



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. 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)
2. September 15-16, 2026, Tues—Wed 8:30 a.m. — Midweek MH Only, Caldwell's, Georgetown
3. October 17-18, 2026, Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m. — Fall Hunt Test, 2JH, 2SH, MH, Lucky 7, Sweetwater
4. February 20, 2027 Sat 6:30 p.m. — Annual awards banquet, meeting, elections

Photo of the Month



All labor that uplifts [dogs] has dignity and importance.

With apologies to Martin Luther King!



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President's Message —

By Alan Bruhin

As we approach Labor Day weekend it signals the start of the fall hunt test season and soon to follow hunting season. Whichever you choose, it is an exciting time of year. For those looking forward to hunt testing, East Tennessee Retriever Club has two upcoming AKC events and a club test in the months ahead.

Our club test is scheduled for September 6th in Loudon. This will be our first time being at Pet Resort at the Farm. Club member Mike Osteen has opened up their property for ETRC use. Come join us for a chance to evaluate your dog's readiness for the season.

It's exciting to see that we have a full entry for our September Master-only test being held at club member Brian Caldwell's property in Georgetown. Hopefully you are entered and planning to be there to help with the test. We always welcome anyone who wants to assist us during the days. Let me or any of our board members know if you're free to join.

Our October test is scheduled for the 17-18th in Sweetwater at Lucky 7 properties. We are once again blessed to be able to use these amazing grounds. We have a double junior/senior and a single master planned. Hopefully you will be able to participate in this test.

The Master National starts October 1st and runs through the 11th in Roseburg Oregon. Best of luck to the East Tennessee members planning on participating in this event and safe travels.

Hope everyone has a great fall season. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events. As always, if I can be of assistance, feel free to reach out to me.

Alan Bruhin
wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu

ETRC At The Master National 2026

The Master National Hunt Test is being held this year on October 1 – 11 in Roseburg, Oregon, hosted by the Umpqua Valley Retriever Club. 747 dogs are entered — a smaller number than the last several years. Only two ETRC members are going (as far as I can tell from a quick run-through of the entries). Alan Bruhin is taking both Jack and Cin, and Melissa Dobson is taking a number of client dogs and at least two of her own, Swamp Runs Better Hide the Wine MH, and Swamp Runs Drive Me To The Levee MH. Also, two Fern Hill Golden Retrievers (bred by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce) who live in California, are entered.

Alan has to attend because he is one of the regional Directors of MNRC. This will certainly make for a busy October for him, between MNRC business and ETRC's fall hunt test. Best Wishes to both ETRC members, ETRC member-bred dogs, and to any others I may have missed.

SOON!

ETRC Summer Picnic, Business Meeting & Club Trial Sunday, September 6, 2026

Our annual summer extravaganza is this coming Sunday — a club trial beginning at 9:00 in the morning (come around 8:30 if possible for sign-ups) with stakes for Singles Classic (2 long field-trial style marks); Junior, Advanced Junior, Senior and Master Hunter; and puppy stakes for Junior (under 6 months) and Senior Puppies under a year. Entries will be \$10 per stake and \$5 for puppy stakes — members will get two free entries. We will start with Singles Classic, and that site will be used for the Junior, Advanced Junior, and puppy stakes immediately following, and then we will have thawed ducks for a training session for puppies and other dogs who may not have had much experience with ducks yet. One of our experienced members will work with new people/dogs on this activity. Meanwhile, the Senior and Master Stakes will be set up on a different setup. Points for qualifying on Hunt Test stakes count towards end of the year awards.

Following will be a picnic lunch provided by the club, and then a general business meeting where we will vote in provisional members, discuss upcoming events & other items that club members want to bring up, and appoint the nominating committee for next year's officers and board members. We hope to finish all stakes by noon, have lunch and then the business meeting more or less concurrently, and get home before it gets too hot. We hope that all members will stay for the meeting, as we do need a quorum to conduct club business.

The event will be at Pet Resorts At The Farm, a 150 acre property with several ponds, in Loudon. This is a new location for us, and many thanks to Pet Resorts and their staff, especially Mike Osteen, for letting us use this property. The address and instructions on how to get there are below.

