

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 3

March 2025



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

ETRC Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

Photo of the Month

2024 ETRC Life-time Achievement Award Winner,

FC AFC Seasides Troublesome Fowl Pursuits QA2

Owned, trained, and handled by John Broucek

See article inside on pages 8-9



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President's Message — By J. Michael Evans

Well, here we are.....again! It's time for our hunt test season to begin. I hope everyone is ready and plans on attending our March 9th club trial to get that all important warm-up. Please read all of the details in this newsletter and make your plans to be there.

Our Annual Awards Banquet was an amazing success and if you weren't able to attend please know we missed you! I'd like to personally thank Dr. Monica Webb for sharing her knowledge with all of us and I have no doubt the information will be invaluable to everyone. She also donated a complete canine first aid kit as a door prize. Thank you so very much to Dr. Webb and her husband Jason for staying and celebrating our awards night with us.

On a personal note, Mara Torok won the first aid kit and immediately donated it to the club. She conveyed how much it would help the entire club and persons attending our tests. She wanted us to have it available for everyone. What an AMAZING gift and gesture! Thank you!

To all that earned awards, CONGRATULATIONS! The work put in by all of you is an amazing accomplishment you should be proud of. I hope your dogs got a steak, at the very least, for their work in attaining those awards.

If anyone can assist helping with our hunt tests please get in touch with me or any Board member. We are in dire need of workers in the upcoming months, especially for the big weekend tests on April 26-27, May 31-June 1, and October 18-19, but also at the club trials and to a lesser extent at our small Master only, single flight tests. These tests are how we are able to purchase equipment, awards and ribbons throughout the year. It's also how we are able to have a yearly banquet and summer picnic at no charge to members. So please, if at all possible, schedule a little time to promote our club and help us all be successful.

I look forward to seeing you all March 9th. Until then, Good Training!!

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! We will keep you on the mailing list until May 31, but if you haven't renewed by then, thank you for your past membership and best of luck with your future dog endeavors!

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 up on the club website at <https://www.etrclub.org/join.htm>, 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

SOON!

ETRC Club Trial **Sunday, March 9, 2025, Cory Smith's Farm**

Our first event of the season will be a club trial that is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. at Cory's Smith's farm in Niota. People who are judging and doing set-ups, please plan to arrive about half an hour early. The GPS address and directions are listed below.

What is a Club Trial? It is an event to work your dog in conditions that are more test-like than a training session. It's a good opportunity to check your dog's progress and readiness for an actual hunt test, and besides it's a ton of fun. Judges will be Club members, several of whom are licensed AKC judges, including Master National judge Alan Bruhin and upcoming MN judge and MN competitor J. Michael Evans, among others yet to be identified. We will need people to pitch in and trade off on planting blinds, rebirding, and setting up and taking down the equipment. We will be using our club-owned bumper launchers to reduce the amount of time people have to spend out in the field throwing marks and firing wingers.

STAKES: Singles Classic, Master, Senior, Junior, Puppy Stakes (Junior puppy & Senior Puppy, under 1 yr). Entry Fee: \$10.00 each stake per dog (dokkens), Puppy Stakes (bumpers) \$5.00 (1 PM). **The first two entries for members will be free.** Completion ribbons will be awarded for hunt test stakes and Advanced Junior stakes; placement 1-4 and JAM ribbons will be awarded for Singles Classic and the two puppy stakes. If you are interested in consideration for our end-of-the-year awards for Gun Dog and Puppy of the Year, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards. Club Trial Rules are included on page xxx.

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, PROS AND AMATEURS. If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial, check with Secretary/Treasurer Karen Edwards. Membership is \$25 for a year, and entitles you to a monthly newsletter and other member benefits.

WHAT TO BRING: No E-collars allowed if you want to participate for ribbons and awards points. Collars will be allowed if you want to use the session for training only. All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless running tests. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), your lunch, 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.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY: We will send out an email on Saturday night if the weather is such that we are going to have to cancel. We will not cancel just for chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is expected to be monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or snowing in Niota, we will not run. So be sure to check your email Saturday night! If you don't hear anything, come on out.

