

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXV, Issue 5

May 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. May 13-14, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's Farm
2. May 18, Sunday: rain date for Club Trial #2 & Cookout — LIVE DUCKS — Caldwell Farm 9 a.m.
3. May 31-June 1, Saturday—Sunday, Double JH / Double SH Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA
4. September 9-10, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only, Lucky 7 Ranch
5. September 21, Sunday: Club trial #3, picnic, summer business meeting, Lucky 7 Ranch
6. October 18-19, Saturday—Sunday: Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, 2 JH, 2 SH, Master, Lucky 7 Ranch

Photo of the Month



Spring Hunt Test Competitor in the water — Dog #12, Junior -- Passion's Something In the Orange "Bru", 11/2/23, M GR, Heike Stroup

Photo credit to Lois Luthenauer, who was marshalling the Junior Stake, April 26, 2025

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

I hope everyone is having a magnificent Spring so far. Hunt tests are taking place all over the country, Turkey season is in full swing and the weather is warming up quickly.

With that being said, we have had a wonderful start to our hunt test season and have plenty more coming this month. Our mid-week Master is May 13th & 14th, our rescheduled club trial is May 18th and our double Junior/Senior is May 31st & June 1st. Lots of fun for every level of handler/dog teams to choose from.

Whether you plan on participating in the tests or not, please make plans to join us for the club trial. We will be setting up Singles Classic, Junior, Advanced Junior, Senior, Master and puppy stakes. It will most likely be warm so bring plenty of water for you and your furry family member, sunscreen and a chair. We will have ribbons for qualifiers and shirts for sale at the club trailer.

This is a family event so bring significant others, children and family pets to enjoy the day with other club members. A cookout is also planned, so if you would like, bring a dish to share. We should also have some live ducks, so be sure to RSVP if you want your dog to have a live flyer. Free to members, one per dog up to a maximum of two.

To everyone who has qualified at any test, at any level this Spring, CONGRATULATIONS! I look forward to seeing you in the field.



FINAL CALL: Renew Your Membership in ETRC for 2025

Our club membership year runs from March 1 to February 28th (or 29th). It's time to renew if you haven't already! This is your last newsletter if you haven't renewed by May 31. If you decide not to renew, 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, the annual banquet, 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 May Midweek Master AKC Hunt Test May 13-14, 2025, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our next hunt test of the season is a Midweek Master test at Brian Caldwell's on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 13-14. Judges are Beth Trudel and Catherine Blackburn. Entries are open now and spaces are still available; the test closes on Monday, May 5 at midnight. Contact J. Michael Evans for a code & to volunteer to work: text him at 865-824-8638 or call and leave a message.

How to get to Brian's Farm:

The address is 1810 State Highway 58 South, Georgetown, TN, near Cleveland and Decatur and not far from Dayton, TN. If you don't have a GPS, here are some more detailed instructions:

- ◆ From Interstate 75, take exit 49 for TN-30 towards Decatur.
- ◆ Follow TN-30W for 9.3 miles into the stop light in Decatur
- ◆ Turn left onto TN-58S. Stay on this road for 15 miles and turn left into Brian's property. This is just after going up a hill, so be prepared to turn in a hurry as you approach the hill.

There will be "ETRC" signs at the entrance and the gate will be open.

SOON!

ETRC JUNIOR /SENIOR DOUBLE AKC Hunt Test May 31—June 1, 2025, Hiwassee Reserve

Our final Spring hunt test will be at the Hiwassee Refuge on May 31 and June 1. We will be having TWO Junior tests, one on Saturday and the other on Sunday, and TWO Senior tests, one each day. The judges will be Kent Butler and Korrie Manning for one pair, and Lisa Vencille / Tony Hartnett as the other pair.

Entries are open now, and will close at midnight Central time on Monday, May 19.

Volunteers needed for the usual tasks — assisting with setup and tear down, rebirding, possibly blind planting, lunch preparation, sale of tee shirts and hats, running errands, marshalling the stakes, and more. To volunteer, please contact J. Michael Evans via text at 865-824-8638 or call and leave a message.

The address of the Hiwassee Reserve is 545 Priddy Road, Birchwood, TN 37308.



SOON!

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

Our second spring club trial is rescheduled for Sunday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m. at Brian Caldwell's farm in Georgetown. Sorry about the rain on the original date, but it would not have been much fun with all the rain we had on April 6.



This club trial will include live flyers, possibly pheasants, and a cookout! In order to get a live flyer, you **MUST be a member** and **MUST RSVP prior to Thursday, May 15.** (email edwardskc@gmail.com) Also, if you would like to bring a dish to share, coordinate with Janet Summers, email j.firriolo@gmail.com.

