



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



Test dog! Max with Lois Luthenauer, Master Only Hunt Test May 19, 2026

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President's Message — By Alan Bruhin

Welcome to summer! It's always a fun time of year spent with family and friends. Be sure to take special care of your 4-legged friends this summer. Watch to prevent overheating symptoms when training. Train early, try to incorporate water in your setups and keep your training sessions short. Always remember that our retrievers don't care what the temperature is. They will keep working until it's too late. There are some great resources online how to recognize overheating and what to do if it happens. Take a little time to educate yourself beforehand.

I want to congratulate Michele Fletcher on being selected to serve as secretary for the Master National Retriever Club. This is quite the honor to have one of our own in this position. I'm quite positive that she will represent us well!

We finished up our Spring Hunt Tests with our midweek Master test in May. Many thanks to Brian Caldwell for allowing us to once again use his property. As always this event wouldn't have been possible without the help of several club members and judges who give of their time. Congratulations to the 24 handler/dog teams who earned a pass.

One last plug for our basic judges seminar coming up in July. This is a great opportunity to spend a day and learn more about the rules that govern our sport. While it's labeled a judges seminar, it's actually for anyone who's running dogs in the AKC hunt test. The date is July 18th and it will be in Athens Tn. At a cost of \$20 dollars, it's a great deal. ETRC is helping offset the cost for our members. There is additional information about how to sign up later in this newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding East Tennessee Retriever Club, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other board members.

Alan Bruhin
wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu

***Decoys & Other
Distractions at the
Master Only Hunt
Test, May 19, 2026***



UPCOMING!

Still a few 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



Report on ETRC May Midweek Master Only Hunt Test May 19, 2026, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our second hunt test this year is in the books! It was a small test, as we were competing with a double Master that Middle Tennessee was putting on just a few days later, but that did mean that everything went very smoothly. We were able to actually take a short break for lunch, and still managed to finish all three series by 5:00 on the first day. The weather got pretty hot later in the day, but luckily we were finished with the Land series by that time so the dogs didn't get overheated.

Thanks as always to Brian Caldwell for letting us use his farm with that lovely technical pond. Sad to see that parts of the pond were dry, and the water level was low enough that the routes involved splashing bounds as much as actual swimming. (WE NEED SOME RAIN!!!) Thanks to our brilliant bird techs, who are affiliated with the Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society and always do such a great job for us. Also thanks to our judges and to the club members who stepped up and helped doing all manner of things — marshalling, test setup and teardown, rebirding, fixing lunches, paying bills & more.



We tried something different for lunches this time — hot dogs instead of deli-style sandwiches, along with a wider variety of condiments to go along with them. It cost a little extra, but tasted great! Thanks to Lois Luthenauer for doing the cooking!

Results: we had 39 entries and no scratches. Judges were our old friend Linc Huffman and ETRC member Haley Shealy. It was a good, meaty test, but with no tricks; dogs who failed pretty much took themselves out and there weren't any surprises. 24 dogs passed.

Member-owned dogs who passed were:

- ♦ RanMar's North Bound Train, owned by Dianne Clark, and handled by Randy Clark.
- ♦ Blythe Ferry's Indy Dos MH, owned by Donna and Michael Smith and handled by Donna.
- ♦ Troup's Ain't Nuttin' Fancy JH, owned by Ryan Troup and handled by Ryan Stamey.
- ♦ Razor's Coal Cotton MH, owned by Michael Smith and handled by Mike.
- ♦ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH40-something MAH, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- ♦ GRHRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH40, owned and handled by J. Michael Evans.
- ♦ Thistle Rock's Amber Waves, Golden Retriever owned and handled by Michele Fletcher
- ♦ Southern Comfort's Annie's Little Outlaw, owned by Terri Arthur & handled by Connor Lewis;
- ♦ Gus the Ol' Goose Getter, owned and handled by Brent Naveiro
- ♦ Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH20, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.

Congratulations to everyone who came and participated.

Financial information: Unfortunately, due to the low turnout, increased AKC per-dog fees, extra food costs for workers & judges, and the high price of gas, we lost money on the test. Not much — only \$130 — but we do rely on our tests to pay for our other activities and events so this is disappointing. Main reason for the low turnout was the double master/JH/SH test being offered by Middle Tennessee Retriever Club just a few days after our test. Hopefully we can coordinate with this club in the future to make sure our tests don't conflict.

Member News & Announcements

Puppies for sale! Robert White is expecting a litter of Labrador puppies on June 15, ready to go to their new homes around August 15. The sire is Blythe Ferry's Blaney QAA, who is sired by FC AFC Troublesome Fowl Pursuits, by FC AFC Seaside's Gorgeous George.

The dam is JJ's Troublesome Lady Spitfire SH, sired by SR's Double J MH, sired by FC AFC Seaside's Gorgeous George.

Contact Robert at 423-902-7007.



Congratulations Michele! Our very own hunt test secretary Michele Fletcher has been chosen to be the Master National Secretary. This is a big job, and one that she will bring her own high level of organization, hard work, and common sense to bear on making the MNRC an even better club.

Michele is also a national-level agility judge who was one of the judges in last year's AKC agility national championships. Training her own dogs, she has achieved a number of the high-level and difficult to achieve MACH titles on her dogs.

In hunt testing, Michele also trains her own dogs — and in addition to a number of SH titles, is now working her Amber to the Master level, with two Master passes to date.

News from Fern Hill Golden Retrievers:

- ◆ Congratulations to Fern Hill Pandemonium MH WCX OD ("Panda") who turned 15 years old on May 28. We love our Panda, and the three wonderful litters she had for us, including our own Fern Hill Sunday At the Zoo MH OD and Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH.
- ◆ Congratulations to Panda's granddaughter Mint (Fern Hill I Mint To Do That SH) who passed two MH tests with Jody Ware this spring and needs three more for her title.
- ◆ Thanks to everyone who asked about how Jim Pearce is doing. He is out of the hospital and feeling much better. Hope he can be back out competing and working this fall, although our dogs at home aren't getting much training or even exercise these days.



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.

