



# 2020-2021 Upcoming Events

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

1. December 13, Sunday afternoon, 1 p.m. Cory Smith's Farm: Directed Training & Mini-Seminar: Luke McCoy, force fetch demo, discussion of rules for Junior Hunt Tests. Setups for all levels. See article inside on p. 2.
2. December: time to nominate dogs and people for awards and club management positions — see articles inside on pages 3 & 4
3. January 10, Sunday afternoon, 1 p.m., Cory Smith's Farm: Directed Training/Mini Seminar. Alan Bruhin will discuss Master set ups and rules, conduct demonstrations, and run setups providing advice to handlers running their dogs at all levels.
4. February 14, Sunday Afternoon, 1 p.m., Cory Smith's Farm: Directed Training & Mini-Seminar. J. Michael Evans will discuss Senior hunt test rules and setups. Michele Fletcher will discuss how to enter dogs in hunt tests. Michael will conduct setups and provide advice to handlers.

## Photo of the Month



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## COME ON OUT for an ETRC Training Day & Mini Seminar December 13, 2020

Our third annual winter training program is getting under way this month with a combination mini-seminar and training session on December 13, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. The location will be Cory Smith's farm in Niota, between Sweetwater and Athens. See GPS address below. If you need more detailed directions, contact Cory at [lrrs223@gmail.com](mailto:lrrs223@gmail.com).

The purpose of this event is two-fold: first, an opportunity to train your dog in a different setting, with other dogs and people around, while getting expert handling and training advice from some of our more senior members. Secondly, AKC Junior/Senior Judge and Master competitor Luke McCoy will be doing a demonstration on force fetch, having spent much of the spring working with pro trainer Brian Caldwell. He will also be presenting information on the rules and regulations governing Junior Hunt Tests. There are so many fiddly little rules (when to touch your dog, when you can talk to your dog, what to do with your leash, etc.) that this will be a big help for people hoping to start competing for the first time at the junior level. It's also a good refresher for people with new puppies, who have been competing at higher levels or have been out of the game for a while.

**OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.** If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial, check with Secretary Karen Edwards. Membership is \$25 and if you join now, your membership will be good through 2021.

**WHAT TO BRING:** All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless you are coming to the line for work. 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. We will have bumpers, bumper boy bumpers, and dokkens. You may want to bring a notepad and pencil (or your favorite electronic device!) for taking notes on the seminar portion of the program.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cory has a huge open air covered building, with 20' ceilings and plenty of space for social distancing, so this event will happen rain or shine. However, we may not be able to do the training part if the weather is too horrible. And, in these days of the pandemic, if some of Cory's family or Luke is sick with Covid, we may be forced to cancel again, like we did last month's club trial. But, keep your fingers crossed and come on out, bring your mask if you want, and enjoy a bit of fun and socialization. Keep an eye on your email Friday night — I will send out an announcement if we are going to have to cancel because of illness or natural disaster. If you don't hear anything, come on out.



Luke McCoy with his Master dog Echo, at Cory's farm in late September

**ETRC TEE SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND HATS** will be available for purchase. Bring cash or a checkbook and stock up on some great items to advertise your club.

**ADDRESS:** 245 County Road 319, Niota, TN. This is just a few miles from Exit 56 on I75.

**RSVP:** Please let us know if you are planning to come. Contact Cory at [lrrs223@gmail.com](mailto:lrrs223@gmail.com) or me at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com). Come anyway, even if you haven't RSVP'd — but it's courteous to let Cory know how many people to expect.

## Nominating Committee Slate for Election & Call for Nominees

The nominating committee, headed this year by Board Member Michael Smith, along with committee members Cheryl McNutt and Denise Chambers, has recommended the following slate for ETRC officer and director positions for Club year 2021 (beginning at the end of the banquet in February):

- ◆ President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2020- Feb 2023): Cory Smith & Denise Chambers
- ◆ AKC Delegate: Michele Fletcher

Remaining on the board are Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt (through Feb 2022), and Jim Pearce and Peter Torok (through Feb 2023).

