



2020 Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's EVENTS!

1. ~~April 18, 2020 — club trial; Chuck Atchley's Farm, Sevierville, TN. See article on page 5.~~
2. May 9, 2020 — Club Trial #2, Roane Regional, Lenoir City, TN. Save the date; details or cancellation notice in next month's newsletter.
3. May 23-24, 2020: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee. 2 flights MH (132), double JH & SH. Entries open for workers Tuesday, 4/28/20, 7 pm CT; all others Wednesday, 4/29/20, 7 pm CT. Closes 11:59 pm 5/11/20
4. August TBD: Summer picnic
5. September TBD: Club Trial #3
6. October 17-18: ETRC Fall Hunt Test, Sweetwater. 2 flights MH (132), double JH & SH

EAST TENNESSEE RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. WWW.ETRCCLUB.ORG

ETRC Newsletter

Photo of the Month



Michele Fletcher and Gabby. Michele is ETRC's AKC Sportsman of the year for 2019

Statement from ETRC President Alan Bruhin: The East Tennessee Retriever Club board of directors is staying abreast of the circumstances developing due to the COVID-19. We are aware of the cancellation of many AKC hunt tests across the country in response to the situation. Our goal is to continue with our spring test, however we realize, depending on current conditions, we may have to cancel. The board of directors will reach a final decision prior to the opening date in Entry Express on April 28th. We will base our decision on the health and safety of all those involved. In the meantime, everyone stay safe and healthy.

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**Minutes ETRC Board Meeting,
Monday, March 9, 2020
Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN**

Present: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Lois Luthenauer (via conference call), Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, Cory Smith, Jeff McNutt, Peter Torok (via conference call)

Guests: 8 Fern Hill Golden puppies, Jessie x Zoey

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- ◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/22/20; minutes approved and sent to the club website 2/25/20. Lois moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes; J. Michael Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Correspondence:** AKC report of elections (Still to do).
- ◆ **Membership:** 2020 renewals are coming in, we have 32 to date. Membership as of 12/31/19. Two new member for first reading under New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards presented the Treasurer's report in Lois's absence (Lois was late joining the conference call). Karen and Lois went together to the credit union about a week ago and Lois is now on the account and has the checkbook. We set her up with the Quicken program that Karen has been using since 2011 and did brief familiarization. Karen kept a dozen checks for fill-in when Lois is out of town, and will continue with membership applications /deposits until Lois's return from California in early May. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 3/9/20 was \$16,800.19, reconciled as of 3/1/20. Upcoming expenses: payment for pop-ups, trailer tires/tire irons.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher: the AKC delegates are meeting now and there should be some results at the next meeting.

Old Business

Training: March training: Sunday, March 29, 1 -4 p.m. Roane Regional. J. Michael will lead, assuming all is well with Ivy and puppies. The last training session was attended by a small group of people; attendance was lower because this session was rescheduled twice, with the last one being only a two week delay.

Equipment:

- ◆ **Equipment sales:** Still need to get gun stand to Donna Smith, who has paid for it. There was some discussion about whether we wanted to sell the old shotguns or not. General consensus was to hang on to them for a while, since the thunder sticks have blown up at least once, injuring people, and they may end up being banned as a result.
- ◆ **New equipment:** new large duck driers and some winger parts (Karen) – Have been received. Cory took them home with him to put in the new trailer. Lois has not yet ordered the pop-ups. Michele volunteered to do that, if Lois would send her the information on which pop-ups to order. Lois agreed to pass this assignment on since she will be out of town much of the time over the next two months.

Board Minutes, Continued

Awards Banquet report: A number of us have heard comments about how nice it was that we provided a free buffet. General consensus was that we should try to do that again next year if the club finances permit. We need to consider going somewhere else, though – the room was overflowing this time and there wasn't enough room for the people who came. Several ideas mentioned with Calhoun's By The River in downtown Knoxville (wonky parking), Calhoun's at the Marina in Lenoir City; and Buddy's Banquet Hall on Kingston Pike in the Bearden area.