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: GPS address is 245 County Rd 319, Niota, 37826. From I75, take Exit 56 towards TN-309, Niota. Go .3 miles, then keep left at the fork to continue toward Union Grove Road and merge onto Union Grove Road. Go 2.6 miles, then turn left onto US-11N, which is also called Wilson Street. Go .3 miles and turn left onto County Road 319 (Wattenbarger Road). Go .7 miles and then turn left into Cory's driveway. There will be an ETRC sign marking the entrance, which is by an enormous metal barn.

RSVP: Please let us know if you are planning to come. Contact me at edwardskc@gmail.com. Come anyway if you can, even without an RSVP — but it will help if we know approximately how many people to expect.

End-of-year Awards Banquet Report

On February 22, 2025, Saturday evening, ETRC held its annual Awards Banquet, General Meeting, & Elections at the Bearden Banquet Hall in Knoxville. The event started at 6:00 p.m for socializing and before-dinner drinks, and the dinner buffet started at 6:30 p.m. Free to all members and their families and guests, the menu included a buffet of green salad with tomatoes, cheese and crumbled bacon; yeast dinner rolls, chicken tenders, an amazing beef tenderloin, new potatoes, mixed vegetables, and an amazing chocolate mousse cake. Beer was available for purchase, and wine, lemonade, iced tea, coffee, and water were complimentary.



Look over the articles on the next several pages for pictures and information on awards, elections, a recap of our events over the past year and a look ahead to plans for 2024. For those of you who came, it was great to see and visit with you in an informal setting; for those of you who were didn't come, you missed a fun evening — we hope you can join us next year!



For information on awards, elections, the guest speaker's topic of Field Triage for the working dog, and meeting minutes, see separate articles further on in the newsletter!



End-of-year Awards

The following awards were handed out at the banquet to member owners and member-owned dogs. Congratulations to everyone who won any of the awards, and thanks to J. Michael Evans for being our awards coordinator. This is not an easy job!

AKC Title Awards for 2024:

Junior Hunter: Two member-owned dogs earned Junior Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- ◆ Nate's High Flying Wren JH, owned and handled by Nate Lamping.
- ◆ Fern Hill I Mint To Do That JH, owned by Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce, and handled to her title by Jim.

Senior Hunter: One member-owned dog earned a Senior Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- ◆ Foulweather's Filson River SH ("River"), owned and handled by Lisa and Mike Vencille.

Master Hunter: One member-owned dog earned a Master Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- ◆ Tennessee Gentleman Jack, bred, owned, trained and handled by Alan Bruhin.



Amateur Field Trial Champion:

- ◆ AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits (Percy), owned, trained and handled by Charter ETRC member John Broucek.

Field Trial Champion:

- ◆ FC AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits (Percy), owned, trained and handled by Charter ETRC member John Broucek. Earning these two prestigious and hard-to-get titles in one year is an amazing accomplishment. Percy is also making a name for himself in the breeding shed – and both Alan's Jack and Nate's Wren are Percy puppies!

National Competition Awards:

Qualifying at the Master National: The Master National Invitational Hunt Test was held near Paducah, Kentucky in October 2024, with more than 1200 dogs showing up to start. Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to one ETRC member for qualifying:

- ◆ Rader's Charlie Belle MH, owned by Jeff Rader and handled by Jody Ware.



Awards, Continued

In addition, we want to acknowledge the other ETRC members whose dogs succeeded at the Master National this year, but whose owners did not submit their names or pictures for formal recognition:

- ◆ Troublesome Fowl Addiction MH, owned by John Broucek and handled by Jody Ware;
- ◆ L7TroublesomeWhatAboutBob MH, owned by Bob Smith and handled by Brian Caldwell;
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Splash of Tequila MH, owned and handled by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ Southern Comfort's Run Your Tail Off MH, owned and handled by Melissa Dobson;
- ◆ Southern Comfort's Painted With a Punch MH, owned and handled by Melissa Dobson;

Jody and Brian also passed with another non-member client dog each, and Melissa passed with 5 other client dogs. Congratulations!

Congrats also to people who qualified to attend the Master National, and either did not attend or did not make it to the finals. Qualifying to attend these events takes 6 MH passes during the year and is quite an achievement in itself. The following club members met these criteria:

- ◆ Coosawatee Backwater Drake, MH, owned by Andy and Pam Buck;
- ◆ CrossPointe's Blindside Blitz MH, owned by Rhey and Noah Houston;
- ◆ Rader's Charlie Belle MH, owned by Jeff Rader;
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, owned by Alan Bruhin;
- ◆ Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH, owned by Alan Bruhin;
- ◆ Ringtail's Headhunter MH, owned by Brian Caldwell;
- ◆ Spitfire's Whiskey Teal MH, owned by Jan Summers;
- ◆ RSR's Double J MH, owned by Jeremy Majors;
- ◆ RSR's Leader of the Pack, owned by Dennis Wilcox;
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Irish Nobleman MH, owned by Dennis Wilcox; and
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Black Ice Warning MH, owned by Dennis Wilcox.



Michael Evans gives Alan Bruhin Jack's MH trophy plaque

The Master Amateur was held in Washington State this year, and no one from our club attended. Therefore, there were no plaques presented. However, congratulations to the following Club Members whose dogs met the criteria for attending:

- ◆ Gator Pts Don't Mess With My Toot Toot MH, owned by Barbara and Mike Reed
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Splash of Tequila MH, owned by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ RSR's Leader of the Pack, owned by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Black Ice Warning MH, owned by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, owned by Alan Bruhin;

ETRC Club Awards:

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2024: This award is given to the puppy under one year of age who earns the most points in AKC and ETRC hunt tests and club trials. The award is recognized by a plaque for the owners to keep, and custodianship for a year of the perpetual trophy. This year's award goes to **Nate's High Flying Wren**, a female Black Labrador owned and handled by Nate Lamping. Congratulations to this lovely young dog!



Awards, Continued



Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2024: This award goes to the ETRC-owned dog who during the previous year has earned the most points in AKC Hunt Tests and Club Trials. For the fourth year in a row, the award (an engraved plaque to keep and custodianship of the perpetual trophy for the year) goes to **Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH35**, a lovely Black Labrador female bred, owned, trained, and handled by Alan Bruhin.



Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award, 2024: this is the second year for this award, which is given to a dog nominated by the membership or the owner and selected by the board for impressive accomplishments that are worthy of special lifetime recognition. This honor may be awarded only once! The very deserving winner this year was **FC AFC Seasides Troublesome Fowl Pursuits (Percy)**, owned, trained and handled by Charter ETRC member John Broucek. His achievements in Field Trials and in the breeding shed are exceptional. [See article on pages 8-9 this newsletter.]

ETRC Member of the Year, 2024: This year's award was presented to **Dick Lamping**, who was present at every ETRC event this year, helped at every one of them, judged at one, and has just been an amazing supporter of the club.



AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2024: this year, the award was given jointly to **Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce**, for work they do for the club, and for competing and breeding with high quality field line Golden Retrievers.

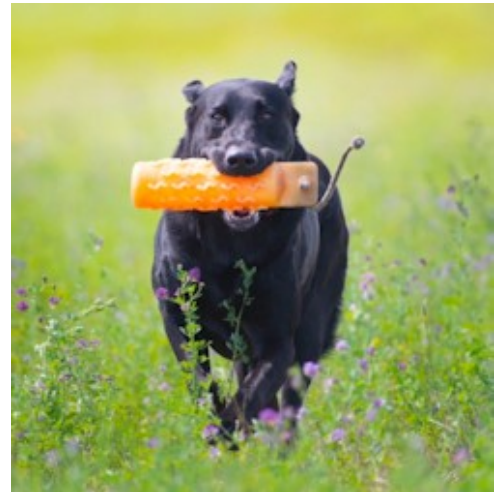
Percy's Story, by John Broucek

Editor's Note: Percy is the winner of the 2nd annual ETRC Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award for 2024. Here is his story as told by his owner.

Percy is the best dog I have ever owned. Officially known as FC AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits QA2, he was born on March 31, 2017, and I purchased him as a 7-week old puppy from his breeders, Frank and Rita Jones. His parents are FC AFC Seaside's Gorgeous George and Seaside's California Chrome. I quickly realized that he had a high ceiling and was a great candidate to take all the way to FC-AFC.

As a young dog, he earned 14 Derby points and placed 4th in an Amateur stake as a two year old. Then Covid came along and trials were pretty much cancelled through his entire 3-year old year.

Following Covid, Percy was training well and I felt he was ready to be a threat and possibly earn the highest placings in Retriever Field Trials. I was getting ready to leave for Florida for winter training, and fell and severely injured my left shoulder. That pretty much sidelined me for an entire year, as I wasn't able to raise my left arm to give him any casts.



I finally started running him again in 2023, and in August we won an Open stake and were on our way. 2024 was my most successful year ever in field trials, and we earned both our AFC and our FC titles that year. Along the way, he became the number two Amateur dog in the United States, and the number eight in combined Open and Amateur points during the year. He also won a double header — winning both Open and Amateur stakes at the same trial. This is a feat that only 4 to 5 dogs achieve in a typical calendar year. All in all, during his 2024 season, we earned 6 first place finishes, 2 seconds, a third, and 2 fourths. At one point, he placed in 9 consecutive trials.

The average number of entries in the trials was well over 50 dogs. All of this, while being 100% Amateur trained and run by a 78 year old handi-capped man!

Percy has also competed in two Master Level hunt tests to date, both at ETRC tests. I hope to be able to finish his title this year.

I have been involved in training and competing with dogs since 1960. I put a CD on an Irish Setter — I was 14 at the time. I went to my first field trial in 1970 and was bitten by the bug. In 1974 I bought a Labrador from Eddie Bauer, and she was the first



Percy's Story, Continued

dog that I ever entered in a field trial with some modest success and a couple of Derby placements.

In 1980, I moved to Tennessee to run a boarding kennel and train retrievers. There were no hunt tests in those days, only field trials, so I trained mostly hunting dogs and did some obedience training. In 1981 I won my first trial, a derby with Dr. Daveys Clinch River Cassie. During the time I was a pro, I competed in the minor stakes only. I did start and sell several dogs who went on to earn their Field Champion title, but not with me handling.

After retiring from the post office I decided it was time to try my hand at the major stakes. I won two Amateur stakes with different dogs but injuries prevented these dogs from continuing with competition. Percy was the first dog I ever had that I truly feel that I have a chance to win any stake I enter!

Percy is also making a name for himself in the breeding shed. I am proud of his puppies that are owned by ETRC club members, including Alan Bruhin's Jack and Nate Lamping's Wren, among others. They are starting to make names for themselves and I look forward to more great Percy dogs in the future! In addition to his incredible field talent, Percy is passing along his own good looks, and the puppies that I have seen are a handsome bunch.

Thanks to ETRC for this honor. It is one that I will treasure! It is such a privilege to own such a great dog, and as a charter ETRC member this is a club that I feel close kinship to.



Member News, Announcements, Brags

Puppies!!!



Yukon and Py are Having Puppies! Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce are proud to announce that HRCH Heads Up Larger Than Life MH22 MNR WCX & Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH are expecting puppies on March 30. Py is also the mother of their young dog Fern Hill I Mint To Do That JH & 6 other puppies from her first litter, including Victor & Jo Ann Burk's boy Fern Hill Duck Call (Quincy).



Stax x Rayne Litter! Congratulations to Janet Summers for a fine litter of 9 puppies born in mid January! Pictured here at 3.5 weeks. Puppies are by Janet's Spitfire's Whiskey Teal MH (Stax) out of Cadron Ridge's Hunting Birds In The Snow And Rayne JH. Five boys, four girls. All are promised, and Brian Caldwell is keeping one of the boys so we may be seeing a second generation competing one of these days.



Speaking of babies, congratulations are in order for several ETRC members who are having human 'puppies'!

- ◆ **Nathan and Hayley Lamping** are expecting a son on/around March 13. Lincoln Nash will join older brother Brody in the Lamping family.
- ◆ **Tracey and Kyle Griffin,** who are expecting their first child, a son, in May.

Finishing off the baby news, Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce are expecting a grandson in mid July. The proud parents are McKenzie & Barry Henthorn of Auburn, GA. This will be their first child, and Karen and Jim's second grandchild overall.

Best wishes to everyone — So happy for everyone, wishing all the best !

**Minutes for Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 22, 2025
Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN**

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Jeff Rader, Lois Luthenauer, Bob Smith, Kyle Griffin

Absent, excused: Luke McCoy, work emergency

Members present: John Broucek; Cynthia Bruhin; Rick Fletcher; Jake Greenwell; Tracy Griffin; Bob Houston; Dick & Jolynn Lamping; Nate & Hayley Lamping; Brent, Macy, & Ben Naveiro; Zach & Tyra Pry; Nancy Rader; Donna Smith; Lisa Styles; Peter & Mara Torok; and Lisa Vencille.

Guests Present: Dr. Monica Webb & her husband Jason.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 19 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 67 (20% would be 14). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Monica Webb, DVM, Countryside Animal Clinic, Field Triage for Dogs.

Dr. Webb was introduced by President J. Michael Evans, who gave her a glowing recommendation. Much of her practice is devoted to hunting injuries, in addition to a regular small animal practice. J. Michael mentioned that she is his veterinarian and that his dog, Miss Ivy, owes her life to Dr. Webb's treatment.

Dr. Webb gave a very interesting presentation on the types of accidents that can occur out in the field. A rundown of her presentation with slides will be included in the April Newsletter.

In addition, Dr. Webb had prepared a field triage / emergency treatment kit that included a wide variety of bandaging materials, tools, and medications that she donated to the club as a door prize.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on last year's activities:

J. Michael Evans welcomed everyone, and introduced new members the Tara and Zach Pry, who joined in April 2024 and who have already attended a number of ETRC activities and volunteered to work.

He then gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year – which included 2 club trials (the fall one included live flyers and a picnic lunch), and 6 hunt tests including 4 single flight Master Only tests, a Quadruple Junior / Senior test, and a Fall test that included Master and double JH / SH tests. It was a very busy year beginning in early March and ending in Mid-November.

Michael mentioned that our upcoming year was also going to a big one with 6 hunt tests and 3 club trials, and urged people to volunteer to work. There will be just 3 Master Only tests this year, and these are pretty easy to put on – but for the tests that involve multiple setups (3 or 4 at a time) we desperately need people to help Marshal, set up, tear down, repair equipment, wrangle ducks, prepare lunches, and all the other things that go into putting on a big hunt test.

He also reminded people that there are some club perks for helping out at our tests. For members who have been members for at least a year, and who are running bitches - we will refund your entry fees for any test of ours that you enter, and your bitch goes into season and can't compete, without a vet certificate. If you work at one or more hunt tests or club trials for more than 8 hours total, you will

Minutes, Continued

be entitled at the end of the season to a refund of your entry to one hunt test that you participated in.

Michael called out several people and groups for special thanks:

- ◆ Ken Campbell & Brian Caldwell for letting us use their properties repeated times during the season for hunt tests and club trials.
- ◆ Members J. Michael Evans, Lois Luthenauer, Dick Lamping, Haley Shealy, and Lisa Vencille for judging some of our hunt tests this year;
- ◆ Cory and Elena Smith, for storing our club trailers and for taking care of leftover ducks in the ETRC duck pen on their property; and
- ◆ Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on December 11, 2024. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and were published in the January newsletter. I will be putting them up on the website during the next month. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence:

- ◇ AKC report due following conclusion of this meeting, identifying our new officers and board members.
- ◇ Recent renewal of our Club General Liability insurance policy. Price went up some to \$900 (from \$815) and we had to come up with a new liability statement that guests at our club trials must sign.
- ◇ The Annual report for the State of Tennessee is due soon, and tax information is due to our new tax accountant. Now that we are bringing in more than \$50,000 a year in gross income, we can no longer use the simple 'postcard' return that we have been able to use in the past.

