



# 2021 Upcoming Events

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. May 29-30, 2021: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge and Brian Caldwell's farm. More info inside on page 3
2. June 15-16, 2021 Mid-Week Master Hunt Test (Tuesday & Wednesday). More info on page 2.
3. July 13-14, 2021 Mid-Week Master Hunt Test (Tuesday & Wednesday). See page 2.
4. August Picnic: Date and location TBD
5. Fall club Trial: TBD
6. Fall Hunt Test, October 23-24, 2021, looking for new grounds

## Photo of the Month

Clint Johnson walking off with his swag



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## Ducks to Dirt — A Note From The Board

— by J. Michael Evans, ETRC VP

WHEW! The ETRC Spring Hunt test season has been a whirlwind of a ride!! As many of you have noticed, we added a few tests to our calendar this year. We did NOT do it for the money!! We did this for you, the club members. With all of the restrictions that have come and gone and still linger, we realized how difficult it would be for a lot of us to travel to tests, stay in motels and even eat at restaurants in some places.

So, the Board decided to embark on a Ducks to Dirt journey that has left us all a bit weathered, literally! From pouring rain to 90 degree evenings to frost covered ground in the mornings, we've run and judged tests all year. There is no possible way I can thank (or remember for that matter) all of the people who have helped pull this off so far. But I do want to take a moment to thank Brian Caldwell for the unselfish use of his property to hold almost all of these tests. He has made it very easy for club members to not only run tests, but get titles and qualify for the invitational tests without ever leaving East Tennessee. He has opened his property up to all of us without asking for anything in return. I also want to thank Bob and Griff! These two men work for Brian and have thrown birds, helped clean up, delivered birds, cared for birds, set up tests, etc.....they have worked as hard as anyone in our club and we owe them a huge Thank You!

A huge thanks to our President Alan Bruhin. He is the one who has done the bulk of the work in getting these tests scheduled, working out the logistics, hunting for the judges and making everything work as smoothly as possible. There is nothing about that list of obligations that's easy!

To ALL of the people who helped make these tests work — bird throwers, equipment movers, trailer pullers, duck wranglers, Marshals, lunch makers, lunch deliverers, shoppers for test supplies & equipment, people who made arrangements for insurance coverage, bird techs, dumpsters, porta potties, test set-up, clean-up — basically anyone who got their hands dirty for the sake of having a successful test: THANK YOU!

For those of you who were successful during our Spring Hunt test marathon, Congratulations! We are happy for you and hope to see you at the next test and/or club trial. For those of you who weren't able to make it out as much as you would have liked, we still have the summer tests, the Fall test, handlers seminars, and who knows what other things we may come up with by then! Have a great summer! Train Early, Train Often and Train Wise. Be safe!

**SOON!**

**ETRC Mid-Week Master AKC Hunt Test  
June 15-16 , 2021, Brian Caldwell's Farm**

We are having our 4th AKC hunt test of 2021 on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 15 and 16, 2021. This is a Master-only test, and will have a single flight of 66 dogs. We will again be at Brian Caldwell's farm, 1810 State Highway 58 South, Georgetown, TN, near Cleveland and Decatur, not far from Dayton. Because this is a no-live ammunition property, there will be no live flyers at this test, as approved by AKC.

Judges will be Stacy A. Overcash Atkins and one of our very own Master Judges, J. Michael Evans. Entry is through [EntryExpress.com](http://EntryExpress.com). Entries close June 7 at midnight; however, the test is already full with a small waiting list.

In addition to our usual hunt test motel (Best Western, Dayton, TN), there are several other places in Cleveland that may be suitable and are a little closer to the test site. The Comfort Inn in Cleveland is pet friendly, and have a large parking lot and room to air the dogs. Their number is 423-339-1000.

## ETRC Mid-Week Master AKC Hunt Test July 13-14 , 2021, Brian Caldwell's Farm

**MORE!**

We have yet another Midweek Hunt Test, our fifth of the season, coming up on July 13 and 14, 2021. This is a one-flight Master-only test with a limit of 66 dogs. We will again be at Brian Caldwell's farm — see info on the previous page for the address and special rules about no live ammo. Judges will be Robert C. Johnson and J. Michael Evans.

