



# Upcoming Events

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. Sunday, December 15, 2019: Mini-seminar and training session, focused on "Tips for Training Alone." Lisa Styles will lead. 12:30 for setup, 1:00 seminar begins. 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Weather dependent. Please RSVP to Karen at edwardskc@gmail.com . Details inside on page 8.
2. December: time to nominate dogs and people for awards and club management positions — see articles inside on pages 2 & 5
3. Saturday, February 22, 2020— (tentative) Annual Awards Banquet & election, 6:00 p.m., Calhoun's Bearden Hill, Knoxville — more details to follow
4. April (TBD) — Club Trial
5. Spring Hunt Test, Saturday/Sunday, May 23-24, 2020, Hiwassee Reserve. 132 Master dogs; double Junior, double Senior, puppy stake.

## Photo of the Month



**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!**

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## Nominating Committee Slate for Election & Call for Nominees

The nominating committee, headed this year by Board Member J. Michael Evans, along with committee members Donna Smith and Sherie Catledge, has recommended the following slate for ETRC officer and director positions for Club year 2020 (beginning at the end of the banquet in February):

- ◆ President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Secretary: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Treasurer: Lois Luthenauer
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2020- Feb 2023): Jim Pearce, Peter Torok
- ◆ AKC Delegate: Michele Fletcher

Remaining on the board are Tom Gibson and Cory Smith (through Feb 2021), and Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt (through Feb 2022).

Luke McCoy will serve as Past President through 2020, and Lois Luthenauer has agreed to serve again as Chief Marshal for our events in 2020. These last two positions are not on the ballot, and Chief Marshal is not in itself a Board position, but both positions are important to the workings of the club. Board terms expiring are J. Michael Evans and Jim Pearce. Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years., and thanks for agreeing to keep on with us in different positions.

In accordance with the Bylaws, additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31, 2019, in writing to the Secretary, provided that the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one elective position (except for the position of AKC Delegate which may be combined with any other board/officer position, and Secretary and Treasurer which may be combined). We welcome additional nominations and encourage all members to become involved in the running of the ETRC -- without many volunteers helping, we would be unable to do all the events we put on each year. In the meantime, thanks to the nominating committee for your work, and to all the nominees for your willingness to serve.

To make a nomination, send it to Secretary Karen Edwards at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com) or by mail to 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Please specify the nominee's full name and the position for which you are nominating him or her, and send along the written agreement (forwarded email, for email nominations) of the nominee stating his/her willingness to stand for election. If there are any additional nominations from the membership, they will be announced in the January newsletter.

Voting for officers/directors and the AKC Delegate will be done at the annual Awards Banquet and general membership meeting. This will tentatively be held Saturday, February 22, 2020; more details and a confirmation of the date and location will be in the January newsletter.



## ETRC's First Fall/Winter Directed Training / Partial Club Trial Saturday, November 16, 2019

What a great day we had at Lois and Sherie's Retriever Retreat on November 16! The weather cooperated and served up a cool morning with bright sunshine and a high of 56 in the afternoon. We all shed our coats as the day wore on and enjoyed the warmth and the marvelous facilities.

Turnout was good; in addition to a number of ETRC members, we had some MTARC members who came to join in the fun, plus a few others. Dogs ranged from puppy to Master Hunter level, and there was something for everybody.

The first session focused on puppies and beginning dogs. We had 4 puppies in the 8-10 month range, and a number of other dogs in various stages of junior-level training. Sherie worked with the dogs and their owners on basics such as obedience training, how to get a dog started on retrieving, the first steps on force fetch, and how to collar condition. She showed us some drills on collar conditioning to teach the dog how to stop the pressure without becoming traumatized and scared about the process. It was a very useful session!



Following this session, we broke for lunch in the covered pavilion/outdoor kitchen, with the bathhouse conveniently located nearby. Some people brought their own, and others bought the Retriever Retreat Special Chili — either red bean chili or white chicken chili — plus hot buttered cornbread and followed by a chocolate birthday cake honoring one of the participants.



After lunch, we set up a Club Trial Puppy Stake, with all four senior puppies participating. This was run on standard ETRC Club Trial rules, complete with ribbons for placements and completions. Jim Pearce and Tom Gibson were judges — thanks guys — and we had the able assistance of Sherie's son Bill, Lois's son Matt and their friend Amy serving as bird technicians so all the rest of us got to watch and be lazy in the sun.

Results were as follows for the Senior Puppy Stake:

- ◆ 1st place: Max and Lois Luthenauer. Max is Lois's newest chocolate lab puppy, a grandson of Suzy and Woodie.
- ◆ 2nd place: Chai and Michele Fletcher. Chai is Michele's puppy out of her marvelous Golden girl Callie.
- ◆ 3rd place: Charlie and Pat Kowalski. Charlie is a Golden Retriever male and Pat is a recent member from earlier this summer.
- ◆ JAM: Merlin and Sharon Zickler. Merlin is a Golden Retriever puppy.

Next we moved on to transition dogs. Sherie demonstrated and then worked with various people on a neat way of working the pile that is a lot more fun for the dogs and teaches them to run past known locations. She set up 4 piles in different locations and moved between them, sending the dog to the various piles from different places each time. The more advanced dogs also enjoyed working on this drill, which involved sit-whistling the dogs both on the way to the pile and on the way back. Some dogs handled the extra sitting better than others — our Panda said she would sit only when she didn't know where she was going, thank you, so she got some remedial sitting practice!

We finished up with the Singles Classic, again run under standard ETRC Club Trial rules. Two VERY LONG marks, one of them into the lowering sun, which added to the difficulty. Lois and Tom were the judges, and Jim was the alternate when one of them was running their own dog(s). 10 dogs were entered, and 8 dogs passed. Passing and placements were as follows:

1. Chip and Gwen Coon
2. Ammo and Tom Gibson
3. Roxie and Lois Luthenauer
4. Panda and Jim Pearce

Jams:

- ◆ Polly and Lois Luthenauer;
- ◆ Woodie and Lois Luthenauer;
- ◆ Kepes and Peter Torok;
- ◆ Henri and Mary Agneessens



Total intake for the day: \$120, no expenses other than ribbons.  
Great day — thanks again, Lois and Sherie, for a fantastic event!



Top, L to R: Peter Torok and Kepes; Lois Luthenauer's puppy Max; Gwen Coon & Chip.

Bottom, L to R: Tom Gibson's Ammo; Lois and Polly; Michele Fletcherr's Chai.

## End of the Year Awards — Call for Nominations

It's that time again! One of the highlights of the February end-of-the-year Banquet is recognizing people and dogs who have done well during the year. Club awards, nomination procedures, and due dates are listed below. All nominations and other information required for each award are due to J. Michael Evans (Fowl\_Mouth\_K9@aol.com ) by **JANUARY 13, 2019**.

1. **ETRC Member of the Year:** Any ETRC Member may nominate any other member for this award. The criterion is, who has done the most to help out the club during the past year? Please send your nominations along with a brief justification why you think the person is deserving of the award. The award consists of an engraved plaque.

2. **AKC Sportsman of the Year:** This award recognizes the member who best exemplifies the qualities you want to see in dog sports, and who has best furthered the aims of the AKC in promoting our sport. The award is an engraved plaque mounted with an AKC-provided medallion.

*The final selection for the two awards above will be made by secret ballot of the Board of Directors.*

3. **Gun Dog and Puppy of the year Awards** -- You must nominate **your own** dog or puppy for these awards, which are based on points earned in hunt test competition and club trials during the year. Information must be provided for each dog nominated. Remember to check the ETRC website ([http://www.etrclub.org/gun\\_dogs.htm](http://www.etrclub.org/gun_dogs.htm)) for award rules and information on how to submit nominations and count points . You may provide the information in an email or letter. Winning dog and puppy will receive an engraved plaque to keep and a silver perpetual trophy to display for a year.

4. **Title awards:** If your dog has earned **any AKC field titles** (JH, SH, MH, AFC, FC, QA2, etc.) during 2019, please send your name, your dog's registered name, title earned, and the date and place where you titled. ETRC recognizes these achievements with an engraved plaque.

5. **Master National/ Master Amateur Dogs:** If your dog was a **finalist** at the 2019 Master National or the 2019 Master Amateur, email the info to Michael along with a picture of you/your dog/your silverware. The award is an engraved plaque with the picture mounted on it. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2019 Master National or Master Amateur and received an invitation from the MNRC/MARC to participate, but either did not run or did not pass all series, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement! Make sure you are clear which category your dog falls into.

**When you send Michael an email about awards, please use a separate email for each different subject --** i.e., if you are entering for Dog of the Year and also earned a title, please put those in two separate emails so he can keep the categories straight. **AND**, please put the category into the subject line -- 'AKC Sportsman nomination', etc. Dates outlined above for response to Michael have very little flexibility -- the engraver that we use is in the midst of basketball season awards at the same time, so we need the info by the dates specified in order to get the plaques back in time for the banquet. Once the order is in to the engraver, it can't be changed.

