

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 6

June 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

Photo of the Month



May Midweek Master Test — Dick Lamping and Lucy Bella and Lucy Bella Grace head for the line.

Photo credit to Donna Smith, May 14, 2025

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

ETRC Newsletter

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

Well, we've made it through an incredibly busy month of May. We had an amazing mid-week Master on the 13th & 14th, a successful Club Trial on the 18th and our Spring double Junior/Senior on the 31st and June 1st. First let me say Thank You to Brian Caldwell for allowing us to use his property for both the mid-week Master and the Club Trial. He not only opened his property to anyone who came but he also cooked the hamburgers for lunch! The participation was impressive and congratulations to all who earned ribbons in any event this month. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of the help we had for these events. Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Karen Edwards, Peter Torok, Brent Naveiro, Lois Luthenaeur, Bob Smith, Janet Summers, Dick Lamping, Nate Lamping, David Knott and a host of others I'm sure I've overlooked. Without these folks, and others, we would have never been able to pull all of this together. Thank you for all you do for the club!

Now that May is behind us we get a few months off before we get cranked back up in September. However, the Board will still be meeting and working on the rest of the year and we will tackle questions about improving our hunt test schedule, replacing/repairing existing equipment, our upcoming Fall hunt tests and more. If anyone has questions, concerns or ideas please do not hesitate to reach out to a Board member and pass them along. We appreciate ANY input from members!

With that being said, I wish you all a happy, safe summer. Take care in your training, be cautious of the temperatures and make sure your number one priority is the health and safety of your four-legged family member(s).

J. Michael Evans
President ETRC

The July Newsletter will have results and pictures from our Junior—Senior hunt test held on May 31—June 1. Too late to make the deadline for the June edition!

Best wishes to J. Michael and Miss Ivy (HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH), and to Alan Bruhin with Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH and Tennessee Gentleman Jack at the Master Amateur in Maine, which starts June 22.



Report — ETRC Club Trial #2 May 18, 2025, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our second club trial of the season was held on Sunday, May 18. This was a rain date from the original scheduled time of April 6 when we got rained out. Although the forecast earlier in the week looked dire, by the time the weekend rolled around, only a very slight chance of rain was in the forecast and it did not materialize. Instead, it was sunny and slightly on the warm side, with temperatures in the low 80s as the day wore on.



At the cookout: Left to right: Dick & Jolynn Lamping; Robert White; Janet Summers, Brian Caldwell (behind Janet); Scott Corum; Alan Bruhin; Ryan Troup; Andy Buck (sitting), David Knott, Zach & Tyra Pry; Pam Buck (sitting); Ronnie Cowan; unknown guest, J. Michael Evans; Michele Fletcher; guest of the Buck's (sitting); Colton Cross. Not pictured: Peter Torok, Bob & Gay Coffin, Kenny McCormick, Nate Lamping, Jim Pearce (photographer).

Along with the various stakes, this event also featured a cookout! The club provided hamburgers and fixings, Janet Summers brought along a pasta entrée, various other members supplied desserts or other dishes, and Brian provided the venue inside his covered, open air barn.

Members were able to reserve up to two live flyers (one per dog) at no charge, and members were also able to enter two stakes with no entry fees. Fees for non-members, and if people wanted to enter more than two stakes, were \$5 for puppy classes and \$10 for everything else. Live ducks were only available for members.

Thanks to Brian for hosting the event and for Janet for spearheading the cookout. Also thanks to the gunners and people who helped out in the field to set up and judge this trial, and to the duck wranglers for their hard and dirty work. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share, and to the hamburger cooks. Three new members/families joined at this event — welcome to all! We look forward to getting to know you and your dogs.

