



# 2021 Upcoming Events

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

1. 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.
2. February 27, 2021: Saturday Evening, 6 p.m., Cory Smith's Farm: Awards Banquet & Election in the Big Heated Indoor Barn. See article inside on page 3
3. March ??, 2021: Club Trial, TBD
4. May 29-30, 2021: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge and Brian Caldwell's farm

## Photo of the Month



*ETRC President Alan Bruhin proves he can multitask as Seminar Leader, talking about all the tricks Master judges have in their arsenal, and Puppy Whisperer! The puppy is Josie, Cory Smith's 7-week old Chessie girl, who slept in this position for most of the seminar. See story on page 4.*



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## Winter ETRC Training Day & Mini Seminar February 14, 2021

The final event in our winter training program will be Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The location will be Cory & Elena Smith's farm in Niota, between Sweetwater and Athens. See address below for GPS. If you need more detailed directions, contact Cory at [Irrs223@gmail.com](mailto:Irrs223@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. Setups will be appropriate for all levels of dogs. Secondly, AKC Junior/Senior Judge and Master National qualifier J. Michael Evans will present information on the rules and regulations governing Senior Hunt Tests, how they are set up, and what the judges are looking for. He will answer questions and will also demonstrate some transition and other handling drills. Not only will this be a good refresher for current Senior level competitors, it will give members now working at lower levels a greater understanding of the higher levels of the sport and what you are eventually training for. In addition, ETRC's Hunt Test Secretary Michele Fletcher will present information on how to enter your dogs into hunt tests using Entry Express. Rules keep changing, and some of our newer members may not know how to do this.

**OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.** If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the event, check with Secretary Karen Edwards. Membership is \$25 for a whole year of fun and activities.

**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 regular 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 the presenters are sick with Covid, we may be forced to cancel. 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 Saturday 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. So far, we have not had to cancel either the December or January session, and everyone attending has found these sessions to be very interesting and useful.

**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 [Irrs223@gmail.com](mailto:Irrs223@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.

## Awards Banquet 2/27/2021; Dinner is on us! RSVP please

**DINNER IS ON US!** The annual Awards Banquet is Saturday, February 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at Cory Smith's big heated barn, 245 County Road 319, Niota, TN. This is just a few miles from Exit 56 on I75. Dinner will be catered by Smokin' F Barbecue, and will feature their fantastic brisket or BBQ chicken with sides and desserts to choose from. BYOB if you want something to drink other than water or tea.

Because of the Pandemic, we are doing our best to make this a safe event. Large tables will be spread far apart for social distancing in Cory's echoing space. Masks are encouraged but not required when not eating. You can also just come for the meeting and stay masked, if you prefer. The meeting will begin at around 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. and we do need a quorum to elect officers & directors for the upcoming year.



New members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks! Title awards and membership awards will be given out. This is also a close-out of fiscal 2020 for the club. Come celebrate a successful year in spite of everything ... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2021.

Please RSVP by SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (edwardskc@gmail.com), to make sure we have enough food & chairs for everyone. We can handle a few last minute attendees, but please let us know if you are coming as soon as possible.

## Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

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):

- ◆ President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2021- Feb 2024): 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, and as announced in December's newsletter, additional nominations could have been made by any member prior to December 31, 2020, in writing to the Secretary, using the process outlined in the December newsletter. No one has made any additional nominations, so the nominations are now closed.

## Report on January Training Day & Mini Seminar January 10, 2021

ETRC sponsored our second winter training day and mini-seminar on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at the Smith farm in Niota. A huge thanks to the Smiths for hosting us again! This was Master class — ETRC President Alan Bruhin provided insight into Master Hunt Test rules, setups, and what judges are looking for. Alan has judged the Master National twice and will be judging the Master Amateur this spring; he also competes frequently with his dogs Shine (who is a Master National Qualifier) and Shine's young daughter Cin who earned her Master Hunter title last year. Alan emphasized that different judges may judge quite differently, and what is a pass with minor points off for one can be a screen-out for another. He also talked about a sliding scale of issues — if an issue such as creeping happens once, it's points off, but if it happens again and again, it may become a fail. He talked to us about how he judges triple marks — assigning more weight to the second mark than the first, and most to the third. Super interesting! As it was rather chilly, the seminar portion of the day was held in Cory's heated barn. Afterwards we went outside and Alan demonstrated some transition drills that he uses for working up to blinds, and then we all had a chance to run our dogs on a master setup that could be modified for younger dogs to just be singles or doubles, and with or without the blinds.