### **Member Award Winners Last 8 years:**



Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2018	Mike Smith	Jody Ware
2017	Roberta Williams	Brian Caldwell
2016	J. Michael Evans	Carol Stone
2015	Derek Dieterich	J. Michael Evans
2014	Jim Pearce	David Knott
2013	Carol Stone	Jim Pearce/Karen Edwards
2012	J. Michael Evans	Ken Wade
2011	Robert Dodson	Hubert Helton

## New AKC Rules

J. Michael Evans was our representative at the Master National this past fall, where some interesting news came out from the AKC regarding upcoming rule changes in the Hunt Test world, that will be effective as of January 1. Here's his summary of the announcements and the discussion, followed by the actual rule changes themselves, provided by our AKC Representative, Michele Fletcher:

1. AKC has increased all MASTER test limits by 10%. Clubs have no choice. This will mean that a Master flight will have 66 dogs and a double flight will have 132 dogs.
2. The Entry Express (EE) scratch fee is currently \$4.50 plus an additional \$25 after three days or when put on their waiting list. This fee was due whether you were added to the test from the waiting list or not. AKC will not allow EE to charge that fee any longer. Effective January 1, 2020, the fee will be \$4.50 maximum no matter when you scratch "before" the test closes. This, in no way, impedes on a club's particular Scratch Policies. However, the AKC did urge clubs to update "their" scratch policies on their premiums so all potential entrants may find them clearly if they haven't already done so. The following summary came from discussions after the meeting: Why is this important? Most clubs charge some fee when a handler scratches, sometimes no fee at all if it's a pro who has multiple dogs entered and only scratched one or two. So, many handlers would wait til after closing to scratch a dog, so they wouldn't lose \$29.50 per dog to EE. This was extremely unfair to folks on the waiting list who couldn't get into the test on opening night. Of all the discussions I heard about this new rule, I did not hear one negative comment about it.
3. As of January 1, if you bring or handle more than 12 dogs to or at an event, you MUST bring an assistant to help with your dogs in order for tests to run more smoothly. The following summary came from many discussions after the meeting was over: At this point there seems to be no way to monitor this, nor as of the time of the meeting, were there any set repercussions if a handler doesn't follow this new rule. So basically, until AKC devises some kind of punishment for ignoring this rule, it's simply a suggestion. Most pros I spoke with do not intend to bring/pay help when they bring more than 12 dogs until they are somehow forced to. However there were a couple that said they liked the rule and would be bringing assistants.
4. AKC has demanded that EE stop the use of Bot programs to enter dogs in Hunt tests!! It is unfair to amateur handlers and gives unfair advantage to those that can afford the program. However, AKC also discussed and recognized that due to the expense and time to upgrade and secure EE's servers, the January 1 implementation date is not set in stone. EE advised they will "do their best" to have this under control by Jan 1. The following is from many discussions after the meeting: Needless to say, while Amateurs love the new rule, this was not taken well by many of the pros. They have many questions, such as, "how many can we enter at a time?" "Will there be a limit?" "If we use a program that helps us enter all of our client dogs so we do not have to enter a credit card each time, what will happen when we hit the submit button?" None of these questions could be answered because there was no EE representative at the meeting as far as I could tell. Some pros have decided to let their clients enter their own dog. Others brought up the fact that "what happens if only one or two of your clients get in? Are you going to a test just to run one dog?" So, stay tuned for the outcome of this, I do not think it's over, by a long shot!
5. AKC has done a film to assist new handlers and is on the AKC website. They wanted all clubs to pass this along to their membership, especially new members and handlers as it mainly deals with young dogs and beginning handlers. The AKC is hopeful their videos will not stop here but have no timetable of when/if another will be made. NOTE: here is a link to this video:  
<https://masternational.wordpress.com/2019/09/10/akc-tv-creates-hunt-test-video/>

Changes to the actual rules are shown below, underlined:

Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers

**Chapter 1. Section 3. Limiting Entries to Master Hunt Tests.**

Clubs may at their option limit the number of entries in their Master Hunter test to either 66, 100, 132, or 200 entries. Clubs may run unlimited Master level tests if they choose. If entries are limited, the number must be stated in the premium and announcements for the event. Entries shall be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The regulations regarding the days required for testing and the splitting of test levels remains the same as explained in Chapter 1, Section 18.

*Remaining paragraphs in this section are unchanged.*

Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers

**Chapter 1. Section 5. Bitches in Season / Scratches / Refunds.**

Bitches in season shall not be eligible for entry in any Hunting Test and shall not be allowed on the grounds. Entry fees paid for a bitch withdrawn because of coming in season or for a dog withdrawn because of injury or illness, or for a dog that dies, shall be refunded in full by the test-giving club. Prior to paying such refund, the club may require an appropriate veterinary certificate. In the event a dog is withdrawn for other reasons after entries have closed, the test-giving club is free to formulate its own policy regarding refunds provided the said policy is fixed in advance of the mailing of the premium list for any particular test.