Club Trial #2, Continued

Results were as follows:

Singles Classic: 19 dogs entered. Results were as follows:

First place: Jack, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin
Second place: Ivy, owned and handled by J. Michael Evans
Third place: Cin, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin
Fourth place: Bo, owned and handled by new member Kenny McCormick

JAMS:

- Bootsy, owned and handled by David Knott;
- Lady, owned and handled by Robert White;
- Chai, owned and handled by Michele Fletcher
- Rainy, owned and handled by new member Scott Corum

Master Stake: 11 dogs entered. Passing were:

- Stax, owned and handled by Janet Summers
- Drake, owned and handled by Andy Buck
- Teal, owned and handled by Dick Lamping
- Ivy, owned and handled by J. Michael Evans
- Cin, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin
- Jack, also owned and handled by Alan Bruhin
- Bootsy, owned and handled by David Knott
- Bisquit, owned and handled by new member Colton Cross

Senior Stake: 12 dogs entered. Passing were:

- Amber, owned and handled by Michele Fletcher;
- Tank, owned and handled by new member Gay Coffin
- Fancy, owned and handled by Ryan Troup
- Lady, owned and handled by Robert White
- Whiskey, owned and handled by new member Ronnie Cowan
- Wren, owned and handled by Nate Lamping
- Teal, owned and handled by Dick Lamping

Advanced Junior Stake: (double mark, no blind). 1 dog entered and passed:

- Whiskey, owned and handled by Ronnie Cowan

Junior Stake: one dog entered but did not pass.

Senior Puppy Stake:

1st Place: Johnny, owned and handled by Ryan Troup

Financial information:

We took in \$95 in entry fees. Costs included the price of the hamburgers, the ducks, and drinks and ice provided by the club.

Congratulations everyone! It was a great opportunity to train and see where your dogs are with respect to your training. We plan to have our third and final club trial in the fall, tentatively scheduled for September 21. This event will also include our summer picnic and summer general Business meeting. The location is set for the beautiful Lucky 7 Ranch.



Report on ETRC's May Midweek Master Hunt Test May 13-14, 2025, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our third hunt test of the 2025 season was held in mid-May at Brian Caldwell's farm. We did have a little bit of rain, but not as much as was predicted so we counted ourselves lucky. This was a Mid-Week Master test with a single flight of 66 dogs.



Brian Caldwell to the line

Our judges for this event were Beth Trudel and Cathi Blackburn. They did a nice job setting up a test that was meaty but time-efficient, using the two ponds on Bryan's farm and the grassy areas around the bigger pond. Thanks to them, and to Brian for the use of his land. Also thanks to our great bird techs from the Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society who did a great job as always; to the set up crew on Monday afternoon and during the test, to Michele Fletcher, our brilliant hunt test secretary; to our Chief Steward and photographer Donna Smith; and to everyone who came and helped both before, during, and after the test. Good to see long-time member David Knott here, on a visit from Tennessee from his current home in Pennsylvania on the NJ border!

64 dogs came to the line and 43 passed. Passing ETRC member dogs and their handlers were:

- ◆ HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH, owned & handled by J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Lick Creek On The Money MH, owned by Lisa & Mike Vencille, handled by Mike
- ◆ Spitfire's Whiskey Teal MH, owned by Janet Summers, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Evans Million May, owned and handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Blythe Ferry's Indy Dos MH, owned by Donna and Mike Smith, handled by Donna
- ◆ Indy's Mini Cooper of the Clindy Clan, owned by Donna & Michael Smith, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ RanMar's North Bount Train MH, owned by Dianne Clark & Addison Pelan, handled by Dianne
- ◆ The Money's In Sales MH "Bootsy", owned by David Knott, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Razor's Coal Cotton, owned by Mike Smith, handled by Donna
- ◆ McCoy's Precious Gem Of The South, owned by Luke McCoy, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Lucy Bella Grace, owned by JoLynn Lamping, handled by Dick Lamping
- ◆ FC AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits QA2 ("Percy"), owned and handled by John Broucek.

Mike Smith & Co.



May 13-14 Hunt Test , Continued



Above — the judges' tent , May 13 — the judges, HT Secy Michele Fletcher, & Dick Lamping at the line. Left: holding blinds for the third series, May 14.