Spring Club Trial. After some discussion, we decided to try once again to have a spring club trial or possibly two. There is some advantage to these; it is a good way to check your dog's preparedness before the test season, or work on problems. Problems identified with trials in the last several years:

- ◆ Lack of attendance by experienced club members, leaving the setups and judging to people with less experience.
- ◆ Not enough effort made to talk it up.
- ◆ Need a separate class for beginners, just to help them get their feet wet, that allows training collars.
- ◆ Might help to make it more of a social occasion, with lunch.

We decided the following: We will have a trial on Saturday, April 18, at Chuck Atchley's farm in Sevierville. The water isn't very good there, but the grounds are nice and relatively easy to get to. Word is that Darryl Millerr's farm is unusable at the present time; the road is completely washed out after the rough winter. We will have a cookout – Tom will bring a grill for hamburgers and hot dogs; and either Alan or Jeff will smoke a Boston Butt. Others will bring chips, slaw, deviled eggs, desserts, etc. We will add a 'novice junior' class which will have Junior ribbons awarded. It will be essentially a Junior test but will allow for collars and other training equipment. Still to do: locate judges, decide on the format – whether it will be one setup that everyone will use, or move from one to another. Alan will talk again with Chuck Atchley. Several of the more experienced club members committed to attending.

We will also set aside a second date, May 9, for a second club trial if the first one goes well. If not, we can cancel it after the first one.

Spring 2020 Hunt Test(s): We went over the assignment sheets, made reports on status, and confirmed leads/ helpers for more of the tasks.

- ◆ Dates: May 23-24, 2020, on our normal Memorial Day weekend. Opens 4/28/20, closes 5/11/20. All approved by AKC and Entry Express, AKC fees paid. Turns out EE, for a \$25 fee, will take care of the coordination and application to AKC for hunt tests, if we want to hire them for that. Michele will check into this and find out more about it; we may consider it for the spring 2021 test (the fall test is already entered).
- ◆ Judges: approved. Letters to judges confirming appointment (Karen) a little closer in when we have room reservations. We will ask them to be at the grounds at 2 p.m., and Alan is going to push very hard to have them all use the same setups and just rotate through them so there is no mid-test setting up necessary. We have an apprentice judge on Senior; Michele will get her name into the premium list.
- ◆ Marshals: Lois will make sure to get marshals lined up beforehand.
- ◆ Helper codes: J. Michael will assign worker codes; Karen will put an announcement into the next newsletter about how to get a code. We will be getting 19 codes.
- ◆ Judges sheets: since Alan has now retired, we will need to find a new way to get more plain paper copies, maybe at a print shop, maybe purchased. Michele will look into this.
- ◆ Ducks: J. Michael will order ducks and make arrangements to meet the driver on Friday at Hiwassee before the test, after 2 p.m. Michael, Tom and Alan will be on the duck crew. The board decided to request judges not to have live flyers in the Junior tests, given the possibly tight quarters (safety) and the number of extra ducks that will be required.

Board Minutes, Continued

- ◆ ATVs: J. Michael, Mike, Lois, Jeff and Tom (if necessary) will all bring ATVs to the test for running errands.
- ◆ Tom will continue to be responsible for buying ice and water.
- ◆ Judges dinner: The restaurant last year was good, but cost a fortune (bar bills for some of the heavy drinking judges) and took forever. There are no other restaurants in the area. So, we decided to look into catered dinner at the Cabin. Mike Smith will call a couple of caterers listed online to see what they can offer; Mike Evans will call Smokin' F and see if they will deliver that far away. If all else fails, we might try Kentucky Fried Chicken if there is one anywhere close, or something similar.
- ◆ Lunches: Michele volunteered to buy food and be the chief lunch prep person. We will continue to use our upgraded sandwiches from last year. Alan offered his wife Cynthia's help in making sandwiches.
- ◆ Judges gifts: Michele looked up some wooden duck decoys carved out of cedar posts. They are attractive and only \$105 (plus tax and shipping). So, Michele moved, Mike S. seconded, and the board voted to authorize Michele to buy 8 of the decoys as judges' gifts this year instead of giving \$100 bills.
- ◆ Ribbons – 200 MH ribbons ordered, should be OK on everything else for the rest of the year.
- ◆ New bird techs will be needed. Alan has contacted the statewide FFA coordinator and has some names to contact. One of them is Brittany Davis, who is the Monroe County coordinator. She was our contact for birdkids several years ago and did a great job for a couple of years before the kids wore out on it. May be a new crop by now. Also there is a possibility of Bradley Central in Cleveland and one in Hixon. Nothing definite yet. Lois mentioned that Sherie knows someone down towards Chattanooga that arranges bird techs for various clubs. We will try to get this info in case one of these other possibilities doesn't pan out.