Luke McCoy will continue to serve as Past President through 2021, and Lois Luthenauer has agreed to serve again as Chief Marshal for our events in 2021. 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 Tom Gibson and Cory Smith. Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years, and thanks to Cory for agreeing to another term. Tom, you will be sorely missed! Thanks also to Lois Luthenauer, who has served as our Treasurer for the past year.

In accordance with the Bylaws, additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31, 2020, 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 20, 2021; more details and a confirmation of the date and location will be in the January newsletter.



## 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, 2021**.

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 2020, 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:** Unfortunately, these events were canceled in 2020, although there will be a make-up Master Amateur event next spring which will be included in 2021 awards. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2020 Master National or Master Amateur, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement!

**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
2019	Karen Edwards	Michele Fletcher
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

## Member News:

Barb Reed with Zoey, and Lois Luthenauer with Woodie 11/1/20



Congratulations to ETRC members who put up quite a showing at the Fall Line Hunt Test October 31– November 1, 2020. Lois Luthenauer showed Barb Reed's Chocolate Lab Zoey and her old Master Amateur Qualifier Woody in Master and got passes on both! Also, big congratulations to Kelli Riggs and her Flatcoat Ginger on their new Master Hunter title at Fall Line.



Kelli Riggs with Ginger; Lois with Zoey and Woodie

## **Starting Cold Blinds**

By Danny Farmer

*(Reprinted from Golden Retriever News, September-October 2020)*

Before I even consider starting a young dog on blinds, I make sure there is a very solid foundation in the dog's basic training. This means he is well force broke, collar conditioned and has spent a long time mastering the double T. He should be forced from your side, forced en route to the back pile and casting to two sets of overs.

The first thing I do after completing the double T is to teach the dog handling and casting wagon wheel. This is a drill with eight bumpers spread out like a clock. You first teach the dog to line each of the bumpers. The distance here is about an easy toss of a small white bumper away from the center point of the clock. Use white bumpers in short grass so the bumpers are easily visible to the dog and work very hard to teach the dog to heel both clockwise and counterclockwise. Also, be very precise in staying exactly on your center pivot point. This will force you to make the dog heel with you and move with you, not you moving with the dog.

Next, teach casting wagon wheel. Use the same white bumpers and the same distance as the lining wagon wheel. Start with three bumpers, the back and the two overs. This should be easy because the dog has just completed the double T. The biggest change is that you now demand that the dog turn left on a left back and right on a right back. There should be no collar pressure on this drill. You either handle the dog or "no" him and recast to correct mistakes. If mistakes persist, mark the spot by tossing a bumper to the location of the cast he misses.

Next add the two diagonal backs, one at a time. After the dog understands the left and right diagonal back, mix in straight backs and overs, always casting sequentially (back to diagonal back, diagonal back to straight back, diagonal back to over). Once the dog has mastered these five casts, add the left and right come-in over and straight come-in (you must move your position on the straight come-in so you are behind the bumper).

Concentrate on the five-cast wagon wheel (back, diagonal backs, and overs). Once the dog has mastered the casting drill you are ready for your first cold blind. Go to a plain field and avoid complicated terrain, cover, etc. Place three blinds with three white bumpers spread very wide. Send the dog for the middle blind. Do not attempt to fine line the dog, just sit him down facing the general direction of the blind and send him off.

The dog at this point in his training does not understand much, if anything, about being lined, so trying to get him to look out exactly where you want will only make him nervous. Just put your hand down and say "back." The only pressure you want to use at this stage is to correct for a no-go and to correct for not answering the whistle. Remember, this is a very scary time for the dog. At this point his only exposure to "back" is the double-T and wagon wheel. In both cases he knows the location of where he is being sent.

Now you are pointing him out in a big field and demanding he charge out into the unknown. If the dog heads out anywhere in a forward direction, that is perfectly acceptable. At this point you handle the dog. Have a very wide corridor to your blind, you just want to get him to the blind any way you can. Your only concern is that the dog goes somewhere when cast and that he stops on the whistle. Do not use collar pressure for going.

Do not worry if the dog is slow and unsure at this stage, it is very normal. Speed will come when the dog becomes familiar with cold blinds.

