



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. July 18, 2026, Sat. all day — Basic Judge's Seminar, Comfort Inn, Athens
2. 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)
3. September 15-16, 2026, Tues—Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek MH Only, Caldwell's, Georgetown
4. October 17-18, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Fall Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater

Photo of the Month



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President's Message — By Alan Bruhin

Let me start by wishing everyone a Happy July 4th. I hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday.

I've just returned from Wisconsin where I participated in the Master Amateur National Hunt Test. For those of you who might not be familiar with this event, it is a national hunt test for amateur handlers. It moves around the country to different locations each year. This was the 10th year for this event. Next year it will be held in Nebraska starting the end of May.

The event typically lasts for 7 days and incorporates 6 series (2 land, 2 land/water and 2 water tests) to run during that time. While the test can be quite challenging, it is lots of fun to run and I would encourage everyone to work towards running this event in the future.

To be eligible to participate in this national event you must first join the Master Amateur Club. Your dog has to have a master title and you have to pass 4 master test during the qualifying period of March 1 through February 28 the year of the event. If you have any questions about the Master Amateur be sure to contact me.

I hope everyone is working hard getting ready for the fall hunt test season. Remember we have a midweek master in September and a double junior/senior and a master in October. Also, a club test and business meeting is scheduled for September 6. Additionally information will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions about the East Tennessee Retriever Club, feel free to reach out to me or any of our board of directors.

Alan Bruhin
wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu

PUPPY FOR SALE:

Andy & Pam Buck have one female for sale from their litter out of RAZOR SHARPS RIP-TIDE (RIP) and MOON OVER THE COOSAWATTEE (STAR).

Ready to go home at 8 weeks August 14th

Contact them at 423-421-2946 or
AndyB2946@gmail.com



UPCOMING!

Still two spaces available!!



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.

Send your name, address, phone number and a check for fees to: Karen Edwards, ETRC Secretary/Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Email first at EdwardsKC@gmail.com



Training Groups

Editor's Note: this is an article copied from The Retriever Coach

If you train with a group, or you're trying to build one, this is worth a few minutes of your time. A good training group is one of the most valuable assets you can have as a trainer. A bad one can set you back just as far. The difference usually comes down to a few things that most people never talk about openly. Here's what I've found separates groups that produce results from groups that fall apart.

1. Access to Resources

A group without the right resources is going to struggle from day one. Grounds, equipment, birds - these don't appear by magic! It's every member's responsibility to knock on doors, secure property, and follow the rules that keep property access available. Show up with your own gear. Don't assume someone else will provide what you need. Shared costs (birds, poppers, bird feed, ATV fuel) should be discussed openly and paid for promptly by everyone.

2. Leadership

Every group needs a designated leader to help ensure that there is direction, communication, a way to resolve issues, and that things get done. Choosing the right person for this job can usually be accomplished through discussions amongst group members and by informal unanimous consent.

3. Two-Way Communication

Communication is everyone's job, not just the group leader's. If plans are unclear, reach out. Don't assume. Apps like Telegram or Slack work well for keeping everyone on the same page from the same source.

4. Shared Responsibility

The work involved in a training day is significant. Grounds need to be reserved. Birds need to be thawed, bagged, transported, and disposed of. Equipment needs to be hauled, repaired, and put away. Setups need to be built, torn down, and rebuilt. Every member has a responsibility to do their share. Don't wait to be asked. When a setup ends, start rolling up holding blinds and get ready to move. Save the socializing for the end of the day.

5. Trainer Education

This sport is complex. If your group wants to compete at a high level, every member has a duty to get educated and stay educated. Attend seminars, watch other dogs run, ask questions, read, listen. You owe it to your dog, and you owe it to the people you train with. An educated group is a productive group.

6. Pre-Training Planning

Groups that show up without a plan waste time, energy, and resources. Before each session, members should talk through their individual training needs and find the common ground. Compromise will be required, but overall everyone should be getting their needs met.

7. Willingness to Adjust and Reset

Not every setup is appropriate for every dog in the group. Telling someone to just "move up" with their young dog is not a solution. Good groups are willing to adjust or reset a test when it doesn't serve all of the dogs present. Everyone deserves to have their needs met, not just the most advanced dogs.

7. Willingness to Adjust and Reset

The people in your group are resources. See them that way. Listen with an open mind when someone offers a read on your dog or a thought on your handling. You don't have to take every piece of advice, but the person offering it wants you to succeed. Be secure enough to hear it.

9. Commitment

If you're going to be part of a group, be all in. Show up on time. Bring your gear. Participate. Engage. This is what you owe every member of your group - and what they owe you.

Report on the 2026 Master Amateur Hunt Test June 21-28, 2026, — Stoughton, Wisconsin

This National Level event was held last week with 242 dogs entered. The test was divided into 3 flights, each with approximately 80 dogs. A total of 102 dogs qualified, which works out with scratches to be an overall passing %-age of 45%, with individual flights having 43.8, 47.4, and 43.0 % passing — much closer numbers between flights than in the much larger Master National.