If a handler knows that a dog will be withdrawn for reasons other than a bitch in season, injury, sickness or death, it is in the best interest of the event that the dog be withdrawn prior to closing so another dog may utilize the slot. Therefore, the club or an entry service employed by the club, may only charge a scratch fee approximately equal to the credit card processing fee that they incurred.

Regulations and Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers

**Chapter 1. Section 4. Entry Requirements.**

**New paragraph 14. Efficient Running of an Event.** For the efficient running of an event and with consideration for fellow participants, an individual that handles more than 12 dogs in a hunting test (all testing levels) is asked to take responsibility for having assistance at the event in order to take care of the dogs, get dogs to the proper test and get them to the line in a timely manner.



## Member Announcements



Brent McCoy, J. Michael Evans, and other friends and relatives pull Luke McCoy and Echo over to get hitched. Congratulations to Luke and Katie McCoy! Great party, followed by a two-week cruise. Now it's time to get back to work!

### **ETRC Training Day and Mini Seminar: Sunday, December 15, 2019**

Come join us on a Sunday afternoon (12:30 –4:00) for a mini seminar and training day at Roane Regional training grounds behind the Pegasus Technologies building at 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. ETRC member Lisa Styles, who is a successful Field Trial and Hunt Test Competitor and prior obedience competitor, will be leading the session and will be demonstrating and teaching various field training techniques focused on “training alone”, tailored to the needs of the people present.

Bring your dog, a chair, appropriate clothing for the weather, water for your dog, your personal training equipment, and some bumpers marked with your name. The club will provide all other equipment needed.

Please RSVP if you plan to come, along with the level of your dog and any particular area you would like to work on. RSVP to Karen Edwards, [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com).

We are hoping to offer several of these focused training days during the winter months and hope that the weather cooperates. If we have rain, snow, or temperatures that are truly dreadful, we will cancel. If the forecast is iffy, I will send out an email on Saturday night with a go/no go decision.

Hope to see you there!

**Training  
Corner**

*Editor's Note: This flow chart was passed out and discussed at the training day event on November 16 at the Retriever Retreat in Clarkrange.*

**TOTAL RETRIEVER FLOW CHART**



## Excess Club Equipment for Sale

Shotgun and Shotgun Stands: We have 11 single barrel shotguns for sale and 4 gun stands. \$25 for the guns, \$5 for the stands. No longer needed since we have replaced them with the Thunder Simulators.



Duck dryer: \$10. We have purchased new knock-down aluminum dryers to replace our old ones; this is the only one left.



If interested, contact J. Michael Evans — Text or call 865-824-8638 or email [Fowl\\_Mouth\\_K9@aol.com](mailto:Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com).

## AKC Creates New Hunt Test Video

<https://masternational.wordpress.com/2019/09/10/akc-tv-creates-hunt-test-video/>

Thank you AKC.TV ! You produced a super video for a general audience, one that explains what the AKC Hunt Tests are all about. A special thanks goes out to Doug Ljungren, Caroline Murphy and Russ Reavis of the AKC for their support in helping us to promote the Retriever game and to encourage dog owners to try the AKC Junior Hunt Test.

## Youth Program Update

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is in its fourth year. Kids who are interested in working with dogs in field work are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at [http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub\\_youth\\_program.htm](http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm) .

There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. An annual youth handler seminar open to any youth who is interested in retriever sports will be held next March (2020) at Sherie's and Lois Luthenauer's new farm, 3508 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN. Contact Lois ([mountainLO717@gmail.com](mailto:mountainLO717@gmail.com)) to get on a list for more information as plans develop.

A perpetual trophy will be awarded annually along with a plaque to keep, and a participation award for everyone in the program. Fees for hunt tests attended and all club events will be free for participating youth program members.



## Around the Region — Seminars, Tests, & Trials

### Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Sandhills RC (60)

Pinebluff, NC

12/07/19

*Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs*

### Upcoming AKC Field Trials

### Upcoming Seminars

## ETRC Membership

Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Both new member and renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just click the link, print it off, and send it to Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Cost is \$25 which includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards plus the opportunity to make friendships with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain!

## Newsletter Info

The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, as close to the 1st of the month as we can get it together. Send us your test results, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs and services, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items to: Karen Edwards ([edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com)).