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.

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. .

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, PROS AND AMATEURS. If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial. Membership is \$25 for a year, and entitles you to a monthly newsletter and other member benefits like our awards banquet & free club trial entries.

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 light rain, but if it is expected to be monsoon-raining, or heavy electrical storms in Georgetown, 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: The address is 1810 State Highway 58 South, Georgetown, TN, near Cleveland and Decatur and not far from Dayton, TN. If you don't have a GPS, here are more detailed instructions:

- ◆ From Interstate 75, take exit 49 for TN-30 towards Decatur.
- ◆ Follow TN-30W for 9.3 miles into the stop light in Decatur
- ◆ Turn left onto TN-58S. Stay on this road for 15 miles and turn left into Brian's property. This is just after going up a hill, so be prepared to turn in a hurry as you approach the hill.

There will be "ETRC" signs at the entrance and the gate will be open.

Report on ETRC's Spring AKC Hunt Test April 26-27, 2025, Lucky 7 Ranch

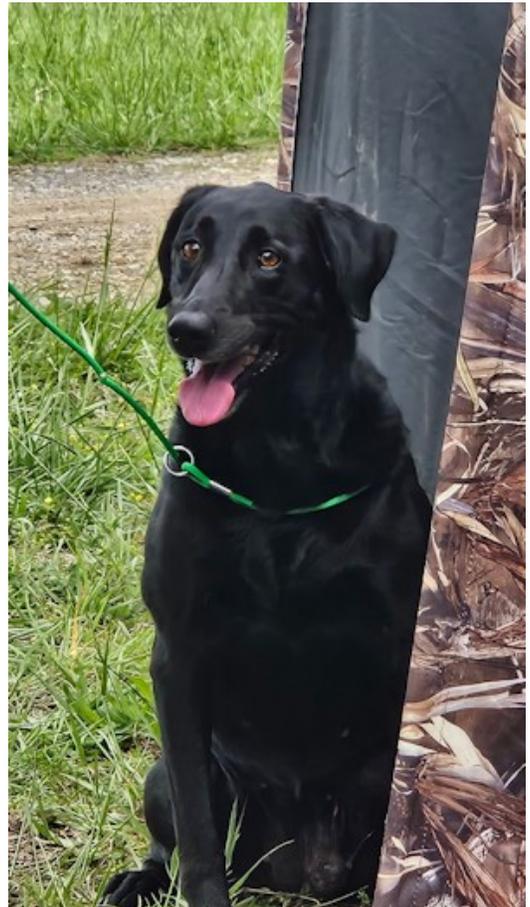
Our second hunt test of the 2025 season was held this past weekend with gorgeous weather, with a little bit of mist on Saturday and a severe blue day on Sunday, with temps in the 60s and 70s. Perfect! It was a small test — in addition to a Master stake with 57 entries and two scratch-es, we also had a Junior Hunt Test on Saturday with 12 entries and a Senior Hunt Test on Sunday with 17 entries. The small numbers made for two relatively easy days for the workers; we were done and out of there by 1:00 on Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to the judges — Frank Barton and Ken Gilbert at Master, and Kathy Poole-Price and ETRC's own Haley Shealy for Junior / Senior. 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 Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday, who also helped throughout the test (Mike Smith, Alan Bruhin, Brent Naveiro, Dick Lamping, and Jim Pearce); to Jim Pearce and Karen Edwards for the lunches on Saturday and Sunday; to Michele Fletcher, our brilliant hunt test secretary, to our Chief Steward and photographer Donna Smith, to Marshal and Tee Shirt Coordinator and photographer Lois Luthenauer, to Jeff Rader for hanging ducks all weekend, and to the rest of the hunt test committee who did yeoman work on ordering ducks and making all the arrangements for this test. Special thanks to Nancy Clinchy, who is not a member but who marshaled, helped with set up, and was just generally a terrific sport in helping out!

In Master, 55 dogs came to the line and 28 passed.

