

# ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 2

February 2025



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

# ETRC Newsletter

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. February 22, 2025, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Meeting: Bearden Banquet Hall, 6:00 p.m.
2. March 9, 2025, Sunday: Club Trial #1, Cory Smith Farm, Niota, with frozen ducks
3. March 29-30, Saturday—Sunday: Weekend Master only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's Farm
4. April 6, Sunday: Club Trial #2, Brian Caldwell's Farm, Sweetwater, with frozen ducks
5. April 26-27, Saturday—Sunday: Spring Hunt Test, MH, JH Saturday, SH Sunday, Lucky 7 Ranch
6. May 13-14, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's Farm
7. May 31-June 1, Saturday—Sunday, Double JH / Double SH Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA
8. September 9-10, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only, Lucky 7 Ranch
9. September 21, Sunday: Club trial #3, picnic, summer business meeting, Lucky 7 Ranch
10. October 18-19, Saturday—Sunday: Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, 2 JH, 2 SH, Master, Lucky 7 Ranch

## Photo of the Month



ETRC members Zachary & Tyra Pry out hunting

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**President's Message —  
By J. Michael Evans**

Happy February all! I know some of you are currently fighting deep bouts of depression due to the end of waterfowl season but fear not, the Board has scheduled a full plate of activities to hold us over until next season.

First is our annual East Tennessee Retriever Club Banquet February 22. If you've not RSVP'd and plan on attending, please do so as soon as possible! We will have door prizes, food, drink, business meeting, election of officers, awards ceremony and an instructional presentation on K-9 emergency field triage from DVM Monica Webb from Countryside Veterinarian Clinic. Dr. Webb is one of the foremost experts in the field and she will have handouts and possibly hands-on demonstrations as well. This type of instruction has saved many a dogs' life in the field and its importance is immeasurable. Dr. Webb is doing this free for our club and is looking forward to meeting all of you.

Within this newsletter you will find a schedule of all upcoming events so please take a moment and file them in your calendar. We need as much help as you can spare to get all of these tests set up and ran. Any sweat equity you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Don't forget, if you are a member in good standing and provide at least 8 total hours of work at any test, the club will pay for one (1) entry into an ETRC sponsored test anytime throughout the year. So please come out and join the fun!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Banquet so please plan on attending.

**Time to Renew Your Membership in ETRC**

Our club membership year runs from March 1 to February 28th (or 29th). It's time to renew if you haven't already!

Membership for a year is \$25 and includes spouse and children. It includes a monthly newsletter, easy access to information about club activities, free or discounted entries into Club Trials and other events, end of year awards, and more. It's a bargain, worth well more than the price of membership.

To renew your membership, please fill out the membership renewal form attached to the email transmitting this newsletter, stick it in an envelope along with your check for \$25, and mail to

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

If you are planning to attend the banquet on Saturday, February 22, you can renew in person there. For more information on the banquet, see the next page.

## End-of-year Awards Banquet: RSVP Now!

### **February 22, 2025, Saturday evening: ETRC Awards Banquet, General Meeting, & Elections.**

Bearden Banquet Hall (Buddy's), 5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 6:00 p.m for socializing, dinner buffet starts at 6:30 p.m. This is our annual big party, and free for all members and guests! The Bearden Banquet Hall can hold large events, and we will be seated at 8-person round tables with space between. We hope to see you all there!

**The menu will include Chicken Tenders, Grilled Beef Tenderloin, Rosemary New Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Molten Chocolate Cake.** Wine will be provided by the club, and beer will also be available for purchase. Sweetened and unsweetened Iced tea, Caffeinated and Uncaffeinated Coffee, lemonade, and water will also be available. You may BYOB, but will need to provide it to the bartender for service.

**Guest Speaker** will be Dr. Monica Webb, DVM, of Countryside Vets. Dr. Webb will give a 30 minute presentation with Q&A to follow s on Canine Field Triage. Very useful information for dealing with any injuries our dogs might sustain while out training or competing!

**Awards Presentations:** After dinner, we will present awards to both people and dogs for titles earned, national invitationals qualified for and completed, Dog of the Year and Puppy Of The Year awards, ETRC's Lifetime Achievement Award, ETRC Member of the Year, and AKC Sportsman of the Year. Come cheer everyone for their achievements during 2024!

**Elections:** This is also our election and general membership meeting, and a close-out of our Club's very busy fiscal year 2024. Come celebrate a successful year... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2025. We do need a quorum to conduct business — new members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks and find out how you can get more involved in 2025.

**Door Prizes** will include four free entries to ETRC hunt tests during 2025 (up to a \$110 value depending on the level you are entering); ETRC tees and hats; coupons from dog-related business, and other swag.

**No cost to attendees. Please RSVP to Karen Edwards** at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com), or text / call 865-300-7607 and leave a message — your name and number, and the names of people coming with you.

We need RSVPs from anyone who is planning to eat **NO LATER THAN 11:59 p.m. on FEBRUARY 10** so that the staff will have enough time to prepare food and we will have enough tables and chairs. We can squeeze in a few extra, but please don't leave your RSVP until the last minute.