Turnout was fair — we had about 10 people and about a dozen dogs. If you didn't make it, you missed a great opportunity! It was good to see some of our newer members coming out and taking advantage of the day, as well as some of the regulars. The weather cooperated with mostly sunny skies and mid-40s temperatures — great day for January. Thanks to Elena Smith who again provided drinks and cookies.



## Training Corner

# Keeping the Fun in Retriever Training

By Charlie Journey

*Editor's Note: Training tip from sportdog.com. Charlie Journey has been training performance and hunting dogs for more than 30 years. During that time he has produced hundreds of titled dogs including Grand Hunting Retriever Champions, Hunting Retriever Champions, Master Hunters, Grand Master Hunting Retriever Champions, and Master Hunting Retrievers. His writings have been featured in The Retriever Journal, Just Labs, The Pointing Dog Journal, and numerous other specialty journals. Charlie and his personal dogs have led many folks through their training programs with videos like "Game Dog," "Gun Dog," and "Water Dog." He's also used his training experiences to complete his own training manual, Finished Dog, which has become a favorite for the amateur trainer.*

**Wouldn't it be nice in the middle of a rough day if someone stopped by and said a few words that made all your cares go away? Instantly your negative feelings would disappear and you'd be happy. Well, in retriever training, there is something that can have that effect on your dog. We call them "fun bumpers," and although the concept is simple, they serve an important purpose.**

The only rule with fun bumpers is that the dog must chase the bumper. I throw fun bumpers in some fashion everyday for each dog I'm training. With a young dog, this is how I begin each session. I continue until I see a positive attitude in the pup. After all, it serves no purpose to throw an object for your dog to retrieve if he's not motivated.

In a dog with poor retrieving desire, this fun game can build his excitement. You can nurture motivation by teasing your dog with a bumper. As his interest in the object intensifies, toss it a few feet in front of him. If he doesn't chase, repeat the process. I've seen this go on for weeks in an unmotivated student. Patience is the only way to solve the problem. I've yet to see a dog enjoy retrieving that had the process forced upon him.

Most dogs from good breeding don't need much motivation to retrieve, but that doesn't mean fun bumpers aren't a useful tool at every stage of the training process. As anyone who has done much retriever training knows, there are a lot of rules you demand your dog follows – steadiness, stopping on the whistle and taking hand signals, to name a few. Therefore it is important to add a verbal command to differentiate the fun bumper routine. I use the words, "Hup, hup, hup," prior to tossing the bumper as a verbal cue to pup that he's about to have fun. You can use any words you prefer, but be consistent. Soon those words alone will send your dog into a frenzy of excitement.



Continual repetition of the fun bumper programs gives you an extra tool for training. Fun bumpers can be used to coax a dog into water the first time. They can adjust pup's attitude if he seems confused or lacks confidence in a new situation. And they're enjoyable for you, too. I don't know anyone who doesn't smile when their retrieves with a wagging tail and happy attitude.

As the dog progresses, I used fun bumpers as a reward at the end of the training session. I always follow a job well done with a couple of fun bumper tosses before the dog goes back on the truck or into his kennel. This increases his desire to work in the next training session.

Everything I've explained so far has to do with motivation and reward. But this concept can work the other way: to punish a dog. Suppose your boss told you your paycheck depended on how you performed your job. Poor performance by your dog might mean he gets put back in the kennel without his paycheck of fun bumpers. Not giving him his fun bumpers at the end of a training session can be the greatest punishment in a dog's life if he has been properly trained with them

**Member News:**

Nothing! Send info and pictures!

## 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/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. 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.

## 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)).

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 is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XXI (for 2021).