Passing ETRC members and their dogs:

- ◆ Chosen Spot's Irish Nobleman MH, owned and handled by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ McCoy's Precious Gem Of The South, owned by Luke McCoy, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Lick Creek On The Money MH, owned by Lisa & Mike Vencille, handled by Mike
- ◆ HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH, owned by J. Michael Evans, handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Troublesome Lucky On Heads, owned by Jeff Coffey, handled by Jody Ware
- ◆ RSR's Leader of the Pack MH, owned and handled by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Black Ice Warning, owned & handled by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ Rader's Charley Belle MH, owned and handled by Jeff Rader
- ◆ Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Chosen Spot's Splash Of Tequila MH, owned and handled by Dennis Wilcox
- ◆ CrossPointe's Blindside Blitz, owned by Noah & Rhey Houston, handled by Jody Ware
- ◆ Moon Over The Coosawattee MH, owned by Andy Buck, handled by Jody Ware



April 26-27 Hunt Test, Continued

In Junior, 12 Entries came to the line and 11 passed. Members with passing dogs were:

- ◆ Cowan's Cask Strength Whiskey, owned & handled by Ronnie Cowan;

In Senior, 17 dogs were entered and 15 came to the line. 8 dogs passed. Passing member dogs and their owners and handlers were:

- ◆ RoddyDogs Winston Churchill, owned by Tom Gavin, handled by Brian Caldwell.
- ◆ Dick's High Flying Lazer Teal, owned and handled by Dick Lamping
- ◆ Cadron Ridge's Hunting Birds In The Snow And Rayne JH, owned and handled by Janet Summers (and just coming back after whelping puppies in January!)
- ◆ SHR HR Waylon's Harley Under The Shade, owned and handled by Zachary Pry

And, for those who came and did not pass, better luck next time and hope to see you at our next tests in May!



Pictures from the Spring Hunt Test are courtesy of Donna Smith and Lois Luthenauer. Thanks for sending these great shots!



ETRC AWARDS NEWS

Effective for the 2025 Awards Year

The ETRC Board has voted to institute a new award, Field Trial Dog of the Year, effective with the 2025 award year that began on January 1, 2025. In addition, Derby JAMS and placements earned by any ETRC-owned puppy that were won prior to the puppy's first birthday will now be included in consideration of the Puppy Of The Year awards. Minor changes were made to other sections of the Puppy and Gun Dog awards to clarify that points do not count until such time as the owner is a member of ETRC. In other words, if you joined on October 5, none of the points earned by your dog from January until October 5 can be counted towards end –of –the –year puppy, field trial or gun dogs awards for that year.

ETRC FIELD TRIAL DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD RULES

(Final Rules approved April 2025 effective 1/1/25)

1. The dog which accumulates the most points in AKC-Licensed Retriever Field Trials and ETRC club trial Singles Classic Stakes throughout the calendar year will be the winner of the annual ETRC Field Trial Dog of the Year Award and trophy. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Field Trial Dog of the Year Award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the retriever's owner.
2. Points may be earned only in AKC Member or Licensed Retriever Field Trials.
3. Points earned for "Derby" Stakes at AKC Retriever Field Trials by puppies under 12 months of age at the time of the AKC Field Trial will not be included in computation of Field Trial Dog Of The Year Award totals, but may be applied towards Puppy Of The Year totals.
4. Dogs past their first birthday are eligible to earn points at any AKC Member or Licensed Field Trial stake.
5. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current level or above in AKC Retriever Trials. Once a dog has qualified twice at Qualifier stakes, for example, it may not earn any further points in qualifiers.
6. Calculation of Points For ETRC Field Trial Dog of the Year Award:
 - A. **Derby.** A dog over one year of age will receive 5 points for 1st place, 4 points for 2nd place, 3 points for 3rd place, 2 points for 4th place, and 1 point for JAM or ResJAM at each AKC Member or Licensed Retriever Derby Stake.
 - B. **Qualifier.** A dog over one year of age will receive 5 points for 1st place, 4 points for 2nd place, 3 points for 3rd place, 2 points for 4th place, and 1 point for JAM or ResJAM at each AKC Member or Licensed Retriever Qualifier Stake, whether open or Amateur/owner handler.
 - C. **All Age Stakes.** A dog will receive 10 point for 1st place, 8 points for second place, 6 points for 3rd place, 4 points for 4th place, 2 points for RJAM, and 1 point for JAM.
 - D. **Points for National or Amateur Championship Field Trials:**
 - i. A dog will receive 2 points for qualifying for the National and/or National Amateur Field Trial.
 - ii. A dog will receive 20 points for 1st place at one of the national competitions; 19 points for 2nd place, 18 points for 3rd place, and 17 points for 4th place plus 16 points for Reserve JAM and 15 points for a JAM.
 - E. **Specialties:** Points earned at a Specialty where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two tests entered for which points are to be awarded.
7. Only dogs fully owned by one or more ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Field Trial Dog of the Year award. However, points gained while the dog is being handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award, whether or not the handler is an ETRC member. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will

Awards News, Continued

count towards this award. Only one plaque will be awarded for a co-owned dog.

8. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trial Singles Classic Stakes during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
9. The eligibility year for the Field Trial Dog of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
10. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC's records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter in December of each year. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.

ETRC GUN DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD RULES

(Rules approved April 2025 effective for the 2025 Award Year)

1. The dog which accumulates the most points in AKC-Licensed Retriever Hunting Tests and ETRC club trials throughout the calendar year will be the winner of the annual Holcomb Gun Dog of the Year award and trophy. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Holcomb Gun Dog of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the retriever and the owner.
2. Points may be earned only in AKC Licensed Retriever Hunting Tests and ETRC Club Trials.
3. Points earned for "Puppy" Stakes at AKC Hunt Tests or ETRC Club Trials, plus points earned by puppies under 12 months of age at the time of the AKC Hunt Tests or ETRC Club Trials will not be included in computation of Gun Dog of the Year point totals.
4. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current AKC title level and higher stakes at ETRC Club Trials. For example, a dog who has already earned his Senior Hunter title may continue to earn points at either the Senior level or the Master level. However, once a dog has passed two consecutive club trial stakes at a higher level than their current AKC title, or has a single pass at the higher level at an AKC test, he or she may no longer run lower level stakes for points at ETRC Club Trials.
5. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current title level or above in AKC Hunt Tests. Once a dog earns a pass in a higher stake than its current AKC title level at an AKC hunt test, that dog cannot run a lesser hunt test stake for points. For example, a dog with an AKC Master pass cannot run in an AKC Senior Hunt Test stake for points, but may earn points for a run in an AKC Master stake.
6. All hunt tests stakes will be run for completion points only (points are only awarded per test successfully passed).
7. Calculation of Points:
 - A. A dog will receive 1 point for Junior, 2 points for Senior, and 3 points for Master at each AKC Licensed Retriever Hunting Test passed. Points earned at a Specialty where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions (i.e. up to 2 points for Junior, 4 points for Senior, or 6 points for Master tests passed).
 - B. A dog will receive 1 point for Junior, 2 points for Senior, and 3 points for Master at each Club Trial stake passed. However, only the highest level passed for which the dog is eligible to receive

Awards News, Continued

points will count towards the Gun Dog of the Year award. Singles Classic and Advanced Junior Hunter stakes will not count towards the Gun Dog of the Year Award.

- C. Points for Master National or Master Amateur Hunt Tests:
 - i. A dog will receive 1 point for qualifying for the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
 - ii. A dog will receive 6 points for passing at the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
 8. Only dogs owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Gun Dog of the Year award. However, points gained while the dog is being handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award, whether or not the handler is an ETRC member. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will count towards this award.
 9. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
 10. The eligibility year for the Gun Dog of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
 11. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC's records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.
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ETRC PUPPY OF THE YEAR RULES

(Final Rules effective for the 2025 Award Year and Onward)

1. The puppy which accumulates the most points per the rules below in ETRC club trials, puppy stakes at ETRC's AKC Hunt Tests, or AKC Member or licensed Retriever Hunt tests or Field Trial Derby Stakes throughout the year will be the winner of the annual Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award and trophy. Puppies between 10 weeks and one year of age are eligible to compete. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the puppy and the owner.
2. Age Classifications: Junior Puppy: ten weeks through six months (27 weeks of age); Senior Puppy - seven months to one year (28 weeks to first birthday).
3. Points.
 - A. Points will be earned only in one of the events outlined in Section 1. Points will only count towards this award if the puppy was less than 1 year of age at the time the points were earned.
 - B. Puppies are eligible to run in their current age classification. A Senior puppy may not compete in the Junior Puppy class. Junior puppies may compete in the higher stake Senior Puppy class for a JAM ribbon only, no placement or points will be awarded.
4. Calculation of Points:
 - A. Points will be awarded for placements in ETRC Club Trial puppy stakes and ETRC Hunt Test puppy stakes as follows:
 - i. If 5 or more puppies are entered, 3 points will be awarded for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, and 1 point for puppies placing 3rd or 4th or receiving JAM ribbons.
 - ii. If 4 puppies are entered, 2 points will be awarded for 1st place, 1 point for puppies placing 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or receiving JAM ribbons.
 - iii. If 3 or fewer puppies are entered, all placements and JAMS will receive 1 point each.
 - B. Additional Points:
 - i. A puppy will receive 1 point for any Junior Hunter stake, 2 points for a Senior Hunter stake, or 3 points for a Master Hunter stake passed at an ETRC Club Trial before the puppy's first birthday. No

