



# 2021 Upcoming Events

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

1. January 10, Sunday afternoon, 1 p.m., Cory Smith's Farm: Directed Training/Mini Seminar. Alan Bruhin will discuss Master set ups and rules, conduct demonstrations, and run setups providing advice to handlers running their dogs at all levels.
2. January 13: Deadline for nominating dogs and people for awards — see article inside on p. 3
3. February 14, Sunday Afternoon, 1 p.m., Cory Smith's Farm: Directed Training & Mini-Seminar. 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.
4. February 27, 2021: Saturday Evening, 6 p.m., Cory Smith's Farm: Awards Banquet in the Big Heated Indoor Barn. See article inside on page 5.

## Photo of the Month



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## Winter ETRC Training Day & Mini Seminar January 10, 2021

Our third annual winter training program is continuing this month with a combination mini-seminar and training session on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The location will be Cory & Elena Smith's farm in Niota, between Sweetwater and Athens. See address below for GPS. If you need more detailed directions, contact Cory at [Irrs223@gmail.com](mailto:Irrs223@gmail.com).

The purpose of this event is two-fold: first, an opportunity to train your dog in a different setting, with other dogs and people around, while getting expert handling and training advice from some of our more senior members. Setups will be appropriate for all levels of dogs. Secondly, AKC Master Judge, Master National qualifier and two-time Master National judge Alan Bruhin will be presenting information on the rules and regulations governing Master Hunt Tests, how they are set up, and what the judges are looking for. He will answer questions and will also demonstrate some transition and other handling drills. Not only will this be a good refresher for current Master level competitors, it will give members now working at lower levels a greater understanding of the higher levels of the sport and what you are eventually training for.

**OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.** If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial, check with Secretary Karen Edwards. Membership is \$25 and if you join now, your membership will be good through 2021.

**WHAT TO BRING:** All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless you are coming to the line for work. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), 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. We will have regular bumpers, bumper boy bumpers, and dokkens. You may want to bring a notepad and pencil (or your favorite electronic device!) for taking notes on the seminar portion of the program.

Tracey Griffin and Friend at the December 13 training session/seminar



**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cory has a huge open air covered building, with 20' ceilings and plenty of space for social distancing, so this event will happen rain or shine. However, we may not be able to do the training part if the weather is too horrible. And, in these days of the pandemic, if some of Cory's family or Alan is sick with Covid, we may be forced to cancel. But, keep your fingers crossed and come on out, bring your mask if you want, and enjoy a bit of fun and socialization. Keep an eye on your email Saturday night — I will send out an announcement if we are going to have to cancel because of illness or natural disaster. If you don't hear anything, come on out.

**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.

**ADDRESS:** 245 County Road 319, Niota, TN. This is just a few miles from Exit 56 on I75.

**RSVP:** Please let us know if you are planning to come. Contact Cory at [Irrs223@gmail.com](mailto:Irrs223@gmail.com) or me at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com). Come anyway, even if you haven't RSVP'd — but it's courteous to let Cory know how many people to expect.

## End of the Year Awards – Second Call for Nominations

It's that time again! One of the highlights of the February end-of-the-year Banquet is recognizing people and dogs who have done well during the year. Club awards, nomination procedures, and due dates are listed below. All nominations and other information required for each award are due to J. Michael Evans (Fowl\_Mouth\_K9@aol.com ) by **JANUARY 13, 2021**.

1. **ETRC Member of the Year:** Any ETRC Member may nominate any other member for this award. The criterion is, who has done the most to help out the club during the past year? Please send your nominations along with a brief justification why you think the person is deserving of the award. The award consists of an engraved plaque.

2. **AKC Sportsman of the Year:** This award recognizes the member who best exemplifies the qualities you want to see in dog sports, and who has best furthered the aims of the AKC in promoting our sport. The award is an engraved plaque mounted with an AKC-provided medallion.

*The final selection for the two awards above will be made by secret ballot of the Board of Directors.*

3. **Gun Dog and Puppy of the year Awards** -- You must nominate **your own** dog or puppy for these awards, which are based on points earned in hunt test competition and club trials during the year. Information must be provided for each dog nominated. Remember to check the ETRC website ([http://www.etrclub.org/gun\\_dogs.htm](http://www.etrclub.org/gun_dogs.htm)) for award rules and information on how to submit nominations and count points . You may provide the information in an email or letter. Winning dog and puppy will receive an engraved plaque to keep and a silver perpetual trophy to display for a year.

4. **Title awards:** If your dog has earned **any AKC field titles** (JH, SH, MH, AFC, FC, QA2, etc.) during 2020, please send your name, your dog's registered name, title earned, and the date and place where you titled. ETRC recognizes these achievements with an engraved plaque.

5. **Master National/ Master Amateur Dogs:** Unfortunately, these events were canceled in 2020, although there will be a make-up Master Amateur event next spring which will be included in 2021 awards. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2020 Master National or Master Amateur, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement!

**When you send Michael an email about awards, please use a separate email for each different subject --** i.e., if you are entering for Dog of the Year and also earned a title, please put those in two separate emails so he can keep the categories straight. **AND**, please put the category into the subject line -- 'AKC Sportsman nomination', etc. Dates outlined above for response to Michael have very little flexibility -- the engraver that we use is in the midst of basketball season awards at the same time, so we need the info by the dates specified in order to get the plaques back in time for the banquet. Once the order is in to the engraver, it can't be changed.

### **Member Award Winners Last 8 years:**



Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2019	Karen Edwards	Michele Fletcher
2018	Mike Smith	Jody Ware
2017	Roberta Williams	Brian Caldwell
2016	J. Michael Evans	Carol Stone
2015	Derek Dieterich	J. Michael Evans
2014	Jim Pearce	David Knott
2013	Carol Stone	Jim Pearce / Karen Edwards
2012	J. Michael Evans	Ken Wade

## Report on December Training Day & Mini Seminar December 13, 2021

ETRC sponsored a training day and mini-seminar focusing on Junior dogs on Sunday, December 13, 2020, at the Smith farm in Niota. A huge thanks to the Smiths for hosting us, and to Luke McCoy who provided insight into Junior Hunt Test rules, setups, and what judges are looking for. Luke has spent several years traveling over the Southeast judging Junior / Senior tests and of course has his share of competition experience as well. After a brief presentation, he opened the field for questions, and covered a variety of topics including leash requirements, when you can talk to your dog and when you can't, length and difficulty of marks, whether you can handle your dog to a mark in Junior where handling is not required (Yes, but if your dog blows it they don't get a pass!), and lots more. Master level judge Alan Bruhin also offered comments. One of the key points both judges made is that **JUDGES ARE DIFFERENT**, the AKC Rules have a lot of room for interpretation, and what one judge thinks is passing may not be passing in the mind of a different judge.

At the conclusion of the seminar, dogs and handlers were able to run on a setup. There were two marks, and more advanced dogs also had several blinds to choose from and could ask for the marks to be run as singles or doubles.

Turnout was good — we had about 18 people and about two dozen dogs. It was good to see some of our newer members coming out and taking advantage of the day, as well as some of the regulars. The weather cooperated with mostly sunny skies and mid-50s temperatures — couldn't ask for a better day in December! Thanks again to Elena Smith for providing drinks and cookies.



## Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

The nominating committee, headed this year by Board Member Michael Smith, along with committee members Cheryl McNutt and Denise Chambers, has recommended the following slate for ETRC officer and director positions for Club year 2021 (beginning at the end of the banquet in February):

- ◆ President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2020- Feb 2023): Cory Smith & Denise Chambers
- ◆ AKC Delegate: Michele Fletcher

Remaining on the board are Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt (through Feb 2022), and Jim Pearce and Peter Torok (through Feb 2023).

Luke McCoy will continue to serve as Past President through 2021, and Lois Luthenauer has agreed to serve again as Chief Marshal for our events in 2021. These last two positions are not on the ballot, and Chief Marshal is not in itself a Board position, but both positions are important to the workings of the club. Board terms expiring are Tom Gibson and Cory Smith. Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years, and thanks to Cory for agreeing to another term. Tom, you will be sorely missed! Thanks also to Lois Luthenauer, who has served as our Treasurer for the past year.