This is great practice for upcoming fall hunt tests, both at ETRC and other nearby clubs. Bring a chair, hat, and whatever you need for your dog, especially water. Dogs that are competing for



awards points and ribbons may not use E-collars, but if you want to just work your dog for training you can tell the judge and run with a collar. It may be very hot; we will have pop-ups for shade. If you are bringing a puppy, you may bring your own bumpers or whatever you use for retrieving. Club Trial rules are up on the website at https://www.etrclub.org/club_trial_rules.htm

Or just go to the home page and click on the button on the left side menu bar.

Please RSVP so we will know how many frozen ducks to bring and how much lunch to order. Send your RSVPs to Secretary / Treasurer Karen Edwards at EdwardsKC@gmail.com. Let us know how many dogs you are bringing and their approx-

imate levels, and how many people will be coming for lunch planning. We hope to see you all there!

DIRECTIONS TO PET RESORTS AT THE FARM: The address is, 6771 Jim Dyke Road, Loudon, TN. From I75, take exit 72 for TN 72 towards Loudon. In one mile, turn left onto Prospect Church Road, and in 2 miles, continue slight left onto Jim Dyke Road. Pet Resorts is 1.8 miles along on the left. .

First Fall Hunt Test: Midweek Master September 15-16, 2026

Our first hunt test of the fall season is a Master-only hunt test on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 15-16. Entries are limited to 66 dogs. This test will be held at Brian Caldwell's farm in Georgetown, TN — directions and address below.

Entries opened: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 7:00:00 PM CT

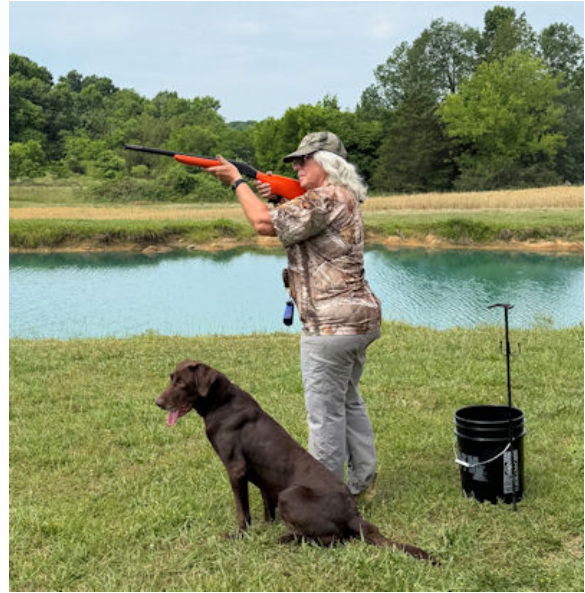
Workers/Amateur Set Aside open: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 7:00:00 PM CT

Entries Close: Monday, September 07, 2026 11:59:59 PM CT

Judges are Michael and Barbara Reed.

This test will count towards eligibility for next year's national hunt tests.

Entries are full as of the date of this newsletter, but there is room on the waiting list which currently only has x dogs.



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.

Fall Hunt Test: Double JH & SH, 1 flight MH October 17-18, 2026, Lucky 7 Ranch

Our second and final hunt test of the fall season will be the weekend of October 17-18, 2026, at the beautiful Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater, TN.

Entries open Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Central time.
Workers / Amateur Set Aside entries open Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. CT.
Entries close on Monday, October 5 1 second before midnight. Entry cost: \$110 Master, \$100 Senior, \$90 Junior

Judges will be:

Master: Robert Wolfe & Lisa Neel.

Senior Saturday: Lois Luthenauer & Dennis Wilcox

Senior Sunday: Lisa Vencille & Dennis Wilcox

Junior Saturday: Lisa Vencille & Michael Smith

Junior Sunday: Lois Luthenauer & Michael Smith



DIRECTIONS TO LUCKY 7 RANCH: The address is, 6720 Erie Road, Sweetwater, TN. BE AWARE that some GPS services may take you to the wrong place, around the back of the property where there is no entrance. Alternatively, use the address 6979 Erie Road, which is right across the street from the L7 entrance.



MARC News

The Master Amateur Retriever Club's Judges Selection Committee is currently seeking input from members for judges for next spring's event in Kearney, Nebraska. Nominations are due by September 19.

To be nominated, as of August 1, 2026, a candidate must be mentally and physically able to perform the duty of judging our event and otherwise meet all requirements as specified in the current AKC Regulations for Retriever Hunt Tests.



