



# 2020 Upcoming Events

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's EVENTS!

1. October 17-18: ETRC Fall Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge, Birchwood, TN. 1 flight MH (66), double JH & SH. Keep your fingers crossed..... See story inside on page 2.
2. November 21, 2020, Saturday: ETRC Club Trial. Tentatively at the Roane Regional Training grounds behind 108 Pawnook Farm Road. Details to follow next month.
3. December 13, Sunday afternoon, 108 Pawnook Farm Road. Directed Training & Mini-Seminar: Luke McCoy, force fetch demo, discussion of rules for Junior Hunt Tests. Setups for all levels.

## Photo of the Month



Miss Ivy Evans is doing her part for her K-9 friends!

(HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH, owner J. Michael Evans)

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## Final Update on the Fall 2020 Hunt Test

ETRC's Fall Hunt Test is almost here and entries are open NOW! The test will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18. The test will be a double Junior, double Senior, and one flight of Master (limit 66 dogs), and will be at the Hiwassee Refuge near Brentwood / Dayton Tennessee. Plans are finalized and entries for the public opened Wednesday, September 23 and will close at 11:59 p.m. Central time on Monday, October 5. This year our test is set up as a single test on Entry Express, so you only have to click on one test in order to enter both Junior and Senior tests.

The Master test is already filled with a waitlist — but there is still plenty of room in the lower stakes and this year more than most may end up with more people dropping out than usual, so get on the waitlist and keep your fingers crossed.

Judges are:

- Junior Sat/Senior Sun: John Inabinet / Barb Reed
- Senior Sat/Junior Sun: Tim Nichols / Lisa Styles
- Master: Linc Huffman / Mary Williams



Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, October 16; for gunners, Marshals and assistants, and equipment moving/maintenance on Saturday and Sunday; for cleanup on Sunday, and for other tasks. Four-wheelers or small utility vehicles are also needed for the weekend to help get workers and equipment from one test site to another quickly. To volunteer, contact test chairman Alan Bruhin ([wabruhin@utk.edu](mailto:wabruhin@utk.edu)), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (text or call at 865-824-8638, or email at [Fowl\\_Mouth\\_K9@aol.com](mailto:Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com)), or Chief Marshal Lois Luthenauer ([mountainLO717@gmail.com](mailto:mountainLO717@gmail.com)) to sign up for some hard work and good fun.

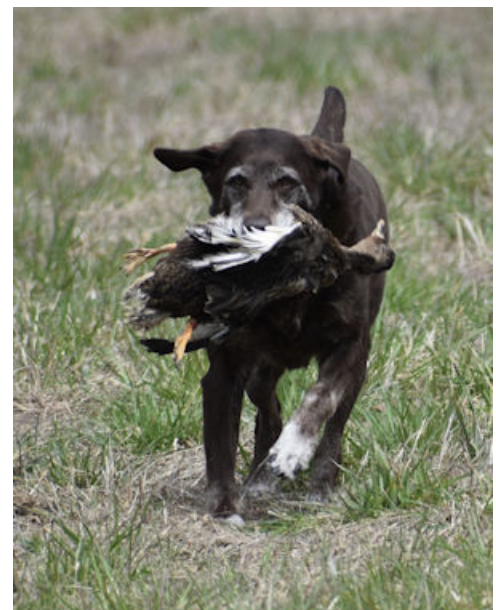
The official motel will again be the Best Western Inn, 7835 Rhea County Highway (US 27 North), Dayton, TN. A total of 12 rooms will be blocked out with the hotel and will be held until the Wednesday before the test. If you want to stay at this Inn, contact the Best Western directly and tell them that you are coming for the ETRC Hunt test in order to get the special rate. You may find that you can get a cheaper rate online or with other discounts you are entitled to through other organizations. The phone number is (423)775-6560.

Because of the pandemic situation, we will be doing some things a bit differently. Ribbon ceremonies will be held at each individual stake, people will not be allowed inside the headquarters cabin without a face mask, and we are using a different system for Marshals to keep them separated as much as possible from contestants. No food will be for sale at the test site this year, so bring your own lunch. Workers will be provided with separate Subway lunch bags, but there will be no Judges and workers' Dinner on Friday night. Please observe social distancing and wear a mask if you can't — not just for you but for the other competitors and club workers, some of whom are not spring chickens.

Hope to see you there, as a competitor or worker or both!



