



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. March 29, 2026, Sunday 9:00 a.m. — Club Trial #1, Atchley Farm, Sevierville
2. April 18-19, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Spring Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater
3. May 19-20, 2026, Tues-Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's, Georgetown
4. July 18, 2026, Sat. all day — Basic Judge's Seminar, Comfort Inn, Athens
5. 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)
6. September 15-16, 2026, Tues—Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek MH Only, Caldwell's, Georgetown
7. October 17-18, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Fall Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater

Photo of the Month



Nikki Pizzo's dogs Clyde (handler) and Ozzy (puppy in training)

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President's Message — By Alan Bruhin

As I sit here writing this note for the newsletter, it's 26 degrees outside with snow flurries, but my thoughts are looking towards spring. Particularly, upcoming ETRC events.

We will start our new year's activities with a club test/training day on March 29th in Sevierville. Special thanks to founding club member Chuck Atchley for allowing us to use his beautiful farm for this event. Be sure to mark your calendar and make plans to join with other members for a fun day of activities. The day will start with the always fun event singles classic with junior, senior, and master hunt test setups to follow. As always, a puppy division will be available for anyone with a new puppy. If you are new to the club and the hunt test sport, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the retriever games.

Our first AKC licensed event will be held on April 18-19 at Lucky 7 farm in Sweetwater. Start working on those hunt test titles for your dogs or earning passes towards qualifying for the national events being held this year. As always, we need your help to make this event happen. We need volunteers to help both days with lots of different jobs. If you would be willing to help, please reach out to me or any other board members. Don't worry if you don't know what to do, we will work with you to make sure you understand what is needed.

Following our April hunt test, we will have a mid-week AKC master only test on May 19-20 in Georgetown.

Looking ahead to the summer, make plans to attend our Basic Judges Seminar on July 18. This is scheduled to be held in Athens and will be taught by a AKC field representative. This seminar is not just for judges, but everyone can benefit from attending. You will learn about rules and regulations for running a AKC hunt test and information on how to setup training and testing scenarios for your dog. At \$20 for ETRC members this is a great deal.

You can find additional information on all of these events in this newsletter.

Congratulations to all the award winners and handlers recognized for their dogs' achievements at our February awards dinner. I know lots of hard work went into achieving those awards

Let me finish by thanking Michael Evans for serving as our president for the past two years. I know firsthand that he has worked tirelessly to make this organization a successful club. I look forward to serving as the president for the upcoming year.

Alan Bruhin
wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu

Membership is Due

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 !

SOON!

ETRC Club Trial **Sunday, March 29, 2026, Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm**

Our first event of the season will be a club trial that is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. at Chuck Atchley's Revilo farm in Sevierville. 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.

What is a Club Trial? It is an event to work your dog in conditions that are more test-like than a training session. It's a good opportunity to check your dog's progress and readiness for an actual hunt test, and besides it's a ton of fun. 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 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, but will need some field workers for planting thawed ducks for blinds, rebirding, etc.

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 or the Year, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards. Club Trial Rules are included on page xxx.

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, PROS AND AMATEURS. If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial, check with Secretary/Treasurer Karen Edwards. Membership is \$25 for a year, and entitles you to a monthly newsletter and other member benefits.

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 chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is expected to be monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or snowing in Niota, we will not run. So be sure to check your email Saturday night! If you don't hear anything, come on out. If we have to cancel, we will try to set up a rain date for later.

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.

RSVP: Please let us know if you are planning to come. RSVP to edwardskc@gmail.com. Come anyway if you can, even without an RSVP — but it will help if we know approximately how many people to expect.

DIRECTIONS TO CHUCK ATCHLEY'S REVILO FARM:

GPS address is approximately 3498 Boyd's Creek Highway, Sevierville, TN. Get off on exit 407 (Sevierville / Gatlinburg exit), cross over the French Broad river, turn right on Boyd's Creek Highway immediately after crossing the bridge. Go 2.3 miles, turn right at the Farm sign and continue on the farm road to the back of the property.

End-of-year Awards Banquet Report



ETRC's annual Awards Banquet , which also included a general membership meeting and annual elections for Officers and the Board of directors, was held on February 21, 2026, Saturday evening, at the Bearden Banquet Hall in Knoxville. The event started at 6:00 p.m for socializing and before-dinner drinks, and the dinner buffet started at 6:30 p.m. Free to all members and their families and guests, the menu included a buffet of green salad with tomatoes, cheese and crumbled bacon; yeast dinner rolls, chicken tenders, beef tenderloin, new potatoes, mixed vegetables, and an amazing chocolate mousse cake. Beer was available for purchase, and

wine, lemonade, iced tea, coffee, and water were complimentary.