Other qualifications that should be considered are:

- To have judged at least 8 (eight) Master Hunt Tests.
- To be in good standing with the AKC. Prospective judges who have had any substantiated actions filed against them with AKC, within the last five years, will not be eligible to judge.
- To have handled a dog at a Master National or MAI event, or previously judged a Master National or MAI event.
- To have titled a dog to the Master level by himself/herself. This must include handling a dog to at least five Master passes within the last five years.
- Must be currently active in the Hunt Test program in a capacity other than that of a judge.
- Be a MARC member.

Other considerations:

- Extensive experience hunting with dogs in waterfowl and upland situations.
- Excellent interpersonal and communications skills.
- Proven excellent time management skills.
- A reputation for fairness and impartiality.

**Please submit your nominations and any supporting information by emailing:
Rex Gibson, Judges Committee Chair at: rex.gibson@comcast.net**

NO LATER THAN September 15, 2026

MNRC News



The annual business meeting for the Master National Retriever Club is being held this year on October 1. Alan Bruhin will be there, representing us in person but also serving as the Region 2 Director.

In addition to electing officers and board members for next year, members clubs (including ETRC) were asked to consider several new Bylaws amendments. You may remember, there were quite a few from last year, two of which passed (making it impossible to limit entries and requiring that venues selected for the event have to have enough space to allow for fabulous tests for any number of dogs that were qualified and wanted to enter). The third proposal from last year, to get rid of the Western region entirely and fold it in with all states from Kansas and Texas to the Pacific Ocean, eventually failed although it was initially considered as passed. Some clubs requested a recount which came out very differently, and showed that it lost.

The current crop of bylaws amendments are intended to ensure that votes cast by each member club are counted in an accurate and timely manner, by requiring that all votes be submitted elec-

Master National News, Cont.

tronically for changing dues amounts, casting votes on Bylaws amendments, and for electing officers and directors. The amendments also establish new timelines for notification and for voting to ensure that all votes by member clubs are counted ahead of the annual meeting. Results will presumably be announced at this meeting.

There is on the ballot, however, a statement that in person votes will also be accepted on the day of the Annual Meeting between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00 p.m. This is recognition that the current Bylaws still allow for in person voting this year.

ETRC held a Board meeting on August 25, and voting for the club position on the elections and bylaws amendments were on the agenda. Full details are included in the Board minutes beginning on the next page — but the short version is that we agreed to the nominated members we were asked to vote on, and we also agreed to vote yes on the new amendments. Karen Edwards, as Club Contact, submitted the ballot to MNRC the next day.

Silver Wars: Registering Labrador Retrievers

The AKC Board this past summer considered a request by the Labrador Retriever Club Inc. (LRC), to require that all dogs to be registered by AKC as Labrador Retrievers must be microchipped and must provide a DNA sample that identifies the distinctive DNA marker(s) associated with the dilute (silver) colored dogs. The Board VOTED (unanimously) to not mandate genetic testing and microchipping to register a Labrador Retriever with the AKC.



This request and denial is the most recent salvo in the disagreement between AKC and the LRC on whether Silver Labradors are actually purebred — the result of a natural mutation within the breed — or whether they represent hidden crossbreedings with Weimaraners.

AKC does not recognize Silver as an official color, and registers silver labs under the official chocolate color classification. They still consider them to be purebred, noting that historical inspections found no reason to disqualify them as purebred based on extensive paperwork reviews.

The LRC disagrees, and their official position is that Silver labs are the result of hidden crossbreeding and are not purebred. They are particularly incensed that color breeders often market their silver pups as rare, high-value purebreds; LRC believes that this misleads the public.

There is no clearcut answer to either position at this time. However, supporters of the purebred recessive gene mutation theory note that some genetic studies may indicate that the silver color comes from a recessive "dilute" gene (d/d) already present in deep, purebred Labrador or historical retriever lineages.

Regardless of the origin of the dilute gene, there are still legitimate breeding concerns over any attempts to breed for color. Often the breeders who are trying to fix recessive genes in order to expand the numbers of dogs with the particular color end up ignoring other health problems with dogs of the right color, and breed them anyway. They may also ignore temperament, retrieving talent, etc. in their quest to 'fix' the color lines. Plus, any attempt to fix one recessive gene runs the risk of fixing other rare unhealthy genes as well. For example, Color Dilution Alopecia (CDA) is more prevalent among Silver labs than other colors. Opinions are mixed on whether this is a direct result of the dilute gene itself, or is a result of bringing along other recessive genes that the particular Silver dogs also carried. Consensus warns that focusing strictly on the silver coat color can elevate risks for skin issues, coat thinning, and allergies.