**RSVP to [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com) or text 865-300-7607**

## Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

The nominating committee for 2025 elections, as appointed by President J. Michael Evans at the Summer Business Meeting, Picnic and Club Trial on September 15, 2024, consisted of Mike Smith as Chairman, along with non-Board members Nathan Lamping and Brent Naveiro. The committee presented the following slate of officers and board members for fiscal year 2025 (beginning March 1):

- President: J. Michael Evans
- Vice President: Alan Bruhin
- Past President: Mike Smith
- Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- Board Members for 2025 -February 2028: Luke McCoy & Nathan Lamping
- AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
- Chief Marshal (non-Board position): Donna Smith

Continuing on the Board without being re-elected this year are: Jim Pearce & Jeff Rader (2023-2026), and Bob Smith & Kyle Griffin (2024-2027).

Board terms expiring are Lois Luthenauer & Luke McCoy . Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years.

Since J. Michael Evans is standing for a second term as President, Mike Smith will continue to serve as Past President through 2025. Donna Smith has agreed to continue on as Chief Marshal. 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 smooth working of the club.

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, 2024, in writing to the Secretary, using the process outlined in the last newsletter. No one has made any additional nominations, so the nominations are now closed.

Voting for officers/directors and the AKC Delegate will be done at the annual Awards Banquet and general membership meeting. This will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Bearden Banquet Hall; see article on page 3of this newsletter for more details and a fiinal call for RSVPs.

We already have a very busy year lined up for 2025, with many hunt tests, club trials, business meetings, and more. Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve on the Board and as officers for this busy upcoming year!



J. Michael Evans



Alan Bruhin



Mike Smith



Karen Edwards



Michele Fletcher

## Minutes: Board Meeting January 9, 2025

**Present from the Board:** J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, and Luke McCoy

**Absent, Excused:** Mike Smith, Lois Luthenauer, Kyle Griffin, and Jeff Rader all had prior commitments. Bob Smith was unexcused.

**Others Members Present:** None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 6 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

### **Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports**

**President's Report:** None

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards.

◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 12/11/24; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Luke seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

◆ **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2024 was 67, with 6 pending final approval in February.

◆ **Correspondence:** None to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$43,420.63. No other immediate expenses until we order new ribbons and have the Banquet. We are in excellent financial state.

**AKC Delegate's report:** Michele: Nothing new to report.

### **Old Business**

◆ **Taxes:** Karen will provide tax information to our new accountant, Jim Longest, in the next week. He will charge \$850 for doing our taxes for 2024.

◆ **Planning for hunt testing season.** All judges have all been approved for the first 3 tests of the year. All dates have been initiated with AKC, and we have approvals back for the first 3 tests. All tests have been entered on Entry Express. Land approval for the two Hiwassee dates have been requested and paperwork submitted. Jason has given us verbal OK for both dates. Bob was going to check with Brian about dates at his place, but isn't here to tell us what he found out. Ken is OK with all the dates, with the proviso that if the land sells all this may go away. We still need 4 pairs of Junior/Senior judges, and 4 more Master judges for the later tests.

◆ There may be an issue with ducks for the March test. Kiley says he is trying to round up some more customers – pro trainers who need ducks etc. – but cannot make a trip just to bring us 80-100 ducks and also if the weather is terrible at his farm, this may not happen. Alan mentioned that there is a duck supplier in South Carolina, but we would have to drive over to pick up the ducks and bring our own crates. Luke said he would be willing to make the drive if necessary. J. Michael will ask Jason at TWRA about what the requirements are for permitting to bring ducks into Tennessee, and what would we as a club have to do, and what does the duck supplier have to do. If these aren't too onerous on us, Luke's offer may be a fallback if Kiley can't get us ducks.