- points will be awarded for Singles Classic or Advanced Junior stakes.
- ii. A puppy will receive 1 point for any AKC-licensed Hunt Test Junior Hunter Stake (2 points for Senior, 3 points for Master) passed before the puppy's first birthday. Points earned at a Specialty AKC Hunt Test where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions.
 - iii. A puppy will receive 3 points for any AKC member or licensed Retriever Field Trial Derby Stake for a placement or JAM.
 - iv. A puppy will receive 1 point for any placement or JAM in an ETRC Club Trial Singles Classic stake.
5. Only puppies owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Puppy of the Year award. However, points gained while the puppy is handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award. No points earned before the owner is a member of the East Tennessee Retriever Club will count towards this award.
 6. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
 7. The eligibility year for the Puppy of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
 8. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final.
 9. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.
 10. Judges are strongly encouraged to set up different marking tests for the Junior and Senior puppy tests. A water mark should be included in the Senior puppy stake. Lack of suitable grounds, cold weather, and time may prohibit this suggestion but all efforts should be made to adhere to it.

Member News, Announcements, Brags



Puppies! Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH (Py) and HRCH Heads Up Larger than Life MH MNR WCX ("Yukon") had puppies on April 1! The four girls are Miss Pink, Miss White, Miss Yellow, and Miss Green. They are now four weeks old and are just starting to show interest in retrieving trim paint rollers. They will be heading off to their new homes by the end of the month, to California, New York, North Carolina, and Maryland. We will miss them! This was Py's last litter and they are dandies!



ETRC Board Meeting, Friday, 4/4/25
254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Luke McCoy, Kyle Griffin, Nathan Lamping, Michele Fletcher (on the phone, stuck on the interstate)

Absent, Excused: Bob Smith (sick with flu), Jeff Rader (excused)

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 9 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

◆—**Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/22/25 -- minutes from the Banquet, approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website. Luke moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Mike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

◆ **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2024 was 67. Membership today is 45, with 25 prior members who will be dropped from the rolls 6/1/25 if they don't renew before then. One is in the mail, several have notified they won't renew, and Karen will send the others individual email reminders in the next week or so and again in mid-May.

◆ **Correspondence:** Mostly routine invoices, plus a nice thank you card from the Bruhins. Karen filed the annual report for the club on Tennessee's glitchy new system.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance is \$38,322.11. Upcoming expenses are for club trials and more hunt tests, tax accountant, any equipment, and replenishing the stock of durable goods for lunches. We are in excellent financial state but made very little money on our last test and need to discuss overall financial situation for the year under another topic.

◆ **Insurance:** Our basic liability policy went up to \$1000 (was \$800 last year). \$50 increase is a new thing that if you gross more than \$10k a year in your events, it costs extra, and the balance is a basic rate increase.

◆ **Taxes:** Karen provided tax information to our new accountant, Jim Longest. Taxes not due until July. He will charge \$850 for doing our taxes for 2024. Don't anticipate we will have to pay any actual taxes.

◆ New ribbon order received. No change in price from last time, 100 JH and 100 MH ribbons total cost was \$1,453.48

AKC Delegate's report: Michele: nothing to report.

Old Business

Minutes 04/05/25, Continued

March Hunt Test: Low entries (49), even with an additional \$490 in entry fees from price increase, we ended up netting only \$487.66. Passed out financial report on this hunt test. There were substantial increases in duck prices because of timing, increase in lunch costs because of grocery increases since last fall, increases in entertainment costs. Not sustainable to lose money or barely break even on tests; they are expected to not only pay for themselves, but to pay for insurance, the banquet, awards, equipment, taxes, etc. Karen figures we need about \$10 - \$11,000 net from all tests combined to continue our current level of expenditures and break even during 2025. Concerns about economy; don't want to get us back to 2011, when the club ran out of money completely, had to sell one of our trailers, cancel a test, and severely cut costs during the last recession.

Karen also passed out a summary of last year's HT expenses & income, and noted that our next test coming up at the end of April also does not look like a big moneymaker with only 53 MH slots filled, and only 4 SH dogs and 1 JH dog entered so far. We agreed that we need to keep a close eye on all this to make sure we don't start heavy deficit spending, and may need to adjust some of our expenditures accordingly.

Issue with Judge: Jay Floyd was one of the judges for our November 2024 hunt test. Karen paid him with check #967 at the end of the test on November 13, \$346.46, which represented only his doubled gas receipts as other expenses were paid directly by the club. He called Karen the next day and said he had lost or destroyed the check. She sent him a replacement check, #970, on 11/15. At the end of the month, the bank statement showed he had apparently found check #967 and cashed it on 11/15. Karen emailed him and asked him to tear up the other check when it arrived if he hadn't already but got no response. Karen did not cancel the check because there is a \$25 fee for cancellation. However, Mr. Floyd deposited the replacement check on 3/14/25. So, we paid him \$692.92 for gas and \$250 for his judges' gift for a total of \$942.92. J. Michael said he would call him and ask him to refund us the extra \$346.46 overpayment. Karen will provide J. Michael with contact information.