Best Western, Dayton, TN



## ETRC General Meeting Minutes — Monday, 9/14/2020

Pegasus Technologies Front yard, Lenoir City, TN

**Present from the Board:** Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, Cory Smith, Jeff McNutt, Peter Torok

**Absent, excused:** Lois Luthenauer

**Other Members present:** Cheryl McNutt, Doug Zelonis.

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. A quorum of the membership is 20% of the voting members. The current membership stands at 52 individuals/families. Therefore, a quorum would require 11 individuals/families. We had representatives from 12 individual members/families, so a quorum was met. This meeting therefore stands as a general club membership meeting to replace the annual picnic that had to be canceled.

### Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

**President's Report:** None.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards.

- ◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 7/30/20; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website shortly after the meeting. Luke moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. J. Michael seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Correspondence:** Invitation from National Derby club for us to join. Any interest? After some discussion, we decided that ETRC still is not interested in joining this club although we wish them well.
- ◆ **Membership:** Current 2020 membership is 52, including 3 waiting final vote later today and three others for first reading.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards for Lois Luthenauer. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 9/14/2020 is \$14,335.95.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher: Nothing to report.

### First Business: Election of Members

**New Members:** The following new members are up for final membership votes, and their sponsors have recommended approval:

- 1 Angelique & Timothy Burns, Lakesite, TN. Sponsors Lois Luthenauer & Michele Fletcher. Owns a young Golden.
- 2 Jeff Coffey, Kingston, TN. Has a black lab, interested in hunt tests, field trials, Club Trials, and dog training. Also a member of MTARC. Sponsors Alan Bruhin and Cory Smith.
- 3 Mary & Mart Dowden, Mount Juliet, TN, Retired. Own a year-old Golden Retriever. Interested in Hunt Tests and dog training. Also a member of the Nashville Dog Training Club. Sponsors Sherie Catledge & Lois Luthenauer.
- 4 Paul & Alexa Sponcia, Knoxville, TN. Business owner. Own a young Black Lab. Interested in AKC hunt tests. Sponsors Jeff McNutt & J. Michael Evans.

Jim moved that we accept these individuals and families as full members. Peter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Welcome to all new members; we look forward to getting to know you better!



## Meeting Minutes, 9/14/20, Cont.

### Old Business

#### *Fall 2020 Hunt Test*

- ◆ Alan Bruhin: Dates: October 17/18. At Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Promise from TWRA that they will give us 10 days cancellation notice. After some 40 calls, Alan and others working to find judges finally were able to pin down the final Junior/Senior judge and the panel has been submitted to AKC for approval. However, so far there have been issues that have had to be resolved on three judges; two of them have been resolved and there will be a conference call the next morning with AKC to try to get the final issue resolved. Alan asked Michele to go ahead and put the judges into EE.
- ◆ Judges letters – J. Michael will send Karen a list of the judges and contact info so she can write them the formal letters concerning their assignment, info on rooms, etc. J. Michael will take care of getting rooms reserved for the judges.
- ◆ Entries open Wednesday, September 23, 2020 7:00 PM CT; for Workers on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:00:00 PM CT . Closing is Monday, October 5, 2020 at Midnight Central time. J. Michael will pass out worker codes as soon as he receives them; we have had 10 requests for codes, which is all that we are authorized.
- ◆ Bird techs will be Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society. Contract negotiated, for 16 techs, maximum of \$2,000. Karen has signed and will send the contract to the Society contact for his signature, and will work to get the insurance certificate from Equisure for them.
- ◆ Judges dinner: After some discussion, we decided to dispense with a judges/workers dinner this year. After set up, we will just tell them to keep receipts for their meal and give it to Lois for payment at the test. There was some discussion about putting limits on the amount they were authorized, but we decided to assume that the judges we have this time will be reasonable.
- ◆ Lunches during the test: will be ordering from Subway or other nearby (Dayton) fast food place. Karen volunteered to coordinate with Subway and drive over to pick up the lunches and then deliver them to the various test sites. She will ask Subway to put the lettuce and tomatoes in separate bags, and also if it's possible to get mustard and mayonnaise in separate packages as well, to avoid the bread getting soggy. Tom G will buy water, ice and Gatorade again this year.
- ◆ Covid changes: ribbon ceremonies at the test sites, not at the clubhouse; won't be selling or preparing food on site; will post signs at clubhouse and each stake reminding people of the need to social distance and encouraging mask usage; will sell tee shirts outside; lots of hand sanitizer at each stake.
- ◆ The clubhouse will be a mask-only zone. We will do everything possible to keep people out by selling tee shirts outside, and Michele will go to each stake to meet with the judges and pass out ribbons.
- ◆ Marshalling: Lois has some idea about a new way to do this. May make it easier to keep people socially distanced from the marshals. Peter has talked with her about this, and it involves magnetized numerals on a white board. Other things discussed were to somehow tape off a 6' wide area around the site marshal's chair and to make sure that each site had a large white board and dry-erase markers to post numbers on, in the event some of the marshals preferred using the old system instead. Karen moved we purchase two new large whiteboards, easels and markers. J. Michael seconded, and the motion passed

## Meeting Minutes, 9/14/20, Cont.

unanimously. Karen volunteered to buy the new whiteboards.