After dinner, our guest speaker, Dr. Andrew Lewin from VisionVetsForPets, gave an interesting and informative presentation on various eye diseases and injuries and their treatment. Dr. Lewin, who originally hails from Scotland, is a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist with a wide range of experience. Before opening VisionVetsForPets last spring, he was on the UT Vet school faculty for several years. He also has some great stories about lambing time as a veterinary student in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he basically lived in an enormous barn with 5000 sheep for several weeks, and decided that being a large animal vet was not for him!



Look over the articles on the next several pages for pictures and information on awards, elections, a recap of our events over the past year and a look ahead to plans for 2024. For those of you who came, it was great to see and visit with you in an informal setting; for those of you who were didn't come, you missed a fun evening — we hope you can join us next year!

For information on awards, elections, and meeting minutes, see separate articles further on in the newsletter! Next month we will publish Dr. Lewin's slides with notes for those of you who were unable to attend.



End-of-year Awards

The following awards were handed out at the banquet to member owners and member-owned dogs. Congratulations to everyone who won any of the awards, and thanks to J. Michael Evans for being our awards coordinator. This is not an easy job! J. Michael Evans mentioned that awards for titles are down this year. Some of this is because we had fewer dogs competing at the lower levels, and at the higher levels that were untitled, but apparently some members did not pay attention to our awards program and did not notify us of their dogs receiving titles. He urged everyone to please notify us whenever your dog titles, and pay attention to the three calls for awards that are included in the December and January newsletters and followed up with special all-hands emails calling for awards. He then announced the following awards for 2025:

AKC Title Awards for 2024:

Junior Hunter: Congratulations and a title plaque was presented to:

- ◆ Cowan's Cask Strength Whiskey JH (Whiskey), owned and handled by Ronnie Cowan. (pictured at right receiving his award plaque)



Senior Hunter: 7 member-owned dogs earned Senior Hunter titles this past year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- ◆ JJ's Troublesome Lady Spitfire SH (Lady), a Labrador owned and handled by Robert White;
- ◆ Dicks High Flying Laser Teal SH (Teal), a Labrador owned and handled by Dick Lamping;
- ◆ Fern Hill I Mint To Do That SH (Mint), a Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, and handled by both Jim and Jody Ware;
- ◆ Gus the Ol' Goose Getter SH (Gus), a Labrador owned, trained and handled by Brent Naveiro;
- ◆ Calamity Jane's Special Brew SH MX MXB MXJ MJB MFB T2B (Chai), a Golden Retriever bred, owned, trained and handled by Michele Fletcher;
- ◆ Thistle Rock's Amber Waves SH (Amber), a Golden Retriever owned, trained and handled by Michele Fletcher; and
- ◆ HR Waylon's Harley Under the Shade SH (Waylon), owned, trained and handled by Zach Pry.



J. Michael & Dick Lamping;



J. Michael & Zach Pry



J. Michael & Jim Pearce

Master Hunter: No member-owned dogs earned their Master Hunter titles this year, or at least none that we heard about.

Amateur Field Trial Champion: None this year

Field Trial Champion: None this year

QA2: (Qualified All-Age at field trials two times): None this year



National Competition Awards:

Qualifying at the Master Amateur: June 22, 2025 - Sunday, June 29, 2025 , Waterville, Maine: Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to 4 ETRC-owned dogs who attended and passed all series:

- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH MAH, “Cin”, with owner/breeder/handler Alan Bruhin Cin is also now in the MA Hall of Fame.
- ◆ Rattling Ridges Willin @ RanMar MH MNH4 MAH, “Alice” with owner/handler Randy Clark. She is now in the Master Amateur Hall of Fame.
- ◆ RanMar's North Bound Train MH MAR, “Tripp”, who is Alice’s daughter, with owner Dianne Clark handling.
- ◆ Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH “Miss Ivy”, with owner/handler J. Michael Evans.

Qualifying at the Master National: October 30 – November 9, 2025, Bastrop/Lee County, Texas.



