

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 7

July 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

Photo of the Month



Master Amateur Success! Congratulations, Michael Evans and Ivy, and Alan Bruhin and Cin!

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President's Message — By J. Michael Evans

Hoping everyone is having an amazing summer so far. After this week there is no doubt we are waist deep into the summer swelter! With few tests or club activities this month the President's message will be short but I want to take time to pass along something we should ALL be on the lookout for: heat related injury to your dog.

This is something that can happen quickly and in some cases, fatally. Both AKC and Dr. Monica Webb with Countryside Veterinary have outlined what to look for when out with your dog in extreme heat.

Signs of heat stroke can be heavy panting, rapid breathing, excessive drooling, bright red gums and tongue, standing 4-square, posting or spreading out in an attempt to maintain balance. They also advise that if you believe your dog is suffering from heatstroke, get them into a cool environment right away such as an air conditioned truck or room.

If neither are readily available, immerse your dog in "cool" water—DO NOT use ice cold water, it can shock your dog's system and do further harm. Use cool water in areas where blood flows heavily, i.e. the pads of their feet, the groin area, and their jugular vein. Cool wet towels can also be used to lower your dog's body temperature. Isopropyl alcohol rubbed on these same areas, including the tummy, can help pull the heat out as well.

Get your dog to a vet as soon as possible! Your dog may look like it is responding to the cooling techniques but could suffer internal injury. It is best to have them examined to rule out any complications.

Please be prepared for any such incident. Do not wait until it happens to plan for it. You don't have to be training hard in these most recent temps for this to happen. A long walk or rambunctious play can trigger heat stroke. Be vigilant and pay attention to your dog and how it is acting. The ETRC has a lot planned for our 4-legged family members this Fall and we want ALL of them to be there for the fun.

If any of you are testing this month, best of luck! Don't forget to send Karen Edwards a "Brag" and a picture so we can all celebrate your success in the newsletter. Also send any interesting or funny pics to Karen and to Alan Bruhin for our Facebook page, it's how we get new folks interested in our organization. Safe training everyone and we will see you soon!



Report — Double JH / SH Hunt Test May 31-June 1, 2025, Hiwassee Reserve

Our spring season finished out May 31-June 1 with our fourth hunt test of the year. This was a double Junior, double Senior test at the Hiwassee Reserve. We lucked out again on the weather — although rain had been predicted earlier in the week, it did not materialize and we had partly sunny skies and moderate temperatures with highs in the upper 70s. We finished around 2:30 each day as well, which meant the temperatures were pretty comfortable throughout.

We had 99 entries in total, with 55 individual dogs entered. Breakdown was 37 Labradors, 10 Golden Retrievers, five Flatcoats, 2 Chessies, and a Toller. Our judges on Saturday for Junior were Korrie Manning and Kent Butler, and Senior judges were Tony Hartnett and ETRC's own Lisa Vencille. Because of the land limitations caused by sharecropping, both tests both days had to share the same pond, which had extremely high cover on the banks, and there were only three available land areas we could use — all of them with their own challenges either logistically for the humans, or challenging terrain for the dogs. Because of the lower number of entries in the Junior test both days, Junior was asked to start on the water each day. This made delays in running the test less likely, but did mean that some Junior handlers who flunked out on the water (which is where Junior dogs usually fail) did not get to pick up even one bird for their entry fee. Sorry, guys — running at Hiwassee is getting tougher and tougher!



Setting up the Senior Water Series, Saturday 5/31/25. Judges Lisa Vencille & Tony Hartnett; Alan Bruhin watching; Brent Naveiro moving ducks; Jim Pearce with test dog Fern Hill Fiona McCool SH.

Thanks to the judges, and to our great bird techs from the Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society who did a great job as always. Thanks also to the set up crew on Friday afternoon and during the test (Mike Evans, Mike Smith, Peter Torok, Jim Pearce, Brent Naveiro, Zack Price, Dick and Nate Lamping, and any others that I missed), to Michele Fletcher for serving as hunt test secretary while running her two dogs in Senior; to our Chief Steward and photographer Donna Smith; to the stake stewards Lois Luthenauer and Janet Summers, to several relief stewards who filled in but I am not sure who all of you were, to Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce for the lunches, managing the ribbons, and handling payments (Karen); and to everyone not mentioned above who came and helped both before, during, and after the test.