Fall 2020 Hunt Test. Dates: October 17/18. OK and confirmed with AKC, Ken Campbell. Entered into AKC website and EE: 2 flights MH (132 dogs), double JH, double SH. Status of judges: will need 4 MH, 4 SH/JH. Lois offered to help Alan by finding SH/JH judges.

New Business:

New Members:

- ◆ Paul & Alexa Sponcia: Knoxville, TN. 'business owner'. Cell 865-740-0679, email psponcia@gmail.com. Will help with training committee, hunt test setup, Board of Directors, Food prep / supplies. Has a 9 month old black lab, interested in Hunt tests, hunters safety course. Jeff McNutt and J. Michael Evans volunteered to be sponsors.
- ◆ Mary & Mart Dowden, Mt. Juliet, TN. Retired. Cell 615-289-1433, email mcdow52@gmail.com. Will help with test/training grounds search, duck wrangler/assistant, food prep/supplies, and ribbons handler. Have a year old Topbrass Golden Retriever, belong to the Nashville Dog Training Club. Interested in hunt tests and dog training. Lois Luthenauer volunteered herself and Sherie to be the sponsors.

Karen moved we accept these people as provisional members. Jim Pearce seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

Judges seminar: It has been a number of years since we had one. Time to do it again? J. Michael moved that we postpone consideration of holding such a seminar until after the spring test. Cory seconded the motion, which passed on a voice vote.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, J. Michael moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Spring Club Trial April 18, 2020

ETRC will host a Spring Club Trial and Cookout on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm, Sevierville, TN (see directions below). Signups begin at 9 am and we hope to have the first stake up and running by 10 a.m. Judges will be senior club members and we will need people to pitch in and trade off on operating wingers, planting blinds, and setting up and taking down the equipment. We will be using our 2 club-owned bumper launchers at this trial, to reduce the amount of time people have to spend out in the field throwing.

Why a club trial? It's a great opportunity to see how close your dog is to being ready to run AKC Hunt Tests, and for more experienced dogs, it's a good warm-up and a fun, relaxed testing opportunity. For beginners, it's a great chance to see what the differences are between the different hunt test levels, and get in some excellent training with lots of advice offered free from more experienced club members. And, it's fun! If you are interested in consideration for our end-of-the-year awards for Gun Dog and Puppy, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards.

CANCELLED

STAKES:

- Senior — English Classic, Master, Senior, Junior, and Advanced Junior — Entry Fee: \$10.00 each stake per dog (dokkens),
- Beginner Junior and Puppy Stakes (bumpers, dokkens, you can bring your own if you like) — entry fee \$5.00 .
- Completion ribbons will be awarded for Master Hunter, Senior Hunter, Junior Hunter, and Beginner JAM ribbons will be awarded for stakes. Placement 1-4 and Singles Classic and the two puppy stakes.

OPEN ADMISSION. Bring a friend — non-members can also participate. If you haven't yet renewed for 2020 or want to join for the first time, forms and people to take your membership fee (\$25 for the year) will be available at the sign-up table.

COOKOUT. Around noon we will break for a cookout — hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill, a smoked Boston Butt, and various sides and desserts. Come enjoy good company and good food!