## Training Corner , Cont.

As the dog proceeds out toward the blind, you follow him out in the field. Although the blind is 150 to 200 yards away, you will be within 50-100 yards of the dog because you are walking out toward the blind as the dog is going away from you. At this stage you do everything possible to help the dog. Give big helpful casts, not the subtle casts you use for a more advanced dog. Once the dog gets the blind you stay out in the field to receive him. Try to position yourself on line to receive him. Try to position yourself on line to the blind about half way between the starting point and the blind. Have the dog facing you and step 10—20 yards away from the dog and cast him back toward the blind he just picked up. If he takes off and heads for the blind he just picked up let him go. If you need to handle him, that is OK. If this goes well, back up closer to the starting point and repeat the back cast.

The reason you do these repeats by casting as opposed to lining is that casting momentum is something that needs to be developed at this stage. Usually a lack of momentum on casting is the weakest link at this point, so it is the thing we want to work on. If this first blind is not overly troublesome, go ahead and do the second blind in the same manner. If the dog had a lot of trouble on blind one, quit for the day.

It is very important that once you start cold blinds you do them every day (or at least five days a week) for a couple of weeks. Each day start with a short review of casting wagon wheel (five bumper version) and then go directly to your cold blinds. Try to work up to 3-5 different blinds per day and phase out the repeats as the dog starts to do better.

The reason I emphasize cold blinds as opposed to sight blinds or permanent blinds at this stage is that the fear of the unknown (a cold blind) is the biggest hurdle to overcome. Starting cold blinds right after completing the double-T, where the dog was forced on back, forced en route and stopped on a whistle, gives you the tools you will need to transition to cold blinds. These tools needed to meet the usual stumbling blocks on blinds (not going, not stopping, and popping) are fresh in the dog's mind. This should help him to understand corrections he gets for those issues and bridge the gap between the known (the Double T) and the unknown (the cold blind).

The emphasis on cold blinds rather than permanent blinds or sight blinds is because I feel handling as opposed to lining is the key to a good blind running dog. Lining and momentum will come as the dog gets comfortable with the cold blind environment. I want the dog to get comfortable taking 40 whistles on a blind at a young age; this will be more important in the long run.

*Danny Farmer is Vinwood Kennels has an outstanding record in the field trial world. This article first appeared in the Retriever News and was reprinted in the Golden Retriever News that same year. Since 1981, Danny has competed in every National Open. On average, he has qualified five dogs per year and tied the record for the number of qualifiers with nine. Danny has won five National Opens. He holds the record for winning more Opens than any other professional trainer including an amazing 18 Open wins in a row. Danny lives in Anderson, TX.*



## **ETRC GUN DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD RULES (November 1, 2017)**

1. The dog which accumulates the most points in AKC-Licensed Retriever Hunting Tests and ETRC club trials throughout the calendar year will be the winner of the annual Holcomb Gun Dog award and trophy. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Holcomb Gun Dog of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the retriever and the owner.
2. Points may be earned only in AKC Licensed Retriever Hunting Tests and ETRC Club Trials.
3. Points earned for "Puppy" Stakes at AKC Hunt Tests or ETRC Club Trials, plus points earned by puppies under 12 months of age at the time of the AKC Hunt Tests or ETRC Club Trials will not be included in computation of Gun Dog of the Year point totals.
4. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current AKC title level and higher stakes at ETRC Club Trials. For example, a dog who has already earned his Senior Hunter title may continue to earn points at either the Senior level or the Master level. However, once a dog has passed two consecutive club trial stakes at a higher level than their current AKC title, or has a single pass at the higher level at an AKC test, he or she may no longer run lower level stakes for points at ETRC Club Trials.
5. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current title level or above in AKC Hunt Tests. Once a dog earns a pass in a higher stake than its current AKC title level at an AKC hunt test, that dog cannot run a lesser hunt test stake for points. For example, a dog with an AKC Master pass cannot run in an AKC Senior Hunt Test stake for points, but may earn points for a run in an AKC Master stake.
6. All hunt tests stakes will be run for completion points only (points are only awarded per test successfully passed).
7. Calculation of Points:
  - a. A dog will receive 1 point for Junior, 2 points for Senior, and 3 points for Master at each AKC Licensed Retriever Hunting Test passed. Points earned at a Specialty where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions (i.e. up to 2 points for Junior, 4 points for Senior, or 6 points for Master tests passed).
  - b. A dog will receive 1 point for Junior, 2 points for Senior, and 3 points for Master at each Club Trial stake passed. However, only the highest level passed for which the dog is eligible to receive points will count towards the Gun Dog awards. Singles Classic and Advanced Junior Hunter stakes will not count towards the Gun Dog Awards.
  - c. Points for Master National or Master Amateur Hunt Tests:
    - i. A dog will receive 1 point for qualifying for the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
    - ii. A dog will receive 6 points for passing at the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
8. Only dogs owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Gun Dog of the Year award. However, points gained while the dog is being handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award, whether or not the handler is an ETRC member.
9. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
10. The eligibility year for the Gun Dog of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC's records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.

