

ETRC Upcoming Events

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. January 7, 2026, 6:30 p.m. — ETRC Board Meeting, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN. Members welcome.
2. February 21, 2026, Saturday 6:00 p.m. — Annual Awards Banquet, Elections, and General Meeting, Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville

We'll be having a full slate of events next year — More info in next month's newsletter!

Photo of the Month



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President's Message — By J. Michael Evans

Happy New Year! It appears we've successfully put 2025 behind us and have our eyes focused squarely on 2026 barreling down the tracks. I hope everyone had an amazing Holiday Season with friends and family and are ready to begin all over again.

I know many of you are fully entrenched in Duck and Deer hunting, many of you are consumed by the College Football Playoffs along with the beginning of the NFL Playoffs and of course there are some of you who have decided to simply hibernate until we reach 70 degrees again. Whichever path you are walking, please take a minute to send me any titles your dog(s) earned in 2025 and your point total for Gun Dog and/or Puppy of the Year and /or Field Trial Dog of the Year awards. How points are accumulated are located on our website and were included in last month's newsletters, it's easy to calculate and definitely worth your time to check it out. Also, now is the time to nominate a club-owned dog for a Lifetime Achievement Award — info on that was also in last month's newsletter and on the website ETRCclub.org. Finally, as a member of the ETRC you also have the ability to nominate people for Member of the Year and AKC Sportsmanship awards. The definitions and explanations of each are also located on our website so please take a moment and nominate someone if you think they are deserving of either of these awards.

All I ask it that you send me a separate Email for each award. For example, send me one Email for a title, another if you want your dog considered for Gun Dog / Puppy / Field Trial with point totals included, another for dog Lifetime Achievement award, another for Member Nomination and another for AKC Sportsmanship Nomination. When all of these are sent in a single Email some tend to get lost in the shuffle and I don't want to leave anyone out. Winners will be recognized at our annual banquet in February. The titles, awards and nominations must be tabulated and turned in to me NO LATER than January 22nd in order to get them back in time so please don't wait, send them in while you are thinking about it. I always send a verification that I received your mail, if you do not get one please re-send or give me a call.

The ETRC Board will be meeting January 7th to discuss the upcoming year. Our agenda will consist of first reading on new members, the annual banquet, dates and locations for hunt tests, dates and locations for club trials, needed equipment and a host of other business. If you have anything you would like to put before the Board or just an idea you would like heard, feel free to join us or send your question/suggestion to me in an Email or give me a call. I will gladly make sure it is added to our agenda and brought before the Board.

Be safe this month in whatever you are doing. Good luck with your hunting, your football team or your hibernation. If you are hunting, training or just outside playing with your dog please send Karen a picture and brief description so we can get it added to our website. Our companions are more than family and we should show that off anytime we get the chance. Have a very Happy New Year!!

J. Michael Evans
President ETRC



End-of-year Awards Banquet: RSVP Now!

February 21, 2026, Saturday evening: ETRC Awards Banquet, General Meeting, & Elections.

Bearden Banquet Hall (Buddy's), 5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 6:00 p.m for socializing, dinner buffet starts at 6:30 p.m. This is our annual big party, and free for all members and guests! More details and menu items will be provided next month — but we can tell you a fair bit already. The Bearden Banquet Hall can hold large events, and we will be seated at 8-person round tables with space between. We will be having as guest speaker Dr. Andrew Lewin, a board certified veterinary Ophthalmologist who is in private practice in Knoxville. This event will include a preview of our upcoming 2026 season. We hope to see you all there!

At this event, we will present awards to both people and dogs for titles earned, national invitationals qualified for and completed, Dog of the Year and Puppy Of The Year awards, Field Trial dog of the Year award, ETRC's Lifetime Achievement Award, Member of the Year, and AKC Sportsman of the Year. Come cheer everyone for their achievements during 2025! This is also our election meeting and general membership meeting, and a close-out of our Club's very busy fiscal year 2025. Come celebrate a successful year... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2025. We do need a quorum to conduct business — new members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks and find out how you can get more involved in 2026.

No cost to attendees. Please RSVP to Karen Edwards at edwardskc@gmail.com, or text / call 865-300-7607 and leave a message — your name and number, and the names of people coming with you.

We need RSVPs from anyone who is planning to eat **NO LATER THAN 11:59 p.m. on FEBRUARY 11** so that the staff will have enough time to prepare food and we will have enough tables and chairs. We can squeeze in a few extra, but please don't leave your RSVP until the last minute.

AND, don't forget to nominate your dogs for titles they have earned this year, plus end of the year awards for both dogs and people. See the article on page 3 and get those nominations in ASAP!



Banquet
Hall-
Pictures

Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

The nominating committee for 2026 elections, as appointed by President J. Michael Evans at the Summer Business Meeting, Picnic and Club Trial on September 21, 2025, consisted of Jim Pearce as Chairman, along with non-Board members Brent Naveiro and Zach Pry. The committee presented the following slate of officers and board members for fiscal year 2026 (beginning March 1):

- President: Alan Bruhin
- Vice President: Brent Naveiro
- Past President: J. Michael Evans
- Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- Board Members for 2025 -February 2028:
 - Jim Pearce
 - Lois Luthenauer
- AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
- Chief Marshal (non-Board position): Donna Smith

Continuing on the Board without being re-elected this year are: Bob Smith & Kyle Griffin (2024-2027), and Luke McCoy & Nathan Lamping (2025-2028).