Minutes for Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 25, 2026 Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher (via phone), Jim Pearce, Luke McCoy, Nathan Lamping, Bob Smith, Kyle Griffin, Lois Luthenauer

Absent, Excused: Brent Naveiro, work

Others Members Present: Luke's baby daughter, who was good as gold!

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 10 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report:

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- ♦ **Minutes:** Last meeting was June 10, 2026. Minutes were approved by a majority of Board members and included in the July Newsletter. J. Michael moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Luke seconded the motion which passed unanimously
- ♦ **Membership:** Membership at the end of December 2025 was 67. Current membership is 63, with 9 already pending final approval at the picnic meeting, and 2 for first reading today. 14 people did not renew from 2025. As we decided last time, I have not removed one long-time member who had a serious accident earlier this year from the mailing list for the newsletter. Alan reported that he is doing much better!
- ♦ **Correspondence:** Several requests for donations including the Knox County 4H and the Gideon Bible society. We agreed not to send donations now, with a caveat that keeping contact with the 4H group might be a good idea if our relationship with the wildlife society and Cleveland State Community College for bird techs ever ends.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards

Calendar Year Finances: Balance on January 1 was \$40,241.71. Current bank balance is \$34,999.33. We are down \$5,242.48 so far this year due to costs of banquet and losses on our first two hunt tests and the judges seminar.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele, with additional info from Alan: nothing significant to report. There was a recent death of a Golden at a conformation show; the dog died while on a grooming table while the owner/handler was in the ring with another dog. Unclear if the dog strangled on the cord tying it to the table, or if it was a heart issue. AKC is investigating to determine if this should fall under the recent new rules regarding health issues with unattended dogs at AKC events.

Old Business

1. Judges' Seminar, July 18, 2026.

- a. Full attendance; 22 signed up and 20 actually showed up. Success!
- b. Financials: we lost \$706.98 on this seminar, but hopefully gained some more future judges and improved other attendees' understanding of the hunt test program.
- c. We do not expect to make money on these seminars, but they are an important educational event and with the good attendance we lost less money than we had expected.

2. Club Trial/picnic/ business meeting 9/6/26

- a. Liase with Osteen / Shuler about this: Alan has had several discussions with the Osteens about this, they are looking forward to having us there.
- b. Trailer: we do need to bring the small trailer over (and back) from Brian Caldwell's and make sure it has at least 2 or 3 pop-ups for rain or shade, a table for signups (better two, with one for the pizza boxes), dokkens, etc. J. Michael will be responsible for this.
- c. We decided to use dokkens and bumpers for blinds, and the bumper launchers for the tests rather than ducks and wingers.
- d. After some discussion, and at the suggestion of Jim Pearce, we decided to have two different setups this time. First up will be the Singles Classic, followed on that same location with Junior and Advanced Junior, then the puppy stakes. Lois will be in charge of running the young dog events with assistance from others as needed. That site will also have about 6 thawed/frozen ducks to be used in a session afterwards of training young dogs who haven't had experience with ducks before.
- e. The second setup will be a Senior / Master stake. We anticipate more dogs in these two stakes so having the junior dogs at a different set-up should speed up the process. We need to do our best to finish with the club trial part by noon so we can eat pizza and have our meeting before people start leaving for home.
- f. It will be important for people to swap out judging so judges can also run their dogs.
- g. Food – Karen and Jim will get pizzas.
- h. 2 free entries per member? Nice way to encourage attendance, and this is the one event where we get good attendance from new members and a chance to make dedicated converts. After a brief discussion of whether to go down to one free entry, we decided to keep it at two this time and after all our events are done, revisit what we need to do next year if anything to stop the losses.
- i. Ribbons OK but very low. We will need to make an order before next year for Club Trial ribbons and may want to discuss cheaper alternatives at the end of the year. Can mix and match colors and writing, don't have to order 100 of each.
- j. Alan will need to appoint a nominating committee at this meeting, with two non-board members and a board member. They must report a new slate to the Secretary before Thanksgiving.