## ETRC PUPPY OF THE YEAR RULES (November 1, 2017)

1. The puppy which accumulates the most points per the rules below in ETRC club trials, puppy stakes at ETRC's AKC Hunt Tests, or AKC licensed Hunt tests throughout the year will be the winner of the annual Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award and trophy. Puppies between 10 weeks and one year of age are eligible to compete. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the puppy and the owner.
2. Age Classifications: Junior Puppy: ten weeks through six months (27 weeks of age); Senior Puppy - seven months to one year (28 weeks to first birthday).
3. Points.
  - a. Points will be earned only in ETRC Club Trials, puppy stakes at ETRC's AKC Hunt Tests, or regular hunt test stakes at any AKC licensed hunt tests. Points for any level hunt test stakes at AKC hunt tests or any stakes at ETRC Club Trials will only count if the puppy was less than 1 year of age at the time the points were earned.
  - b. Puppies are eligible to run in their current age classification. A Senior puppy may not compete in the Junior Puppy class. Junior puppies may compete in the higher stake Senior Puppy class for a JAM ribbon only, no placement or points will be awarded.
4. Calculation of Points:
  - a. Points will be awarded for placements in ETRC club Trial and ETRC Hunt Test puppy stakes as follows:
    - i. If 5 or more puppies are entered, 3 points will be awarded for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, and 1 point for puppies placing 3rd or 4th or receiving JAM ribbons.
    - ii. If 4 puppies are entered, 2 points will be awarded for 1st place, 1 point for puppies placing 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or receiving JAM ribbons.
    - iii. If 3 or fewer puppies are entered, all placements and JAMS will receive 1 point each.
  - b. Additional Points: A puppy will receive 1 point for any Junior Hunter stake, 2 points for a Senior Hunter stake, or 3 points for a Master Hunter stake passed at an ETRC Club Trial before the puppy's first birthday. No points will be awarded for Singles Classic or Advanced Junior stakes.
  - c. A puppy will receive 1 point for any AKC-licensed Hunt Test Junior Hunter Stake (2 points for Senior, 3 points for Master) passed before the puppy's first birthday. Points earned at a Specialty AKC Hunt Test where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions.
5. Only puppies owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Puppy of the Year award. However, points gained while the puppy is handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award.
6. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
7. The eligibility year for the Puppy of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
8. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If in the event there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final.
9. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.

### Youth Program



2018 Award Recipients, Cade & 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/etrc\\_youth\\_program.htm](http://www.etrclub.org/etrc_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

Black Warrior	Greensboro, AL	11/07/20
Lower Alabama HRC	Lillian, AL	11/13/20
North Alabama RC	Section, AL	11/14/20
Carolinas Retriever Assoc. (66)	Pine Bluff, NC	12/05/20

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

### Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Black Warrior D/Q	Greensboro, AL	11/06/20
Back Bay Knotts Island	Remington & Goldvein, VA	11/06/20
National RC Championships	Giddings, TX	11/07/20
Lumber River/Cape Fear D/Q x 2	Rocky Point, NC	11/13/20
Palmetto RC D/Q	Bennettsville, SC	11/20/20
Cape Fear RC	Rocky Point, NC	12/04/20
Snowbird RC	Boston, GA	12/04/20

If any of you use this feature, please let me know. Otherwise, I will probably discontinue it after the first of the year. Almost everyone has access to Entry Express which is where this edited and truncated information comes from!

## 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 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! The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year.

## 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](mailto: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).