



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. December 5, 2022, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Members welcome; bring a chair.
2. February 25, 2023, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Business Meeting. Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, 6 p.m.
3. March 14-15, 2023: Tuesday / Wednesday. Midweek Master only, Brian Caldwell's.
4. April 1-2, 2023, Saturday & Sunday: Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA. **NEW DATES!**
5. May 16-17, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's
6. June 6-7, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's (Tentatively; may be September)
7. October 21-22, 2023: Fall Hunt Test, location to be determined

Photo of the Month



Michele Fletcher's New Puppy Amber, with Santa — see p. 9 for details

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Nominating Committee Slate for Election & Call for Additional Nominees From the Membership

The nominating committee, headed this year by Board Member Michele Fletcher, along with committee members Donna Smith and Cheryl McNutt, has recommended the following slate for ETRC Officer and Director positions for club year 2023 (beginning at the end of the banquet in February):

- ◆ President: Mike Smith
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2022- Feb 2026): Jim Pearce, Jeff Rader
- ◆ AKC Delegate: Michele Fletcher

Remaining on the board are Cory Smith & Denise Chambers (through Feb 2024), and Luke McCoy & Jeff McNutt (through Feb 2025). However, Jeff recently resigned for personal reasons so the Board will be appointing a replacement to fill the remainder of his term. Thanks, Jeff, for all the hard work you and Cheryl have put in over the last several years, you are much appreciated and we wish you all the best!

Alan Bruhin will continue to serve as Past President through 2023, and Donna Smith has agreed to serve as Chief Marshal for our events in 2023, replacing Lois Luthenauer who has held this post for the last several years (Thanks, Lois!). 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 Jim Pearce and Peter Torok. Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years, and thanks to Jim for agreeing to another term on the Board. Huge thanks to Mike Smith, who agreed to stay as President for a second term. We've had a busy year for sure!

In accordance with the Bylaws, additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31, 2022, in writing to the Secretary, provided that the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one elective position (except for the position of AKC Delegate which may be combined with any other board / officer position, and Secretary and Treasurer which may be combined). We welcome additional nominations and encourage all members to become involved in the running of the ETRC -- without many volunteers helping, we would be unable to do all the events we put on each year. In the meantime, thanks to the nominating committee for your work, and to all the nominees for your willingness to serve.

To make a nomination, send it to Secretary Karen Edwards at edwardskc@gmail.com or by mail to 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Please specify the nominee's full name and the position for which you are nominating him or her, and send along the written agreement (forwarded email or scanned letter, for email nominations) of the nominee stating his/her willingness to stand for election. If there are any additional nominations from the membership, they will be announced in the January newsletter.



End of the Year Awards — Call for Nominations

Another year flown by, and I can safely say that this has been ETRC's busiest year ever. One of the highlights of the February end-of-the-year Banquet is recognizing people and dogs for their accomplishments 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 5 2023**.

PEOPLE AWARDS: calling for nominations from everyone in the club for the following two awards. Final selection will be made by secret ballot of the Board of Directors. See below for past winners of this award:

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.

DOG AWARDS: You must nominate your own dog or puppy for these awards.

- ◆ **Gun Dog and Puppy of the year Awards** -- These awards 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) 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.
- ◆ **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.

Master National/ Master Amateur Dogs: If your dog was a **finalist** at the 2022 Master National or the 2022 Master Amateur, email the info to Michael along with a picture of you/your dog/your silverware. The award is an engraved plaque with the picture mounted on it. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2022 Master National or Master Amateur and received an invitation from the MNRC/MARC to participate, but either did not run or did not pass all series, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement! Make sure you are clear which category your dog falls into.

