



# ETRC Upcoming Events

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

1. April 2, 2022, Saturday: Spring Club Trial. See article P. 2
2. April 19-20, 2022, Tuesday and Wednesday: Double JH / SH AKC Hunt test, Brian Caldwell's Farm, Georgetown, TN. See article on p.3. Open now; closes Monday night, April 11.
3. May 28-29, 2022: Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Reserve. Two flights Master, double JH / SH. Opens Wednesday, May 4; opens Tuesday, May 3 for Amateurs & Volunteer workers.
4. June 25-26, 2022: Rescheduled Advanced Judges' Seminar. See pp 11-12..
5. Summer picnic/General Business Meeting: TBD
6. September 20-21, Tuesday & Wednesday, Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's.

## Photo of the Month



*Young Hopeful.....*

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**SOON!**

## ETRC's Spring Club Trial April 2, 2022, Cory Smith's Farm

ETRC will host a Club Trial of the season on Saturday, April 2, 2022, starting at 9:00 a.m. EDT (8:30 a.m. for judges & set-up help). The location will be Cory Smith's farm, 245 County Rd 319, Niota, TN, which is just about a mile or so off I75 via exit 56 (between Sweetwater and Athens).

This will be a great opportunity to work your dog in conditions that are more test-like than a training session, checking on their progress and readiness for an actual hunt test. Cory has built a new pond, so if the weather isn't too cold we will have the opportunity for some water work as well.

Judges will be Club members, several of whom are licensed AKC judges, including Master National judge Alan Bruhin, among others yet to be identified. We will need people to pitch in and trade off on operating wingers, planting blinds, and setting up and taking down the equipment. We will be using our club-owned bumper launchers as well as wingers to reduce the amount of time people have to spend out in the field throwing marks and firing wingers.

**STAKES:** Singles Classic, Master, Senior, Junior, Puppy Stakes (Junior under 6 months & Senior under 1 yr). Entry Fee: \$10.00 each stake per dog (dokkens & Bumpers), Puppy Stakes (bumpers; bring your own if you wish) \$5.00 (1 PM). Completion ribbons will be awarded for hunt test stakes and Advanced Junior stakes; placement 1-4 and JAM ribbons will be awarded for Singles Classic and the two puppy stakes. If you are interested in consideration for our end-of-the-year awards for Gun Dog and Puppy or the Year, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards. Club Trial Rules and are on the ETRC website ([www.etrclub.org](http://www.etrclub.org)), see left menu tab "Club Trial Rules."

**OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.** If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial, check with President Mike Smith. Membership is \$25, good through February 28, 2023.

**WHAT TO BRING:** No E-collars allowed if you want to participate for ribbons and awards points. Collars will be allowed if you want to use the session for training only. All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless running tests. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), your lunch, 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. **PLEASE BRING CHECKS OR EXACT SMALL BILLS;** we will not be able to take \$100 bills unless you are planning to run 10 stakes!

**WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY:** We will send out an email on Friday night if the weather is such that we are going to have to cancel. We will not cancel just for chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is expected to be monsoon-raining or heavy electrical storms in Niota, we will not run. So be sure to check your email Friday night! 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.

**RSVP:** Please let us know if you are planning to come. Email me at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com). Come anyway if your plans change at the last minute and you haven't RSVP'd — but it's nice to know approximately how many people to expect.

**SOON!**

## ETRC's Mid-Week Double JH / SH AKC Hunt Test April 19-20, 2022, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our first AKC hunt test of the season is coming up this month! It's a double Junior Hunter / Senior Hunter test, which will be held at Brian Caldwell's place on Tuesday and Wednesday. Note that we will also be having double JH / SH stakes at the end of May, so this is a good opportunity to finish up that Junior or Senior title early in the year.

Both stakes will start at 8 a.m. each day and finish whenever they are done.

Check Entry Express for the premium list, further details, and to enter the test. These are open NOW, and will close on Monday, April 11, 2022 at one minute before midnight. Because there are no Master tests, there will be no worker codes and entries are unlimited.

Judges will be J. Michael Evans & Lisa Vencille (Junior Tuesday, Senior Wednesday) and Catherine Blackburn & Clarice Whitfield (Senior Tuesday, Junior Wednesday). We will have professional bird technicians. There will be no live flyers, as this property is a 'no live ammunition' site as approved by AKC.

**ADDRESS:** 1810 State Hwy 58 South, Georgetown, TN 37336. This is at Exit 49 on I75 (Athens Exit), take TN30 W to Decatur (9.3 miles), then take Hwy 58 S and go 15.1 miles to the farm, which will be on the left. ETRC Signs will be placed at the entrance.

## ETRC's New Duck Pen

After our duck fiasco last fall, where we had NO ducks that survived the two weeks between our fall test at the end of October and our final Master test in November, the Board decided we needed to build a duck pen where we could better care for carryover ducks from one event to another. Cory Smith kindly agreed to let us use his property, and we have now constructed the Taj Ma Pen inside his kennel barn. It's 30' long by 10' wide, with an 10' square 1' deep pond in one end. The first 20' are under roof and protected on one side by the kennel wall; the other sides are lined with dog fencing panels with a tarp over the top. Thanks to Cory for letting us use his property, and to the work crew of Mike Smith, Alan Bruhin, Denise Chambers, Jim Pearce, Karen Edwards, Mike Evans, who put the pen together. Also thanks to the members who came early to the Training day / seminar and helped with the final touches!





## ETRC's Spring Hunt Test May 28-29, 2022, Hiwassee Reserve & Brian Caldwell's Farm

Plans for ETRC's spring hunt test are proceeding well and we are on schedule. The test will be held over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29, 2022. We will have a double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master (limit 132 dogs). Junior, Senior and one flight of Master (66 dogs) will be at the Hiwassee Refuge near Dayton Tennessee. The second flight of Master (66 more dogs) will be about 15 minutes away at Brian Caldwell's Farm near Decatur, TN. Judges will be Robby Griffin and Laurice E. Williams, Sr. for Master A; Ethan Corkren and Daniel Overstreet for Master B. We are still working to pin down a final judge for Jr / Sr stakes.

Entries for Amateurs and for club workers with passcodes will open Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm Central time. Please note that under AKC rules, up to 46 dogs can be entered early; these spaces 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 of Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. CT will be released & are open for anyone. Entries close Monday, May 16 just before midnight Central time. Entry is through EntryExpress.com. Please check in with them early, as Entry Express is now having to make sure that full information is provided for each dog that you are entering. If you don't have every field filled out on your dog profile, your entry won't be accepted until you correct that. This won't matter for Junior or Senior dogs, but if you are entering in Master without a worker code or are an amateur NOT handling your own dog, it may well mean the difference between getting in or not.



Hiwassee Refuge

Also, this is the first year that Entry Express will be going exclusively to E-catalogs; we will not have printed catalogs available on site to hand out to handlers. You should download the catalog to your phone before arriving at the test site so you will know your position in the running order without having to check on the marshal boards. We are sorry for this inconvenience and hope that the system works OK.

Members who volunteer to work at the test can sign up and get a code from Assistant Test Chair 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 you back. You will have to sign up for at least one day of work at the test to get a code, either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Obviously we will give you time off to warm up and run your dog! Workers will be entered into a drawing for some nice prizes — including tee shirts, hats, an ETRC clock, and other assorted items. You will get 1 raffle ticket for half a day's work, 3 tickets for all day, and 2 tickets for working Friday afternoon.

Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 21; we need assistant / trainee / relief marshals, and equipment moving/maintenance workers on Saturday and Sunday, plus cleanup helpers on Sunday. 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 Mike Smith (mdsmith2314@gmail.com), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (contact info above), Chief Steward Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com) or Secy/Treas Karen Edwards (edwardskc@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. Hope to see you there, as a competitor or worker or both!



Best Western, Dayton, TN

## Report on Mini-Seminar & Training Day 3/20/22

Our second training day / mini seminar for the year was held Sunday, March 20, at Cory Smith's farm, in Niota. We started at 1 p.m. and kept on going until a little after 4:00. The weather cooperated, and we enjoyed sunshine and a high of 64! Perfect spring weather .... About 15 people showed up for the day.

The topic of the day was Transition Drills, and included various exercises and demos of how to move your dog from the Junior to the Senior and later Master levels, and how to keep them there with periodic repeats of drills. The presenters were ETRC members and AKC Master-level judges / handlers Alan Bruhin and J. Michael Evans.

Alan stressed that obedience must come first. Before you start any of these casting drills, your dog must be able to sit on command and stay seated with you moving away from them. You also must have some degree of attention, that they will look at you when seated. As long as you can get your dog to turn and run toward an identified pile, you're ready to start these drills.

The first drill covered was Three Handed Casting or the Baseball Drill. For this, you need a bucket of bumpers and some flat ground — often a back yard is big enough for this drill. Using the baseball analogy, you sit your dog at the pitcher's mound, you are standing at home base, and bumpers will be placed at first, second and third bases. To begin with, though, you have a long lead on the dog, and start just with the 'BACK' command, with bumpers just on 2nd base. Start by showing them the pile, then by tossing a bumper to the pile. Then, with the dog facing you at the pitchers' mound, you back up to home and give them a right back cast (with your right hand) and the BACK command. The dog should turn to the right for this cast, and if he doesn't, stope him with the long line and try again. Same with the left cast. Then work a couple of days on a cast to 1st base, then to third base, then do two bases at a time, and then gradually work up to the full exercise. Each step may take several days, and should not be rushed. Stop working once the dog starts losing attention or acting tired; maintaining enthusiasm is extremely important at this step.



Next, Alan covered the Walking Baseball. Take two bumpers, with the dog at heel. Sit the dog, throw a bumper, walk away from the dog, cast him to the bumper and have him return to your side. This helps teach steadiness as well as casting. After the dog is solid on this step, add the second bumper. Start as before — dog at side, toss bumper, walk away, then toss the second bumper, cast them toward the first bumper. Walk away, cast them to the second bumper. This helps introduce the concept of ignoring suction — they don't always get to go to the bumper they have seen land most recently. If you need to, use the lead to stop them, or give them a whistle sit, if they head for the wrong bumper. J. Michael mentioned that he usually tweets a sit whistle after walking away from the dog before casting, to get them used to the routine of whistle, cast on a real blind.

In response to the question of how old / advanced should a dog be before you start these drills, Alan commented that he does a very simplified version of the baseball in his basement when a puppy is 12-14 weeks old, as soon as the puppy will sit away from him and pay attention. He will use a bowl with a cheeto inside and cast them to the bowl. This makes the transition to the real drill later much easier!

Then Michael covered Pattern Blinds. He pointed out that this helps a lot with teaching the dogs verbal cues at the line as well as confidence building in following casts. It will be easier if you have already done force to the pile by this stage. He stressed that this exercise must be done for weeks, and in fact he keeps a permanent pattern blind setup and uses it even for his Master Level dogs on occasion.

In your pattern blind field, set up at least three and no more than 6 blinds. For three, one of them should be very long — around 200 yards; one medium, around 100, and one short, about 50 yards. Mark the blind locations with a bucket or blind pole (white is good at first so the dog can also see it) so you can always put the bumpers in the same place every time.

When you start, start with just the shortest blind. Take the dog up close so they can see the pile (use white bumpers at first), then toss a bumper to the pile and send the dog for it. While he is running, you back up some. When the dog returns, send him again, and repeat. Don't rush this step; make sure your dog keeps up enthusiasm and only back up as far as you can reliably get him to go back to the pile each time. On the second day, still show the dog the pile but don't throw a bumper and back up faster, perhaps all the way back to your final line. Again, it depends on the dog.

For a while, work on just the one pile until the dog is confident. Then repeat the process at one of the other blinds. After the dog is confident on that blind as well, add the first blind back in after you have done some casts to the first blind. Then repeat the process with the third blind. Once you are up to using all three blinds, do them in the same order for several days before randomizing the order you use.

After the dog is very solid on all three, you can remove the white cones or buckets identifying the pile, and can switch to orange bumpers. Eventually, start adding in distractions — a chair sitting in the middle of the field between the blinds, a 'scarecrow' with a blind post hung with a white tee shirt, decoys, etc. — to teach the dog to focus on the blinds and not the distractions. Eventually you can start doing marks interspersed with the pattern blinds, and add the concept of diversion birds and poison birds as well. You can also do a whistle stop and redirect the dog to a different blind — but be sure not to do this too often. Don't change blinds on them more than one time out of at least three, or you are likely to create a popping problem.

Pattern blinds are also good for teaching verbal cues. Some people will indicate whether a blind is close in or far away by verbal cues — 'CLOSE IN' for a short one, or a loud voice and a loud verbal for one that is long.

Both J. Michael and Alan stressed that they come back to pattern blinds over and over again, and that it is a wonderful method for restoring confidence to a dog who is acting a bit shaky in regular training or in tests. It's a good method for correcting popping as well — gives the dog confidence that there will always be a bumper if they follow the direction of your casts and keep going.

After the presentation and demonstrations, Alan and Mike set up two different stations. Mike worked with people on pattern blinds, and Alan on the exercises. People brought up their dogs and worked with them at whatever level was appropriate for the dog at their stage of training. One of the common corrections and suggestions both presenters made was related to handling. Many, many people tend to handle way too fast — whistle, hand jerks up and is done by the time the dog has turned around to look at you. Sit first, wait till the dog is seated and looking at you; slowly raise your hands up to right in front of you, slowly extend it in the direction you are casting, and hold it there. If you are wearing darkish clothes, your hands are super important as they are what the dog is most able to see. Spread your hands wide, hold them flat facing the dog, not flat to the ground. Sometimes, both men said they will make the dog sit for a count of 20 before they give them the cast. This teaches them patience and will help in test situations where patience runs thin and the dog (and handler) are both way more excited than in training!

Thanks for sharing your knowledge with us, Alan and J. Michael!  
Wonderful session !



**Minutes for ETRC Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**  
**Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN**

**Present from the Board:** Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Denise Chambers

**Absent, excused:** Luke McCoy, Jeff McNutt, Cory Smith, Peter Torok

**Others Members Present:** None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present with 7 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

***President's Report:***

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

- ◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/18/22 (Banquet); minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website on 2/22/22. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. J. Michael seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Correspondence:** Insurance renewal received and paid for, covering club liability. Also requested insurance certificates for various landowners; have received one for Cory's farm for the judges seminar but no others yet; Equisure says they will send them along with the new policy.
- ◆ **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. 28 people so far have renewed or joined for 2022, including one who paid twice last year and asked for his check to be carried over for this year, and two free comped memberships. Denise Chambers renewed at the meeting, so now we're at 29. The membership year started March 1; people are dropped off the rolls if not renewed by June 1. Will send out individual email reminders before the first of April.

***Treasurer's Report:*** Current balance is \$32,307.65 after paying for duck pen & before depositing Denise's membership money & repaying Alan for expenses due for the judging seminar. Have refunded all registration money received for the Judges seminar. Still owe myself \$2,698.59 for the new ribbon order, plus \$125.57 for non-perishable groceries for seminar / hunt test lunches, ~\$40 for perishable groceries for seminar (which we are eating tonight); plus refund for stamps for mailing 5 refunds, construction & insurance checks.

**Old Business**

1. ***Judges Seminar, March 12-13:*** Canceled because of weather. Karen emailed membership plus all non –members who had registered, and Jim called all the out-of-area registrants. We ended up with 15 registrants in all, including both Vencilles and 3 other non-member judges. All registration fees have been returned.
  - Reschedule dates: After some discussion, we decided to try rescheduling this for June 25-26, 2022. Earlier dates won't work as they are right in the middle of the hunt test season. Alan will call AKC and then the motel to see if these dates will work, and if so, will re-book the seminar for those dates.
  - Hotel reservation fee: we paid \$250 to reserve the room. Alan will ask the hotel if this will carry over, but it is unlikely that it will. We will probably have to pay another \$250 to reserve the room for the new date.
  - MNRC Grant: Alan called MNRC about our \$600 grant. They told him it will still be good for when we have rescheduled.

## 2. **Duck Pen:**

- Concrete base poured inside Cory's little barn by Alguire Construction 3/11/22, \$5,318, invoice has been paid. There was some discussion about this being poured the Friday before a major snowstorm, and whether it would hold up as a result. Mike Smith traveled to Cory's and tarped the exterior portion, which is the duck pond, and said when he went back on Monday to retrieve his tarps, it all looked good with no cracks. Hopefully it will be fine.
- Now we need to build a pen around it. Two ideas were discussed:
  - ◇ An inexpensive pen (probably around \$200-300) built out of 6' tall chicken wire, using existing posts and some additional wooden framing for top and bottom for stability, also using the existing walls of the barn for part of the pen. **Advantages:** cheaper. Bigger (would use all 30' of the concrete base). **Disadvantages:** More work to put it up, possible issues with varmints unless we also install an electric wire around it. Not portable.
  - ◇ Use snap-together 6' x10' chain link 'dog panels'. We would need 5 plain panels at \$100 each, plus one gate panel at \$110 from Rural King, plus something for a top. After discussion, decided the best option is to use a tarp with some 2x4's under it for support. This pen would not use the back 10' of the concrete pad, the part which is walled on 3 sides, and would only be 20' x 10'. The back 10' could be used for storing duck feed, duck crates and other supplies needed. **Advantages:** Sturdier. Easier to construct. Can be easily expanded to 30' for another \$200 if we decide we need more room. Can be dismantled and taken away for use elsewhere if Cory decides to move or if we otherwise lose access to his property. **Disadvantages:** More expensive, probably around \$700-\$800 total, on top of the \$5,318 we have already spent. Smaller.

After some discussion, Michele moved that we go with the panels and authorize Mike to buy what he needs to finish the pen with a tarped top. However, Mike will delay a day in purchasing the panels to give Denise time to contact her family connection at a co-op to see if we can get the panels at a lower price. Alan seconded the motion, which passed with five Ayes and one Nay (the President can only vote in case of a tie). Once he has the panels, Mike S will contact people for help in putting the pen together.

## 3. **April 19-20 Hunt Test: Tuesday/Wednesday: Double Junior / Senior, Brian Caldwell's**

- AKC fees paid, events #2022-3528-13&14. Judges approved, open now for entries, not many yet (6 as of the time of the meeting).
- Club volunteers: Cory will bring the big trailer over to Brian's at some point in the next several weeks. Mike Smith will bring the small trailer.
- Motel reservations have been made for judges at the Dayton Best Western; Queen rooms, non-smoking. Karen will write emails to the judges confirming the arrangements before the end of the month.
- Bird techs: Caldwell is supplying Bob Smith & Ryan Campbell. We need another one but may have to just rotate club members around to cover a third station.
- Ducks: Mike Evans says ducks will be received by April 10 from Kiley.
- Lunches: J & K will do, have purchased the necessary long-lasting supplies already so just meat, bread, cheese, tomatoes and lettuce are remaining to buy.
- Marshals: need to check with Lois to see if she will be coming.
- Entry Express has decided not to supply printed catalogs any more, and any printing to be done will be up to us based on e-catalogs they will supply. EE has not mentioned anything about not charging us for catalogs which they have in the past; it will be interesting to see if we are still paying last year's printer prices for an e-catalog. We will probably need to print out several copies to have on hand, and are concerned that this is going to be a bit of a disaster. Marshaling will be more important than ever as a result of this switch.



**Board Minutes, Continued**

**4. Other Hunt Tests in 2022.** we have the following dates and locations:

- **May 28-29, Saturday/Sunday:** 1 flight Master, double Junior, double Senior at Hiwassee, plus a second flight of Master at Brian's. AKC fees paid, events #2022-3528-06 & 07. On Entry Express. Caldwell is OK with us using his farm for one flight Master; Michele has gotten approval for Hiwassee.
  - ◇ Need one more JH / SH judge. Alan is working with AKC and disapproved judge Wes Bowman to see if we can get him cleared to judge JH only. If so, the current plan is to have him judge Junior both days, and see if Mike Sales will do Senior both days. The other two will rotate.
  - ◇ After some discussion, we decided to have Master B at Caldwell's with judges Ethan Corkren and Daniel Overstreet; Master A would be at Hiwassee with Robby Griffin and Laurice Williams Sr.
  - ◇ Ducks: we are good with getting ducks from Kiley once we know the numbers we need. We will also order an addition 6-10 ducks for use at the Judges Seminar at the end of June, assuming that is the date that is approved; asking Cory to take care of a fairly small number of ducks for 3 weeks shouldn't be too onerous unless he will be gone for much of that time on vacation.
  - ◇ Bird techs: Alan has contacted the Wildlife Association coordinator, Robert Brewer, who says he is interested in providing bird techs for the Hiwassee site. We will need 16-20 but can get by with as few as 12. Caldwell has been asked to supply 4 for Master B at his property.
  - ◇ Other volunteers needed, will need to get commitments as time goes on.
- **September 20-21, Tuesday / Wednesday:** Midweek Master Only (66 dogs), Brian Caldwell's. On Entry Express, Caldwell is OK with using his farm, AKC application OK pending judges. Judges not yet selected.
- **October 22-23, Saturday / Sunday, 2 flights Master, double Junior, double Senior.** On Entry Express, AKC application not yet completed pending info on location. Location not yet pinned down -- possibly at Ken Campbell's, possibly somewhere else. J. Michael reported that Ken says he's OK with it but can't yet commit this far in advance. Hiwassee won't set their schedule until early July, but we should try to get a word into them that we are interested in that weekend to try to see if they will save room for us if things are looking iffy with Campbell by then. Other places discussed: We could use Brady Collins Dogtown property for a single flight of Master, especially if we decide to have an owner / handler qual on Friday. It's not big enough for more than one test setup, though. Other possibilities: use Caldwell's for one Master flight, plus a Junior on Saturday and a Senior on Sunday. That would knock out having another Master flight or a second Junior and Senior. If we could find another place to have two master flights, we could do a double JH / SH at Caldwell's. No judges yet.
- **November 1-2, Tuesday / Wednesday, single flight Master, Brian Caldwell's.** On Entry Express, Caldwell is OK with using his farm, AKC is OK with dates, no judges yet.

**5. Equipment:** any repair or equipment issues unresolved from the fall test? Mike Smith reported that one of the Thunder sticks has a stripped end where the gas canister screws into the housing. Jim says that's just a blowtorch that can be gotten from Home Depot, and he will get it Sunday and see about fixing it. There are several others that don't work well and we need to check them out, see if they also need new blowtorches. Jim was able to get pins for the wingers, and we have extra rubber if needed.

**6. Ribbons:** Ordered, will be received on or before April 10.

**7. Club Trial:** We have one scheduled at Cory's on April 2, but no one has yet expressed interest in coming. Jim and Karen will be in Oregon; Luke is working nonstop; Mike Evans has a judging assign-

**Board Minutes, Continued**

ment; Michele is judging agility. We need to discuss with the people who come to the training session this coming Sunday how many of them are planning to come, and also Karen will send out an email to the membership on Monday asking for RSVPs, so we know whether we should go ahead and plan on it, or whether we need to cancel.

**New Business:**

1. **New Members:** None for first reading
2. **Any other new business?** Banquet 2022: Karen suggested that we try to pin down the Bearden Banquet Hall for next February's banquet, and try to get a Saturday night this time. We looked at dates, and decided the two best are February 18 or February 25, with the 25<sup>th</sup> being preferred. Alan volunteered to call the Banquet Hall and try to get this pinned down.

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Michele moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## Rescheduled: Judges Seminar

We were all set for our Advanced Judges seminar on March 12 and 13 — until the forecast ended up calling for snow and temperatures in the single digits. AKC called us up and after a brief discussion they suggested that we cancel and reschedule. So we did.

It's a good thing that we did — the area was covered with about 8" of snow, and although the lows weren't quite as low as predicted, I don't think any of us would have wanted to be out in the field Sunday morning with 8" of snow on the ground and 13 degrees.

We have rescheduled for June 25 and 26 instead. Shouldn't have any problems with snow that time of year! It may be a bit warm, however ....

The schedule and locations remain the same — the Comfort Inn in Athens on Saturday, and Cory Smith's farm on Sunday. For full details and a registration form, see the next two pages.





## AKC Advanced Retriever Hunting Test Seminar for Judges

*Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26, 2022, 8 am to 4 pm*

**LOCATION SATURDAY:** Conference room, Comfort Inn, 2811 Decatur Pike, Athens, TN 37303

**LOCATION SUNDAY:** Cory Smith Farm, 245 County Road 319, Niota, TN 37826

**SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:** This seminar has been designed for judges that have attended the basic one-day AKC Hunting Test Seminar and have attained some judging experience through apprenticeships and/or actual judging.

This seminar is, however, **open to anyone and can be quite beneficial in helping handlers to better understand judging criteria and considerations. We encourage ETRC Members to take advantage of the opportunity to attend this seminar even if you never plan to judge a hunt test!**

This seminar WILL NOT count as the initial one-day AKC Basic seminar, which covers different subject matter. This seminar has been designed to enhance the Retriever Hunting Test Program by assuring the regulations, guidelines, and test requirements are understood and are being met, and that the standards for all levels of testing are being maintained through fully knowledgeable judges.

**AREAS COVERED:** Purpose of the Retriever Hunting Tests—what to expect when you are asked to judge — Judge's responsibilities— Pre-Test Responsibilities — Planning the Hunting situation — Judge's Authority — The day of your Test — Dog's abilities — Scoring.

**FORMAT:** This is a two-day seminar with one day spent in the classroom indoors and one day spent outdoors developing and running tests at the three levels — Junior, Senior, and Master. Participants will have the opportunity to watch, judge and score each dog's performance on the tests designed. We will then have the time to critique each dog's performance and why the scores were assigned. Three dogs will be run at each level.

**PRESENTER:** Russ Reavis and / or Jerry Mann, AKC Representatives.

**COST:** \$50 per participant. To register, complete the registration form & mail to Karen Edwards at 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771 along with your check.

### **OTHER DETAILS:**

- ◆ A block of rooms at the Comfort Inn is being held for Friday and Saturday night. Rates are \$139 for a King room (1 bed) or a Queen room (2 beds) for either single or double occupancy. Contact the Inn directly to make reservations: 423-252-8030 or (423) 745-0002. All rooms are non-smoking. Rates expire June 15.
- ◆ Lunches & snacks will be provided by the East Tennessee Retriever club. Breakfasts & dinners may be purchased at nearby restaurants.

**QUESTIONS?** call or text Alan Bruhin at 865-850-8712 or email him at [wabruhin@utk.edu](mailto:wabruhin@utk.edu).



# AKC Advanced Retriever Hunting Test Seminar for Judges

*Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26, 2022, 8 am to 4 pm*

## Registration Form

Name:

Address:

Phone Number (mobile preferred):

Email address:

Number of attendees:

Please return this form along with a check for \$50 per participant, made out to "ETRC", to:

Karen Edwards  
Secretary / Treasurer  
East Tennessee Retriever Club  
254 Babbs Road  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

**REGISTRATION CLOSES ON WEDNESDAY, June 22.** Please mail your registration form and check to arrive before that date.

## Youth Program



2018 Award Recipients, Cade & Ivan Chambers

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is entering its sixth 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

**Renewals for 2022 are NOW DUE.** If you haven't paid yet, your membership expired on March 1. We will keep you on the email list until the first of June, and after that you will be dropped if you haven't renewed by then. 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 cut and paste the link, print it off, and send it to:

***Karen Edwards, 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. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make friends with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain! We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year lined up with 5 AKC hunt tests, club trials, seminars, training days, and more.

## 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, new titles, 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 XXII (for 2022).