Membership: Our current membership is 67 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and membership dues for 2025 are now due. A number of people renewed at the banquet.

Website, Newsletter and Facebook Page: We are continuing to try to improve our communications with members and people who might be interested in becoming members. Alan Bruhin is the Facebook page manager, and Karen Edwards deals with the Newsletter and website. Please, if you have news to share – a new puppy, a litter announcement, a new title, a dog passing – even important personal news like a new baby or a new spouse! – please let us know and we'd be happy to share the news.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/22/25 is \$42,735.63, which is almost \$5,000 more than we had at the same time last year (\$4,921.97). We actually made a little less money on our Hunt Tests this year, but spent less on new equipment. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year, from the start of our club fiscal year (3/1/24) to today. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the youth fund.

Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$3,500 including awards and food), \$2000 for ribbons that need to be ordered very soon, and around \$500 for our website annual fees. This will leave us with around \$36,000 to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher reported a new rule change that has taken place regarding time frames after exposure or recovery from communicable disease before a dog is allowed to show/ compete again. Previously there were no specified time frames; the rules specified only that the treating veterinarian's recommendations be followed; and there were no penalties for a

Minutes, Continued

person who brought dogs in anyway. The AKC Board has now voted to approve penalties for the offense of “knowingly” bringing a dog on event grounds within 30 days of displaying symptoms of a communicable disease, or within 14 days of being exposed to such a disease.

Also, the AKC board is considering some rule changes on how many entries an amateur handler can make under the ‘day early’ entry rule, and prohibit a judge from judging his or her own pro trainer if they have conducted business within a year. This rule change will be discussed further at the April AKC Board meeting. [*Editor’s Note: for more information , see the article on AKC Rule Changes elsewhere in this newsletter*]

Old Business

Election of New members: Mike Smith announced that ETRC has 6 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

- ◆ Jane & Scott Tully, Red Bank, TN: They have a young Golden Retriever in training with Jody Ware. Sponsors, Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce.
- ◆ Randy & Dianne Clark, Springfield, KY. They have recently moved here from the west coast, and Dianne is a hunt test judge. They ran Labradors in several of our hunt tests this past year. Sponsors were J. Michael Evans and Alan Bruhin.
- ◆ Luke & Julie Campbell, Apison, TN. They have two young Labradors. Sponsors are Jan Summer and Mike Smith.
- ◆ Jon & Taylor Osteen, Lenoir City, TN. Jon is a professional dog person, working with Heath Shuler and Mike Osteen on developing more dog facilities in the Knoxville / Loudon County area. Sponsors and Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans. These guys have attended a number of events this year and helped set up, shoot, and take down. Much appreciated.
- ◆ Mike & Allyson Osteen, Knoxville, TN. See above Sponsors and Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans.
- ◆ Caleb & Savannah Kirtner, Knoxville, TN. They have come to several of our events with their dogs this year and have helped as well. They are part of the Heath Shuler / Osteens group working to set up more dog training facilities. Sponsors are Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans.

Lois moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Bob Houston seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Upcoming Events Updates: As Michael Evans mentioned earlier, we have a full line-up of events for this coming year, and planning is already well underway. The newsletter carries the calendar of upcoming events every month, right at the top of the first page, with more details inside on events coming up during the month. Michael didn’t go over the entire schedule, but did note that our first event, a club trial, is coming up on March 9, from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m at Cory’s Smith’s farm in Sweetwater. There will be frozen ducks and dokkens, and we will try to make this as good practice for the upcoming hunt test season.