PEOPLE AWARDEES from Prior Years:

Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2021	Alan Bruhin	J. Michael Evans
2020	Cory & Elena Smith	Alan Bruhin
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

ETRC GUN DOG OF THE YEAR AWARD RULES (November 1, 2017)

1. The dog which accumulates the most points in AKC-Licensed Retriever Hunting Tests and ETRC club trials throughout the calendar year will be the winner of the annual Holcomb Gun Dog award and trophy. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Holcomb Gun Dog of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the retriever and the owner.
2. Points may be earned only in AKC Licensed Retriever Hunting Tests and ETRC Club Trials.
3. Points earned for "Puppy" Stakes at AKC Hunt Tests or ETRC Club Trials, plus points earned by puppies under 12 months of age at the time of the AKC Hunt Tests or ETRC Club Trials will not be included in computation of Gun Dog of the Year point totals.
4. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current AKC title level and higher stakes at ETRC Club Trials. For example, a dog who has already earned his Senior Hunter title may continue to earn points at either the Senior level or the Master level. However, once a dog has passed two consecutive club trial stakes at a higher level than their current AKC title, or has a single pass at the higher level at an AKC test, he or she may no longer run lower level stakes for points at ETRC Club Trials.
5. Dogs are eligible to earn points at their current title level or above in AKC Hunt Tests. Once a dog earns a pass in a higher stake than its current AKC title level at an AKC hunt test, that dog cannot run a lesser hunt test stake for points. For example, a dog with an AKC Master pass cannot run in an AKC Senior Hunt Test stake for points, but may earn points for a run in an AKC Master stake.
6. All hunt tests stakes will be run for completion points only (points are only awarded per test successfully passed).
7. Calculation of Points:
 - a. A dog will receive 1 point for Junior, 2 points for Senior, and 3 points for Master at each AKC Licensed Retriever Hunting Test passed. Points earned at a Specialty where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions (i.e. up to 2 points for Junior, 4 points for Senior, or 6 points for Master tests passed).
 - b. A dog will receive 1 point for Junior, 2 points for Senior, and 3 points for Master at each Club Trial stake passed. However, only the highest level passed for which the dog is eligible to receive points will count towards the Gun Dog awards. Singles Classic and Advanced Junior Hunter stakes will not count towards the Gun Dog Awards.
 - c. Points for Master National or Master Amateur Hunt Tests:
 - i. A dog will receive 1 point for qualifying for the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
 - ii. A dog will receive 6 points for passing at the Master National and/or Master Amateur Hunt Test
8. Only dogs owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Gun Dog of the Year award. However, points gained while the dog is being handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award, whether or not the handler is an ETRC member.
9. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
10. The eligibility year for the Gun Dog of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC's records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.

ETRC PUPPY OF THE YEAR RULES (November 1, 2017)

1. The puppy which accumulates the most points per the rules below in ETRC club trials, puppy stakes at ETRC's AKC Hunt Tests, or AKC licensed Hunt tests throughout the year will be the winner of the annual Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award and trophy. Puppies between 10 weeks and one year of age are eligible to compete. The annual award and trophy will be presented at the February ETRC annual awards banquet. The recipient of the Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year award will keep the trophy for one year and is responsible for its care. An engraved personal plaque is awarded to the puppy and the owner.
2. Age Classifications: Junior Puppy: ten weeks through six months (27 weeks of age); Senior Puppy - seven months to one year (28 weeks to first birthday).
3. Points.
 - a. Points will be earned only in ETRC Club Trials, puppy stakes at ETRC's AKC Hunt Tests, or regular hunt test stakes at any AKC licensed hunt tests. Points for any level hunt test stakes at AKC hunt tests or any stakes at ETRC Club Trials will only count if the puppy was less than 1 year of age at the time the points were earned.
 - b. Puppies are eligible to run in their current age classification. A Senior puppy may not compete in the Junior Puppy class. Junior puppies may compete in the higher stake Senior Puppy class for a JAM ribbon only, no placement or points will be awarded.
4. Calculation of Points:
 - a. Points will be awarded for placements in ETRC club Trial and ETRC Hunt Test puppy stakes as follows:
 - i. If 5 or more puppies are entered, 3 points will be awarded for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, and 1 point for puppies placing 3rd or 4th or receiving JAM ribbons.
 - ii. If 4 puppies are entered, 2 points will be awarded for 1st place, 1 point for puppies placing 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or receiving JAM ribbons.
 - iii. If 3 or fewer puppies are entered, all placements and JAMS will receive 1 point each.
 - b. Additional Points: A puppy will receive 1 point for any Junior Hunter stake, 2 points for a Senior Hunter stake, or 3 points for a Master Hunter stake passed at an ETRC Club Trial before the puppy's first birthday. No points will be awarded for Singles Classic or Advanced Junior stakes.
 - c. A puppy will receive 1 point for any AKC-licensed Hunt Test Junior Hunter Stake (2 points for Senior, 3 points for Master) passed before the puppy's first birthday. Points earned at a Specialty AKC Hunt Test where only one breed is allowed to compete may be included in the points calculations, but only up to a maximum of two completions.
5. Only puppies owned by ETRC members in good standing are eligible to compete for the Puppy of the Year award. However, points gained while the puppy is handled by someone other than the owner will count towards the award.
6. In the event of a tie, the tied dog who competed in the most ETRC Club Trials during the awards year will be declared the winner. If this tie breaker still results in a tie, all tied dogs will receive recognition.
7. The eligibility year for the Puppy of the Year Award begins January 1 and runs through December 31 of the award year.
8. It will be the responsibility of the owner to provide information on ETRC club and AKC passes to the ETRC club member who is responsible for tabulating points, by the date specified in the December newsletter. If in the event there is a discrepancy in the points submitted for ETRC events and ETRC records, the records of the ETRC are final. Any discrepancies in AKC points submitted will be compared to AKC's Performance records with AKC tabulations being final.
9. These rules and regulations are to be published in the club newsletter preceding the club's annual February meeting. A copy will be posted on the ETRC website. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website. Winners will be announced in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website.
10. Judges are strongly encouraged to set up different marking tests for the Junior and Senior puppy tests. A water mark should be included in the Senior puppy stake. Lack of suitable grounds, cold weather, and time may prohibit this suggestion but all efforts should be made to adhere to it.