In accordance with the Bylaws, and as announced in December's newsletter, additional nominations could have been made by any member prior to December 31, 2020, in writing to the Secretary, using the process outlined in the last newsletter. No one has made any additional nominations, so the nominations are now closed.

Voting for officers/directors and the AKC Delegate will be done at the annual Awards Banquet and general membership meeting. This will tentatively be held Saturday, February 20, 2021; more details and a confirmation of the date and location will be in the January newsletter.

## Awards Banquet Info & First Call for RSVPs

The annual Awards Banquet is Saturday, February 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at Cory Smith's big heated barn, 245 County Road 319, Niota, TN. This is just a few miles from Exit 56 on I75. Dinner will be catered, and tables will be spread far apart for social distancing.

New members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks! This is also our election meeting and general membership meeting, and a close-out of fiscal 2020 for the club. Come celebrate a successful year... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2021.

I need to have RSVPs from anyone who is planning to eat NO LATER THAN 11:59 p.m. on FEBRUARY 17 (edwardskc@gmail.com), so that the caterer will have enough time to prepare food and we will have enough tables and chairs.

Obviously, we will keep a sharp eye on the Covid situation and will modify our plans accordingly — so keep an eye on your mailbox for updates!

## Member News:



Top: O Frabjous day! Fee, Py, Zoey, and Panda enjoy the white Christmas at Fern Hill (Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce)

Left: William Ware with Willie on Christmas Morning.

Bellow: Luke and the McNutt's watch Cory and Maggie going to the line at the December 13 training day.



**Happy New Year! Send Pictures for the Newsletter!**

## MINUTES from ETRC Board Meeting, Sunday, 12/13/2020

**Present from the Board:** Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Tom Gibson, Cory Smith, Jeff McNutt

**Absent, excused:** Peter Torok, J. Michael Evans, Michele Fletcher, Mike Smith

**Absent, unexcused:** Lois Luthenauer

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. The meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m.

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

**President's Report:** Nothing to report.

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

- ◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 9/15/20; 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. Jim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Correspondence:** Dues notice from AKC, referred to Lois for payment.
- ◆ **Membership:** Current 2020 membership is 59, including 5 waiting first reading and assignment of sponsors later today. One person, Doug Zelonis, says he is quitting, wants to just do upland hunting instead.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lois Luthenauer was not present. Karen reported that the approximate balance in ORNL FCU as of today is \$23,000. However, there are three checks from the hunt test that have not yet cleared for unknown amounts, and several bills with payment outstanding, which will bring the total down some.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher: Not present.

### **Old Business**

#### **Fall 2020 Hunt Test Recap**

- ◆ **What worked, what didn't?** There was general consensus that the test went amazingly well, considering the pandemic and changes that had to be made to accommodate that (closed cabin, ribbon ceremonies at the sites, protecting the marshals, etc.). Special kudos went to the Bird Technicians from the community college wild-life society, who needed very little training and were diligent workers. We will be using them again.
- ◆ **Financial info:** Not enough data yet to tell whether we made a little money, or lost a little. Best guess is that we made a small profit. More info on this when more financial data is available.
- ◆ **Final thoughts:** Not bad!

#### **Winter Training sessions:**

- ◆ Today's – General consensus was that the day went very well and was a success. We had a decent turnout of about 18 people. Luke did an excellent job of presenting, from a judge's AND competitor's perspective, the ins and outs of a Junior hunt test, and answered all questions. The technical session – demonstrating the beginnings of force fetch – was also well received. There was still time to do a Junior test land setup, which was used by most of the dogs there, while still allowing some doubles for the more senior dogs. Big thanks to Luke for doing this for us, to the Smith's for allowing us to use their farm, and to Elena Smith for providing yummy cookies and bottled water.
- ◆ Jan 10, Sunday afternoon, 1 p.m. at Cory's: Alan Bruhin, Master setups and rules, demos, and running setups with advice to handlers. We discussed that it might be a good idea to add some early casting drills to this session. Cory and Elena Smith confirmed that they are willing to donate use of their farm again. With the Smith's big barn/indoor tennis court, even if it rains or is horrible weather we can do the seminar part and demonstrate/try some early casting drills inside. By this time, the heater in the barn will be working.
- ◆ Feb 14, Sunday Afternoon, 1 p.m. at Cory's: J. Michael Evans, Senior rules and setups. Michele Fletcher, how to enter your dog on EE. Setups and advice to handlers at all levels. This is Cory's birthday, so we need to be nice to him that day, and Karen will bring a cake and ice cream!

