

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 12

December 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

- February 21, 2026, Saturday 6:00 p.m. — Annual Awards Banquet, Elections, and General Meeting, Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville

We'll be having a full slate of events next year! More info in next month's newsletter!

Photo of the Month



Jack & Cin Bruhin with their Master National Hardware — see story inside on page 11

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President's Message — By J. Michael Evans

The leaves are changing, it's getting colder by the day, duck season is so close you can feel it and the Holidays are right around the corner. It's also the time of year that hosts the Master National. I want to start by saying congratulations to everyone who not only passed the Master National in Giddings, Texas but also to those who qualified but weren't able to attend. It was an amazing experience and the grounds were stellar. There will be a complete list of qualifiers below, congratulations to you all!

It is with sad heart I bring the news of deaths in families of our membership this month. Long-time member Dick Lamping lost his wife, and Nate Lamping his Grandmother, after a long illness. She was with him at every test, club trial and training and she will be missed. Brian Caldwell lost his Father during the course of the Master National and Alan Bruhin lost his Mother-in-Law also during the course of the Master National. Please join me in sending thoughts and prayers to each of these members. There are no words to express our deep sadness for your losses and please know we are here for you during this hardship for anything you may need.

November ushered in Thanksgiving and I hope everyone sat back and gave thanks for the things we have been given in our lives. From dogs to friendships to families, we all have so many things to be thankful for.

Now as we look to December, we find ourselves in full Christmas mode! Decorations, shopping, presents, family and friends. Do not forget that this is also the time when we need you to look back at your dog's accomplishments throughout the year. Our annual Awards Banquet will be here before you know it and it takes time to put together the plaques of recognition. While you are waiting on the ham to finish cooking or halftime to be over, take a moment and shoot me an email with any titles, awards and/or points you received during the 2025 season. We all work so hard throughout the year and it is so important that we recognize your accomplishments and hard work. Your dog worked hard for those awards, the least we can do is make sure they receive the payoff. Also, you are invited to nominate any of our members for the Member of the Year and AKC Sportsman of the Year award. Full information on all these awards is later in this newsletter.

Lastly, please remember the reason for the season — be kind to one another, help others when you can, put aside petty differences and enjoy our good fortunes. Dogs have taught me that we don't have much time on this Earth, and we should make the most of it in a positive way. Merry Christmas, I wish you all an amazing Holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in the duck blind.

J. Michael Evans
President ETRC



Nominating Committee Slate for Election & Call for Additional Nominees From the Membership

The nominating committee for 2025 elections, as appointed by President J. Michael Evans at the Summer Business Meeting, Picnic and Club Trial on September 21, 2025, consisted of Jim Pearce as Chairman, along with non-Board members Brent Naveiro and Zach Pry. The committee has completed their work, and present the following slate of officers and board members for fiscal year 2026 (beginning March 1). All of the people on the list below have agreed to serve:

- President: Alan Bruhin
- Vice President: Brent Naveiro
- Past President: J. Michael Evans
- Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- Board Members for 2025 -February 2028:
 - Jim Pearce
 - Lois Luthenauer
- AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
- Chief Marshal (non-Board position): Donna Smith

Continuing on the Board without being re-elected this year are: Bob Smith & Kyle Griffin (2024-2027), and Luke McCoy & Nathan Lamping (2025-2028).

Board terms expiring are Jeff Rader & Jim Pearce . Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years, and thanks to Jim for agreeing to serve for another term.

FLOOR NOMINATIONS: In accordance with the Bylaws, additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31, 2025, 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 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 or scanned letter, for email nominations) from 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 is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, February 21, 2025 at the Bearden Banquet Hall in west Knoxville; more details will be in the January and February newsletters.

Member News & Announcements

New Baby!

Luke and Stephanie are proud to introduce their daughter, Everleigh Ruth McCoy, who was born on Veteran's Day, 11/11/25, weighing 7 lb 5 oz and 19" long. Ruth was the middle name of Luke's grandmother and great grandmother.



Condolences

- To Brian Caldwell, whose father Bobby passed away on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 in Georgetown, TN.
- To Cynthia and Alan Bruhin on the death of her mother Bettie Lou Miller, who passed away in Knoxville on November 4, 2025.
- To Dick and Nate Lamping, whose wife and grandmother, Jolynn, passed away the morning of November 17, 2025, following a lengthy illness. Dick extends his thanks to everyone who helped out with keeping her company over the last several years while he judged and ran his dogs in our hunt tests.