Upcoming Hunt Tests: Mike Smith mentioned that we needed some fresh MAP gas cylinders for our thunder boomers before the upcoming April test. Consensus was that he should go get them at Lowe's and bring the receipt to the test for reimbursement.

Club Trial Rain Date: Good response for Sunday, April 6 -- but weather is 100% chance of buckets of rain. We decided unanimously that canceling for this Sunday was the right thing to do, and not wait until Saturday evening, so that people who are fixing food for the cookout can avoid doing any cooking on Saturday. Luke McCoy called Brian Caldwell, and after comparing calendars, we agreed on a makeup date of Sunday, May 18. Karen will send out an email later tonight canceling and notifying people of the new date, and more information and request for RSVPs will be included in the May newsletter.

Winter Awards Banquet: Reservations made for Saturday, Feb 21, 2026 at the Bearden Banquet Hall. Karen has not gotten an invoice from them yet. Alan will call them to remind them to send an invoice for the reservation fee so that we can cement our reservation.

Proposed Changes to End of Year Awards: (Tabled from January meeting)

At the January meeting, Karen had moved that we add a new award to our awards lineup for 2025 and onward. This would be a Field Trial Dog of the Year award, since our current top award, the Holcomb Gun Dog of the Year Award, is limited only to dogs who compete in Hunt Tests. Karen, Jim and John Broucek, who is the most knowledgeable club member about Field Trials, had initially looked at the possibility of suggesting changes to the Gun Dog award

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to allow for points accumulated in Field Trials as well – but because of the different structures of the two sports, trying to find a fair points system seemed like an impossible task. Hence the idea of having two separate awards, one for Field Trial dogs and one for Hunt Test competitors. Karen had drafted up language for three changes to our awards lineup, and sent these out to the Board for review in early January, again in late January, and passed out paper copies at this meeting.

- The new award, Field Trial Dog of the Year. This award would have a new Perpetual Trophy and the winner would also be awarded an annual plaque to keep, the same as our other two end of the year awards. Draft rules proposed for consideration.
- Changes to Puppy of Year Award to allow Derby points for JAMS and placements, for dogs who are under 1 year of age, to be considered in determining Puppy of the Year. Draft rules changes proposed for consideration.
- Changes to Gun Dog of Year award: suggestion that this award be renamed as Hunt Test Dog of the Year rather than “Gun Dog” since field trial dogs are also gun dogs. This would make it more obvious that field trial dogs are not eligible for the Gun Dog Award Draft rules changes proposed for consideration. Draft rules changes proposed for consideration.

GUN DOG OF THE YEAR DISCUSSION, MOTION(S), AND VOTES.

J. Michael asked that we deal with the proposed changes to the Gun Dog of the Year award first. Karen moved that we approve the new language renaming the award as proposed. Jim seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the vote was taken and the motion did not carry, by a vote of 2 ayes and 6 nays. The Holcomb Gun Dog Award of the Year will retain its title.

FIELD TRIAL DOG OF THE YEAR DISCUSSION, MOTION(S), AND VOTES.

Next, Michael brought up the proposed new Field Trial Dog of the Year award. We went over the proposed language, which events would be eligible for points, the point totals to be assigned for placements and JAMS in each category, and other basic structure which is very similar to the rules for the other two awards. The floor was then opened for discussion.

Discussion on Paragraph 6, Calculation of Points for ETRC Field Trial Dog of the Year Award. The major focus of the discussion centered on proposed paragraph 6.a., which would allow some points to be considered from the ETRC Club Trials, namely the Singles Classic event. The proposed paragraph read:

“ETRC Club Trials: Dogs placing 1st in an ETRC Singles Classic will earn 4 points for 1st place, 3 points for 2nd place, 2 points for 3rd place, and 1 point for 4th place, and half a point for JAMS. NOTE: In order for Club Trial points to count towards this award, a dog must have a least a JAM in one of the other Field Trial categories listed below.”

Karen, who drafted the proposed rules, explained that this language was included in order to encourage field trial competitors to attend and participate in ETRC Club Trials, and also to recognize those dogs that performed well in the Singles Classic Stake. However, given the smaller number of dogs competing in Club Trial Singles Classic Stakes as opposed to actual Field Trial stakes, and the easier level of difficulty, it did not seem right that a dog that never earned any points in actual field trials should be able to win this award over a dog that did actually compete successfully.