#### **Spring Hunt Test**

- ◆ Dates with AKC and TWRA: Memorial Day weekend is as late as it can be this coming year – Memorial Day

## Board Minutes , Cont.

itself is May 31. We need to check with both AKC and TWRA to make sure that they are counting the weekends the same way this year, or if we are going to face issues like we do every few years with their different methods of counting weekends. Karen and/or Michele will check with AKC, and we will ask Mike Smith to check with TWRA about the dates. Also, if possible, we need to see if we can move earlier in the year for our spring test – as early as March would work – to avoid the heat. We have tried before and failed, but are hoping that we can pull it off one of these years. There are always problems with hunt season and share cropping planting at TWRA, and too-close other tests with AKC. Now we have the added complication of the Master Amateur this year, which is scheduled for May 16-23 in Emporia, VA. There is also the rescheduled 2020 Master Amateur which will be in California April 18-25, 2021, although being so far away it probably won't impact us too much.

- ◆ Format: two master flights at Hiwassee are getting harder to do with all the sharecropping going on, and the lack of good Master water. Alan, Luke, and J. Michael have all had preliminary discussions with Brian Caldwell to see if we can have one Master flight over there – it's only about a 15 minute drive from Hiwassee. This will not be easy logistically but it may be worth a try. Brian is willing, with one caveat – he would prefer not having any live rounds on his property, which means we would have to get an exception from AKC to have a Master test without live flyers for at least one series. We will probably try to get an exception for both series, if it can be done, for equity reasons. J. Michael will work with Brian and AKC to try to get his property qualified as quickly as possible.
- ◆ New Amateurs First rule: AKC has passed a new rule that will be in effect as of January 1. Workers will get first crack at signing up for tests, on Tuesday before the test opens on Wednesday, using a code. This is not a change. However, this year, 25 to 35% of all Master slots will be allocated to Amateurs, and they will also be able to sign up starting Tuesday evening at the same time as the test opens for workers. If someone signs their dog up as an Amateur, they will HAVE to handle the dog in that stake and cannot turn it over to a pro. As of Wednesday evening at the regular opening time, all slots not filled will now be available for anyone to sign up. We did not make a decision, but the discussion seemed to be favoring us allocating 25% for Amateurs since we don't have that many amateur master handlers in this local area. Alan mentioned that pros are not happy with this new rule, and tests which allocate 35% to amateurs may end up with tests not filling if a pro can't get all 20 of his dogs in. However, since all tests will be subject to this rule, it seems like that shouldn't perhaps make much difference? One club has decided to award all their worker slots to pros to encourage them to come; however, these codes only work for one dog so it may not make much difference. Considering that the pros use of bots to enter a dozen dogs at a time is the reason why amateurs were being squeezed out, there wasn't much sympathy on the board for this predicament that the pros may be facing. Clubs may end up putting on more 'master only' test if the demand is there and the workers are willing.
- ◆ Judges: Alan says he has pretty good ideas for Master judges but please let him know any recommendations you may have for Junior /Senior judges. He will start calling after the first of the year – but we need to get some idea of the date first, if at all possible.

**Club Trial:** We had to cancel the Fall club trial because the Smiths both were down with Covid. We discussed rescheduling, and decided tentatively to try to have one in March or maybe early April – but wait until the new year to see how the schedule for testing is shaking out.

**Nominating Committee for Officers/Board.** Alan Bruhin: Nominating committee finished and reported their slate to Secretary before time. The results were published in the December Newsletter along with the required call to the membership for nominations from the floor, to be sent to Karen as Secretary. The deadline for nominations is December 31; none have been received to date.

**Awards Calls:** The call for awards in the December Newsletter assumed that everything was going to be normal, and that J. Michael was going to deal with the awards again. Michael has agreed to do this, so we're good. Karen will send out at least one and possibly two reminders about getting nominations in.

