



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. April 18-19, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Spring Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater
2. May 19-20, 2026, Tues-Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's, Georgetown
3. July 18, 2026, Sat. all day — Basic Judge's Seminar, Comfort Inn, Athens
4. September 6, 2026, Sun 9:00 a.m. — Club Trial, Picnic, Annual Summer Meeting, Pet Resorts at The Farm, 6771 Jim Dyke Road, Loudon (NEW LOCATION FOR ETRC)
5. September 15-16, 2026, Tues—Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek MH Only, Caldwell's, Georgetown
6. October 17-18, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Fall Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater

Photo of the Month



Big Creek's Backwater Quackers In The Oaks "Oakie", owned by Lois Luthenauer

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President's Message — By Alan Bruhin

Hello and welcome to spring! It's time to get those retrievers out and start getting ready for the spring hunt test season. Many of us got an early start on that at our March club test held at Chuck Atchley's farm in Sevierville. We had beautiful weather and a good time was had by all. We started the day with several dogs running in Singles Classic followed by Master, Senior, Advanced Junior, Junior and Puppy stakes. Congratulations to all who received passing ribbons on some difficult setups.

Please remember that ETRC is holding their first licensed test on April 18-19 at Lucky 7 Farm in Sweetwater. Entries will close April 6 on Entry Express. There currently are several open spots for master and lots of room for junior and senior dogs. When we host events of this size, we always need additional help. If you could come help during setup the day before the event or assist with the event while it's running it would be greatly appreciated. Don't worry if you don't know what to do to help, there will be experienced members there to let you know what is needed.

Hopefully, you have already marked your calendar for the July 18 Basic Judges Seminar being held in Athens, TN. Don't be mistaken about this event. This seminar will help those with an interest in judging hunt tests, but may be even more beneficial to newer handlers wanting to learn more about the rules and regulations regarding running a hunt test. I've been judging for over 30 years, but I learn new things every time I take these classes. At a cost of only \$20 for ETRC members it's a real deal.

I hope everyone has located the club's Facebook page. If not be sure to check it out. We try to keep up-to-date information regarding all upcoming club events. Also, I am always looking for interesting stories and dog accomplishments to share on Facebook. If you have anything you would like me to share, please send it to me. Best way to get information to me is at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu

Enjoy your spring! Looking forward to seeing everyone at some of our upcoming events.

Alan

Membership is Overdue

2025 ETRC memberships expired on February 28. To renew for 2026, please send your application form (available for download at <https://www.etrclub.org/>, and click on the link "Join ETRC" in the blue menu bar on the left side of the page) and your dues check for \$25, to Karen Edwards, ETRC Secretary/Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Join us for another fun-filled year !

Report on ETRC Club Trial

Sunday, March 29, 2026, Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm

Our first Club Trial of the season is in the books! About 20 people and 17 dogs showed up at Chuck Atchley's beautiful Revilo farm in Sevierville for a fun day in the sun. When we started at 9:00, it was a cold 38 degrees and everyone was wearing heavy coats with sweaters and sweatshirts underneath. As the day wore on we shed more and more clothes — by the time we ended it was nearly 70 and shorts sleeves and even one pair of shorts were seen. Thanks, Chuck, good to see you!

Master National level judges and competitors (and ETRC President and Past President) Alan Bruhin and Mike Evans set up some very meaty tests on challenging terrain.



Test setup for the Singles Classic

First up was singles classic. This was run on mowed, level ground along the river, with a 180 yard mark to the right and a 240 mark off to the left. 10 dogs attempted the test, and none finished clean. Only four dogs brought back even a single mark, and only two of these brought back both marks. All dogs had to be handled. Winning was Jack, a black lab bred, owned, and handled by Alan Bruhin. Finishing second was Miss Ivy, a yellow Lab owned and handled by Mike Evans. The other dogs that brought back one of the marks were Alan's black lab Cin, and Michele Fletcher's Golden Retriever Amber.

The hunt test setup was over by a shallow pond that had a high wall of weeds on the banks. For the Junior test, one of the marks was into the water, fired from the bank, and the second one was a fairly long mark, guessing about 100 yards, fired from the right to the left into tall grass. The field had not been mowed, and the grass was growing very happily in all this area! Four Junior dogs attempted this set up, but none succeeded. Many of them were drawn to the live blinds with smelly ducks way off to the right of the Junior marks.