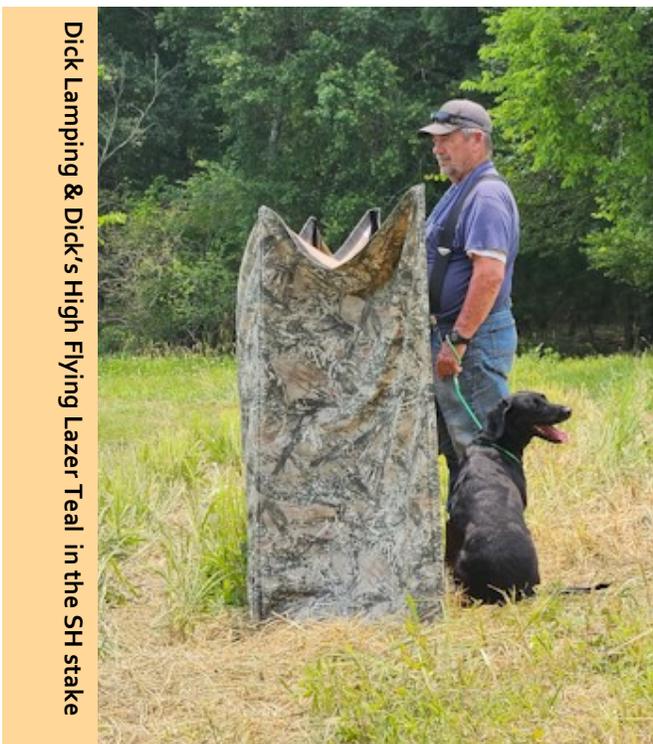
Junior Saturday: The first series involved a bird across the pond and another bird down the bank. The main difficulty in this test was the length of the swim across the pond which provided daunting for some of the dogs. The land series involved two short ish marks on a fallow crop field right next to the road going to the back of the reserve. There were 21 entries on Sunday and 2 scratches, so 19 dogs came to the line. Eight dogs passed. Neither of the ETRC members and their dogs passed this very difficult test.

Senior Saturday. The land series was behind the equipment shed, involving a swale between two high points of land, with partial mowing strips running mostly perpendicular to the running lines. The terrain made for a very meaty test! The water series involved a duck dropped in the water behind a partially submerged tree and another bird on the bank farther along in high cover. The blind involved

May 31-June 1 Hunt Test , Continued

a lengthy cheaty swim along the bank and a blind planted in high cover on the shore that was challenging for the dogs to dig out. 27 dogs came to the line, and 16 passed. Passing ETRC owned dogs and their owners/handlers were:

- ◆ Gus The Ol' Goose Getter, a Lab owned & handled by Brent Naveiro;
- ◆ Troup's Ain't Nuttin' Fancy JH, a Lab owned & handled by Ryan Troup;
- ◆ Thistle Rocks Amber Waves JH, a Golden owned & handled by Michele Fletcher;
- ◆ SHR HR Waylon's Harley Under The Shade, a Lab owned & handled by Zachary Pry;
- ◆ Calamity Jane's Special Brew JH MXB MJB MXF T2B, a Golden bred, owned and handled by Michele Fletcher;
- ◆ RoddyDogs Winston Churchill, a Lab owned by Tom Gavin and handled by Bob Smith;
- ◆ Dick's High Flying Lazer Teal, a Lab owned & handled by Dick Lamping;
- ◆ Fern Hill I Mint To Do That JH, a Golden bred & owned by Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce and handled by Jim; and
- ◆ JJ's Troublesome Lady Spitfire, a Lab owned & handled by Richard White.



Junior Sunday: Again starting with water, 23 dogs were entered and 22 came to the line, with 15 passing. The water series involved a shorter swim, and the land series was on a slightly longer patch of land than the day before. Passing ETRC Members and their dogs were:

- ◆ Troup's Cold Hard Cash, owned and handled by Ryan Troup;
- ◆ Cowan's Cask Strength Whiskey, owned and handled by Ronnie Cowan.

Senior Sunday: The land series was along a one-way road which made it difficult getting in and out of the test are for cars and trucks, but was otherwise an interesting test. One mark was placed to the right of the dirt road where it curved to the left, and many of the dogs had to be handled to that mark because they tended to follow the road. Great mark placement for a Senior test with limited terrain challenges otherwise! The water series was again back on the same overgrown pond. 28 dogs were entered with 4 scratched. 11 dogs passed. Passing ETRC Members and their dogs were:

May 31-June 1 Hunt Test , Continued

- ◆ Cadron Ridge’s Hunting Birds In The Snow and Rayne JH, owned by Janet Summers and handled by Bob Smith;
- ◆ RoddyDogs Winston Churchill, a Lab owned by Tom Gavin and handled by Bob Smith;
- ◆ Troup’s Ain’t Nuttin’ Fancy JH, a Lab owned & handled by Ryan Troup;
- ◆ Thistle Rocks Amber Waves JH, a Golden owned & handled by Michele Fletcher; and
- ◆ Calamity Jane’s Special Brew JH MXB MJB MXF T2B, a Golden bred, owned and handled by Michele Fletcher.



