

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 8

August 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. September 9-10, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only, Lucky 7 Ranch
2. September 21, Sunday: Club trial #3, picnic, summer business meeting, Lucky 7 Ranch
3. October 18-19, Saturday—Sunday: Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, 2 JH, 2 SH, Master, Lucky 7 Ranch
4. February 21, 2026, Saturday — Annual Awards Banquet, Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville

Photo of the Month



14-year old Panda (Fern Hill Pandemonium MH WCX OD) still likes retrieving Dokkens from the pool

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|--|---|---|------|
| President's Message | 2 | Info from AKC on required judges' training about kids | 6-7 |
| 2 New ETRC Titlists | 2 | Group Me for ETRC – new way to communicate | 8 |
| At the 2025 Master Amateur, by Alan Bruhin | 3 | Health Corner: New Research on Cooling Science | 9-10 |
| Change Limiting Entries , 2026 Master National | 4 | Member News, Brags, Announcements | 11 |
| New Veterinary Ophthalmologist in Knoxville | 5 | Youth Program , Membership, Newsletter/Facebook | 12 |

President's Message — By J. Michael Evans

As we roll into another hot month here in East Tennessee I hope everyone is doing well, staying cool and drinking plenty of water. Please don't overlook the needs of your dog, they can't tell us when they need help so it's our job to keep a close eye on them. If you're training, try to do it early in the morning and make it as short as possible while still getting in valuable instruction. Heat exhaustion/stroke can happen in a second!

Congratulations to Ronnie Cowan and Whiskey! They earned their Junior Hunter title and are well on their way to Senior.

Congratulations to Brent Naveiro and Gus! They earned their Senior Hunter title this month on a heat-fueled weekend!

If you've not had a chance to checkout our Facebook page please do. Vice President Alan Bruhin makes sure that we stay updated on upcoming events, training scenarios, interesting drills, upcoming litters, pertinent information concerning the club as well as member info and successes. Just as you do sending Karen Edwards information for this newsletter, make sure you also send any information you might want to see added to our Facebook page to him as well.

Although our club doesn't have any events scheduled for the month of August there are a few clubs hosting events in and around Tennessee. If you plan on attending any, GOOD LUCK and please let us know how you did. I will be reaching out to many of you over this month to discuss our upcoming events in September and October. We are going to need A LOT of help for these events and I'm hoping each of you can offer just a few hours to benefit the club. These tests take an enormous amount of work before, during and after the event so any amount of time you can spare to assist will be greatly appreciated.

Until we all meet up again, enjoy your summer, good training and good luck!

Sincerely,

J. Michael Evans
President ETRC

Left: Brent Naveiro and
new Senior Hunter Gus;

Right: Ronnie Cowan's
new Junior Hunter Whis-
key.

CONGRATULATIONS!



At The 2025 Master Amateur By Alan Bruhin



The 2025 Master Amateur event was held June 22-29, in Waterville, ME. This year marked the 9th Annual MAI Event! The dogs and handlers competing in this event are the very best in the world of Amateur run - hunt test retrievers!

East Tennessee Retriever Club had two members participating this year — President Michael Evans and his dog Ivy, and Vice President Alan Bruhin with his dogs Cin and Jack.

The event opened on Saturday June 21 with handlers' meeting, judge's instructions and the opening ceremony.

Sunday morning at 7:30 started with a retiring dog ceremony and test dogs were run. Two flights of dogs with 80 dogs each begin a full week running 6 challenging series, starting with two land series, then two land/water series and finally two very tough water series.

Ivy, Cin, and Jack were solid through the first two series. Jack ran into some difficulties during the third series and was dropped from the event. Ivy and Cin continued to advance until the final water series. This last series was a difficult water triple and double blind. The memory bird was a 145 yard flyer falling into a depression, making it hard for the dogs to mark. Lots of handling by most of the dogs was common. This was followed up with a 150 yard water blind that also proved difficult. Both Ivy and Cin managed to survive and were presented with crystal plates and ribbons at the awards ceremony on Friday. They were 2 of 34 dogs in our 80-dog flight that passed the event.

This marked the first Master Amateur pass for Ivy. And for Cin it was her third pass, earning her the title of MAH and entry into the Master Amateur Hall of Fame.