Master Amateur Finalists: Left to right: Alan Bruhin & Cin leaving the line; J. Michael and Randy Clark, and J. Michael and Dianne Clark at the Banquet

Only three of the following people requested their picture plaques, but we wanted to mention the other members who qualified even without a plaque. Congratulations to:

- ◆ Troublesome Fowl Addiction MH, owned by John Broucek & Jeff Coffey, and handled by Jody Ware;
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH25 MAH, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- ◆ Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- ◆ Moon Over the Coosawattee MH, owned by Andy and Pam Buck and handled by Jody Ware;
- ◆ L7TroublesomeWhatAboutBob MH, owned by Bob Smith and handled by Brian Caldwell;
- ◆ Southern Comfort's Run Your Tail Off MH, owned and handled by Melissa Dobson
- ◆ Southern Comfort's Crack Shot MH, owned and handled by Melissa Dobson;



Pro members Jody and Brian also passed with another non-member client dog each, and pro member Melissa passed with 4 other client dogs.

Congrats also to people who qualified to attend, and either did not attend or did not make it through all series. Qualifying for these events takes 4 (Amateur) or 6 (Open) MH passes during the year and is quite an achievement in itself. Congratulations!

Qualifying to go to the Master Amateur:

- ◆ Tennessee Gentleman Jack, Breeder/owner/handler Alan Bruhin.

Qualifying to go to the Master National:

- ◆ Ranmars North Bound Train MH, MAR, owned by Dianne Clark
- ◆ Rattlin Ridges Willin' O Ranmar MH MNH MAH, owned by Randy Clark.
- ◆ Dennis Wilcox qualified with 4 dogs: Chosen Spots Black Ice Warning MH; Chosen Spots Irish Nobleman MH, Chosen Spots Splash of Tequila MH, and Rsr's Leader Of The Pack MH.
- ◆ Coosawatte Backwater Drake MH, owned by Andy Buck
- ◆ Crosspoint's Blindside Blitz MH, owned by Rhey & Noah Houston
- ◆ Troublesome Lucky On Heads MH, owned by Jeff Coffey
- ◆ Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH "Miss Ivy", owned by J. Michael Evans. Michael was a judge at this year's Master National so could not compete.



ETRC Club Awards for 2025:

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2025: Not awarded this year; no one submitted their puppy for this achievement.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of the Year, 2025: For the fifth year in a row, this award went to the elegant and incomparable Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball, a Black Lab bred, owned, and handled by Alan Bruhin.

Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award, 2025: This is the third year for this award, which was established to recognize a member-owned dog who has achieved over its lifetime notable achievements in the retriever field and/or other competitive fields, in the breeding shed, etc. The award this year goes posthumously to Norwood's Ocoee JJ MH MNH8, a yellow male Labrador Retriever owned and trained by also-deceased long time ETRC member Fay Council Norwood. During his 13 years, he hunted and hunt tested all over the Eastern half of the country with Fay, and JJ was only the second dog to achieve 8 Master National passes, placing him in the highest ranks of the Master National Hall of Fame. Although largely deaf in his later years, he competed successfully at the Master level until a few months before his death. For more information, see the article on page xxx.

AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award for 2025: The award this year goes to Bob Smith, who not only trains with Brian Caldwell and competes with his dog L7TroublesomeWhatAboutBob, but also breeds fine Labrador Retrievers and is always willing to lend a helping hand.



ETRC Member of the Year, 2025: Brent Naveiro won the prize for 2025. He helped at every test and worked long and hard. We appreciate you, Brent!

Congratulations to all; earning a title or an award is a mark of achievement, training, involvement, expense and good breeding; and qualifying for and competing at the National Events in our sports is a year-long commitment involving significant time and expense. We are proud of you all!

JJ and Fay Norwood

The Lifetime Achievement award for 2025 goes posthumously to Norwood's Ocoee JJ MH MNH8, a yellow male Labrador Retriever owned and trained by also-deceased long time ETRC member Fay Council Norwood.



JJ was whelped July 26, 1997 and died March 6, 2011 at the ripe old age of 13 years and 7-plus months. He was by Bay Creek's Independence out of Society Hill's Stormy. Fay hunted and hunt tested extensively with him, with great success. JJ was only the second dog to achieve 8 Master National passes, placing him in the top ranks in the Master National Hall of Fame. Fay is also in the Hall of Fame as a winner of the now-retired Women's Challenge trophy. Although there are now 5 dogs who have achieved 9 MN passes, and a total of 3 with 8, her achievements with JJ still stand out in the retriever world.

Entry Express records only go back to 2004, at which time JJ was already a seasoned competitor. In the early years, their record was likely not complete as there were still a number of tests that used direct entry procedures rather than Entry Express. However, from November 20, 2004 to April 24, 2010, Entry Express records show him passing 26 Master tests in a row. His perfect record ended at ETRC's spring and Fall tests that year, where he did not pass at age 13+. Entry Express's records from those years unfortunately do not include his Master National record, where his 8th and final pass was in 2009.

Many of us older members remember JJ in his later years. He was nearly deaf at this point and was no longer a swift runner – Fay had to use a whistle that was about the size of a megaphone – but he still took straight lines and perfect casts.

Fay herself, for those of you who didn't have the pleasure of meeting her, was a legend in the retrieving world and in the East Tennessee Retriever Club. She was born in Atlanta in 1930 and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Georgia. For several years prior to her marriage, she worked as a chemist for the Tennessee Chemical Company (formerly the Tennessee Copper Company), which produced sulphuric acid, in Copperhill, Tennessee, where she lived for most of the rest of her life. After her children left home, she was given her first yellow Labrador, Roux, and trained him as a hunting dog. When Roux grew older, she added JJ to the family. Fay traveled all over the US to train and enter hunt tests and was a member of ETRC for around 20 years. Tall and elegant, Fay was fiercely intelligent and outspoken – but always willing to help. Many of us learned how to Marshall under her supervision, and she was still helping with all of our hunt tests well into her upper 80s.



Fay died at age 91 on December 18, 2021, with JJ's successor Sonny, another yellow male Labrador, by her side.

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.



**Minutes for Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 22, 2025
Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN**

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Kyle Griffin, Nate Lamping

Absent, excused: Luke McCoy, work assignment, Alan Bruhin, conflicting MN Board meeting; Miehele Fletcher, agility judging assignment; Jeff Rader, unspecified.

Absent, Unexcused: Bob Smith

Members Present: Dianne & Randy Clark; Ronnie & Paige Cowan; Tracey Griffin; Bob Houston; Dick Lamping; Brody Lamping; Lois Luthenauer; Brent & Macy Naveiro, Zack & Tyra Pry; Donna Smith; Ryan Smith; Lisa Styles; Peter & Mara Torok; Josh & Macy Wilcox.

Guests Present: Dr. Andrew Lewin DVM (Speaker); Olivia Guthrie (Lisa Styles' guest).

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 16 memberships were represented, and the current FY2025 membership stands at 67 (20% would be 14). Therefore, a quorum was present. Total number present was 27; an additional 6 people had signed up but did not come after all.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Andrew Lewin, BVM&S DACVO, Veterinary Ophthalmologist, Vision Vets for Pets, Common Eye Diseases in Dogs.

Dr. Lewin was introduced by President J. Michael Evans. Dr. Lewin hails from the UK, namely the Scottish Borders. Dr. Lewin graduated from Edinburgh veterinary college in 2010. Following a period in small animal general practice, he completed a residency in veterinary ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison then later joined the faculty at Louisiana State University and the University of Tennessee. Over his veterinary career, Dr. Lewin has run eye clinics for pets, taught veterinary students, interns and residents, volunteered for national veterinary ophthalmology organizations, established an eye research laboratory and authored numerous scientific and clinical articles on various topics in ophthalmology. He has presented the results of his award-winning research at major national scientific conferences and also presents at continuing education events for veterinary professionals. Dr. Lewin is passionate about helping animals in need and has volunteered his services to shelter organizations for many years.

Dr. Lewin is an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease in animals and has a special interest in eye surgery and corneal diseases. He lives locally in Knoxville with his wife, who is also a veterinarian. Dr. Lewin gave a very interesting presentation, with slides showing various eye conditions.

[Editor's note: A rundown of Dr. Lewen's presentation with slides will be included in either the March or the April Newsletter as space permits.]

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on last year's activities:

J. Michael Evans welcomed everyone, and then gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year – which included 3 club trials (the fall one with a picnic lunch), and 6 hunt tests including 4 single flight Master Only tests, a Double Junior / Senior test, and a Fall test that included Master and double JH / SH tests. It was a very busy year beginning in early March and ending in early November.

Michael mentioned that our upcoming year was going to be a bit lighter, but will still include a spring and a fall test with one flight Master and double Junior / Double Senior tests, and 2 other Midweek

Banquet Minutes, Continued

Master-only tests. We will also hold 2 club trials and a Basic Judging Seminar in July. We need people to help Marshal, set up, tear down, repair equipment, wrangle ducks, prepare lunches, and all the other things that go into putting on a hunt test, especially for the spring and fall tests which are usually quite large and need lots of workers. He also reminded people that any club member who puts in at least 8 hours or more helping at the hunt tests during a year is entitled to one free entry to a test later on during that year.

Michael called out several people and groups for special thanks:

- ◆ Ken Campbell & Brian Caldwell for letting us use their properties repeated times during the season for hunt tests and club trials. Ken Campbell mentioned to J. Michael that both he and his farm manager Brandon Kamp have noticed that after our club holds a weekend test, we leave the place clean as a pin, which is much appreciated.
- ◆ Cory and Elena Smith, for storing our club trailers and for taking care of leftover ducks in the ETRC duck pen on their property; and
- ◆ Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 7, 2026. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and were published in the February newsletter. They will go up on the website during the next month. Lois moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Jim and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence:

Notice from AKC that our annual report is due following conclusion of this meeting, identifying our new officers and board members.

Recent renewal of our Club General Liability insurance policy. Price went up by \$210.35 to \$1110.35 this year.

The Annual report for the State of Tennessee is due soon, and tax information is due to our tax accountant. Now that we are bringing in more than \$50,000 a year in gross income, we can no longer use the simple 'postcard' return that we have been able to use in the past.

Website, Newsletter and Facebook Page: We are continuing to try to improve our communications with members and people who might be interested in becoming members. Alan Bruhin is the Facebook page manager, and Karen Edwards deals with the Newsletter and website. Please, if you have news to share – a new puppy, a litter announcement, a new title, a dog passing – even important personal news like a new baby or a new spouse – please let us know and we'd be happy to share the news.

Membership: Our current membership is 67 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and membership dues for 2026 are now due. Those of you who joined after November or have already sent in your 2026 memberships, you are fully covered already for the 2026 fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/20/26 was \$37,980.16, which is \$4755.47 less than we had at the same time last year (\$42,735.63). We made less money on our Hunt Tests this year due to increased expenses and fewer entries, but also spent less on new equipment. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year, from the 1/1/25 to the end of the year, and a second one from 1/1/26 to the present. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the Youth Fund.

Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$3,000 including awards and food), around \$1000 for ribbons that need to be ordered very soon, and around \$500 for our website an-

Banquet Minutes, Continued

nual fees. This will leave us with approximately \$33,000 going into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape but do need to keep an eye on expenses more this year and may need to reconsider some discretionary expenses if entries continue to be down.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher is unavailable tonight; keep an eye on the newsletter for any AKC changes.

Old Business

1. **Election of New members:** J. Michael Evans. We have 8 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.
 - ◆ Gay & Bob Coffin, Signal Mountain, TN. Retired couple with Flatcoats. Sponsors Bob Smith & Jim Pearce.
 - ◆ Scott Corum, Georgetown, TN, Engineer who has a black lab. Bob Smith and J. Michael Evans were sponsors.
 - ◆ Colton & Tiffany Cross, Cleveland, TN. He works for the gas company, have a 2 year old Black Lab. Mike Smith and Bob Smith are sponsors.
 - ◆ Steve & Robin Cumbie, Powell, TN. He's a swimming pool builder. They have a young Golden puppy. Jim Pearce & Karen Edwards were sponsors.
 - ◆ Samuel & Alexandra Hartsell, Knoxville, TN. They work in the finance industry and have a young yellow English lab. Brent Naveiro and Alan Bruhin were sponsors.
 - ◆ Kenny McCormick, Cleveland, TN, Ocoee Steel manager. Has a black lab Master Hunter. J. Michael Evans and Alan Bruhin were sponsors.
 - ◆ Nicole Pizzo, "Nikki", Ceres, VA. She works with Mike and Lisa Vencille, and has a yellow and a black lab. Michele Fletcher and Mike Smith were sponsors.
 - ◆ Bobby & Judy Stogner, Knoxville, banker. Has a black lab puppy. Sponsors are Alan Bruhin & Nate Lamping.

Jim moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Lois seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. **Awards Presentations.** [This section of the minutes has been removed to a separate article beginning on page xxxx]
2. **Election of Officers/Board.** The slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee is presented for approval. There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the Bylaws, and nominations are now closed.

The proposed slate is as follows:

- ◆ President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Vice President: Brent Naveiro
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Board Member Feb 2026- Feb 2029: Jim Pearce
- ◆ Board Member Feb 2026- Feb 2029: Lois Luthenauer
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Past President: J. Michael Evans (non-elective)
- ◆ Chief Marshall for 2025 tests: Donna Smith (non-elective)

Banquet Minutes, Continued

Remaining on the board: Kyle Griffin & Bob Smith (through Feb 2027). Luke McCoy & Nate Lamping (through Feb 2028).

Thanks so much to Jeff Rader and Mike Smith, whose terms are expiring, for your service and expertise these past years.

J. Michael called for a motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot. This motion was made by Dick Lamping, seconded by Dianne Clark, and passed unanimously.

J. Michael then called for a voice vote to approve the slate of officers and board members. The motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Karen Edwards, and passed unanimously. So the slate of officers and board members for 2026 is approved.

3. ***Statement by Incoming President:*** In the absence of the newly-elected President, Alan Bruhin, who is having way too much fun in Texas at a hastily-called Master National Board Meeting where he is not only on the board but was called to make an important presentation, J. Michael Evans continued on with the meeting. Karen Edwards came up to the podium and presented J. Michael with an honorarium from the Board on Alan's behalf. This is to thank him for spending so much time and energy in the last two years as our President, and consisted of a gift card to Bass Pro. Michael thanked everyone for the privilege of having worked for the club and stated his continuing commitment to helping the club for the foreseeable future.
4. ***Other Activities:*** If you have any suggestions for other activities you would like to see, please let us know. Contact any of the board members or officers and make suggestions for any areas where the club can better meet your retriever needs.
5. ***Member Incentives:*** Being in ETRC has more perks than a free meal in February and title awards for your dogs. For members who have been members for at least a year, and who are running bitches - we will refund your entry fees for any test of ours that you enter, and your bitch goes into season and can't compete, without a vet certificate. If you work at one or more hunt tests or club trials, you will be entitled at the end of the season to a refund of your entry to one hunt test that you participated in.
6. ***Door Prizes:*** J. Michael asked Mike Smith to help with drawing numbers for the various door prizes which were laid out on a table at the back. Prizes included two free entries to ETRC hunt tests, worth up to \$110 each; 2 free tee shirts of your selection to be picked up at one of our events (worth up to \$25 each), a half-zip fleece with the ETRC logo embroidered on it (a \$35 value), several ETRC and other retriever related hats worth up to \$25, and a variety of other retriever-related swag.

Any other new business?

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lois, the vote passed unanimously, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ETRC Board Meeting, Saturday, 2/21/26 Bearden Banquet Hall

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Brent Naveiro, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Nathan Lamping, Kyle Griffin, Lois Luthenauer

Absent, Excused: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin. Michele Fletcher

Absent, Unexcused: Bob Smith

Others Members Present: None.

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 7 people present. The meeting was called to order by Past President J. Michael Evans at 9:08 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None. In the absence of the newly-elected President Alan Bruhin, and since it was our new Vice President's first minutes as an officer, Past President J. Michael Evans ran this brief meeting.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Correspondence:**

- o Request for donation from Knoxville 4H
Request for donation from AKC Humane Fund
Jim moved that we not make any donations to these organizations. Kyle and Lois seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: None

AKC Delegate's report: None

Old Business

Spring hunt test in honor of Jolynn Lamping: We will have a banner or poster with her picture and a few brief words that the hunt test is in her memory. Michele will be asked to add this information to the Premium List on Entry Express. Nathan agreed to find a picture. Karen will provide any help as necessary.

New Business:

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

Marsha & Bill Fuzia, retired. 2115 Fulton Street, Bluefield, WV 24701. Goldengirlmarsha@gmail.com, 503-738-2380. Golden breeder, Belle Terre Goldens. Has 5 Goldens, volunteers for assisting HT secretary, food prep/supplies and ribbon helper, will help "wherever I can". Member of GRCA and a dog training club in Salem, VA. Interested in AKC hunt tests, dog training, club trials, and breeding. They have trained with the Venilles which is how they know about our club. They requested Michele Fletcher and Mike Smith as sponsors, and they were so assigned by the Acting President.

Troy & Kirsty Perry. He's a fireman. 11104 Hardin Valley Rd, Knoxville, TN 37932, tper-ry398@gmail.com, 423-503-9673. Volunteers for whatever is needed, has 4 labs (3 black 1 chocolate), the oldest one (10 years) with an MH title. Interested in AKC hunt tests, field trials, dog training, judging clinics, and breeding. Has signed up for our judges' seminar.

Sponsors: none requested. Alan and J. Michael were assigned as sponsors.

Josh & Macy Wilcox. He is a supervisor at CNS Y-12 plant. They live at 438 Miller Road, Clinton, TN 37716. Email is birdhunter2022@yahoo.com, phone is 865-661-6835. Will volunteer for hunt test set up, marshalling, training supplies, and ribbons handler. They own two young Labradors (6 months, 1 years) and are interested in AKC hunt tests, field trials, dog training, club trials, and are NRA members. They are friends of the Naveiros, and Brent and Lois agreed to be sponsors for them.

Brent moved that we accept these new members on first reading. Jim seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Winter Awards Banquet for 2027: corresponding date would be 2/20/27, but the next Saturday is 2/27/27. J. Michael mentioned that Michele has a judging conflict already on one of these dates but can't remember which one. We will find out from her which date she can come, and go for that one.

Club Trial 3/29/26:

Frozen ducks? Lois agreed to bring a dozen frozen ducks from her freezer.

2 free entries for members? Yes, general consensus was that this was a good idea and increased membership without costing the club a lot of money.

Free food? No, unless someone feels like baking something and bringing it. We will advise them in the newsletter to bring a lunch, drinks and snacks for themselves as well as whatever they need for their dog.

Ribbons for Club Trials – inventory done, we are running low but probably have enough for only two trials this year, especially since people often return the MH ribbons. Have:

10 JH ribbons

11 AJH ribbons

17 SH ribbons

30 MH ribbons

Lots of puppy JAM and placement ribbons.

36 Singles Classic JAM

7 full sets plus some extra blues (5), red (1), and white (2) Singles Classic placement ribbons

Club Trial ribbons: we may need to order some later this year or at least next year. The general consensus is that having ribbons is a nice thing especially for new members and owners of new puppies just getting going, and we should continue to provide ribbons. Karen will keep an eye on our supply and bring up a request for reordering when necessary.

HT Ribbons update:

Inventory:

MH: 74

SH: 100

JH: 154

Title: 73

Title tabs: 35 JH, 45 SH, 86 MH

Duck bands: ~550, OK for now, just ordered last fall.

Recommendation: order 100 MH ribbons, either now or in the summer when we see how many we use in the two spring tests. Lois moved, and Brent seconded, that the Board authorize Karen to order 100 MH ribbons when there is a sale on and when we need them, without a further motion being needed.

Lunches for HT: any changes anyone wants to make in what we get and how we do it?

There was a discussion about whether there are easier alternatives to preparing home-made sandwiches and lunches. There are no complaints about the quality of the food, but most clubs don't do this and buy lunches somewhere else. Jim mentioned that when we tried getting

lunches from Subway, it took forever at the store and they wouldn't authorize buying ahead. Sweetwater doesn't seem to have a lot of options; buying hamburger lunches is pretty disgusting when they are cold by the time they arrive and get eaten. No resolution to this was made; we still have some time before the first hunt test to explore this further. Karen and Jim stated they are very willing to continue making the lunches as we are doing now. It is a less expensive option, doesn't take all that long, and is more flexible than having to figure out a day in advance how many we will need.

Update on Judges' seminar: No one had much of an update. Just waiting for registrations. Karen asked for clarity on timing – when does this start in the morning and end at night?

Any Other new Business? None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business Jim moved that we adjourn. Lois seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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.

Also available for special order only is the lightweight jacket on the right. It's listed as a soft shell jacket, and is available in several appropriate colors

(although I know a certain Hunt Test Secretary that might really like the purple!). These are full zip, standup collar, waterproof jackets, and would have the embroidered ETRC logo in the left pocket area. These are available for special order, for \$65, and for an additional \$10 you could your name embroidered as well. This might make an excellent gift for someone special!

Lois's email is MountainLO-717@gmail.com, her phone 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 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. **MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH!**

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.