End of the Year Awards — Call for Nominations

It's the end of another busy and productive year for our Club. One of the highlights of the February end-of-year banquet is to celebrate all the many accomplishments achieved during the year, and giving out awards to people and dogs who have had milestone accomplishments 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 (FowlMouthK9@gmail.com) by **JANUARY 5, 2026**.

PEOPLE AWARDS: calling for nominations from everyone in the club for the following two awards. Final selection will be made by secret ballot of the Board of Directors. See below for past winners of this award:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.

People Awardees from the Last Ten Years:

Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2024	Dick Lamping	Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce
2023	Donna Smith	Mike Smith
2022	Michele Fletcher	Cory Smith
2021	Alan Bruhin	J. Michael Evans
2020	Cory & Elena Smith	Alan Bruhin
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

DOG AWARDS: You must nominate your own dog or puppy for these awards. Please check the next several pages of this newsletter for award rules and information on how to submit nominations and / or count points . You may provide the information in an email or letter.

- ◆ **Gun Dog and Puppy of the year Awards** -- These awards are based on points earned in hunt test competition and club trials during the year. Information must be provided for each dog nominated. Winning dog and puppy will receive an engraved plaque to keep and a silver perpetual trophy to display for a year. Last year's winner of the Gun Dog award was Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH35 (now 60+) owned by Alan Bruhin; the Gun Puppy was Nate's High Flying Wren owned and handled by Nate Lamping.

Awards Call for 2025, Continued

- ◆ **Lifetime Achievement Award:** This new award was instituted in 2023, and is intended to honor each year one member-owned dog (alive or deceased) whose lifetime achievements in the field and in other areas such as the breeding shed and other dog sports are worthy of this recognition. This achievement will be honored with an engraved plaque for the owner to keep, and a perpetual trophy to display for a year. See information below on nomination submission requirements. This is a one-time award; the winning dog last year was FC AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits (Percy), owned, trained and handled by Charter ETRC member John Broucek.
- ◆ **Field Trial Dog of the Year Award:** this award is new for 2025, and is established to recognize the dog owned by an ETRC member that has the most success during the year in AKC-sanctioned Field Trials.
- ◆ **Title awards:** If your dog has earned **any AKC field titles** (JH, SH, MH, AFC, FC, QA2, etc.) during 2025, 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.
- ◆ **Master National/ Master Amateur Dogs:** If your dog was a **finalist** at the 2025 Master National or the 2025 Master Amateur, email the info to Michael along with a picture of you/your dog/your silverware. The award is an engraved plaque with the picture mounted on it. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2025 Master National or Master Amateur and received an invitation from the MNRC/MARC to participate, but either did not run or did not pass all series, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement! Make sure you are clear which category your dog falls into.

When you send J. 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. **ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REQUIRED TO NOMINATE YOUR DOG FOR A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.**

Rules and nomination information required for the dog awards (other than title awards which are self-explanatory) are on pages 7-10 below.



ETRC HOLCOMB GUN DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD RULES **(April 1, 2025 for the 2025 and beyond Award Years)**

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 of the Year 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 of the Year award. Singles Classic and Advanced Junior Hunter stakes will not count towards the Gun Dog of the Year Award.
 - c. Points for Master National or Master Amateur Hunt Tests:
 - d. A dog will receive 1 point for qualifying for the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
 - e. 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. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will count towards this award.
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.
11. 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 AUSTIN-WILLIAMS PUPPY OF THE YEAR RULES

(April 1, 2025 for the 2025 and beyond Award Years)

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 Member or licensed Retriever Hunt tests or Field Trial Derby Stakes 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 one of the events outlined in Section 1. Points will only count towards this award 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 puppy stakes 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:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. A puppy will receive 3 points for any AKC member or licensed Retriever Field Trial Derby Stake for a placement or JAM.
 - iv. A puppy will receive 1 point for any placement or JAM in an ETRC Club Trial Singles Classic stake.
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. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will count towards this 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 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.