Advanced Junior used the same marks as a double, with the land mark fired first and the water mark second. Four dogs attempted this setup, but none were successful. Again, many of them brought back ducks from the blinds. Great noses, who needs handling to the blinds!

Senior dogs used the same marks as Advanced Junior, and a diversion bird shot on the way back from the second mark. It was picked up after the second mark and before the blind, which was live with dead ducks off to the right of the marks and past the diversion bird. Four dogs attempted this setup, with three out of four of them already titled Senior dogs. Only one dog passed — Oak (SH), owned and handled by Kyle Griffin.



Kyle, Tracey, and Hunter Griffin (12 months) with Oak

The test for Master dogs added a third mark, along the pond bank in the high grass and a bit shorter than the other land mark. There was a second blind over on the right and farther away from the line, and the diversion shot became a poison bird — fired when the dog returned with the third mark, and

then the dogs had to pass by it on either side to get to the blinds before being allowed to pick it up. Eight dogs attempted this setup, and four passed — Jack, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin; Miss Ivy, owned and handled by Mike Evans; Amber SH, owned, handled and trained by Michele Fletcher, and Gus SH owned and handled by Brent Naveiro.



Left: Ronnie Cowan's Whiskey brings back a blind.



Right: Judges and Handler watch a dog work

The final test of the day was the puppy stakes. We had two fine Senior puppies, and both passed, bringing the marks back to their handlers with panache and aplomb! First place went to Sniper, a Golden Retriever owned and handled by new member Marcia Fuzia; second place went to Boone, a Labrador owned and handled by new member Josh Wilcox.



Successful handlers, Left to right: J. Michael Evans , Kyle Griffin, Alan Bruhin, Michele Fletcher, Brent Naveiro, Josh Wilcox, and Marcia Fuzia. Congratulations all, and to the rest of us, better luck next time!

Financial Info:

- ♦ Entry fees beyond two free entries per member: \$60
- ♦ Sweatshirt sale: \$35
- ♦ Costs: none other than ribbons

Thanks to Lois Luthenauer for supplying the frozen ducks!

SOON!

ETRC Spring AKC Hunt Test April 18-19 Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater

ETRC's Spring Hunt Test is coming up soon, on the weekend of April 18-19, 2026, at the beautiful Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater. Entries are open now, and will close Monday, April 6 at 11:59:59 Central time just before midnight. There are still spaces available in all stakes.

The test is a single flight of Master, Double Junior and Double Senior. Judges for Master are Haley Shealy and David Murphy. Senior on Saturday will be judged by Scott Silverstein & Lois Luthenauer; Junior on Saturday will be judged by Dianne Clark & Sherie Catledge. Junior and Senior Judges will swap assignments for Sunday tests.

Lucky 7 is a gorgeous facility with over 14 ponds and rolling hills. The facilities couldn't be better for our first test of the season. Thanks so much to Ken Campbell for letting us use this paradise!

We also need volunteers for tear down / set up on Friday afternoon starting at 1:00, and running through the weekend. If you are interested in helping out (you can earn one free entry each year by volunteering for working at a test), please contact Alan Bruhin at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu (text or phone 865-850-8712), or J. Michael Evans at fowlmouthk9@gmail.com (text 865-824-8638). If you would be interested in marshalling (and this is a great way for new people to learn the ropes), please contact our Chief Marshal Donna Smith at donnalsmith1@gmail.com or text to 615-419-7370.

DIRECTIONS TO LUCKY 7 RANCH: The address is, 6720 Erie Road, Sweetwater, TN. BE AWARE that some GPS services may take you to the wrong place, around the back of the property where there is no entrance. Alternatively, use the address 6979 Erie Road, which is right across the street from the L7 entrance.

ETRC May Midweek Master AKC Hunt Test May 19-20, 2026, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Come join us for our Midweek Master test at Brian Caldwell's on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19-20. Judges are Robby Griffin & Linc Huffman. Entries open on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. Central time (Worker / Amateur set-aside opens on Tuesday, April 28, same time). The test closes on Monday, May 11 at midnight. Contact Alan Bruhin or J. Michael Evans for a code & to volunteer to work — see phone numbers and emails above.