Motion 1. Alan moved, and Mike Seconded, an amendment to this paragraph that would strike the NOTE in its entirety. After a brief discussion explaining the impact this would have on

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the award and on people competing for the award, the Question was called. Five voted in favor of the proposed amendment to strike the note, and 3 voted against it. The amendment carried, and the NOTE was stricken in its entirety.

Motion 2. Next, Jim Pearce moved to make a second amendment to that same paragraph, which would add language in a new NOTE, to the effect that in order for Club Trial Singles Classic points to be counted towards this award, a dog must have entered and competed in one of the field trial categories during the award year. The dog would not have to JAM or even complete all series in the Trial, but would have had to enter and come to the line in the first series. Karen seconded the motion, and after more discussion about the ramifications of this amendment, the vote was called and the amendment passed, 5 to 3. A new NOTE was added that would capture the essence of this motion.

Motion 3. Next, Alan moved that we strike paragraph 6a in its entirety, and not allow any club trial Singles Classic points to count towards this award, under any circumstances. This way, the points would all have to be earned at one of the various field trial categories. After a brief discussion, the vote was called and the amendment passed with 5 votes for and 3 votes against. Paragraph 6a was stricken in its entirety and the subsequent sections will be renumbered.

Discussion on Paragraph 7. This section as proposed read as follows:

“7. Only dogs fully owned by one or more ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Field Trial Dog of the Year award. However, points gained while the dog is being handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award, whether or not the handler is an ETRC member.”

J. Michael, as awards coordinator, asked if this might mean we would be expected to provide plaques for each of the co-owners of the dog that won this title.

Motion 1. Luke moved that we amend this section to add that “Only one plaque will be awarded for a co-owned dog.” Alan seconded this motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor. This language will be added to section 7.

Bringing the Amended Award Proposal To A Vote:

Now it was time to vote on accepting or rejecting the proposed new award for Field Trial Dog of the Year. Jim moved that we approve the award with the language as proposed and amended. Karen seconded the motion, and the vote was 5 in favor and 3 opposed. Motion carried. We now have a new award. Karen will look at perpetual trophies and make a recommendation for purchase to the Board at a later date.

PUPPY OF THE YEAR DISCUSSION, MOTION(S), AND VOTES.

The proposed language changes for this award included changes to allow points earned in Field Trial that a puppy would receive 3 points towards the ETRC Award for any puppy JAM or placement in a derby. Derby Stakes, by an ETRC-owned dog that is less than one year of age, to apply towards the Puppy of the Year Award. It also proposed

Discussion on Paragraph 5. No changes had been proposed to this section to include consideration of Derby placements or JAMS for the Puppy of the Year Award. The current language in the award rules reads as follows:

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“Only puppies owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Puppy of the Year award. However, points gained while the puppy is handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award.”

Several people noted that this could mean a person could join the Club in late November and still end up walking away with the award. It was noted that similar language is included in the Gun Dog and the new Field Trial awards as well, but we decided that we were now considering only the Puppy award and any motion suggesting further amendments to the language for the Gun Dog and Field Trial awards would need to be handled separately.

Alan Moved, and Luke seconded, that for the Puppy of the Year Awards, only points earned AFTER the owner was a club member would count towards determining the winner of the award for any particular year. The vote was unanimously in favor of this change.

FURTHER AWARDS AMENDMENTS PROPOSALS, DISCUSSION, MOTION(S), AND VOTES.

Alan then moved that we amend the Gun Dog and Field Trial Dog of the Year awards to include the same language, that points only start accumulating towards these awards AFTER the owner of the dog has joined the club. Luke seconded this as well and this vote also carried unanimously.

Karen will provide clean final draft copies of these three awards to the Board along with the minutes, and will request final approval of the new language. Final approved language will be included in the May newsletter and posted on the club website.

New Business:

New Members: two for first reading and assignment of sponsors:

- Rickey Peebles, Project Controls, 905 Belltown Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385. RLPPeebles@gmail.com, cell 803-602-2378. Volunteers for ‘whatever is needed,’ hunt test set-up, and photography. Has two flatcoats, one 8 years one 3 years; older one is a MH, younger one is SH. Interested in hunt tests and dog training. Mike Smith and Nate Lamping agreed to sponsor Mr. Peebles.
- Ronnie & Paige Cowan, Wildlife Biologist, UT. 317 Ashley Drive, Seymour, TN 37865. RC@UTK.edu, 865-214-2167. Volunteers for duck wrangler/assistant, hunt test set-up, Board of Directors, bird tech and/or coordinator, gunner, and interested in judging at club trials and being a hunt test chairman. Has a 1 year old chocolate Lab. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, hunter’s safety course, dog training, club trials, judging/judging clinics. He is a DU member and a certified Hunters Safety Instructor. Requests Alan Bruhin as one sponsor. Alan agrees to serve as sponsor, and J. Michael will be the second sponsor.