New Business:

Awards Presentations. [*Editor’s Note: for awards info and pictures, see the article on Awards elsewhere in this newsletter*]

Door Prizes: Alan Bruhin drew the numbers and Michael Evans passed out the prizes. Prizes included 4 certificates for free entry into Club Hunt Tests (up to a \$110 value each), 10 vouchers redeemable for an ETRC Tee shirt or hat (up to a \$25 value each); a platform dog bed, a car tire inflator, gloves for washing dogs, a decorative Labrador plaque; and many more items. The grand prize was the Field Triage kit donated by our guest speaker Dr. Monica Webb, which was won by Mara Torok.

Election of Officers/Board : The Slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee was presented for approval. There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the Bylaws, and nominations are now closed.

President: J. Michael Evans
Vice President: Alan Bruhin
Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
Board Member Feb 2025- Feb 2028: Luke McCoy
Board Member Feb 2025- Feb 2028: Nathan Lamping
Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
Past President: Mike Smith (non-elective)
Chief Marshall for 2025 tests: Donna Smith (non-elective)

Remaining on the board: Jim Pearce and Jeff Rader (2023-2026), Kyle Griffin & Bob Smith (through Feb 2027).

Thanks so much to Lois Luthenauer and Luke McCoy, whose terms are expiring, for your service and expertise these past years.

Michael Evans called for a Motion to approve the nominees by voice vote rather than secret ballot. This motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Lisa Styles, and Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Michael Evans then called for a Motion to approve the slate of officers and board members. The motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Jeff Rader, and passed unanimously.

Statement by President: J. Michael Evans, re-elected to a second term, again thanked everyone for coming.

Any other new business?

The Toroks graciously donated the field triage kit back to the club so that it could be used by anyone at any of our events, should that prove necessary. A very generous donation back, and J. Michael thanked the Toroks for their thoughtfulness.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Alan moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by numerous people, the vote passed unanimously, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

New AKC Rules – Dealing With Misconduct Effective 2/26/2025

[Editor's Note: This information is reprinted from an email sent out from AKC to member clubs on 2/22/25].

The health and wellbeing of all dogs at AKC events is paramount. After a review of the AKC Discipline Guidelines and in consultation with AKC's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Jerry Klein, the AKC Board of Directors approved two new offenses and associated penalties for individuals that **knowingly** bring dogs that have been diagnosed or exposed to communicable diseases on AKC event grounds. This change is not intended to punish the individual that arrives at an event with a healthy dog that subsequently becomes ill during the events and immediately removes the dog from the grounds. This change is intended to provide Event Committees with authority and recourse should an exhibitor knowingly bring a dog onto the event grounds that has been diagnosed or exposed to a communicable disease, putting other dogs on the grounds of the AKC event at risk. The Event Committee would need to have proof (e.g., diagnosis from a veterinarian, verbal acknowledgement by the exhibitor) of the diagnosis prior to attending the event in order to uphold the charges. The AKC Discipline Guidelines on the AKC website and in the *Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events* booklet will be updated to reflect the new offenses and penalties listed below:

Inappropriate Treatment of Animals

Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds within 30 days of displaying the first clinical signs of communicable disease.

Mitigated: 3mo/\$300

Standard: 6 mo/\$500

Aggravated: Up to life/up to \$10,000

Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds within 14 days of it being in contact with another dog displaying signs of communicable disease.

Mitigated: 1 mo/\$100

Standard: 3mo/\$300

Aggravated: Up to life/up to \$10,000

Proposed AKC Rules – Hunt Test Entries & Judging

The AKC Board reviewed a recommendation to allow two changes to be made to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* which are:

1. Establish the maximum number of dogs an amateur can handle or enter to three dogs per test when using the Amateur Set Aside program. *[Editor's Note: Amateurs can still enter more dogs at the regular opening time; this only applies to the number of dogs that can be entered a day early on the Amateur Set-Aside slots].*
2. Prohibit a judge from judging his or her professional trainer if they have conducted business within one year.

This will be discussed further at the April AKC Board meeting and if passed, we will provide further information in a later newsletter.

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

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).

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 XXV (for 2025). Newsletters are archived on the club Website, 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.