

History of the Tennessee Valley Poultry Club

The TVPC was originally founded in late 1950 or early 1960 and was affiliated with the Tennessee Valley Fair. Bob James, who was then poultry show superintendent at the fair was president, Joe Thompson – Vice president, Bruce Walters was secretary and Carl Miller was treasurer. The Dixie Classic was held in the old poultry building on the TVA&I fair site in Chilhowee Park. According to R. W. Sweeney, who became Poultry Show superintendent and club president after Bob James, the old poultry building was built from the remnants of an old wooden roller coaster originally on the fair site. This beautiful old building was host to the fair poultry show and the Dixie Classic for many years and was often touted as the best show site most of the exhibitors had ever attended.

The Dixie Classic was originally hosted by groups from Knoxville and Chattanooga Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. Chattanooga and Atlanta eventually dropped out and Greenville, S. C. and Richmond, VA joined the groups. Eventually, the Knoxville club was the only host left and dropped the Dixie Classic because of difficulties acquiring the host building. The club essentially dissolved in mid or late 1990.

In the summer and fall of 2011, Eddie (Cotton) Dunlap, the then and current poultry show superintendent at the TVA & I Fair, set about successfully reorganizing the Tennessee Valley Poultry Club. The new officers elected were President- Eddie Dunlap, Vice President – Tim Cox, Secretary – Cynthia Walker (who had been a member of the original club), Treasurer – Ada Davis. The board of directors consisted of John Benziger, Chris Hall, James Treadway and Doyle Kitts.

The first, new Dixie Classic was hosted on April 14, 2012. The club then hosted the American Bantam Association on Dec. 2, 2013 with John Thomas as show secretary and hosted the American Poultry Association

Poultry Show December 6, 2014. It was also decided to hold the regular Dixie Classic in the fall instead of spring and on the first weekend in December. The TVPC began hosting a pigeon show in conjunction with the Dixie Classic in 2015.

The club now has a website - <http://tvpoultryclub.com/index.html>

And a Facebook page – [Tennessee Valley Poultry Club](#)

Current officers are – Eddie Dunlap, president, John Thomas – Vice President, Patti Brashears – treasurer, Cynthia Walker – Secretary, El Morse - Show Secretary, Meghan Atchley – Youth Director, Alex Coffey – Assistant Youth Director.