3. September Midweek Master, Brian Caldwell's, 9/15-16

- a. Entries: The test opened for amateurs and workers just after the meeting closed. At the time the minutes were being written up on the morning of 9/26 (before the test opens at 8:00 Eastern for everyone else), we were up to 26 entries already. Hopefully we will fill with a full 66 entries.
- b. Ducks on order: J. Michael has ordered ducks from Andrew Goddard, that will be delivered direct to Brian's the day before the test. If anyone wants to order any ducks for their own personal use, they need to notify J. Michael no later than the day the test closes (Monday, September 7) and he will make arrangements with them to pay him directly before the ducks are received.
- c. Judges still OK – so far. J. Michael is making reservations at the Dayton Best Western for them, and wants a notice in the newsletter that anyone who wants to reserve a room there must tell the person taking the reservation that they are with ETRC at the time of making the reservation, in order to get the discounted rate.
- d. Lunches – Lois volunteered to do grilled hotdogs, and Karen will assist with the balance of the food (chips, snacks, cookies, wet wipes, bags etc.).
- e. Ribbons inventoried and OK for this test. We currently have 138 MH ribbons, 98 SH ribbons, 133 JH ribbons, and 70 title ribbons with lots of tabs.
- f. Alan has contacted the Wildlife Club sponsor and has requested 4 bird techs for this test and 12 for the October test. The club was having a meeting last night and asking for sig-

nups so hopefully we will get enough.

- g. Karen needs to write letters to the judges in the next week with details about the arrangements. Alan and J. Michael agreed that we don't need the judges before 3:00 p.m. on the Monday before the test, and that we should tell them to come to the test grounds first and to the motel later. All other items in the standard letter will be the same.

4. October Fall Test, L7, October 18-19

- a. Judges are OK. No decision yet on which motel we will use. J. Michael will let Karen know once the reservations are made so that the letters can go out.
- b. Lunches: Karen and Jim should be able to do this. Given the extra cost of the hotdogs and the logistical issues of ferrying food to three test sites, we decided to go with bagged sandwich lunches rather than hot dogs for this test, which should be a fair bit larger than the midweek test.
- c. Bird Techs: Alan will keep in touch with the Wildlife Society coordinator to see how many we have.
- d. Ribbons: OK for this test.

5. Winter Awards Banquet:

Reservations have been made for Saturday: Feb 20, 2027 at Bearden Banquet Hall. Still looking for suggestions for a speaker.

New Business:

1. New Members: 2 for first reading and assignment of sponsors:

- a. Rob / Lori Chasse, retired, 16 Northridge Terrace, Crossville, TN 38558, chassetn77@gmail.com, 612-401-5777, email chassetn77@gmail.com. Volunteers for whatever is needed. Joined 7/10. Has a 9 mo. Black lab puppy, interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training and is an NRA member. Lois has already had contact with Rob and agreed to be one of his sponsors. Nate volunteered to be the other.
- b. Gregory Grant, produce broker, 1260 Spencer Mill Rd., Burns, TN 37029. 615-943-5443, gscottgrant@gmail.com. Volunteers as a gunner. Has 2 black labs, one HRCH 9.5 years, one 4 mo puppy. Member of MTARC, interested in Hunt tests & dog training. Requests Bobby Stogner to be one of his sponsors; he is Bobby's training partner & Bobby paid his dues. Lois agreed to be the second sponsor.

We have 9 people already who are waiting final vote at the picnic meeting. Karen asked sponsors to commit to contacting these two new people ASAP and let us know if there are any concerns, so we can go ahead and vote on them as well. Also, if anyone has concerns about any of the other people they are sponsoring, please let Karen know before the meeting. Karen also requested that all sponsors contact the people they are sponsoring and give them a special invite to the club trial, picnic and meeting.

2. MNRC Stuff: Alan & Michele: We have yet more amendments to their Bylaws to consider, and votes for officers. .

- a. Officers: We need a motion or motions to approve or disapprove the nominated officers: David Coffey as VP for Region 1 and Alan Bruhin as Director for Region 2. After some glowing recommendations for David Coffey from several board members, Jim recommended we vote YES on his nomination, J. Michael seconded, and the vote was unanimous. After some jokes about Alan, J. Michael moved and Lois Seconded that we vote to elect Alan as our region's director. The vote was almost unanimous ... Alan thought about voting no, but as President he can't vote anyway!
- b. Amendments: The amendments are intended to allow for voting to be conducted electronically ONLY, rather than in person or by mail, both for future amendments and for election

of officers. Votes are to be received BEFORE the annual meeting, and within guidelines provided for other, specially called meetings. Stated reason is to eliminate possibility of miscounted ballots, following an embarrassing incident that initially appeared to kill region 4 last year, but when the vote was recounted, the amendment failed. This does not explain why mail ballots received by whatever deadline is provided are not acceptable, and there is an issue that there are still a number of people within the hunt test community may not have a computer or be particularly computer savvy. However, J, Michael moved we accept the proposed amendment as written, Jim seconded, and the motion for approval passed.