### *Minutes, Continued*

- ◆ **AKC's Training Requirements for protecting youth:** Michele reported that Entry Express has made additions of the mandated language into all the premium lists/catalogs. Still no word from AKC on when field judges / management staff are supposed to take their online training.
- ◆ **Club Trial Dates:** Cory is OK for using his place on 3/9/24 (frozen ducks/dokkens). Waiting for Bob on whether or not Brian is OK for us using his place on 4/6 (frozen ducks/dokkens), and Ken is alright, with standard caveat, for using Lucky 7 on 9/21 (combined with business meeting and live flyers).
- ◆ **Winter Awards Banquet:** Reservations made for Saturday, Feb 22, 2025 at Bearden Banquet Hall.
  - ◆ Set menu: We looked at the options. Everyone agreed that the Grilled Tenderloin we had last year was wonderful – but because we ordered another meat in addition, they only gave us enough for 25 people of the beef. We decided to go for the tenderloin instead, plus get an hors'd'oeuvre plate of chicken tenders (they provide 2 per guest, minimum 50 guests), and ask that they be put out at the same time as the rest of the meal. We decided on sides of rosemary new potatoes, steamed vegetables, garden salad, dinner rolls, and chocolate molten cake for dessert. Drinks included with the meal are tea (sweet and un), Coffee (decaffeinated and not), lemonade, and water. Also, beer is available for individual purchase from the Banquet Hall. We will again request a bartender, and Alan will purchase a few bottles of wine. Karen will mention in the newsletter that if anyone wants to bring their own bottle of liquor, that is acceptable but they will have to give it to the bartender for service.
  - ◆ Speaker: Michael Evans has made arrangements with Dr. Monica Webb, DVM, of Countryside Vets, to give a 30 minute presentation with Q&As on Canine Field Triage. Michael will ask her to bring a handout with the points so we don't have to take notes. She will be bringing her husband as a guest and has been invited for dinner and to stay for the entire evening.
  - ◆ Door prizes status: Karen will print out 4 free test entry forms. Lois will bring a selection of 10 tee shirts / hats . Alan is planning to look among his old judges' gifts to see if there are some good things to donate, and Mike Smith agreed to canvas a few places to see if they will provide some stuff. No updates on these items, but Michael reported that Brent Naveiro has said he will contact a few businesses to see if they might donate something, and Alan will contact Purina for some coupons. Karen and Jim offered up a pint of upstate NY maple syrup.
- ◆ **Awards:** Status and voting on awards . Michael reported that he has 7 nominations for Member of the Year and 8 for AKC sportsman. He is still waiting for a few and will then send them out to the board for a vote.
  - ◆ Michael has received two nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award. One nomination has been submitted for a past member's dog. Both the dog and the person are now dead and we have no contact for any of the survivors. The current rules state that the dog must be owned by an ETRC member in good standing, which would not cover someone who was dead. After some discussion, Alan moved that we change the award criteria for next and future years to allow nominations and awards to dogs who were owned by people who are now dead, but who were members in good standing at the time of their death. The dog in question can be re-submitted for next year, and Jim Pearce said if the original nominator didn't resubmit them for next year, he would. This motion was seconded by Luke and passed unanimously. Karen will draft language to implement this change and will get it out to all the Board members for a vote, to be effective in the 2025 award year.
  - ◆ There was also some discussion about whether we could pick more than one dog a year for

### *Minutes, Continued*

this honor. There was some concern that this might water down the criteria and the general consensus after the discussion was that it would be best to keep on with just honoring one dog a year. There was also discussion that even if only one dog was nominated, if the Board did not feel that it met the criteria for this award, it would not be awarded.

- ◆ **Seminar Program this year?** After a brief discussion it was decided that we don't have room in the schedule for any of these programs this year. However, it was decided that we would look into having another basic Judging seminar next February.
- ◆ **Facebook:** Alan reported that he is continuing to post items here and that the number of followers is slowly increasing. Thanks to new members Zach and Tyra Pry for sending along some good hunting photos.

### **New Business:**

- ◆ **New Members:** None this time.
- ◆ **Proposed New Award:** Our Gun Dog of the Year Award is limited to hunt testing. This means that one of our members who got an AFC and an FC this year, and was #2 in the nation for Amateur points and #8 for Open points, is not eligible to be considered for this award. Although we only have 4 or 5 members who participate in Field Trials, we only have about 10-15 who participate in Hunt tests either. Because our club is intended to include furtherance of all types of field sports, this does not seem to be fair that our premier dog award every year excludes Field Trial competitors.

Karen moved that we establish a new award, Field Trial Dog of the Year, and has drafted proposed rules for consideration, to be effective in 2025. This award would have a new Perpetual Trophy and would also be awarded an annual plaque that the winner would keep. Karen has worked with John Broucek on these proposed rules.

Karen also moves that we retire the Holcomb Gun Dog Of The Year award, and get a new perpetual trophy named ETRC Hunt Test Dog Of The Year award. The rules would be the same as the current Gun Dog rules, with only a name change. This would essentially make two separate but equal top awards every year, one for hunt test dogs and one for field trial dogs.

Further, Karen moves that we make changes to the Puppy of the Year trophy to include points for puppies under a year for any Derby points awarded. Although unlikely, if a puppy is good enough to gain Derby points at less than one year, that should be recognized in our Puppy of the Year award.

Because it was late by the time we got to this item on the agenda, and because we were missing 5 of our board members, we decided to table this until the next meeting. Before then, Karen will send out copies of the proposed language for this new award and changes to the other awards to everyone on the board, along with a list of areas for more consideration and discussion. The intention is to get these put in place for the 2025 award year.

- ◆ **Ribbon Order:** Will need to make a new order in February, Ribbons have been inventoried, and it looks like we will need 200 more MH ribbons and 100 more JH ribbons. We should have enough SH and title ribbons to last, unless we get a larger than usual number of Senior dogs, and we are still OK on club ribbons. This will cost around \$1,900.

### **Any other new business?**

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Luke moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## 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](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

**It's time to renew your membership in ETRC for 2025.** The cost 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](mailto: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](http://www.etrclub.org).

**FACEBOOK:** we now have a Facebook page! Either post on it yourself, or send pics and info to our moderator, Alan Bruhin, at [wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu](mailto:wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu).