



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. May 19-20, 2026, Tues-Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's, Georgetown
2. July 18, 2026, Sat. all day — Basic Judge's Seminar, Comfort Inn, Athens
3. 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)
4. September 15-16, 2026, Tues—Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek MH Only, Caldwell's, Georgetown
5. October 17-18, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Fall Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater

Photo of the Month



Title! Mike Smith earns his fifth pass and Master Hunter Title with Razor's Coal Cotton. Judges were Haley Shealy and David Murphy. Mike was pretty tickled!

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President's Message — By Alan Bruhin

Hello! I hope everyone is having a great spring and taking advantage of the beautiful weather we have been experiencing here in East Tennessee to get those retrievers out and get some training in.

It was great to see several of our club members at our April hunt test. Congratulations to everyone who received qualifying ribbons and special recognition to Mike Smith who completed the master test with his dog Cotton and received his master title! This event would never have been possible without the great support from several club members. Many thanks to everyone who was there early and stayed late to setup equipment, hang ducks and all the other stuff that is required to put on test. Also, thanks to club members Haley Shealy, Lois Luthenauer and Dianne Clark who agreed to serve as judges for the event. Thanks to landowner, Ken Campbell for allowing us to use his beautiful farm. We are extremely fortunate to have access to this property.

If you missed our April test, we have a master only midweek test scheduled for May 19-20 in Georgetown Tn. Just as our April, test we will need workers to hold this test. Please let me know if you will be available to help.

Again, a quick reminder of our basic judge's seminar scheduled on July 18 in Athens Tn. Cost for East Tennessee Club members is only \$20. This seminar will be led by AKC rep. Jerry Mann. He will be discussing hunt test rules and regulations for running a licensed hunt test. This is a great training opportunity for new or inexperienced retriever trainers and a refresher course for all judges. Anyone who might have interest in becoming a AKC hunt test judge must take this basic seminar before becoming eligible to judge.

Good luck to everyone running hunt test this spring and summer. As always, if you have any questions about our club, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other club directors. We are here to help you as much as possible.

Alan Bruhin
wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu



Membership is Overdue

This is your last newsletter if you haven't rejoined by June 1. 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 Spring Hunt Test April 18-19, 2026, Lucky 7 Ranch



Our first hunt test of the year went off very well on the 18th and 19th at the beautiful Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater. It was a relatively small test, which made the whole process go more quickly. Saturday was pretty hot in the afternoon, but luckily the Junior and Senior stakes finished before it got uncomfortable, and only the Master stake had to face the unseasonable weather. After the storms Saturday night, Sunday was cool and beautiful! We again finished all stakes before noon which made for a relaxed and pleasant test.

Thanks as always to Ken Campbell for letting us use his beautiful farm, and to his farm manager Brandon Kamp for keeping the place lovely and the grass at a reasonable height. 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 many, many club members who stepped up and helped doing all manner of things — bird teching, test setup and teardown, rebirding, fixing lunches, paying bills & more.

Results:

Master Test: we had 51 entries, but 6 scratches, so 45 dogs came to the line. Judges were David Murphy and ETRC member Haley Shealy. 27 dogs passed. Member-owned dogs who passed were:

- ♦ Razor's Coal Cotton MH, owned by Donna and Michael Smith and handled by Mike to his fifth pass and title. Congratulations!
- ♦ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH44 MAH, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Thistle Rock's Amber Waves, Golden Retriever owned and handled by Michele Fletcher for her first ever MH pass!
- ♦ GRHRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH40, owned and handled by J. Michael Evans.
- ♦ Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH20, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- ♦ RanMar's North Bound Train, owned by Dianne Clark, and handled by Randy Clark.

ETRC member Brian Caldwell also handled several other client dogs to Master passes.

Senior Test, Saturday: Judges were Scott Silverstein & ETRC member Lois Luthenauer. 5 dogs were entered, and 2 passed. ETRC Member Laura DeWald passed with her Golden Retriever SureFire's Not A Hillbilly.

Senior Test, Sunday: Judges were Sherie Catledge & ETRC member Dianne Clark. 5 dogs were entered, and 4 passed. ETRC member's passing dogs:

- ♦ SureFire's Not A Hillbilly, Golden Retriever owned & handled by Laura DeWald; and
- ♦ HR Riverview Farm Highpoint Oak, owned & handled by Kyle Griffin (pictured at right with Kyle giving Oak a pep talk!).



Junior Test, Saturday: judges were Sherie Catledge & Dianne Clark. 16 dogs entered and 12 passed. Passing dogs owned by ETRC members were:

- ♦ Clinch River's Tanner, owned and handled by Joshua Wilcox;
- ♦ Lick Creek Magic Marker, owned by Lisa and Mike Vencille and handled by Mike;
- ♦ Lick Creek Bark At The Moon, owned and handled by Nikki Pizzo;
- ♦ Belle Terre Comin In Hot, Golden Retriever owned and handled by Marsha Fuzia;
- ♦ Wingmaster Ziggy Stardust RN CGC , a Flatcoat owned by Rick & Donna Post and handled by Rick.

Junior Test, Sunday: judges were Lois Luthenauer & Scott Silverstein. 14 dogs entered and 13 passed. Passing dogs owned by ETRC members were the same as those listed above.

Congratulations to all, whether you passed or not! This is a tough game and requires lots of dedication from owners!

Photography

: Professional Photographer Dennis Akins was at the test and took some wonderful pictures that are available for purchase. You can see the proofs & purchase pictures at:

dennisakinsphotography1.shootproof.com



Water Set –up for Junior test on Sunday



Michele Fletcher with her first Master ribbon!!!

Financial Data:

Unfortunately, we lost money on this test. Increased AKC Fees, costs of gas for judges' transportation, ducks, groceries for lunches, combined with our small number of entries, resulted in a loss of a few hundred dollars.

This is not catastrophic, as we have plenty of 'pad' in our treasury. However, we rely on our hunt tests to make enough money to pay for new and repaired equipment, member benefits including free entries and meals for helpers, free entries for Club Trials, reduced fees for judges' seminars, the costs of the Banquet, and more. So here's hoping that the rest of our tests this year will make a profit so we can keep on using the tests to finance our other activities.

SOON!

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 opened on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. Central time (Worker / Amateur set-aside opened on Tuesday, April 28, same time). The test closes on Monday, May 11 at midnight.

There are still a few spaces available.



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.

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.

Puppies for sale! Two Black Labrador puppies, up to date on shots and wormer, \$800. The parents are guide dogs in West Tennessee. The dam is yellow and the sire is black. Contact Josh Wilcox, 865-661-6835. Sire is Duck Down Gootch, dam is Owenby's Duck Bustin Winnie.



(Editor's Note: picture of AKC litter certificate isn't readable when compressed. Info on parents/grandparents is below).

Duck Down Gootch

Tank volunteer Bennard

Wilbur's Mtn Top Ayda

Owenby's Duck Bustin Winnie

Bullfrog's Water Ruddy

Bullfrog's Goose Bustin Molly

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.



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.



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.