Next year's event will be held in Madison, Wisconsin June 20-27. To qualify to run this event, you first need to have a Master Hunter Title on your dog, and then pass 4 master hunt tests between March 1 and February 28. In addition, you must be a member of the Master Amateur Club. Only passes after you are a member count towards the total of 4 passes.

To become a member, go to the Master Amateur website <https://www.masteramateur.com/memberoptions20.html> to sign up and pay your dues.

Michael and I would both highly recommend participating in this event in the future. It's a mix of excitement, fun, and nervousness and worth the time and commitment to get qualified. Feel free to talk to either of us for additional details.



Big Changes Coming for the 2026 and Beyond Master National Retriever Hunt Test

Prioritized Entry Announcement

In January 2025, the American Kennel Club made two changes to Chapter 6 of the Guidelines and Regulations for Hunting Retrievers that directly affected the Master National Retriever Club's annual event.

1. "This level of testing shall be demonstrated over the equivalent of two Master Hunter tests."
2. "As the resources available to the host organization will vary by location and over time; in order to hold a quality event and achieve the required level of testing, the host organization is provided the option to determine the maximum number of entries given the time allotted to the event. This will allow the host organization to better plan and manage the event. The AKC Performance Events Department reserves the right to review and approve the maximum number of entries."

It is the goal of the MNRC to run the event within prior event timeframes, to have the equivalent of two Master Hunt Tests (6 quality series), and to showcase the abilities of master dogs in a single national event.

As a result of these rule changes and in collaboration with the host organization, the MNRC is incorporating these aspects for the **2026 event in Roseburg, Oregon, October 2-11** that have been reviewed and approved by AKC per the new language in Chapter 6.

- Entries for the 2026 event will be limited to a target number of 840 dogs.
- Handlers will be required to rank, or prioritize, all their entries into the event.
- Only one handler per entry will be accepted
- Once the entries close the MNRC will start the process of accepting the entries based on each handler's ranking number. We will first take all the 1s, next all the 2s, next all the 3s, and so on until we reach the target number. At that point we will take an entire ranked grouping that brings us close to 840.
- For the 2026 event, 840 dogs is the target number; it could be slightly less or slightly higher as the cutoff will be at an entire ranked group so that all handlers are treated equally.
- Handlers may handle dogs up the max number based on the ranking cutoff. Under no circumstances will a handler be allowed to handle more than the max number.
- There will not be a waitlist. Scratches will receive the usual refund. No dog will be added to replace a scratched dog.
- Entries for all dogs will be accepted based on the ranking of the entry, regardless of when the entry is received during the entry period.

The MNRC Board is aware of the significant impact that this decision will have, not only with the 2026 event, but also with the regular club qualifying tests that begin August 1 of this year. While no decision has been made for future events, the changes in Chapter 6 could result in limitations of entries accepted based on the resources of the areas where the event is held.

Sincerely, Master National Retriever Club Board of Directors

New Board-Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist In Knoxville



Exciting news for people looking for eye clearances for their breeding dogs or for specialist eye care for dogs with issues! Appointments for clearances at UT Vet Clinic now have to be scheduled around 3-4 months in advance, so it is wonderful that there is now another option:

Dr. Andrew Lewin, BVM&S, DACVO®
Diplomate and Member of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO)®
Veterinary Ophthalmologist and Owner, Vision Vets For Pets (opened July 7, 2025).

Dr. Lewin graduated from Edinburgh veterinary college in 2010. Following a period in small animal general practice, he completed a residency in veterinary ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison then later joined the faculty at Louisiana State University and the University of Tennessee. Over his veterinary career, Dr. Lewin has run eye clinics for pets, taught veterinary students, interns and residents, volunteered for national veterinary ophthalmology organizations, established an eye research laboratory and authored numerous scientific and clinical articles on various topics in ophthalmology. He has presented the results of his award-winning research at major national scientific conferences and also presents at continuing education events for veterinary professionals. Dr. Lewin is passionate about helping animals in need and has volunteered his services to shelter organizations for many years.

Dr. Lewin is an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease in animals and has a special interest in eye surgery and corneal diseases. He lives locally in Knoxville with his wife, who is also a veterinarian.