Minutes: Board Meeting November 9, 2022

254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Smith, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Cory Smith (via phone from Maine), Denise Chambers

Absent, excused: J. Michael Evans, Peter Torok, Luke McCoy, Jeff McNutt

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 7 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report:

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

Minutes: Last meeting was 08/17/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website on 8/20/22. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Michele seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Correspondence: ETRC board / directors insurance policy due and paid during the last month.

Membership: Membership at the end of December was 58. 56 today. Have \$25 cash but no form from Matthew Tipton. He will need first reading and vote if we ever get the rest of the stuff from him. Michele gave Karen address for him from Entry Express entry on October test; Karen will write him a letter and send along a form to remind him we need it before he can be considered a member. .

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$38,554.39 after paying most of bills from Hunt Tests including scratches.

Old Business

Wrap up on 2022 Hunt Tests.

- ♦ Payment of any expenses for Lin Gelbmann who got sick in Kentucky on her way down to judge our November 1-2 test? As a gesture of fairness and goodwill, Alan moved that Karen send Lin an email offering to pay for her gas expenses to Kentucky; Jim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. . *[Note: Lin was surprised and grateful for our offer as she lives on a retirement fixed income. Her expenses to Kentucky covering gas and a hotel room midway each time, with supporting documentation, amounted to \$542.82; this did not include any expenses for the week she spent in Kentucky recovering nor did it include any meals on the way down or back. I mailed her the check on 11/21/22]*
- ♦ Any other comments / concerns? None noted. The September test ran very smoothly with the extra pro birdboys provided by Ryan Stamey. Karen asked if there was any feedback from the judges on the increased amounts we are now giving in the gratuities. Alan said yes, several of them had texted him after opening up their judges' gift envelopes and thanked the club for the generous amount. Hopefully someday this will transfer into meaning it is easier to get judges for our tests.

New Hunt Test Location, boy scout farm: Mike Smith reported that he and Mike Evans had traveled to Whitesburg (north of Morristown) to talk with the camp director Dale Douthat and get

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an update on what was happening up there. Dale reported that the Corps of Engineers had agreed to start earth moving to build a pond this winter. There is a nice mess hall there and some cabins with a central bathhouse. The land is nice; only one pond limits its usefulness but there may be more in the future according to the camp director. Other issue would be the lack of available nearby motels and restaurants; this place is quite off the beaten path and the nearest facilities are miles away. We will check back with them next spring to see progress.

Equipment:

- ◆ Update from Mike Smith: he bought new pulleys for the wingers, and a new tire for the small trailer. The old tire had a rip in the sidewall. Before spring, we have to take a look and see if we need to order more rubber for the wingers; it's been a while since we ordered any.
- ◆ Michele had been asked to look into getting decals or magnets for the trailers. There was some discussion about whether we even wanted to do this; it may affect the resale value for the trailers; it may attract thieves; if the trailer is in a wreck it may entice the other people to sue the club, etc. Magnets can reduce these issues; if we remove them when the trailers are parked or moving and store them inside the trailer. Michele has been able to find a place that will do a magnet of our logo in color, on a solid white background; and 18" x 18" magnet would be \$45 so the total cost for putting 2 on each trailer would be \$180. Karen moved we buy four; Denise seconded the motion;; it passed unanimously with one caveat. We need to check to see if the trailers are able to hold magnets; if they are fully aluminum a magnet won't stick. *[Note from later: magnets won't work on our aluminum trailers so we will have to go with vinyl decals.]*
- ◆ Duck pen: there are still some issues in working ducks inside the pen and trying to get them into the crate. Two possible solutions were discussed – one is opening up the back panel into the wooden /closed end behind the pen to allow a few to escapee into there where they can be worked more easily; the other is to build a plastic pipe frame with chicken wire and a door in it, so that it can be set up at the back or in a corner and a few ducks at a time forced into there to make it easier to crate them. No resolution was reached, but more thought is needed in how to make this easier and keep the duck handlers from being completely plastered with duck slime while loading crates.

Report from Nominating Committee: Michele Fletcher reported the results, which basically kept all officers the same. Jim had agreed to serve another 3 year term on the board, replacing himself; and Cheryl McNutt had agreed to replace Peter Torok. Donna Smith will replace Lois Luthenauer as Chief Marshal, which is a non-board position but an important one for smooth running of tests. This information had already been provided to the club secretary as required in the Bylaws, and will be published in the newsletter. However, we now have a new vacancy on the board from now until 2022 (see discussion later) with Jeff McNutt resigning for personal reasons. Michele will contact Cheryl to make sure she is still willing to serve on the Board for the new elections coming up. *[Note from later: Cheryl is no longer able to serve on the upcoming Board.]*

Winter Awards Banquet: Confirmed for Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 25, 2023. Mike Evans had earlier told Karen that he is willing to again handle the awards nominations. Karen will get with him to determine what deadline dates need to be published in the December newsletter.

New Business:

New Members:

- ◆ Matthew & Joy Eden; 172 Ridgeland Drive, Johnson City, TN 37601, mattedden22@gmail.com, phone 719-645-9202. They own a young black lab and are willing to work as a duck wrangler,

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gunner, or assist with computer / website. Denise and Mike Smith agreed to be sponsors. Alan moved we accept him / them into membership on first reading; Denise seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Board member replacement: Jeff McNutt sent an email to Mike Smith resigning for unspecified personal reasons. Mike has reached out to him to thank him for service and make sure that this isn't something that is the club's fault in some way. Meanwhile, Alan contacted Jeff Rader who has agreed to fill in for Jeff McNutt for the remainder of his term, which will expire in February 2025. Jim moved we appoint Jeff Rader to the unexpired term; Alan seconded, and the vote was unanimous. **NOTE:** *this was later changed to have Jeff be a new board member replacing a new Board member from the nominating committee who withdrew from the slate for next year; the Board will appoint someone to fill Jeff's unexpired term through February 2026.*

Hunt Test Schedule for 2023: Mike Smith reported that he, Mike Evans and Alan Bruhin had gotten together and are proposing a change to our hunt test schedule for this year. Our already-approved Spring hunt test, which is 2 flights of Master, double Senior and double Junior, would have no Master tests and would instead be a quad Senior quad Junior test, with two Junior Tests and two Senior tests each day. We would also have four other Master midweek tests at Brian's, and tentatively a fall test at Lucky 7 (if it's available) which would be two masters, double junior, double senior. We looked at dates and came up with the following tentative schedule pending AKC approval and approval of all landowners:

March 14-15, 2023: Midweek Master Only, 66 dogs Brian Caldwell's
April 1-2, Spring Hunt Test, Quad JH / Quad SH, Hiwassee
May 16-17: Midweek Master, 66 dogs, Brian Caldwell's
September 19-20: Midweek Master, 66 dogs, Brian Caldwell's
October 21-22: 2 flights Master, double JH, double SH, Lucky 7
November 14-15: Midweek Master, 66 dogs, Brian Caldwell's

The last two tests are tentative. The October test is a direct conflict with the Master National, which will be in Georgia this year. The November test would be just after the MN is over. We will revisit these dates and plans later in the year and may well end up canceling both of them. Also of course, there is the question of availability of Lucky 7.

Jim proposed that we accept this schedule; Denise seconded and the vote was unanimous. Michele will start working with AKC to get the dates finalized and make changes to the format for the spring test at Hiwassee.

Credit / Debit Card for the club: Several people have had difficulties lately using their personal credit cards for the club. Michele, who is now being asked to send her credit card info in an unsecured email to AKC, was triple charged because AKC is screwing up for the number of dogs in our last test, and she has been unable to get that corrected yet. Mike Smith's card, which he used for guaranteeing the rooms at the motel for the November hunt test, got charged because no one was able to make it to the hotel before noon to provide them with a check. Mike suggested that we get a club credit card. Karen, as Treasurer, is very opposed to this idea as it makes tracking expenses and keeping financial control over club expenditures more difficult. Also, dealing with credit card companies in the event of issues and fraud issues is increasingly time consuming. She promised to always get payment to the individuals who are using their own cards for expenses before the credit card bills are due to be paid, and this has not been a problem in the past. As far as the AKC issue goes, this

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needs to be worked out with AKC, as whether it's a personal card OR a club card, it is inappropriate to provide credit card info in an unsecured email. They need to either set up a secure payment system, or accept a check in the mail and set up systems to make sure it gets credited to the appropriate place.

After some further discussion, Alan moved we table this topic for the time being and maybe bring it up later. Jim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Club member hunt test fee discounts for workers. Currently, the club offers two incentives for people to work at tests – free lunches, and worker codes if they own a Master dog that they want a pro to run, so they can enter early and be assured of a spot. Michele mentioned that one incentive we could offer is accept Bitch in Season scratches with full refund of entry fees, without a vet certificate, for workers that we know are not cheaters. The second suggestion kicked around was to offer refunds of one entry fee for one dog per year for worker / club members who spend a certain amount of time working at one or two tests – such as at least half a day working. This would be an after the fact refund – work first, then refund. Issues would be how to keep track of how much a person works. Michele will draft up a proposal and pass it around to the Board for comments and editorializing, and we will discuss this again at the next meeting. We would hope to be able to finalize it at that meeting so it could be presented to the membership at the February banquet.

Any other new business? None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Cory seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Member News, Brags, & Announcements

New puppies!



Several ETRC members have new puppies this fall. Left to right above: Leigh Ware with “**Thunder**”, who will be their youngest son William’s dog; “**Mint**”, owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce; and Victor Burk with “**Quincy**”, registered name **Fern Hill Duck Call**. All three puppies are by Wynwood’s Over The Top MH13 QA2 *** CCA, who lives in Michigan, and out of Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH. This litter was bred by Karen & Jim, and were born 9/18/22.

The puppy with Santa (also featured in our Photo of the Month on the first page) is Michele Fletcher’s “**Amber**,” aka Thistle Rocks Amber Waves, born 8/1/22, bred by Thistle Rock Golden in Elk Ridge, MN. Her sire is Thistle Rocks Max Q Elusive Confederate MNR MH23 QA2 WCX *** (“Rebel”) out of Thistle Rocks Tailor Made SH (“Stitch”).

Fun Facts

Retriever breeds continue to be super popular in America. 1921 statistics show that the Labrador Retriever continues to be #1 dog, and has been in the top spot since 1991. Third on the list is the Golden Retriever, a perennial Top 5 favorite. Poodles, at #5, round out the list of retriever breeds contained in the top 10. Chesapeake Retrievers were at #48 on 2021.

AKC keeps the number of registrations a deep dark secret. Estimates online, mostly from non-official sources, are that around 40,000 Labradors and Goldens are registered each year. This of course doesn't include purebred but not registered dogs, nor the huge number of mixed-breeds that have retrievers in the mix somewhere.

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.

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 in ETRC is a bargain! 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 along with your check 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. We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year lined up in 2023 with 5 AKC hunt tests, club trials, seminars, training days, and more.

The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year.

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).

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).