ETRC CHUCK ATCHLEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RULES, as revised 1/16/25 for the 2025 and beyond Award Years

1. Every year, ETRC will award the Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement award to the nominated ETRC-owned dog that most clearly represents the highest levels of achievement as detailed below. Any member is welcome to nominate any ETRC member-owned dog for this award during the December awards nomination period; if more than one dog is nominated, selection will be made by a vote of the Board. For this award, the usual prohibition against the President voting is waived; if there is a tie, a second vote will be taken and if there is still a tie, both dogs will be honored for that year.
2. Dogs nominated must be owned /have been owned by a current ETRC member at the time the award nomination is made. Deceased dogs are eligible for this award. Dogs who are/were owned by a deceased ETRC member may also be considered for this award so long as the member was in good standing at the time of death. A dog may be nominated multiple times, however once the dog has won the award, he / she will no longer be eligible for further consideration.
3. Nominations will be called for in the December issue of the ETRC Newsletter, and details will be provided in that newsletter of where to send your nominations. In order to nominate a dog, the owner (or other member nominating another member's dog) must provide a detailed written explanation of why the dog is worthy of this award. Two or three sentences will not suffice! This justification should include statistics and details concerning one or all of the following areas for consideration:
 - a. **Field performance.** Please enumerate titles earned in hunt tests or field trials (including AKC and HRCH events), number of passes achieved, and any other comments that pertain to the dog's excellence (number of tests passed out of tests taken, ETRC awards such as Gun Dog of the Year, age at the time titles were earned, comments about style, etc.).
 - b. **Breeding performance.** Please enumerate the total number of puppies sired / whelped by the nominated dog and the number of titled puppies. Titles can be earned by those puppies in any recognized AKC or HRCH dog sport. Also include any breed recognition such as Outstanding Sire or Dam awards achieved by the nominated dog. You may also include any other notable achievements by the nominated dog's progeny for which titles aren't awarded, such as Seeing Eye, etc.
 - c. **Success of the nominated dog in any other non-field related endeavor.** Please include any information on the nominated dog's titles / achievements in other AKC or HRCH events, such as Agility, Obedience, Scent Work, etc. You may also include service awards, therapy work, and anything else that you feel makes the dog worthy of a lifetime achievement award.
4. Nominations will be rated subjectively, without points assigned for various categories of achievement. However, evaluators voting on dogs must take into consideration the hierarchy of achievements outlined above by placing more value on individual field achievements first, by breeding achievements second, and by other considerations third. Since the ETRC is a retriever club, it is entirely possible for a dog to win this award who was outstanding in the field but never had offspring or earned a non-field title. It should not be possible for a dog to achieve this title without having reasonable accomplishments in the field.
5. The Board of Directors may decide not to award this title during any particular year if no dogs are nominated, or if none of the nominated dogs seem to possess a record worthy of a Lifetime Achievement Award. Decisions by the Board of Directors are final.
6. Winners will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet in February. Names and pictures, along with information on the dog's achievements, will be published in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website and Facebook page. The winning dog's name and owner will be engraved on a perpetual trophy and the owner will also be provided with a small trophy/plaque to keep.
7. These rules and regulations are to be posted permanently on the ETRC Website. A copy of them will be published in the December 2023 Club newsletter, and annually thereafter. However, publication of a link to the rules on the club website will be considered sufficient after the first year, at the newsletter editor's discretion. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website.
8. Chuck Atchley, to whom this award is dedicated, is a Charter Member of the ETRC which was formed in 1986. He actively trained and ran several Labrador Retrievers to titles over a number of years. He served as Treasurer from 1996 - 2015 and continues to be a faithful member. During some of our leaner periods, he personally bailed us out so we could continue operating until our financial situation improved. We have benefited from using his beautiful farm countless times for training and Club Trials. On his retirement as Treasurer in February 2015, ETRC awarded Chuck a Special Platinum Award for Outstanding Service. His lifetime achievements for our club make his name a worthy one for recognizing some of the Club's superior dogs.

ETRC FIELD TRIAL DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD RULES

(Final Rules approved April 2025 effective 1/1/25)

