

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 11

November 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

2. February 21, 2026, Saturday — Annual Awards Banquet, Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville

Planning Now for our lineup of events for 2026!

Photo of the Month



Picture at our Fall Hunt Test. Photo credit: Donna Smith

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

ETRC Newsletter

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President's Message — By J. Michael Evans



Editor's Note: our fearless leader is judging at the Master National so didn't get a chance to prepare a message this month. Best wishes, Michael, don't work too hard!

Judges' Training Deadline for Taking the Required Course on Preventing Child Abuse

AKC is now requiring all judges in all AKC disciplines to take an important continuing education course on preventing child abuse, Stewards of Children. The September 30, 2025 deadline for all judges to complete this training has come and gone. Now, any event application will be put in a pending status until all judges have taken the course or have been replaced.

To verify a specific judge's status regarding the completion of this training, please contact Connie Thomas at 919-816-3907 or Christy Slikas at 919-816-3308 in Performance Events and they will be happy to assist you.

There is a shorter version of this training available which is less than an hour to complete., and it can be used to satisfy this education requirement. This shorter course, "From Bystander to Up-stander" can be accessed by contacting Chelsea Horton at 919-816-3457 or judgecompliance@akc.org for an access code. Any judge who has not completed the course by December 30, 2025 will be placed on the inactive list and will no longer be able to judge AKC Events.

According to AKC. As of October 1, 2025 only 38% of Field Trial judges and 32% of eligible Hunt Test Judges have completed the training. With the shortage of qualified judges we currently face, we simply cannot afford to lose any of you — Please Don't Delay! It's easy to ignore and say I'm not taking the course, but please have enough respect for this game we love to bite the bullet and complete the training. Our game needs your support, and it needs it now!

If this training prevents just one incident of abuse, the invested time will have saved an innocent minor of a lifelong horror of hell. Think about that and don't say you're too busy or just won't make the effort. We are all better than that. Be part of the solution, get your training done!

Report — East Tennessee Retriever Club 2025 Fall Hunt Test

Our final Hunt Test for 2025 is in the books! This was the 6th test we have run this year, for a total of 5 flights of Master, 5 of Senior and five of Junior. Test dates were Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19.

This test was a single flight of Master combined with double Junior and double Senior tests. We were at Lucky 7 Ranch again, with all those beautiful fields and ponds. The weather on Saturday was about perfect, in the low 50s in the morning rising to about 80 by 3:00 and then falling again as the day wore on. Sunday, however, was a bit of a challenge, with cooler temperatures and squally conditions with periodic rain and challenging winds at times.

Thanks as always to our judges — Mike Greer and Rocky Jones handled the Master Stake. On Saturday, Senior judges were Robert Shell and Kenny West, and Junior judges were Clint Catledge and Paula Johnson. On Sunday, these two teams swapped stakes. The bird techs were again members of the Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society, and as always were just beyond excellent. The judges commented that they were the best bird techs they have worked with this year.

Also, thanks to the many ETRC members who helped set up and run the tests, made lunches, marshalled, dealt with ducks, served as ribbon marshal, etc. — it takes a pretty dedicated group of people to put on 6 tests a year and we really appreciate all the people who step up time after time to help out.

There were a total of 191 entries in the test. At Master, 61 dogs signed up but there were 7 scratches (lots of bitches in season and one sick dog). This left a total of 54 dogs who came to the line in the first series, and 26 who completed all three series successfully.



September Hunt Test, Continued

ETRC members / dogs who passed the Master stake were:

- ◆ Spitfire's Whiskey Teal MH, owned by Janet Summers and handled by Brian Caldwell.
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH40 MAH AND Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH. Both dogs are bred, owned, and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- ◆ Razor's Coal Cotton, owned by Mike Smith and handled by Donna Smith.
- ◆ GRHRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH40, owned and handled by J. Michael Evans.
- ◆ Indy's Mini Cooper of the Clindy Clan, bred and owned by Donna and Mike Smith and handled by Brian Caldwell.



The Senior stake on Saturday had 14 entries, with one scratch, and 10 who passed. ETRC members and dogs that passed were:

- ◆ Fern Hill Kepes Arany Sugar SH, a Golden Retriever owned and handled by Peter Torok;
- ◆ SHR Waylon's Harley Under The Shade, owned and handled by Zachary Pry.
- ◆ Dicks High Flying Lazer Teal, owned and handled by Dick Lamping.
- ◆ Troup's Ain't Nuttin' Fancy JH, owned and handled by Ryan Troup.

Senior on Sunday had 13 entires (Peter Torok had to go home) and one scratch. 6 dogs passed. Successful ETRC member dogs were:

- ◆ SHR Waylon's Harley Under the Shade; owned and handled by Zachary Pry;
- ◆ Troup's Ain't Nuttin' Fancy JH, owned and handled by Ryan Troup.

Several of these people earned their Senior title this weekend — see pictures and brags later in this newsletter.



September Hunt Test, Continued

Junior on Saturday had 15 entries and 10 dogs passed. Successful ETRC members and their dogs were:

- ◆ Troup's Cold Hard Cash, owned and handled by Ryan Troup.

On Sunday, Junior had 16 entries and 10 passed. ETRC dogs passing were:

- ◆ Wingmaster Ziggy Stardust RN CGC CGCA CGCU, a Flat Coat Retriever owned by Rick and Donna Post and handled by Rick.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, and particularly to those who handled their dogs to a pass!



Statistics on entries — 91 different dogs including 60 Labradors, 17 Goldens, 12 Flatcoated Retrievers, and 2 Poodles. . The youngest dog, a Labrador, was born February 18, 2025 so was just 8 months of age. The oldest was a Poodle born April 14, 2014, a sprightly 11 and a half years old. 47 were females, 44 were males.

Member News & Brags

New Titles!



ETRC Member Dick Lamping and Dick's High Flying Lazer Teal earned their Senior Hunter title on Saturday at our Fall Hunt test. Congratulations Dick and Teal!



East Tennessee Retriever Club member Robert White and JJ's Troublesome Lady Spitfire SH ("Lady") got her Senior Title at the Fall Line Retriever Club Test in Lincolnnton, Ga October 5th ! Congratulations Robert and Lady!



Pictured at right is Zach Pry and new Senior Hunter HR Waylon's Harley Under the Shade SH. They earned this title at the ETRC Fall Hunt Test. Zach is the owner along with his wife Tyra, and did all the handling. Congratulations Zach and



Update on ETRC's Master National Participants

The Master National Invitational Hunt Test is being held this year in Bastrop, Texas (Lee County). The event runs from Thursday, October 30 to Sunday, November 9, 2025.

Our very own President, J. Michael Evans, has been selected as one of the judges for this prestigious event. Quoted below is his Bio which is up on the Master National 'Meet the Judges' page.' We are proud of you, Michael!



It's amazing what a single, well-trained dog will bring into your life.

I would like to thank my peers in Region 2 for selecting me as a Judge for this event and to say its humbling is an understatement.

My love for dogs came at a very early age. My father bred, owned, trained, and handled beagles. After his passing, I was introduced to waterfowl and have been in-love with it ever since. I got my first Labrador Retriever at the age of 20 and have never looked back. I

ran my first hunt test over 21 years ago with my 11-year-old "meat dog" and was hooked! I feel so blessed by the experiences and friends I've made since then. I'm currently the President of the East Tennessee Retriever Club and live in Knoxville, TN.

Teamwork is of paramount importance in this sport and there is nothing like watching a dog and handler come to the line as a team, work out the kinks and succeed. My goal as a judge is to find that kind of challenge in every setup. I've been an AKC Judge for 15+ years and have been honored to have handled my dogs in Junior, Senior, Master, Master National and HRC Grand tests. I love judging because I learn something new at every test and I'm so grateful for the opportunity. I know all of the hard work you have put in over the past year, I know the commitment it takes and I'm anxious to see it pay off for all of you.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the professional trainers who have mentored, coached, and guided me through training and running my dogs. Thank You to Tammy and Mike Pierce and Jody Ware for all you have given me throughout the years. Without your friendships, guidance, and tutelage I would have given up long ago.

I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. What a true honor it is to evaluate the best dog and handler teams from across the country. Best of luck!

J. Michael Evans

Congratulations and Best Wishes to ETRC's 2025 Master National Competitors:

In Flight B:

- ◆ Alan Bruhin with 2 dogs, #B98 Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH25 MAH and #B103 Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH.

In Flight G:

- ◆ Andy Buck with 2 dogs, #G96 Coosawatte Backwater Drake MH, and #G6 Moon Over The Coosawattee MH.
- ◆ Dianne Clark with #G90 Ranmars North Bound Train MH, MAR.
- ◆ Randy Clark with #G118 Rattlin Ridges Willin O Ranmar MH MNH MAH.

ETRC's Master National Participants, Continued

- ◆ Dennis Wilcox with 4 dogs, #G38 Chosen Spots Black Ice Warning MH; #G43 Chosen Spots Irish Nobleman MH, #G48 Chosen Spots Splash of Tequila MH, and #G53 Rsr's Leader Of The Pack MH. However, Ice has been scratched. He is recovering from a broken neck sustained in a training accident. Best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery!
- ◆ Pro member Brian Caldwell with Bob Smith's dog #G64 L7 Troublesomewhataboutbob MH, and 2 other non-member client dogs.
- ◆ Pro member Jody Ware with dogs owned by Rhey Houston, #G31 Crosspoint's Blindside Blitz MH, John Broucek & Jeff Coffey #G16 Troublesome Fowl Addiction MH; and Jeff Coffey #G11 Troublesome Lucky On Heads MH, plus 2 other non-member client dogs. Jody is also listed as running one of Andy Buck's two dogs (see above).

In Flight H:

- ◆ Pro member Melissa Dobson with 3 of her own dogs (#H20 Southern Comforts Crack Shot MH, #H30 Southern Comforts Run Your Tail Off MH, and #H60 Southern Comforts Painted With A Punch MH) and 9 non-member client dogs.

The first series began on Friday, October 31, 2025. No callbacks are listed yet as of the morning of November 1, but you can check Callbacks for each series later [HERE](https://masternational.org/events/2025-master-national/):

<https://masternational.org/events/2025-master-national/>.

We wish the very best to everyone on all aspects of this big adventure — the lengthy road trip out there, the days of training beforehand, the long days of testing, and the trip back home. Stay safe and healthy, and do good work! Oh, and best wishes for success!

If I missed anyone, please let me know. And all of you, after your return please send pics and info!



Youth Program



2022 Award Recipient, Bella Martin

The Luthenauer Young Handler program was established as a memorial to ETRC member Kevin Luthenauer. The program is supported by generous contributions from family and friends to encourage youth participation in retriever sports. Kids who are interested in applying are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm.

There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees and any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

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

ETRC Membership Information

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

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

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

The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year.

Newsletter / Facebook / 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.