- ◆ Gunners – two still needed for Saturday morning. Peter said his 27 year old son can probably be one, but will confirm with J. Michael when that is definite.
- ◆ Big Trailer – it's at Cory's barn and he won't be able to bring it down on Friday. Luke offered to drive it down Thursday night if we can get Hiwassee's permission to open the gates after work hours.
- ◆ Judges gifts --- we already have ones that were purchased for the spring test.
- ◆ Dumpsters / porta potties : are supposed to be free because of mixup last fall. J. Michael will call to arrange. He will also call Kiley Buettner about the ducks, which are already partially paid for (\$1,000).

### New Business:

**New Members:** three new members for first reading:

- ◆ James / Vicki Langa, Harrison, TN, cell 607-738-7852, email [jlanga1@hotmail.com](mailto:jlanga1@hotmail.com). Recently moved from Pennsylvania, has been training and campaigning retrievers for 20 years. Volunteers for 'whatever is needed,' and training committee. Has two labs, one MHR MH and the other younger one is SH. Member NAHRA, Western NY RC. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, breeding, NRA member, DU member. Volunteers for sponsors: Mike Smith and Cory Smith.
- ◆ Wade Leatherwood, Mt. Hickory, TN. Cell 423-290-4321, email [wadeleatherwood5@gmail.com](mailto:wadeleatherwood5@gmail.com). Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Interested in hunt tests, dog training, club trials, judging clinics, breeding, NRA and DU member. Has a black lab. Volunteers for sponsors are Sherie Catledge and Lois Luthenauer.
- ◆ Doug Zelonis, Crossville, TN. Cell 931-248-1142. Present tonight, and he introduced himself. He has a 6-month old Labrador and has done a lot of informal hunt club / club trial work in the past in Ohio. J. Michael Evans and Jim Pearce volunteered to be sponsors.

J. Michael moved we accept these three people as provisional members. Peter seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Welcome all!

**Fall club trial:** The spring trials were canceled because of the pandemic. We decided to try to have one on November 21, 2020, at the Roane Regional business park.

**Spring 2020 Hunt Test:** there was some discussion about whether we can continue to have two master flights at Hiwassee given the water situation, sharecropping, and the fact that the master judges we get don't like to rotate through setups and work together to share the limited water. We decided to start looking for available land again to see if any other possibilities show up. Also, Luke will talk with Brian Caldwell to see if he might let us use his land, which is only about 15 minutes away from Hiwassee, for a single master flight. This will not be easy, considering that most of the Master dogs are with pros who might also have Junior and Senior dogs to run back over at Hiwassee. The test is currently slated for Memorial Day weekend again. We tried to move it earlier but were unable to find a weekend that would work with both Hiwassee and AKC.

**Fall/Winter training sessions:** Last year, we had 'directed training' with highly experienced

## Meeting Minutes, 9/14/20, Cont.

club members (some pro, some very good handlers) giving instructions on a particular topic and then working with people individually on particular issues – rather than just setting up marks and blinds and people coming out to run their dogs. This was well received by the people who attended, usually about 10 people, usually people with less experience. The sessions were held on Sunday afternoons, weather permitting, about one a month.

There was general agreement that this format worked well, and that it would be a good opportunity to have the type of seminar we were hoping to have at the picnic. We set the following dates and general topics:

- 1 December 13, Sunday afternoon: Luke McCoy will demonstrate force fetch and discuss rules for Junior Hunt Tests, then will direct people running dogs on setups and provide advice as needed. If the weather is bad, we can still do the first part indoors.
- 2 January 10, Sunday afternoon: Alan Bruhin will discuss Master set ups and rules, conduct demonstrations, and run setups providing advice to handlers running their dogs at all levels.
- 3 February 14, Sunday Afternoon: J. Michael Evans will discuss Senior hunt test rules and setups. Michele Fletcher will discuss how to enter dogs in hunt tests. Michael will conduct setups and provide advice to handlers.