Karen moved that we accept these people as new provisional members of the club, with their final vote to be taken at the Summer/Fall Club Trial/Picnic/ General business meeting. Jim seconded and the vote was unanimous.

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Any other new business?

J. Michael suggested that the club consider buying some more dummy launchers to make our club trials and potential training sessions work more smoothly. If we bought two more 5-bumper launchers, no one would have to spend any time in the field except for possibly blind planting and of course rebirding.

We looked up some costs for launchers online from Thunder Equipment. Five shooters cost around \$1,300 each without electronics. Luke moved that we order two of these, and Michele seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

We currently have Garmin electronics on our two club launchers, and there was agreement that we needed to have compatibility. However, the Garmin electronics are no longer being regarded as top of the line, and everyone seemed to prefer Dogtra. If we replaced our two current launchers' electronics with Dogtra, and got three receivers and one transmitter / receiver pair, that would increase the costs by about \$800. We could then sell our current Garmin electronics to recoup some of this expense. Luke moved that we purchase 1 Dogtra transmitter and 4 receivers from Thunder Equipment. Mike seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Jim Pearce agreed to make the purchase. The total cost before shipping will be around \$3,400.

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 8:20 p.m.



Alan Bruhin and Mike Smith look like they are having too much fun at our April hunt test!

Master Amateur Retriever Club: Announcements & News

Master Amateur Invitational 2025

This year's extravaganza is being held in Waterville, Maine from Sunday, June 22 to Sunday, June 29, 2025. The qualification period for this event was March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. The test is open NOW on Entry Express, and will close April 28. Judges are Carol Hynes & Mark Watson for flight A, and David McPherson and Robert Swift for flight B. Currently, 101 people have entered out of the 376 dogs who qualified.

Congratulations to the following ETRC members who have qualified dogs for this event! If I missed anyone, please let me know:

- Alan Bruhin qualified two dogs: Tennessee Cinnamon Storm and Tennessee Gentleman Jack.
- Dianne & Randy Clark qualified two dogs: RanMar's North Bound Train (Dianne) and Rattlin Ridge's Willin O Ranmar (Randy);
- J. Michael Evans qualified with Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen ("Ivy").
- Jeff Rader qualified with Rader's Charley Belle.
- Dennis Wilcox qualified four of his dogs: RSR's Leader Of The Pack; Chosen Spot's Splash of Tequila, Chosen Spot's Black Ice Warning; and Chosen Spot's Irish Nobleman.

In addition, two dogs bred by Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce also qualified for this event: Violet and Chi, who live in California and are littermates of their Zoey, out of their old girl Panda.

Voting for Western Regional VP

All members and member clubs are eligible to vote for all Vice President positions. We received an email and ballot, with links to biographies, for two candidates for this position. Alan Bruhin moved that we vote for David McPherson for this position. The motion was seconded by Luke McCoy, and a majority of the board voted in favor. Karen Edwards cast the ballot for the club as Secretary, on April 13, 2025. Ballots were due on or before 4/25/25.

Renewing Membership in MARC

The Master Amateur Retriever Club board of directors is aware that prospective new members and renewing members have found it difficult to enroll/pay dues online. Until these issues get fixed here is what the board wants you to know:

- ◆ The closing date for entries for the 2025 MAI in Maine will be extended. Enter the 2025 Master Amateur Invitational regardless of your current membership status. **Don't let this deter you from entering.**
- All AKC Master Hunt test passes after March 1, 2025 will count towards the qualifying period for the 2026 Master Amateur Invitational regardless of your membership status until the date when these issues are resolved.
- Contact your respective Director for the region you live in to let them know you have run into problems renewing your membership so that we can record the incidences.

Below are the contacts for the Directors for each of the four regions:

Eastern Region: John Dawber, hockeydad200@aol.com

Central Region: Wilson LeJuene, Jr., wlejeune@camtel.net

West Central Region: Douglas McGuire, doug@vintagegoldens.com

Western Region: Dave Markham, Remingtonsureshot@gmail.com

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

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. People are dropped from the rolls after June 1 if not paid.

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.