WHAT TO BRING: All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless running tests. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), and water for you and your dog, plus appropriate clothing for the weather. NO WHITE SHIRTS please, wear something neutral or dark. If you are bringing a puppy, you may bring your own retrieval items if you wish. E-collars and long lines will be permitted in the Beginner Junior and Senior Puppy classes, and long lines in the Junior puppy class.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY: We will send out an email on Friday night if the weather is such that we are going to have to cancel. We will not cancel just for chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is expected to be monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or hailing in Sevierville, we will not run. So be sure to check your email Friday night! If you don't hear anything, come on out.

NEW TEE SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND HATS will be available for sale, including some of new items. Bring cash or a checkbook and stock up on some great items to advertise your club.

Note: we will make a decision a week ahead of time on having this event or cancelling it, depending on the status of the COVID19 closures and our general opinion on the wisdom of having this outdoor event if the situation has not eased by then. Look for an email to all members around that time.

Update on the Spring Hunt Test

Plans for ETRC’s spring hunt test are proceeding well and we are on schedule. The test is scheduled to be held over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 23 and Sunday May 24, 2020. The test will be a double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master (limit 132 dogs), and will be at the Hiwassee Refuge near Brentwood / Dayton Tennessee. Judges will be Linc Huffman & Mary Williams for Master A; Tracy Hughes and Matt Griffiths for Master B; Mary Gregg and Hilda wood for Sr/Jr and Terrie Leafstedt and Don Bierer for Jr/Sr. Katherine Poole Price will be an apprentice judge at Senior on Saturday.

Entries for the public open Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Central time. Workers with codes can enter on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Central time. Entries close Monday, May 11, 2019 just before midnight Central time. Entry is through EntryExpress.com. Please check in with them early, as Entry Express is now having to make sure that full information is provided for each dog that you are entering. If you don’t have every field filled out on your dog profile, your entry won’t be accepted until you correct that. Won’t matter for Junior or Senior dogs, but if you are entering in Master without a worker code, it may well mean the difference between getting in or not.

The Master test is limited to 132 dogs; people who volunteer to work at the test can sign up and get a code from Assistant Test Chair J. Michael Evans — text or call him at 865-824-8638. He works shifts, so if you call, leave a message and he will call you back. You will have to sign up for at least one day of work at the test to get a code, either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Obviously we will give you time off to warm up and run your dog! Workers will be entered into a drawing for some nice prizes — including tee shirts, hats, bumpers and a new Garmin E-collar. You will get 1 raffle ticket for half a day’s work, 3 tickets for all day, and 2 tickets for working Friday afternoon.

Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 22; we need gunners, marshals and assistant marshals, and equipment moving/maintenance workers on Saturday and Sunday, plus for cleanup on Sunday. Four-wheelers or small utility vehicles are also needed for the weekend to help get workers and equipment from one test site to another quickly. All workers are invited to a dinner with the judges and hunt test committee on Friday night — location to be determined. To volunteer, contact test chairman Alan Bruhin (wabruhin@utk.edu), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (contact info above), Chief Steward Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com) or Secretary Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) to sign up for some hard work and good fun.

The official motel will again be the Best Western Inn, 7835 Rhea County Highway (US 27 North), Dayton, TN. A total of 12 rooms will be blocked out with the hotel and will be held until the Wednesday before the test. If you want to stay at this Inn, contact the Best Western directly and tell them that you are coming for the ETRC Hunt test in order to get the special rate. You may find that you can get a cheaper rate online or with other discounts you are entitled to through other organizations. The phone number is (423) 775-6560. Hope to see you there, as a competitor or worker or both!



Best Western, Dayton, TN



Hiwassee Refuge



Member News

Introducing our New Puppy

Meet Fern Hill Fiona McCool (Fee), born 1/28/2020. Sire is Bravhart KC Run For The Border *** MH WCX (Jessie), with 19 All Age Points and only 3 points away from his AFC. Dam is our Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo SH (Zoey), who has 3 MH passes so far and hopes to finish up whenever the test season reopens. Bred and owned by Jim Pearce and Karen Edwards.



ETRC Gun Dog Award Recipients for 2019



Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of the Year: Labrador Retriever Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie") and owner / handler Lois Luthenauer.



Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year: Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball JH ("Cin"), Labrador Retriever bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin

Membership Renewals Due NOW

Your 2019 memberships expired the last day of February. You will stay on the email notification list until June 1, at which time we purge the rolls and change the passwords on the website.

So why not renew now while you are thinking about it? Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). The 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 still just \$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!

Training Corner

5 Offseason Indoor Training Drills for Inclement Weather

Editor's Note: It's not exactly off-season, but we may not have much of a season this year. Also, with all the rain we've been having, here are some ideas of things to do with your dog indoors.. Article courtesy of Purina ProPlan.

Weather extremes make it difficult to train and keep your hunting dog sharp during the offseason. Just as you probably don't want to work in knee-deep snow, heavy rain or brutally hot, humid days, neither does your dog. Professional gun dog trainers Paul McGagh, Clyde Vetter and Josh Miller use these simple, fun obedience drills, keeping the training sessions short and sweet, to keep a dog tuned up year-round, regardless of the weather.

1. **Out of the Box.** McGagh, of Glencoe Farm & Kennels in Bismarck, North Dakota, trains his dogs using small boxes or platforms he builds. "I call for the dog to sit or stand on the box. Then, I'll add a second box and whistle for him or her to place from box to box. Finally, I'll add retrieves with a tennis ball and have the dog retrieve from box to box," he describes. This box drill can be made as simple or complex as needed for an individual dog and as indoor space allows.
2. **Slow & Steady.** Practicing the "place" command reinforces steadiness and control and can be done anytime, anywhere, whether it's in the garage while working on the car or in the living room while watching the game. "Have your dog sit or stand (place) on a dog bed or platform and remain there until you give him or her the appropriate command to release," explains Miller, of River Stone Kennels in New Richmond, Wisconsin. "This drill doesn't even require your undivided attention — just be sure your dog stays in your peripheral vision so you can make a correction if needed."
3. **Follow the Leader.** To ensure a quiet, controlled hunting dog, Vetter, of Sharp Shooter's Kennel in New Richmond, Wisconsin, recommends advanced heeling drills, which can be done simply as you walk around the house. "I train a dog to heel in a tight figure-eight motion, shift into reverse and back up with me, and make small left and right circles as if I were positioning him or her on a lining drill," Vetter says. "I also teach that when I lead with my left foot, the dog is to heel. When I sidestep with my right foot, he or she is to 'whoa.' I overlay a command to an action, then wean the dog off the command as he or she becomes accustomed to my body language and actions."
4. **Hold, Carry & Release.** Did your dog develop a bad retrieving habit this past hunting season? Now's a good time to fix it so you can hit the ground running again come spring. "No matter how old or young your dog, it never hurts to get back to the basics," Vetter advises. "Work on trained retrieves by running your dog up and down the training table. Use several different objects to reinforce what's already been taught or to get a correction in as needed."
5. **At Your Command.** Before you assume obedience 101 drills (such as "here," "sit," "kennel," "down" and "no") sound boring, think again. "consider the next hunting season and the areas you'd like to polish with your dog before then," says Miller. "More than likely, any of those skills will begin with rock-solid obedience." Vetter agrees, "Lay or sharpen the foundation when the weather isn't co-operating so that when you can get outside, the groundwork's already covered."

Youth Program



2018 Award Recipients, Cade and Ivan Chambers

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is entering its fifth year. Kids who are interested in working in retriever sports are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at 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. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees, and ETRC Club Trials are free for enrollees.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program.

Around the Region — Seminars, Tests, & Trials

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests & Field Trials

All the tests and field trials in our area scheduled through the end of April have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many of the tests in May have already been cancelled as well. This feature will return at a later date. Until then, check Entry Express for updates.

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, death notices, 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).

You may notice we have a new numbering system. When I first took over the newsletter, I just continued on with the volume # from the last issue, then upped it by one every year. But, it makes no sense, and doesn't reflect how many years of newsletters we have anyway! So beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number will be the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XX (for 2020).