DIRECTIONS TO BRIAN CALDWELL'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.

New ETRC Shirts & Jackets!

We have some new options for ETRC wear! We will still continue to have a wide variety of short sleeved and some long sleeve cotton and performance cloth tee shirts, but have added some cooler weather gear to our lineup.

Pictured at left is a half-zip heavy cotton shirt/jacket for \$35: The ETRC logo will be embroidered in color on the left front pocket area. It is available in all sizes from XS to 4XL. We have ordered a small number of these; 2 in Medium, 4 in Large, 4 Extra Large, and 2 XXL. If you don't see your size, or if you want to make sure to get one of these, let Lois Luthenauer know and we'll see about doing a special order. Price is \$35 each for one of these cozy, warm shirts.



Also available, for special order only, is a lightweight full-zip soft shell waterproof jacket with a standup collar, available in several colors other than purple (see picture at left) The embroidered ETRC logo would be in the left pocket area. Price is \$65, and for an additional \$10 you could get your name embroidered as well. This might make an excellent gift for someone special or a treat for yourself!

In addition to the items shown on this page, we also have a number of short sleeve tees, and a few long sleeved ones, in regular cotton and in the ultra-comfortable performance fabric. These are available in several styles and a number of sizes including some children's sizes. Prices range from \$15 to \$25 depending on style and material.

Our hat lineup includes some in camo and different colors, with the ETRC Logo embroidered on it. Call Lois for more information on availability and current pricing.

With the facilities we are using for hunt tests these days, there are no good places to bring along and set up tables with shirts available for display. However, if you are interested in getting a shirt, contact Lois, tell her what you are looking for and your size(s), and make arrangements for her to bring them to one of our events that you will be attending.

Lois's email is MountainLO717@gmail.com, and her phone number is 865-803-1187.



Member News & Announcements

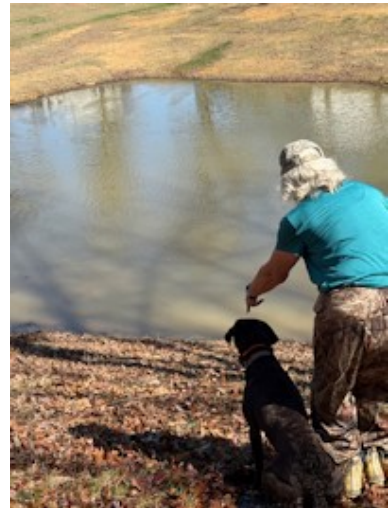
Winter Hunting!

Zach & Tyra Pry and Friends went on a hunting trip to Central Kansas in early March. They took lots of pictures and even more geese. What a haul!



Spring Training!

It's always good to train on new grounds and different ponds. Lois Luthenauer invites people to train with her at her new place up near Oneida — call her at 865-803-1187 or mountainL717@gmail.com to set up a time. Pictures below from a training session in early March.



UPCOMING!



Basic Retriever Hunt Test Judge's Seminar

Sponsored by the East Tennessee Retriever Club

Date: Saturday, July 18, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Comfort Inn Athens, 2811 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN 37303 423-252-8030 or 423-745-0002

Presenter: Jerry Mann, AKC

The Basic Seminar consists of 8 hours of classroom training where we will discuss the purpose of the Hunt Test, Performance Standards for Junior, Senior and Master level hunt test scoring, Judges' Guidelines, and other pertinent Hunt Test Information.

This seminar is designed to develop a greater degree of uniformity in the evaluation by judges at all three levels and to improve Handlers' understanding of the regulations, guidelines, performance standards and test requirements.

The Basic seminar is suitable for current Judges, people interested in becoming Judges, and Handlers interested in learning more about the requirements needed for all hunt test levels.

Lunch and snacks will be provided by the East Tennessee Retriever Club. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. We have reserved a block of rooms at a lower event rate, so be sure to specify that you are coming to the ETRC Judge's Seminar when you make your reservations.

Costs: \$20 for current ETRC members, \$40 for all others. Limited to 40 participants.



Youth Program



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

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

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

ETRC Membership Information

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. **2026 MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE AS OF 3/1/26!**

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.