**Nominating Committee for Officers/Board.** Alan Bruhin: We usually set up the nominating committee at the summer picnic to give everyone plenty of opportunity to do the work before the required report has to be submitted to Karen as Secretary by November 24th, 2020. Since we had to cancel the picnic, Alan went ahead a week or so ago and appointed Mike Smith from the board to serve as Chairman, and Denise Chambers and Cheryl McNutt to serve as the non-board members. Karen will send out an email to the committee members with the specific information on bylaws requirements, a copy of the most recent membership list, and a list of the positions that have to be filled. There are no term limits, so some people may be willing to keep on serving.

**MARC Update:** Alan Bruhin. 2020 test makeup being held in Corning, CA April 18-25; the 2021 test will be May 16-23 in Emporia, VA (Alan B is one of the judges). Reminder from the MARC that individual memberships are now due – ETRC is a lifetime member, but in order for your points to count, each person has to be an individual member.

**MNRC Ballot:** Mike Evans: We got the minutes and financial statement from last October's meeting and some other documents. However, we never got a ballot so did not return one.

**Youth Program Applicant :** Lois Luthenauer: Tabled. Lois is not here and did not provide the application materials.

### Any other new business?

**End of the Year Awards:** J. Michael brought up the fact that we give some awards points towards Gun Dog of the Year for qualifying to go to the Master Amateur and Master National. Since those were counted for the 2020 awards, should they count again for 2021 since the 2020 programs were canceled or massively delayed, and there is no further requirement for qualifying? The consensus reached was NO, they have already been used. If a dog does go to the 2020 MARC and qualifies there, THOSE points will count, as will the ones for 2021, even if they are in the same year – but the points earned in 2019 that qualified them for the 2020 event won't be counted again toward Gun Dog points for this coming year's awards ceremony.

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Jeff seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.





### **Training Days at Cory Smith's Farm 9/20 & 9/27/20**

Jim Langa & Jazzie; Burton Beakley & dog; Py Edwards waiting for a cast; Jim Pearce and Panda with Peter Torok and Kepes (a Panda daughter); Alan Bruhin and Shine.







## Training Days at Cory Smith's Farm 9/20 & 9/27/20

J. Michael Evans and Ivy; Luke McCoy & Echo; Bauer (Cory Smith) running a blind .

## Youth Program



*2018 Award Recipients,  
Cade and Ivan Chambers*

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is entering its fifth year. Kids who are interested in working in retriever sports are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at [http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub\\_youth\\_program.htm](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 ETRC Club Trials are free for enrollees.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque



## Training Corner

### Starting Cold Blinds — Danny Farmer, Vinwood Retrievers

*About Danny Farmer: Danny grew up with a love for dogs and training them has been a life long passion as well as helping others train and compete with their dogs. Since 1981 Danny has competed in every National Open and has won 3. Danny lives in Anderson, Texas and retriever training continues to be his passion. He has published two books on retriever training that are available from his website, dannyfarmer.com.*

Before I even consider starting a young dog on blinds I make sure there is a very solid foundation in the dog's basic training. This means he is well force broke, collar conditioned and has spent a long time mastering the double-T. He should be forced from your side, forced en route to the back pile and casting to two sets of overs. The first thing I do after completing the double-T is to teach the dog handling and casting wagon wheel. This is a drill with eight bumpers spread out like a clock. You first teach the dog to line each of the bumpers. The distance here is about an easy toss of a small white bumper away from the center point of the clock. Use white bumpers in short grass so the bumpers are easily visible to the dog. Work very hard to teach the dog to heel both clockwise and counter-clockwise. Be very precise is staying exactly on your center pivot point. This will force you to make the dog heel with you, move with you, not you moving to the dog.

Next teach casting wagon wheel. Same white bumpers and distance as lining wagon wheel. Start with three bumpers, the back and the two overs. This should be easy because the dog has just completed the double-T. The biggest change is that now you demand that the dog turn left on a left back and right on a right back. There should be no collar pressure on this drill. Either handle the dog or no him and recast to correct mistakes. If mistakes persist, mark the spot by tossing a bumper to the location of the cast he misses. Next add the two diagonal backs, one at a time. After the dog understands the left and right diagonal back, mix in straight backs and overs, always casting sequentially (back to diagonal back, diagonal back to straight back, diagonal back to over). Once the dog has mastered these five casts, add the left and right come-in over and straight come-in (you must move your position on the straight comein so you are behind the bumper).