1. The dog which accumulates the most points in AKC-Licensed Retriever Field Trials and ETRC club trial Singles Classic Stakes throughout the calendar year will be the winner of the annual ETRC Field Trial Dog of the Year Award and trophy. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Field Trial 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's owner.
2. Points may be earned only in AKC Member or Licensed Retriever Field Trials.
3. Points earned for "Derby" Stakes at AKC Retriever Field Trials by puppies under 12 months of age at the time of the AKC Field Trial will not be included in computation of Field Trial Dog Of The Year Award totals, but may be applied towards Puppy Of The Year totals.
4. Dogs past their first birthday are eligible to earn points at any AKC Member or Licensed Field Trial stake.
5. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current level or above in AKC Retriever Trials. Once a dog has qualified twice at Qualifier stakes, for example, it may not earn any further points in qualifiers.
6. Calculation of Points For ETRC Field Trial Dog of the Year Award:
 - a. **Derby.** A dog over one year of age will receive 5 points for 1st place, 4 points for 2nd place, 3 points for 3rd place, 2 points for 4th place, and 1 point for JAM or ResJAM at each AKC Member or Licensed Retriever Derby Stake.
 - b. **Qualifier.** A dog over one year of age will receive 5 points for 1st place, 4 points for 2nd place, 3 points for 3rd place, 2 points for 4th place, and 1 point for JAM or ResJAM at each AKC Member or Licensed Retriever Qualifier Stake, whether open or Amateur/owner handler
 - c. **All Age Stakes.** A dog will receive 10 point for 1st place, 8 points for second place, 6 points for 3rd place, 4 points for 4th place, 2 points for RJAM, and 1 point for JAM.
 - d. **Points for National or Amateur Championship Field Trials:**
 - i. A dog will receive 2 points for qualifying for the National and/or National Amateur Field Trial.
 - ii. A dog will receive 20 points for 1st place at one of the national competitions; 19 points for 2nd place, 18 points for 3rd place, and 17 points for 4th place plus 16 points for Reserve JAM and 15 points for a JAM.
 - e. **Specialties:** 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 tests entered for which points are to be awarded.
7. Only dogs fully owned by one or more ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Field Trial 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. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will count towards this award. Only one plaque will be awarded for a co-owned dog.
8. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trial Singles Classic Stakes during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
9. The eligibility year for the Field Trial Dog of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
10. 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 in December of each year. 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.

Final Results for ETRC's Master National Participants

The Master National Invitational Hunt Test for 2025 was held in Bastrop, Texas (Lee County). The event ran from Thursday, October 30 to Sunday, November 9, 2025. This was another huge test, posing many challenges to the organizers and workers, with a total of 1,181 dogs entered, divided into 9 flights of 126-140 dogs each. 80 dogs scratched, leaving 1101 dogs coming to the line.

Although this is billed as a National test, it is run basically as 9 individual tests on the same grounds. There were 18 different test setups at different areas, but each setup was used only 1-3 times so not every flight saw the same setups in their six series. Also, each flight has the same judges throughout all series, with no swapping around of judges, and dogs and judges are assigned to the individual flights on a mostly regional basis.

Most of our members were in Flight G except for Melissa Dobson, who lives in Georgia, and she was in Flight H, and Alan Bruhin was in Flight B. Congratulations to the successful ETRC members who attended and passed with their dogs!

RESULTS:

Flight B: this flight had the most entries, with 140. 53.7% of the dogs passed, including both of Alan's dogs:

- ◆ **Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH**, bred, owned, trained and handled by Alan Bruhin;
- ◆ **Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH**, also bred, owned, trained and handled by Alan.

Flight G: 128 dogs were entered in this flight, which was also the flight that ETRC's President J. Michael Evans judged. 51.8% of the dogs entered passed all six series. ETRC members and member dogs who passed all series and earned a plate are:

- ◆ **Moon Over the Coosawattee MH**, owned by Andy Buck and handled by Jody Ware;
- ◆ **Troublesome Fowl Addiction MH**, owned by Jeff Coffey & John Broucek and handled by Jody Ware;
- ◆ **L7Troublesomewhataboutbob MH**, owned by Bob Smith and handled by Brian Caldwell;

Jody also passed another client dog, as did Brian.

Flight H: 70.9% of the dogs entered in this flight passed all six series. Congratulations to ETRC member Melissa Dobson, who qualified 6 of the 8 dogs she handled, including one of her own dogs, and one of her daughter's dogs:

- ◆ **Southern Comfort's Run Your Tail Off MH**; and
- ◆ **Southern Comfort's Painted With A Punch MH**

There was quite a spread in pass rates between the different flights, with a low of 45.1 and a high of 70.9. Six of the flights, however, clustered from 51.5 to 53.7, with two around 61% and then the outlier flight at 70.9%. For comparison, last year the passing percentages ranged from a low of 31% in Flight G to 51% in Flight E.



Youth Program



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 / Group Me 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). 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.

GroupMe: 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. GroupMe allows 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. For more info, contact Jim Pearce, at jwp1002@gmail.com.