### **New Business:**

**New Member:** five new members for first reading

- ◆ Wayne / Tina Rich: Dandridge, TN, [waynerich4214@hotmail.com](mailto:waynerich4214@hotmail.com), 865-712-4214. Retired; part time court security. Has a 2.5 year old black Lab, interested in hunt tests, hunter safety course, dog training, NRA member. Volunteers to be a gunner. Alan Bruhin and Jeff McNutt agreed to sponsor Mr. Rich, who was here at the training today and several of us got to meet him.
- ◆ Brian / Lara Fretwell: Cleveland, TN, [no1fret@gmail.com](mailto:no1fret@gmail.com), 423-650-2987. Physicians's assistant / Dentist.



## Board Minutes , Cont.

Has a 1.6 year old Black Lab. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, club trials, judging / judging clinics, NRA & DU member. Volunteers for Hunt test assistant, hut test set up, club officer, marshalling. Cory Smith and Luke McCoy volunteered to sponsor the Fretwells.

- ◆ Cameron Pemberton, Chattanooga, [cameron13@gmail.com](mailto:cameron13@gmail.com), 423-304-7988. Freight broker. Young guy with black lab puppy (was in puppy stakes at test), interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, club trials, and breeding. Volunteers for whatever is needed. Since the McNutts met them while judging the Puppy Stakes, they agreed to serve as sponsors for both Cameron Pemberton and Sydney Parks below.
- ◆ Sydney Parks, Chattanooga, TN, [kaylon2426@gmail.com](mailto:kaylon2426@gmail.com), 423-693-3423. Has a young Black lab puppy, was with the guy above at the hunt test puppy stakes in fall. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, and club trials. Volunteers for whatever needed & photography (has a drone and editing software).
- ◆ Kelli & Joseph Riggs, Odessa, FL. [Flatcoat89@yahoo.com](mailto:Flatcoat89@yahoo.com), 813-340-5727. Has a bunch of flatcoats. Is a puppy/junior/senior judge. Comes to TN to train several times a year and wants to get involved. Interested in hunt tests, hunter safety course, dog training, club trials. Belongs to 5 retriever clubs, two flatcoat clubs. Volunteers for marshalling, judging at club trials. Jim Pearce agreed to sponsor the Riggs, who requested that Lois be the other sponsor. Karen agreed to fill in as secondary sponsor if Lois is unavailable.

Jeff moved we accept these people as provisional members. Cory seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Karen will contact each of the new members telling them names and contact info of their sponsors; sponsors will have access to the new members' contact info through these minutes.

**Spring Banquet:** What on earth are we going to do this year? Challenging, given the current Covid situation. Clearly, jamming the 25-35 people who typically come into the banquet room at the Calhouns is a non-starter for safety reasons, even if Knoxville's event regulations have been relaxed by then! After some discussion, we agreed to the following: tentative date Saturday, February 27, 2021. Tentative Location: the big indoor tennis court at Cory and Elena's place, which will be heated by then. Food: we will contact the barbecue place that catered our fall 2019 hunt test at Ken Campbell's place to see if they are willing to provide the food. Left unresolved so far: we will need to contact a party planner to rent tables, chairs, and potentially tablecloths (the caterers provide plates, silverware, napkins and glasses) in enough quantity to allow for adequate social distancing. Someone needs to volunteer to take on the coordination for this event. We also need to discuss providing some rental to the Smiths' to cover the cost of the electricity for heating and lighting, and general commotion/wear and tear, etc. as this is a big ask.

### **Any other new business?**

- ◆ New Holding Blinds: this had been brought up before, and tabled until we knew how much money we have in the bank, since we did not have a spring hunt test this year (our big moneymaker) and usually don't make a lot of money on the Fall test. Since we still don't have that information, we decided to ask Cory and others to inventory the current blinds to see how many need to be replaced, while we wait for the final financial information to come in. The old blinds will be offered for sale to club members.

**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 5:15 p.m.

## Youth Program



2018 Award Recipients, Cade & 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 to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program.

## 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 after Novem-



## 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).