Concentrate on the five cast wagon wheel (back, diagonal backs, and overs). Once the dog has mastered the casting drill you are ready for your first cold blind. Go to a plain field, avoid complicated terrain, cover, etc. Place three blinds with three white bumpers at each blind about 150 to 200 yards from the starting line. Make these bumpers very wide spread. Send the dog for the middle blind. Do not attempt to fine line the dog, just sit him down facing the general direction of the blind and kick him off. The dog, at this point in his training does not understand much, if anything, about being lined, so trying to get him to look out exactly where you want will only make him nervous. Just put your hand down and say back. The only pressure you want to use at this stage is to correct for a no go and to correct for not answering the whistle. Remember this is a very scary time for the dog. At this point his only exposure to "back" is the double-T and wagon wheel. In both cases he knows the location of where he is being sent. Now you are pointing him out in a big field and demanding he charge out into the unknown. If the dogs heads out anywhere in a forward direction that is perfectly acceptable. At this point you handle the dog. Have a very wide corridor to your blind, you just want to get him to the blind any way you can. Your only concern is that the dog go somewhere when cast and that he stop on the whistle. Do not use collar pressure for anything other than not stopping or not going. Do not worry if the dog is slow and unsure at this stage, that is very normal. Speed will come when the dog becomes familiar with cold blinds.

As the dog proceeds out toward the blind you follow him out in the field. Although the blind is 150 to 200 yards away, you will be within 50 to 100 yards of the dog because you are walking out toward the blind as the dog is going away from you. At this stage you do everything possible to help the dog. Give big helpful casts, not the subtle casts you use for a more advanced dog. Once the dog gets the

## Training Corner , Cont.

blind you stay out in the field to receive him. Try to position yourself on line to the blind about half way between the starting point and the blind. Have the dog facing you and step ten to twenty yards away from the dog and cast him back toward the blind he just picked up. If he takes off and heads for the blind he just picked up let him go. If you need to handle him, that is OK. If this goes well then back up closer to the starting point and repeat the back cast. The reason you do these repeats by casting as opposed to lining is that casting momentum is something that needs to be developed at this stage. Usually a lack of momentum on casting is the weakest link at this point, so it is the thing we want to work on. If this first blind is not overly troublesome, go ahead and do the second blind in the same manner. If the dog had lots of trouble on blind one, quit for the day.

It is very important that once you start cold blinds you do them every day (or at least 5 days a week) for a couple of weeks. Each day start with a short review of casting wagon wheel (5 bumper version) and then go directly to your cold blinds. Try to work up to 3-5 different blinds per day and phase out the repeats as the dog starts to do better.

The reason I emphasize cold blinds as opposed to sight blinds or permanent blinds at this stage is that the fear of the unknown (a cold blind) is the biggest hurdle to be overcome. Starting cold blinds right after completing the double-T, where the dog was forced on back, forced en route and stopped on a whistle, gives you the tools you will need to transition to cold blinds. These tools needed to meet the usual stumbling blocks on blinds, not going, not stopping, and popping, are fresh in the dogs mind. This should help him to understand corrections he gets for those issues and bridge the gap between the known (the double-T) and the unknown (the cold blind).

The emphasis on cold blinds rather than permanent blinds or sight blinds is because I feel handling as opposed to lining is the key to a good blind running dog. Lining and momentum will come as the dog gets comfortable with the cold blind environment. I want the dog to get comfortable taking 40 whistles on a blind at a young age, this will be more important in the long run.



Echo McCoy



## Around the Region – Seminars, Tests, & Trials

### Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Mid South	Olive Branch, MS	10/03/20
Greater Atlanta RC	Buckhead, GA	10/03/20
Middle TN ARC	LaVergne, TN	10/09/20
<b>ETRC (66)</b>	<b>Birchwood, TN</b>	<b>10/17/20</b>
N. Mississippi ARC	Bruce, MS	10/24/20
Fall Line RC	Lincolnton, GA	10/31/20

*Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs*

### Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Bluegrass RC Fall Trial	Grahamville, KY	10/02/20
Mississippi Valley RC	Weldon Spring, MO	10/09/20
Lincoln Trail RC	Grahamville, KY	10/16/20
National Amateur Invitational	Giddings, TX	November 2020

## ETRC Membership

Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Both new member and renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just click the link, print it off, and send it to:

Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

Cost is still just \$25, which includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards plus the opportunity to make friendships with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain! The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join in November or later are also paid up for the following year.

## Newsletter Info

The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, as close to the 1st of the month as we can get it together. Send us your test results, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs 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: Karen Edwards ([edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com)).

You may notice we have a new numbering system. When I first took over the newsletter, I just continued on with the volume # from the last issue, then upped it by one every year. But, it makes no sense, and doesn't reflect how many years of newsletters we have anyway! So beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number will be the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XX (for 2020).