Vision Vets For Pets
2910 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN.
37918
visionvetsforpets.com
(865) 357-4040

Editor's Note: We took our dog Mint in for her eye clearance exam on their first day of business, July 7. The staff was pleasant and efficient and Dr. Lewin was professional and thorough. We were in and out in just over half an hour — most of that was the time it took for her eyes to dilate. Best of all, she passed!

We will be asking Dr. Lewin to be the speaker at our February Awards Banquet, not only talking about eye clearances but also the symptoms and treatment of eye injuries that can occur during field training.

Important Information from AKC for all Hunt Test Judges

Editor's Note: the first letter below is from the President of Retriever News, with some very thoughtful comments about this requirement that are worth reading. Below that is the actual letter being sent out to AKC judges.

Soon you will be receiving the following email from the AKC regarding raising awareness about child abuse prevention through a continuing education course called "Stewards of Children" provided by Darkness to Light. Our retriever community judges are required to complete this training by September 30, 2025.

There are three ways to complete the coursework as noted in the email from AKC below, two different online courses or a zoom call webinar. I completed this required training per the AKC letter of instruction in about 30 minutes by selecting to take the "Protecting Children through Active Bystanding." The other online course "Stewards of Children" and the Webinar take 2.5 hours to complete. Truthfully, I found this course informative. It helped me identify what to look for in these predators' behavior.

I know many of you are upset that we need to do this, but Child abuse is a very serious problem in our society and if this training helps prevent one incident, it is well worth it. Again, the drop-dead date for this training is September 30, 2025. In addition, if you do not complete the training by December 30, 2025, you will be removed from the AKC's Judge's Directory. And with the current shortage of judges, our sport can't afford to lose a single judge. Please, don't delay, sign up today!

Sincerely,
Jim Rickoff, *President – Retriever News*

Letter from AKC

Dear Field Trial/Hunt Test Judges,

In April 2024, the AKC Board of Directors adopted the *AKC Educational Requirements Policy and Recommendations* as an additional step in creating a safe and respectful sports environment for all. This policy requires all AKC-approved judges to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children*® training from the non-profit organization, Darkness to Light. Recently, the AKC Board of Directors voted to remove the requirement for judges to complete this training every three years. This means, judges will only be required to complete this training one time.

The purpose of the *Stewards of Children*® training program is to raise awareness about child abuse prevention. Within our canine-oriented community, it is intended to empower our judges to recognize signs of abuse while also promoting a protective atmosphere for children and families involved in dog-related events.

We ask that you complete this training by September 30, 2025 which is

Letter from AKC, Continued

three months from the date of this letter. Judging assignments after this date will be temporarily pended until the training is completed.

A custom self-registration has been created for you. **To access this training**, [please go here](#). There is a user guide to help you create a user account and take this training. **To access the user guide**, [please click here](#). The URL to access the training is unique, so neither it nor the user guide should be forwarded or shared with others. It is not necessary to finish the training in one sitting. For convenience, this training can be completed at your own pace where you can start and stop as needed until you finish.

AKC will be notified automatically by Darkness to Light once you have completed the training. To ensure your completion is properly recorded, please include your judge number in the applicable field when registering, and list your name EXACTLY how it is listed in the [AKC Searchable Judges Directory](#).

This program is also widely utilized by educators and professionals across various fields. If you have completed the training within the past year, please submit a copy of your certificate so we can update your judge record accordingly.

In addition, we do recognize there are individuals whose personal experiences may make it difficult or impossible to complete this course or some individuals may have technological obstacles.

If you are unable to complete the training due to personal history, you may complete alternative training: *Protecting Children Through Active Bystanding* from Darkness to Light. This training will provide the key points to align with AKC's *Educational Requirements Policy and Recommendations* and does not use survivor interviews but instead has content that is focused on skill building.

If this requirement presents technical challenges, through the assistance of Darkness to Light, we are offering alternative webinar sessions where you can complete this training through a facilitator-led web session.

If you are interested in pursuing any of these alternatives, or have questions, please contact judgecompliance@akc.org.

A New Way To Communicate: GroupMe for ETRC

By Jim Pearce

I am trying to improve ETRC communication by creating a GroupMe messaging system account for the club. Please join me in making ETRC better and more enjoyable.

What is GroupMe and why do we need it? GroupMe is a free texting app for smartphones and media devices such as the Apple iPad. The app works on both Apple and Android devices and is similar to SMS texting.

Why not just use text? I started this project because we have various training groups within ETRC that communicate with text chains. Once that text chain is started it is difficult to add or subtract people. This may lead to the exclusion of some members that would benefit from attending a training session.

GroupMe allows all members to be aware of both club-sponsored events as well as those run "privately" by individual members who choose to post an announcement on GroupMe.

The app allows the manager to create or delete subtopics as they may become relevant. Initially the app has a "Main Chat" where general discussion on whatever subject you would like to bring up. In addition to that, I have created the subtopic "Training Opportunities" where training sessions can be announced.

In the future, additional subtopics such as "Hunt Tests" or more specific "October '25 Hunt Test" could be created.

It is important to note that the discussions on GroupMe are not visible to anyone except to members of the ETRC.

How do you participate? Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code below or enter the following link into your browser: https://groupme.com/join_group/108028884/oye9med0



Editor's Note: I have attached a copy of the DocX file with this information, and a clickable link, to the newsletter if you would rather download it and click from the document. I have verified that this icon scans from a computer screen and a printer is not needed.

Once you scan the QR code or click the link the GroupMe app will download onto your smartphone and provide instructions on creating a free account. After your account is created GroupMe will automatically send the administrator a request to add you to the group.

Once you receive an enrollment confirmation within the GroupMe app please participate! I have used GroupMe in other special interest clubs and it has been a very popular addition for the membership.

Cool-Down Science: How a Simple Head Dunk Could Save Your Dog from Heat Stroke

From AKC's Educational Resources Library

What's the Challenge?

Heat stroke is a leading cause of sudden death in active dogs, especially during summer. It can occur quickly and has a 50 percent mortality rate if not treated immediately and effectively.

Need to Know

Signs of heat stress include heavy panting, drooling, weakness, disorientation, and even collapse—and it doesn't just affect working or sporting dogs. While traditional remedies like isopropyl alcohol on the paws may not be as effective as once believed, new research shows that cooling the head is a fast and effective way to lower core body temperature and prevent a crisis.

Here's The Story:

Summer brings long days of sunshine and outdoor adventure and for many dogs, that means backyard play, long hikes, training sessions, or athletic competitions. But with rising temperatures comes a real danger: heat injury.

Just as you might crave air conditioning and ice water after time outside, your dog can feel similarly. Even with shaded rest areas, cooling towels, and constant hydration, it can be difficult to keep active dogs cool—especially those involved in working or sporting events. Dogs primarily cool themselves through panting and some sweating through their paw pads, which makes them more vulnerable to overheating.

“High-energy dogs often don't know when to stop, and it's devastating,” said Dr. Cynthia Otto, Executive Director of the PennVet Working Dog Center at the University of Pennsylvania. “They seem fine, then suddenly collapse with heat stroke. And there's a 50 percent chance they won't survive.”

For years, dog owners have turned to traditional cooling methods like alcohol on paw pads or dunking in water. But what actually works best? Until recently, no one knew for sure.

Putting Cooling Methods to the Test

In 2022, Dr. Otto launched a study to compare the effects of partial water immersion versus applying isopropyl alcohol to paw pads. Dogs stood in shallow water or on alcohol-treated pads. The result: water immersion proved more effective and did not raise heart rate like alcohol did, likely due to the alcohol's intense smell.

Next, with funding from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Dr. Otto's team tested four additional cooling techniques:

1. Ice pack on the neck
2. Wet towel on the neck
3. Wet towels in the axillae (armpits)
4. Voluntary head dunk in 70°F water

Health Corner, Continued

Dogs exercised for 10 minutes until reaching 105°F core body temperature or showed signs of heat stress, like heavy panting or a change in the color of their gums. Then each cooling method was applied, and dogs were monitored for 40 minutes.

The head dunk came out on top. It delivered the fastest and most sustained reduction in body temperature.

“This result blew our minds,” said Dr. Otto. “But it also made perfect sense. Dogs pant to regulate heat, which increases blood flow to the head. Cool the head, and you cool the dog faster.”

From Research to Real Life: What the Data Means for You and Your Dog

Dr. Otto is now building on her research with a follow-up study to explore whether factors like water temperature or substitute methods, like applying cool towels to the head, can offer similar results—especially for dogs who are panting excessively or who are unwilling to dunk their heads.