Entries are through Entry Express, and open **Wednesday, June 23, 2021 7:00 PM CT**. Entries for Workers with worker codes and Amateurs running their own dogs open **Tuesday, June 22, 2021 7:00 PM CT**. Entries close Monday, July 5 at midnight. Please note this is a new AKC rule to have early entry for Amateurs; 25% of the 66 Master Entries (16 dogs) are reserved for Amateurs who must handle their own dogs if they enter under this rule. Any of these entries that are unused by the regular opening time will be released and are open for anyone. Members who need worker codes should contact J. Michael Evans — text or call him at 865-824-8638. He works shifts, so if you call, leave a message and he will call or text you back. **HE ALREADY HAS THE CODES FOR THIS TEST, SO CALL NOW TO MAKE SURE YOU GET ONE!**

## Report on ETRC's Spring AKC Hunt Test, May 28-29, 2021

Our third hunt test of the year was our regular Memorial Day Weekend test, with two flights of Master and a double Junior and double Senior. One flight of Master was over at Brian Caldwell's farm, and the rest of the test was at our usual Hiwassee grounds. This caused some interesting logistical issues, but none were unsurmountable and we managed to work them all out!

As always, this was a big test — 194 individual dogs in 262 separate entries. There were 129 males and 133 females. Labradors were most of the entries — 235 — with 11 Golden Retrievers, 6 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, 2 Water Spaniels, 2 pointers, 2 Toller, 2 Vizsla, 1 Boykin, and a Flatcoat.

We could not possibly have had more perfect weather. After torrential rains during set-up on Friday afternoon, both Saturday and Sunday were mostly sunny. Amazingly, for one of our Memorial Day tests, the weather was COOL — breezy, highs in the upper 60s both days. Couldn't have picked two better days to be outside!



As always, thanks to the people who helped pull all this together — President Alan Bruhin, VP Mike Evans, Hunt Test Secretary Michele Fletcher, Chief Marshal Lois Luthenauer, Mike & Donna Smith, Peter Torok, Jeff and Cheryl McNutt, Tom and Liz Gibson, Jim Pearce, and Karen Edwards. If I missed any others, I apologize — your work was much appreciated and we couldn't have put this test on without the help of many people! Special thanks to Scott Chaney, Chad Gullickson, Jack Gravely, and Tracy Hughes (Master judges); and Lisa Styles, Becky Rogers, Robert Shell, and Mark Land (Junior/Senior judges) for giving up four days and



## Report on Spring Hunt Test, Con't.

a holiday to come judge for us. Thanks also to Robert Brewer, head of the Cleveland State Community College Wildlife Society and the great bird tech students that he provided. Not only did he arrange for the bird techs, Robert helped out in the office and was the primary “sandwich guy” for fixing 85 worker lunches. Thanks also to Lois Luthenauer’s nephew Gavin Sigmund, who was a bird tech all weekend, and to other non-club member handlers who filled in from time to time as marshals and bird techs to cover holes. Huge thanks to Brian for letting us use his farm for our Master A flight, arranging for the three bird technicians at his property, and for the loan of some of the equipment we used at both sites. And of course, thanks to everyone who came and ran your dogs!

And finally, Jim Pearce wants to pass on a special thanks to Mike Smith for crawling through the tiny back window of Jim’s pickup to get the truck keys which Jim had locked inside. A man of many talents, that Mike Smith, which we knew—but didn’t know it applied to B&E!

### RESULTS:

**Master A** — 65 dogs entered, 60 came to the line, and 54 passed. Passing were 47 Labradors, all 5 Golden Retrievers entered, the sole Flat Coated Retriever, and the only Boykin Spaniel.

**Master B** — 65 dogs entered, 51 came to the line, and 33 passed. 32 of these were Labradors, and one was a Chesapeake.

**Senior Saturday:** 34 entries, no scratches, 21 passed. Passing were 30 Labradors, 2 Chessies, a Toller, and a Golden.

**Senior Sunday:** 28 entries, 7 scratches, 10 passed. Many of the scratches were dogs who titled on Saturday. 9 of those passing were Labradors and one was a Chessie.

