson trophy proposal** – Robin Burket reported that member, Leslie Anderson reached out wanting to create a perpetual trophy in the name of her dog, Puk. It was suggested to look at other large golden clubs in the country to get ideas of a trophy that might be appropriate. It was also suggested that since Persimmon Farm is going to be perpetual training and competition grounds, maybe Leslie would like to donate to name a pond or area after Puk since he was a master hunter. We tasked Brian to think of multi-level options for club members that might want to do the same for their beloved companions. Julie Wangelin suggested engraved plaques or a bench.
6. **Hosting a Regional** – The board agreed that we would like to explore the option of hosting a GRC Eastern Regional in the Fall. Show site suggestions included Greater Ocala Dog Club showgrounds, Brooksville and Grand Oaks in Weirsdale, FL. All sites would be about an hour from Persimmon Farm, where the WC/WCX would be held, but Grand Oaks is the closest. Morgan Brooks offered to contact Greater Ocala showgrounds to see if there was a date in October that would be available. Camille Nasca offered to contact Grand Oaks. A question was asked about contacting other clubs for independent specialties. Robin Bowen suggested we check the national handbook to see if we would require a designated independent treasurer and Camille offered to check. Susan Sherman agreed to be the obedience chair, Kristin Sipus agreed to be the WC/WCX chair, Robin Bowen agreed to be the CCA chair and it was suggested to ask Musta if he would like to be the conformation chair (he was on a flight home by the time we reached this part of the meeting).
7. **Judges Selection Committee for Specialties (Revisit Summer Specialty)** - Musta agrees that we need to select our own breeder judge for our specialties. Morgan suggested to have a judges selection committee, and a discussion ensued as to whether a specialty chair could show, and the answer is yes if they are not the contact person for the judge. The board agreed that the show chair would make 3-4 suggestions to form the judges panel, and the board would make the final decision as to which judge to select. Another person on the board would be the liaison to the judge so the specialty chair could still compete; Musta said he would be the judge's liaison since he doesn't compete on the east coast. Musta also expressed his desire to include international judges for future specialty judges' panels and to combine CCA, Specialty and Seminar at the same event. It was suggested that once a year we send an email to the club asking for suggestions for judges in all disciplines to help future chairs build their judges panels. Cindy offered to include that judges request as part of the google form she will create to send to the membership.
8. **By-Laws** – Robin Bowen and Robin Burket asked the board to review the by-laws to see if they have any recommendations for change. It takes about a year to get by-law changes approved by AKC.
9. **Donations/Fundraisers for 2025** – fundraisers were discussed earlier in the new business section. Robin Burket suggested we continue to give to Everglades and Florida Gulf Coast on a yearly basis so they can purchase trophies for their events. They are much smaller clubs and struggle to afford to hold events. It was also recommended that if the club donates a large sum again, like in 2023, then a donations committee outside the board is formed to research possible recipients. It was suggested we challenge the members and that the club will match what they raise for their favorite charity with a cap on the matching amount. A concern was raised that not everyone can raise funds, and the club would need to vet these organizations. It was also brought up that some members believe that "the club has money, so why are we asking the members to donate?" It was decided based on end of year financials to donate \$5k in the first 6

months and will ask membership for someone that would like to research where we donate that money. Robin Burket will draft the email to the club and Cindy will create the “catch-all” form to link to the email.

10. **Revisit Holiday Party** – Robin Burket reported that Ann and Bob Rowe are ready to stop hosting the Holiday Party. Camille Nasca suggested that we have an awards “Party” daytime event the first week of December or beginning of January instead of an evening event on the December Specialty weekend. Christine McDaniel mentioned that she was in a California club, and they held an afternoon in January that was well attended. This may require a change to the club by-laws.
11. **Facebook/Instagram** – Amanda Fell, Director of Communications, will create a club Facebook Page (not to be confused with our current Facebook group) to link to the club Instagram account that she is going to create. Regarding the second Mid-Florida group that Joanne Hell created, Robin Bowen reported that Joanne has no memory of creating it and no way to delete the page. Robin Bowen has already marked it ‘unofficial’ which is as much as we can do.
12. **Seminar/Meeting Speaker ideas** – Suggestions for future speakers included Shannon, equine and canine repro vet, Val Rutledge, National Agility Team Physical Therapist, and Janice Hayes, handler with educational course on-line.
13. Next Board Meeting date is February 4th at 6pm on Zoom
14. Next General Meeting date (on zoom to maximize attendance) is January 21st at 7pm on Zoom

At 4:05pm, Amanda Fell motioned that we adjourn, seconded by Morgan Brooks. The meeting was adjourned.