Several of our ETRC members qualified and several attended. Congratulations to the following members who qualified their dogs:

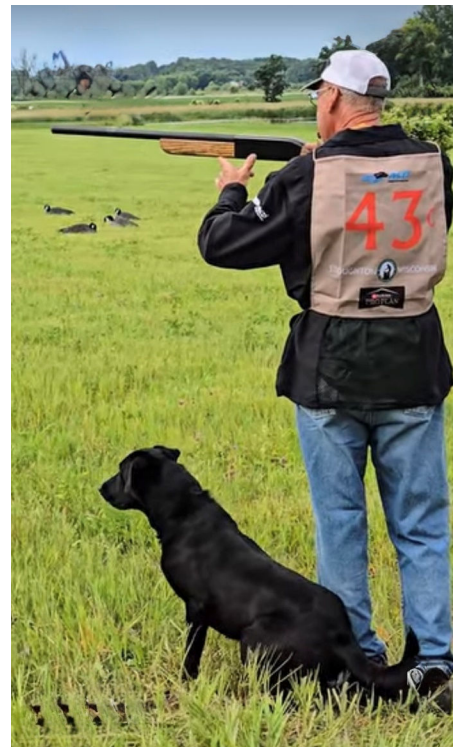
1. **Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH20** (Jack), a Lab male, with breeder/owner Alan Bruhin handling
2. **Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH44 MAH** (Cin), a lab female and half-sister to Jack, with breeder/owner Alan Bruhin handling
3. **Chosen Spot's Black Ice Warning MH** (Ice), a Lab male with owner Dennis Wilcox handling.
4. **Chosen Spot's Irish Nobleman MH (Patrick)**, a Lab male with owner Dennis Wilcox handling.

Also, club member Dianne Clark was one of the judges in Flight A.

Congratulations to everyone who qualified, and who participated whether successfully or not! All reports are that it was a challenging and interesting test!



*Alan
Bruhin
with Jack,
left, and
Cin, right.*



Health Alert: Update on New World Screwworm and Interstate Travel with Dogs

In early June 2026, cases of New World Screwworm (hereinafter screwworm or NWS) have been detected in southwest/central Texas and the southeastern tip of New Mexico. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state departments of agriculture and health officials are working together to address the issue.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) recommends that all dog owners, or anyone who works with dogs, to learn about NWS and to stay updated on developments. Anyone potentially engaging in interstate transportation with dogs—owners, AKC event competitors, professional handlers, and interstate transporters, including those that are part of shelter and rescue operations—should become familiar with new health and animal movement requirements imposed to help prevent further spread of the pest.

About New World Screwworm

NWS is a parasitic fly whose larvae burrow into the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, typically through an open wound, causing painful wounds, serious infection, and sometimes death. It can affect livestock, wildlife, and pets including dogs, which may be at risk if they have open wounds or if they come into contact with infested animals or contaminated areas. NWS was eradicated from the U.S. in 1966. However, it has returned. Actions are being taken to eliminate it again, but this will take time.

Meat, fruit, vegetables, eggs, and other food sources are safe from screwworm.

2026 NWS Confirmed Cases.

The USDA maintains a database of new confirmed cases of NWS, which is updated in real time:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animals/animal-health/livestock-and-poultry-disease/current-status/us-confirmed-cases-new-world>

As of June 29, there have been 14 confirmed incidents of Screwworm infestations in cattle, sheep, goats, and one dog. The most recent case was diagnosed on June 27.

Federal and State Responses to NWS

Federal and state officials are responding to NWS by creating or maintaining 20-km Infested Zones around confirmed detections and imposing quarantines, movement controls, and heightened surveillance in those zones. Go to www.screwworm.gov for additional details on the federal government's response to NWS.

In addition to their regular animal movement requirements, almost all states have created their own NWS-related rules, requirements, and movement restrictions for animals. **Anyone who is planning for interstate travel with dogs is strongly urged to review and comply with requirements of their home state, any state they will travel through, and their destination, and for their return trip.** Most states require vet inspections and certifications of animals from infested states prior to their coming into the state, and if they come from one of the quarantine areas, proof of treatment in addition to the inspection.

Note: flea and tick preventatives that contain one of the isoxazolines, including lotilaner, afoxolaner, fluralaner and sarolaner, have proven efficacy against NWS, and some products now have approval in the US. Note that these are approved for TREATMENT and not PREVENTION, although there is no reason to believe that they wouldn't be effective in prevention as well. For a more complete discussion about which drugs should protect your dog (or treat them if infected), see:

<https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/2026/06/articles/animals/dogs/new-world-screwworm-prevention-and-treatment-options-in-dogs-and-cats/>

ETRC Shirts & Jackets for sale!

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.



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 2026 with 4 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. Join or renew now for 2026!

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.