**Junior Saturday:** 35 entries, 31 dogs to the line, 24 passed. All were Labradors.

**Junior Sunday:** 35 entries, 5 scratches, 28 passes, all Labradors.



*How many people can we squash into this Ranger? Bird Techs on the way to their stations ....*

Cheers and hurrahs for the following ETRC members who owned and/or handled qualifying dogs:

### Master Hunter

- ◆ Jeremy Majors’ Labrador, RSR’s Double J MH was handled to a pass by Brian Caldwell.
- ◆ John Broucek’s Labrador, Troublesome Fowl Addiction, passed with Jody Ware handling.
- ◆ Alan Bruhin handled his Labrador, Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, to a pass.
- ◆ Brian Caldwell handled two of his own Labradors to passes: Ringtail Headhunter and Razor Sharp’s Duck Em Down.
- ◆ Donna and Michael Smiths’ Labrador, Blythe Ferry’s Indy Dos, passed and earned her Master Hunter title.
- ◆ Karen Edwards’ and Jim Pearce’s Golden Retriever, Fern Hill Py In The Sky SH, passed in her first Master test with Jody Ware handling.

### Senior Hunter

- ◆ Peter Torok handled his Golden Retriever, Fern Hill Kepes Arany Sugar JH (Kaypesh), to another pass toward her Senior title; One more to go!
- ◆ Jeff Rader handled his Labrador, Rader’s Charley Belle JH, to two Senior passes.



**Report on Spring Hunt Test, Con't.**  
*ETRC Members owning or handling passing dogs*

**Junior Hunter**

- ◆ Jeff McNutt handled his Labrador, Good Timing Man, to two Junior passes.
- ◆ Jeff Rader handled his Labrador, Rader's Charley Belle, to two Junior passes and her Junior title.
- ◆ Cheryl McNutt handled her Labrador, Fin's Fancy Wild Side of Green, to a Junior pass.

Also, congratulations to Pro members Jody Ware and Brian Caldwell, who handled a number of non-member client dogs to passes at various levels as well.



*Random Shots*



## More Information on the Amateur Allotment for Master Hunters

By J. Michael Evans, Master Judge & ETRC VP

As many of you have noticed, AKC has implemented a new way for amateur handlers to enter Master Hunt tests. This new rule was created so amateurs would have a fair chance to compete with the huge number of dogs the pros are able to enter with one push of a button or using an I.T. professional. But, as we have seen over the last few weeks, many don't actually understand when and/or how to legally use the amateur allotment. This article, hopefully, will help both amateurs and pros understand the particulars of this new rule because as I've come to find, the penalties are severe!

First; the amateur allotment entry begins 24 hours before the general opening of any test. This coincides with the same early entry period given to "workers" who have been given a code for agreeing to help work the test. The following are MANDATORY AKC rules that govern the amateur allotment:

- ◆ You MUST be an amateur in order to use the amateur allotment.
- ◆ You MUST handle the dog you enter using the amateur allotment.
- ◆ You MUST be listed as an amateur on Entry Express.
- ◆ You MUST NOT have a pro listed as a secondary handler on your Entry Express profile.
- ◆ You are NOT allowed to let a pro handle a dog you entered using the amateur allotment, under any circumstances, even if an emergency prohibits you from attending the test at the last minute! However, you can have another amateur handle your dog in this case.

According to Russ Revis (AKC Rep) and Glen at Entry Express, the penalties for failure to follow these rules are as follows:

- ◆ An amateur can be suspended from running any AKC test for a period of time. AKC will decide how long on a case-by-case basis.
- ◆ A pro can be suspended for a period of six (6) months and not allowed to run any AKC test with ANY dog.
- ◆ If the Marshal and/or Hunt Test secretary do not catch the violation and the dog is allowed to go to the line with a pro handler, the club sponsoring the test can be fined.
- ◆ If your dog happens to sneak by ALL of these failsafes and passes the test, AKC "WILL" strip the dog of that pass and NO refund will be given.