Three Generations! Donna & Michael Smith, with their son Ryan Smith (back left), and their grandchildren Graham, Clara Kay and Adelyn Ryckman who got to see their first hunt test on Sunday.



ETRC members at the Senior Stake — Michele Fletcher & Amber (Chai?), Jim Pearce with Mint, and Bob Smith with a client dog.



Ribbon Ceremony, Junior Hunter 6/1/25, with judges Lisa Vencille & Tony Hartnett



Ribbon Ceremony, Senior Hunter 6/1/25: left to right, Andy Buck, judges Korrie Manning & Kent Butler, Karen Edwards, & Bob Smith

A New Way To Communicate: GroupMe for ETRC

By Jim Pearce

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

ETRC At the Master Amateur

The 2025 Master Amateur Invitational National Hunt Test was held in Waterville, Maine from June 22 to June 29. ETRC was well represented! Attending were Alan Bruhin with Jack and Cin, and J. Michael Evans with Miss Ivy. Michael's dog, Ivy, passed her first Master Amateur Test and Alan's dog, Cin, passed her third Master Amateur achieving the title of Master Amateur Hunter. Big congratulations to the four of you!

This was not an easy test. 161 dogs entered the test, and only 68 passed, for a 42% passing percentage. Successful dogs had to pass six challenging series during the week, and the temperatures ranged from mid 50s to high 90s, adding another dimension of difficulty to an already difficult test. At least it didn't rain, although probably that would have felt pretty good on those days when the temperature got up to 98.

Out of these 161 dogs, there were 124 Labrador Retrievers, 27 Golden Retrievers, four Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, 2 Flat Coated Retrievers, one Boykin Spaniel, one Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, and one Poodle. AND, TWO ETRC MEMBERS!

**Alan Bruhin with Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball
MH MAH**



**Michael Evans with HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth
Delta Queen MH**



Member News, Announcements, Brags



NEW TITLE! Fern Hill I Mint To Do That SH, bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, earned her final SH passes at the North Mississippi Summer Hunt Test on June 7 & 8. Other passes were with Jim at ETRC's test on May 31, and with Jody back in April at the Deer River TN Spring Test, just before going into heat. Mint is the daughter of Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH by Wynwood's Over The Top QA2 MH WCX CCA.

NEW TITLE! Cadron Ridge's Hunting Birds In The Snow and Rayne SH, owned by Janet Summers, earned her Senior Hunter title on June 1, 2025, at ETRC's Double JH / SH Hunt Test at the Hiwassee Reserve. Rayne is just back from whelping a nice size litter of 8 puppies a month ago. Rayne was handled to her title by Janet, Bob Smith, and Brian Caldwell, proving her willingness to work with a variety of handlers. Congratulations, Janet & Rayne!

ONE BLACK LAB MALE PUPPY AVAILABLE

Sire: FC AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits (Percy) QA2

Dam: Dream Chaser's Tip of the Spear (Chrome) QA2 MH.

Percy has 6 All Age wins in 2024 including a Double Header. He qualified for the 2023 & 2024 National Retriever Championship & the 2024 and 2025 National Amateur. He was the #2 High Point Amateur dog & was High Point male for 2024.

Chrome QA2 at 2 ½ yrs; AKC MH, working on HRCH. She runs like a rocket and handles like a dream. She's steady at the line, quiet in the blind and will hunt for a lost bird until recalled. She has a great sense of humor, an outstanding family dog but all work when the boots come out.

Priority given to competitive homes. 26 month health guarantee. Born: 02 Jun 25, available week of 21 Jul 25, St Louis area. Contact Lois Luthenauer for more information at 865-803-1187



Rayne earns her Senior Hunter Title!
Photo credit — Donna Smith

Youth Program



2022 Award Recipient, Bella Martin

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

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

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

ETRC Membership Information

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

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

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

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

Newsletter / Facebook Info

NEWSLETTER: The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, usually on the 1st of the month. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs, items and services, death notices, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items to newsletter editor Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).

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

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