Board terms expiring are Jeff Rader & Jim Pearce . Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years, and thanks to Jim for agreeing to serve for another term.

Since J. Michael Evans is standing down, he will automatically become Past President for FY 2026. Donna Smith has agreed to continue on as Chief Marshal. These last two positions are not on the ballot, and Chief Marshal is not in itself a Board position, but both positions are important to the smooth working of the club.

In accordance with the Bylaws, and as announced in December's newsletter, additional nominations could have been made by any member prior to December 31, 2025, in writing to the Secretary, using the process outlined in the last newsletter. No one has made any additional nominations, so the nominations are now closed.

Voting for officers/directors and the AKC Delegate will be done at the annual Awards Banquet and general membership meeting. This will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Bearden Banquet Hall; see article on page 2 of this newsletter for more details and a first call for RSVPs.

We already have a very busy year lined up for 2026, with many hunt tests, club trials, business meetings, and more. Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve on the Board and as officers for this busy upcoming year!

End of the Year Awards — Call for Nominations

It's the end of another busy and productive year for our Club. One of the highlights of the February end-of-year banquet is to celebrate all the many accomplishments achieved during the year, and giving out awards to people and dogs who have had milestone accomplishments during the year. Club awards, nomination procedures, and due dates are listed below. All nominations and other information required for each award are due to J. Michael Evans (FowlMouthK9@gmail.com) by **JANUARY 22, 2026**.

PEOPLE AWARDS: calling for nominations from everyone in the club for the following two awards. Final selection will be made by secret ballot of the Board of Directors. See below for past winners of this award:

- ◆ **ETRC Member of the Year:** Any ETRC Member may nominate any other member for this award. The criterion is, who has done the most to help out the club during the past year? Please send your nominations along with a brief justification why you think the person is deserving of the award. The award consists of an engraved plaque.
- ◆ **AKC Sportsman of the Year:** This award recognizes the member who best exemplifies the qualities you want to see in dog sports, and who has best furthered the aims of the AKC in promoting our sport. The award is an engraved plaque mounted with an AKC-provided medallion.

People Awardees from the Last Ten Years:

Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2024	Dick Lamping	Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce
2023	Donna Smith	Mike Smith
2022	Michele Fletcher	Cory Smith
2021	Alan Bruhin	J. Michael Evans
2020	Cory & Elena Smith	Alan Bruhin
2019	Karen Edwards	Michele Fletcher
2018	Mike Smith	Jody Ware
2017	Roberta Williams	Brian Caldwell
2016	J. Michael Evans	Carol Stone
2015	Derek Dieterich	J. Michael Evans

DOG AWARDS: You must nominate your own dog or puppy for these awards. Please check the next several pages of this newsletter for award rules and information on how to submit nominations and / or count points . You may provide the information in an email or letter.

- ◆ **Gun Dog and Puppy of the year Awards** -- These awards are based on points earned in hunt test competition and club trials during the year. Information must be provided for each dog nominated. Winning dog and puppy will receive an engraved plaque to keep and a silver perpetual trophy to display for a year.
- ◆ **Lifetime Achievement Award:** This new award was instituted in 2023, and is intended to

Awards Call for 2025, Continued

honor each year one member-owned dog (alive or deceased) whose lifetime achievements in the field and in other areas such as the breeding shed and other dog sports are worthy of this recognition. This achievement will be honored with an engraved plaque for the owner to keep, and a perpetual trophy to display for a year. See information below on nomination submission requirements. This is a one-time award. **Field Trial Dog of the Year Award:** this award is new for 2025, and is established to recognize the dog owned by an ETRC member that has the most success during the year in AKC-sanctioned Field Trials.

- ◆ **Title awards:** If your dog has earned **any AKC field titles** (JH, SH, MH, AFC, FC, QA2, etc.) during 2025, please send your name, your dog's registered name, title earned, and the date and place where you titled. ETRC recognizes these achievements with an engraved plaque.
- ◆ **Master National/ Master Amateur Dogs:** If your dog was a **finalist** at the 2025 Master National or the 2025 Master Amateur, email the info to Michael along with a picture of you/your dog/your silverware. The award is an engraved plaque with the picture mounted on it. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2025 Master National or Master Amateur and received an invitation from the MNRC/MARC to participate, but either did not run or did not pass all series, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement! Make sure you are clear which category your dog falls into.

Last Year's Dog Award Winners:

Puppy Of The Year: Nate's High Flying Wren JH, owned and handled by Nate Lamping;

Gun Dog of the Year: Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, Owner Alan Bruhin (for the 4th year in a row!)

Lifetime Achievement Award: ETRC's second winner of this award was FC AFC Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits, owned by John Broucek and handled by John and Brady Collins

When you send J. Michael an email about awards, please use a separate email for each different subject -- i.e., if you are entering for Dog of the Year and also earned a title, please put those in two separate emails so he can keep the categories straight. AND, please put the category into the subject line -- 'AKC Sportsman nomination', etc. Dates outlined above for response to Michael have very little flexibility -- the engraver that we use is in the midst of basketball season awards at the same time, so we need the info by the dates specified in order to get the plaques back in time for the banquet. Once the order is in to the engraver, it can't be changed. **ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION REQUIRED TO NOMINATE YOUR DOG FOR A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.**

Rules and nomination information required for the dog awards (other than title awards which are self-explanatory) are on the website (<https://ETRCclub.org>) and were included in last month's newsletter.



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.

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.