An interesting note here is that the AKC and Entry Express have a grace period of 8 months in which they can retroactively cancel a pass. So if you think you "just slipped by without getting caught," you still have 8 months to wait and wonder.

To sum it all up, this is a positive thing for amateurs. Hundreds of complaints were sent to AKC over the past couple of years requesting they level the playing field between amateurs and pros in terms of being able to enter Master Hunt tests.

THEIR SOLUTION? Give amateurs an extra day on the front end to enter a test without having to compete with the growing number of pro trainers. But, as with anything, AKC and Entry Express has already seen, and dealt with, abuse and misunderstandings by both pro and amateur handlers. You cannot "accidentally" enter a dog under the amateur allotment. There is a "specific" icon you have to click that asks "are you an amateur handler wishing to use the amateur allotment?" You have to click "YES" and put a check in the box. To run the risk of oversimplification: if you are an amateur and you are running your own dog, use the amateur allotment to enter any Master test, in any state, that adopted the allotment availability.

Incidentally, if you are an amateur owner who uses a pro to handle your dog at tests, you may NOT use this new Amateur allotment to enter your dog. However, you can still volunteer to work at the test, get a worker code, and enter your dog early that way.



New Amateur Allotment, Con't.

Entering your dog using Entry Express hasn't changed! It's the same as it ever was, with the exception of clicking on one box asking if you are an amateur using an allotment spot. Use this new tool AKC and Entry Express has given us amateurs! As always, the Officers and Board members are always here to help in any way we can. Feel free to call any of us and we will be happy to walk you through any problem you may be having.

Member News & Announcements

**Puppies!** Alan Bruhin still has two male Black Labrador puppies available from his Percy x Shine litter, who are now six weeks old and ready to go to new homes soon! They have been well started and have great pedigrees — sire is John Broucek's Percy (Seaside's Troublesome Fowl Pursuits QAA) — Dam is Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH. Pedigree is here: <https://k9data.com/pedigree.asp?ID=1074776> . For more information, contact Alan at 865-850-8712.



**Retriever Handling/Training workshops** — Lois Luthenauer is hosting two handler's seminars this summer at The Retriever Retreat, 3058 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN 38553.

**Mitch White Workshop:** Coming up July 3 and 4 is a workshop with training legend Mitch White. Full details were in the May newsletter on page 10, and a pdf flyer was attached to that newsletter, which contained a registration form. However, the flyer had the wrong address for mailing registration forms and money — send them to Lois at the Clarkrange address above instead of what is listed in the flyer. The newsletter is posted on the ETRC club page — <http://www.etrclub.org>, and click on the link for newsletters in the center of the page.

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**Kevin Cheff Workshop:** Lois is working with Kevin Cheff to have another workshop sometime in the August timeframe. Details and exact dates have not yet been worked out, but keep this in mind and look for more info in next month's newsletter. Here is the description Kevin provided of what will be covered:

“This fundamental skill building workshop is designed to bridge the gap between basics and advanced field training. In it, we'll take the skills your dog has learned in the yard and help you transition them to the field and pond.

“While your dog may have completed all of the necessary steps up to and including Singe or Doublt-Ts, it's far from ready to take on any advanced or even simple conceptual training in the field or pond. Fundamental skills are in their infancy, and making the leap to more advanced concepts without additional training and fundamental skill reinforcement often results in poor outcomes.

“I'll cover additional drills to help bridge the gap, show you how to teach your dog to fight factors, introduce your dog to cold blinds and blind concepts and learn early making concepts.

“Dogs attending this workshop will need to have completed all of the basics including collar conditioning, force fetch, force to pile, three-handed cast and single, double or advanced-T. You are also strongly encouraged to have completed swim-by. “

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin or Lois. And thanks, Lois, for offering these! Lois's contact information: email: [retrieverbednbiscuits@gmail.com](mailto:retrieverbednbiscuits@gmail.com), phone 865-803-1187 Kevin Cheff's info: 229-977-4770

## 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 any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program.

## ETRC Membership

Membership for 2021: The cost 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. Don't miss out on 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 November 1 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)).

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 is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XXI (for 2021).