Middle — Alan Bruhin coming to the line; holding blinds & gallery for the third series. Bottom: The gallery on May 13.



Member News, Announcements, Brags



Puppies have all gone home!

Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce are now free again to do more of the things we usually do at hunt tests and other club events. Having puppies is so much fun, but after 7+ weeks we are quite ready to hand them off to their new owners and get our lives back. All of them have gone to strong competition homes, and we are looking forward to hearing how they develop, and to follow their careers in hunt testing and possibly field trialing.



One puppy has gone to California, where she will live with two other Fern Hill Goldens. One is in Morehead City, NC, one in Maryland, and one in Poughkeepsie, NY.



This was Py's last litter (Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH), and the sire was Heads Up Larger Than Life MH26 MNH WCX.



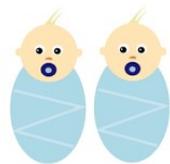
More Human Babies!



Congratulations to Kyle and Tracy Griffin on the birth of their son Hunter (picture at left) on May 16. Tracey and Hunter are both doing fine, and Kyle says he is already thinking about chasing ducks!

Congratulations to Lois Luthenauer on the birth of a granddaughter (her first) in April. She was quite premature, but is doing well and growing nicely!

Congratulations also to Alan Bruhin, who is a grandfather again! His son and wife just had twin boys, joining their older son who just turned two. Babies are named Jack and Leo. Alan says he is teasing them about naming one after his dog.



Study on Hip Dysplasia from puppy bedding

Editor's Note: This article is based on a study conducted by Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, California, and reported in the journal Animals Journal, January 2025. Author is Lynna Feng et al. Thanks to John Broucek for providing a link to this article!

CANINE HIP DYSPLASIA (CHD) remains a challenging and costly orthopedic condition affecting many retrievers, significantly impacting their quality of life and careers, especially in working and performance dogs. Recent research from Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDBO in San Rafael, California, suggests that a surprisingly simple intervention during early puppyhood — changing the bedding in the puppy whelping box — can significantly reduce the incidence of CHD.

In a retrospective study covering seven years and involving over 5,600 dogs, including Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Labrador—Golden Retriever crosses, researchers examined the effects of whelping box bedding materials used during the puppies' critical first three weeks of life. Historically, puppies at GDB were whelped on newspapers, but in 2016 the organization switched to fleece-lined pools, using veterinary grade fleece with non-slip backing.

The findings were notable. Puppies raised on fleece flooring showed significantly lower rates of CHD diagnosis compared to those raised on newspaper — just 0.35% versus 1.94%, respectively. Interestingly, the fleece lining was associated with fewer diagnoses despite similar hip laxity scores (PennHIP), suggesting that the type of early flooring could influence how hip joints develop or compensate over time, potentially reducing clinical dysplasia signs.

Breed-specific differences were clear: Golden Retrievers were most prone to CHD, followed by Labrador-Golden Retriever crosses, with Labrador Retrievers showing the lowest risk overall. The study found no differences in CHD diagnosis rates between male and female dogs, although males tended to have lower PennHIP scores, indicating tighter hips.

These findings reinforce previous research indicating the importance of early environmental factors in orthopedic health. Similar studies have shown that puppies raised on non-slippery surfaces tend to have fewer orthopedic issues. The critical period from birth to three weeks appears especially sensitive to environmental influence on joint development.

For dog breeders and trainers, the take-home message is clear: replacing slippery flooring with a fleece-lined or similarly non-slip surface during the neonatal period could substantially reduce the risk of hip dysplasia. This easy, low-cost intervention can potentially save breeders and trainers thousands of dollars in veterinary costs and improve the quality of life and career success of their puppies.

Given that CHD remains a complex and multifactorial condition with genetic and environmental components, combining this flooring intervention with conscientious genetic selection provides a robust approach to further decreasing CHD in retrievers and other at-risk breeds.



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 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.