- c. Minutes from last MNRC meeting. Karen noted that changes had been made to reflect the recount, and that the amendment eliminating region 4 failed, but the minutes were not amended to take out the 'new language' that would be in the bylaws that cancels the existence of Region 4. Alan said he would take this up with the powers that be.
- d. Casting our vote: because the amendments are not yet approved, this upcoming meeting will allow in person voting on the day of the meeting, but in the morning before the meeting. Either J. Michael or I (as contact and delegate) can cast the vote electronically, or we can vote to appoint Alan as the proxy since he will actually be going to the MN this year in Oregon, and attach that as a letter to the ballot which he would have to cast early in the morning on October 1. We discussed the fact that the way things are set up, the ballot is sent electronically to both of us, and if we wanted to, there is nothing that would preclude us from voting however we wanted to (before bringing it to a vote of the board) and that if we did that, there would be no way that this could be undone. This is a flaw in the system. However, we agreed that Karen (as contact) would fill out the ballot and email it back to the secretary within the timeframes required.
- e. Alan announced that the 2027 test will be in our back door in Cheraw, SC. This will be an enormous test, being held sometime in the fall, which will likely mean any tests we try to schedule next fall will be sparsely attended.
- f. The test in Oregon coming up in 5 weeks is still having troubles locating land. As a result, the club has requested AKC for an exception to have 3 land tests and 3 water tests (some including land marks) instead of have 2 land, 2 water, and 2 land and water. This request is pending. Only 787 have entered, which is over 500 dogs fewer than the last two MN tests, but suitable land for enormous tests is at a premium in Region 4. There will be 150 dogs were flight (up from 140), and 5 flights instead of 8 or 9.
- g. The 2028 test will be in Region 2, but no location has been identified yet.
- h. There was an interesting general discussion about the difficulties all these national tests put on local clubs scheduling hunt tests. We now have the Master National at varying times in the fall, the Master Amateur at floating times in the spring, and now the new AKC Hunting Champion Dog test that will involve one or more qualifiers during the fall and then another national test sometime in the spring. Several people noted that this latter test is having some start up pains; only 24 dogs have entered the first qualifier this fall, and all of them were entered by just 2 pros. All dogs who qualify in this test, which is warning that it will be judged much harder than most MH tests "at the highest standards in the hunt test regulations," whatever that means, will be eligible for the championship test. This may be a very small number next spring. Possibly this test will just fade away, but if it succeeds it has the potential to put enormous additional pressure on local tests.

Also, the UKC HR Grand test in the fall puts some more pressure on local hunt tests, especially since so many of the pros now train and compete in both AKC and UKC events.

The combined effect of all these national tests is reduced entries in local tests during the spring and fall. First of all, most of the pros and many of the best amateur handlers are at some national event during these pleasant seasons. This, combined with greater competition between local clubs for remaining dates and more overlapping test dates between relatively local clubs, means these local tests are more likely to be money losers for the sponsoring clubs. Obviously, this quickly becomes untenable. This, plus the pressure

from pros and advanced amateurs for large numbers of local tests in order to qualify for the national tests, is resulting in many local tests now being scheduled in times of the year that are not healthy for the dogs and are uncomfortable for the handlers. While a July hunt test in New York State might not be so bad, there are now quite a few even in the deep south during the summer months, which can pose real health issues for the dogs and require curtailing the tests to lessen the risks. Likewise, more and more tests are being scheduled in November and March, even in locations where water temperatures may be extremely low. Alan mentioned that AKC is now considering eliminating midweek tests as well, which will put even more pressure on local clubs scheduling tests.

Up until the last year or two, the national test(s) have had a positive impact on the number of entries at local shows. Dogs continue to test locally at the MH level long after earning their titles, in order to qualify for the national tests. However, the number and popularity of the national tests is now making it much harder for local events to schedule and make money on local tests, a situation which is unsustainable.

Any Other New Business? None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Luke moved that we adjourn. J. Michael seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



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.

One is a black 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.

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.