Even for pet owners without sporting or working dogs, this research offers practical, life-saving insight. A soaked towel over the head, a shallow basin of cool water, or a quick head dip could be enough to prevent tragedy on a hot day.

Real-world applications are already underway. During a medical visit in Zambia with Working Dogs for Conservation, Dr. Otto had the opportunity to introduce the head dunk technique.

“We didn’t know how effective it would be at the time,” she recalled. “But we could tell this had the potential to change outcomes for active dogs.”

Thanks to funding from the AKC Canine Health Foundation and Dr. Otto’s continued commitment to canine wellness, dog owners everywhere now have access to simple, science-backed tools to help prevent the deadly consequences of heat injury.

Owner Tips

- Watch for early signs of overheating during warm weather activity
- Use a shallow bowl or tub of cool water to stand in
- Even better, train head dunking or gently apply a cool, wet towel to the head
- Avoid alcohol on paw pads and ice-cold baths, which can cause shock
- Keep practicing cooling techniques in non-emergency situations so your dog is comfortable with them



Member News, Announcements, Brags

COPPER X RIVER VIRGINIA

COPPER MH20
 HIPS: EXCELLENT
 ELBOWS: NORMAL
 CNM/EIC: CLEAR
 PRA: CLEAR
 D LOCUS: CLEAR
 DILUTE FREE

RIVER SH
 HIPS: EXCELLENT
 ELBOWS: NORMAL
 CNM/EIC: CLEAR
 PRA: CLEAR
 D LOCUS: CLEAR
 DILUTE FREE

BREEDING ANNOUNCEMENT
presented by
LICK CREEK RETRIEVERS
 - PUPS DUE AUGUST 1ST -

CONTACT: **LISA VENCILLE**
 (276) 782-7729

PUPS WILL BE AKC REGISTERED

LICK CREEK ON THE MONEY MH20
 LICK CREEK MARSH MONSTER MH
 POE'S LUCY LOU SH
 FOURWEATHER'S FILSON RIVER SH
 HOLLOWAY LEAN RIVER GENERAL QAZ MH20
 FOWLWEATHER'S DIRTY DANCING MH

BRON MH DEEP IRON BOUSTABOUT, ROWDY MH
 HR LICK CREEK QUACK ADDICT MH
 RIVER RIDGE'S CRAZY TRAIN MH
 AKS' OLE TENNESSEE RIZE'N SHINE SH
 SHADY PINE'S KING COLE OF DARE MY QAZ
 WATERBOTTOMS WEDDING CRASHER
 B. HOLT'S SUPER BLACK EAGLE MH
 TROUBLESOME HIGHSEA'S MISTAKEN IDENTITY SH

Lick Creek Retrievers
LICK CREEK RETRIEVERS

Puppies on the Way!

Mike and Lisa Vencille are having puppies in early August — there will be both black and yellow puppies. See contact info in ad to the left.

New Grandson!

Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce are tickled to announce the birth of their grandson, Ridley Edward Henthorn, a baby boy born 7/18/25. Parents are Karen & Jim's daughter, McKenzie Henthorn and her husband Barry, who live in Auburn, Georgia.

Ridley weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20" long at birth.

Parents and baby are doing well, grandparents are thrilled. Pictures at 6 hours old.



Youth Program



2022 Award Recipient, Bella Martin

The Luthenauer Young Handler program was established as a memorial to ETRC member Kevin Luthenauer. The program is supported by generous contributions from family and friends to encourage youth participation in retriever sports. Kids who are interested in applying 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 any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

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

ETRC Membership Information

Membership for a year is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). New member and renewal forms are available online at <https://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just cut & paste the link, print it off, & send it along with your check to:

Karen Edwards, ETRC Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

Membership includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. There are extra awards for volunteer workers at one of our events! Don't miss out on the opportunity to make friends with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year ongoing in 2025 with 6 AKC hunt tests, club trials, picnics, awards, and more.

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 / Facebook Info

NEWSLETTER: The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, usually on the 1st of the month. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs, items 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 newsletter editor Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).

Numbering System: beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is Volume XXIII (for 2023). Newsletters are archived on the club Website, www.etrclub.org.

FACEBOOK: we have an active Facebook page! Either post on it yourself, or send pics and info to our moderator, Alan Bruhin, at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu.