



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. February 25, 2023, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Business Meeting. Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, 6 p.m.
2. March 14-15, 2023: Tuesday / Wednesday. Midweek Master only, Brian Caldwell's.
3. April 1-2, 2023, Saturday & Sunday: Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA. NEW DATES!
4. May 16-17, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's
5. June 6-7, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's (
6. October 21-22, 2023: Fall Hunt Test, location to be determined
7. November 14-15, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's

Photo of the Month



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Awards Banquet: RSVPs Needed ASAP

February 25, 2023, Saturday evening: ETRC Awards Banquet, General Meeting, & Elections.

Bearden Banquet Hall (Buddy's), 5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 6:00 p.m for socializing, dinner buffet starts at 6:30 p.m. This is our annual big party, and the food is on us! **The menu will include Honey-Pecan Chicken, Beef Tenderloin, New Potatoes, Green Beans, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Triple Layer Chocolate Cake.**

The Bearden Banquet Hall can hold large events, and we will be seated at 8-person round tables with space between. This event is a recap of our very busy 2022 season. We hope to see you all there!

At this event, we will present awards to both people and dogs for titles earned, national invitationals attended and completed, Dog of the Year and Puppy Of The Year awards, Member of the Year, and AKC Sportsman of the Year. Come cheer everyone for their achievements during 2022!

In addition to a big party, this is also an official business meeting where we will elect officers and directors for our next year, and provide info / get input on our plans for next year — so we need a quorum of members. New members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks!

No cost to attendees. Please RSVP to Karen Edwards at edwardskc@gmail.com, or text / call 865-300-7607 and leave a message — your name and number/names of people coming with you. This is also our election meeting and general membership meeting, and a close-out of our Club's very busy fiscal year 2021. Come celebrate a successful year... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2022.

We need RSVPs from anyone who is planning to eat **NO LATER THAN 11:59 p.m. on FEBRUARY 11** so that the staff will have enough time to prepare food and we will have enough tables and chairs. We can squeeze in a few extra, but please don't leave your RSVP until the last minute!



Banquet
Pictures
from
2022

Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

The nominating committee, headed this year by Board Member Michele Fletcher, along with committee members Donna Smith and Cheryl McNutt, 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 & Lois Luthenauer (through Feb 2025). Lois has replaced Jeff McNutt on the Board and will serve the balance of his term.

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, and as announced in December's newsletter, additional nominations could have been made by any member prior to December 31, 2022, 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 be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at the Bearden Banquet Hall; see article in this newsletter for more details and a first call for RSVPs.

We already have a very busy year lined up for 2023, with 6 hunt tests, club trials, training days, business meetings, and more. Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve on the Board and as officers for this busy upcoming year!



2023 Officer candidates: Mike Smith, President; J. Michael Evans, VP; Alan Bruhin, Past Pres; Michele Fletcher, HT Secretary. Not pictured: Karen Edwards, Secy/Treas.

SOON!

ETRC Mid-Week Master Only AKC Hunt Test March 14-15, 2023, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our first AKC hunt test of the season is coming up next month and will be opening later this month. It's a Master Only test, limited to a single flight of 66 dogs, which will be held at Brian Caldwell's place on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14 and 15. Start time will be 8:00 a.m. Eastern time each morning. Judges are Larry Byron Noland and Scott Chaney.

Check Entry Express for the premium list, further details, and to enter the test. Entries open on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:00:00 PM CT. Workers/Amateur Set Aside open on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, also at 7:00:00 PM CT. To get a worker code, contact J. Michael Evans. The best way to reach him is via text at 865-824-8638; he works shifts but will get back with you to determine where we need you to work.

Entries close Monday, March 6, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Since the Master National is going to be in the east this year, we expect the test to fill up rapidly as many people are still working to get their dogs qualified. So, mark your calendars and don't miss out on the opening dates.

We will have professional bird technicians and a bagged lunch will be provided to all workers at the test. Completion ribbons and title ribbons will be awarded, along with duck bands. 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.



Girls out Hunting — Charley Rader, left, and Miss Ivy Evans, above, putting this good training to use

E-Collar Output Voltages for Garmin Pro 550

J. Bryan Kemper, 2022

Thanks to Lois Luthenauer for sharing this interesting information, and for getting permission for us to re-print it in our newsletter.

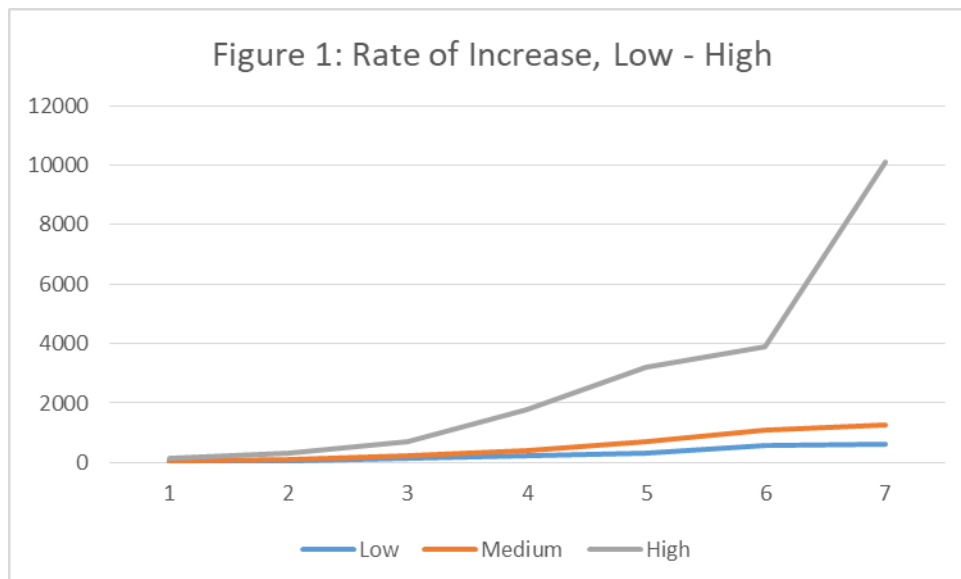
I decided to have a closer look at the output of e-collars after noticing unexpected behaviors from a few dogs, and after hearing at the 2020 Mitch White Workshop that he also was wondering if the outputs were indeed incremental as you move up the scale of 1-7 and using the Low, Medium, and High buttons.

I asked an electronics repair facility in Victoria, which I trust, to measure the voltage produced by my fully charged Garmin Pro 550 and its collar. The collar output was measured in millivolts and is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Collar Output in Millivolts

Setting	Low	% Increase	Medium	% Increase	High
1	19	200	38	390	150
2	49	200	86	380	335
3	130	200	225	320	720
4	214	200	416	430	1800
5	317	200	695	460	3200
6	569	200	1100	350	3900
7	602	200	1270	800	10100

The stimulation pressure is easier to interpret in graphic form, as is shown in Figure 1. Essentially the figure shows a steady increase in voltage as you move through the numerical settings using the Low and Medium buttons; the anomalies are the readings from the High setting, which are achieved by pushing both buttons simultaneously. This is particularly evident for the High values for levels 4-7.



E-collar Outputs, Continued

As a general rule of thumb, at any numerical setting (1-7), the voltage increase from Low to Medium is about **double** (200%), and the jump from Medium to High is **4 times** or more – that’s a very significant jump.

Why would this matter? Well, there are certainly cases where trainers want to gradually increase pressure when doing certain procedures or drills: **Force to Here** would be a prime example, as would a **deheat drill** on water.

Table 2 arranges the output voltages in increasing order of voltage; while the details get a bit busy, you can see that generally if you omit the use of the High setting, you can progress fairly nicely up the scale of increasing pressure by increasing your setting numbers (1-7) and using the Low and Medium buttons.

Table 2: Collar Setting arranged by increasing pressure:

Collar Setting	Millivolts
1 Low	19
1 Medium	38
2 Low	49
2 Medium	86
3 Low	130
1 High	150
4 Low	214
3 Medium	225
5 Low	317
2 High	335
4 Medium	416
6 Low	569
7 Low	602
5 Medium	695
3 High	720
6 Medium	1100
7 Medium	1270
4 High	1800
5 High	3200
6 High	3900
7 High	10100



Conclusions: To obtain progressively increasing pressure simply avoid using the High setting. Remember that if you are using High 4 and require more pressure, only the High values at Levels 5, 6, and 7 provide an increase. This is clearly shown in Table 2.

Minutes: Board Meeting January 18, 2023

254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Smith, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Peter Torok (telephone), Lois Luthenauer, Denise Chambers, Luke McCoy.

Absent: Cory Smith (work commitment); J. Michael Evans (work commitment)

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 9 people attending. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 12/5/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website by 12/10/22. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Michele seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. Renewals starting to come in; 2023 membership so far is 9 including several new members who joined after 11/1/22. Have sent 12/31/22 roster for inclusion on the members only part of the website.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$37,825.89. Have one check outstanding for scratch (\$100) from November 4 – Jeff Rader. Will follow up with Jeff to see if he got it. Michele handed in a receipt for AKC hunt test approval fees and the cost of the 4 decals for the trailers, and was given a reimbursement check at the meeting.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele: No new actions relating to hunt testing.

Old Business

- ♦ **Winter Awards Banquet:** Confirmed for Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 25, 2023, and initial fee paid. We looked over the menu options offered, and selected the following from the Dinner Buffet: Pecan honey chicken, Beef Tenderloin, new potatoes, green beans, garden salad, rolls, and chocolate cake for dessert. Alan will coordinate with the Banquet Hall and tell them our decisions and will relay the info to Karen for payment.
- ♦ **2023 Hunt Tests.** We have the following lineup of 6 tests for this year:
 - March 14-15, Midweek Master Only, Brian's;
 - April 1-2, Weekend Hiwassee quad JH/SH test
 - May 16-17, Master only, Brian's;
 - June 6-7: Master Only, Brian's.
 - October 21-22 maybe, if we can find land.
 - Nov 14-15 master only maybe, if we can have an October test with some JH/SH.

Alan and Mike Smith have been working on judges and don't have much lined up yet. Alan is concentrating on the Master judges, and Mike S on finding Junior / Senior judges. We are trying to get 4 of our club judges for the Jh / SH quad tests in April; J. Michael, Alan, Luke, maybe Lisa Styles. Lois wants to apprentice on one of those Junior tests and work the next day. Donna & Mike Smith are also taking the judges seminar and are interested in getting involved in judging, but probably not at that set of tests since Mike will be running a couple of dogs there. Lois volunteered to contact some of her friends who are also judges, and we talked about trying to get the

Board Minutes, Continued

Luthys, and possibly Lisa Vencille. Ducks are another issue; J. Michael told us via phone that he will contact Kylie Buettner this week to try to get ducks lined up for the march and April tests in one run. Cory has agreed to house them in his duck pen in the two-week interim between tests. Bird flu may be an issue. We have not contacted Robert Brewer yet about providing bird techs from his wildlife club for the April test, nor have we talked to Brian yet about lining up some pro techs for the Master tests.

- ◆ **Membership Poll:** Lois and Karen worked together on putting together an initial questionnaire that could be answered online, and Lois worked with the questionnaire website to download statistics from the results so far. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine level of interest in some proposed new initiatives (training groups), plus overall training, club trials, and seminars. Sent out link with newsletter for January, and also sent a reminder email on January 14. So far we have had 22 responses. Five of the respondents reported they are either just getting started or are preparing to run Junior / Started hunt tests. Four are in the process of moving up to Senior, 3 are moving past Senior, and 9 have Master or finished level dogs. 15 out of 22 are 'extremely interested' in club-level training at a local location; 13 are 'extremely interested' in club trial events; and 13 are 'extremely interested' in informal training sessions / local training groups. Saturday is the winning day for club activities, with Sunday following closely behind. There is some interest in mid-week activities but not as much. Either mornings or afternoons are preferred, and just half a day each. Traveling to events doesn't seem to be too big of an issue; most people said they would travel 50 miles, almost as many said 20 miles. 16 or 17 out of 22 indicated 'extreme' or 'somewhat' interest in attending seminars by local experienced members or by nationally known trainers. The interest in a full weekend or a full one day event was about equal. Money of course was a consideration; while all but one person indicated they would pay some money to attend a pro-presented training session, it was almost evenly split between people who would only pay \$50 or less; \$50 to 100; or more than \$100.

So far, the results of the poll show there is interest in doing something beyond hunt testing. The problem with this year is that we are putting on so many hunt tests it is going to be hard to find any time to do anything else.

Club trials make the most sense at the start of the spring or fall hunt test seasons, but we are having tests so early this spring and fall that it's not very feasible to try to cram in club trials.

Training groups in local areas seem like a good way to go, but will take some work to find locations, find people who want to work together, and get them going. Everyone has different schedules for doing their training, and often it's difficult to find land to train on.

A pro-led seminar might be a good way to provide a lot of value to members. We could have the club pay some or all of the costs to make it more attractive. For example, in the seminar that the Retriever Retreat held last year with nationally known trainer Mitch White, Mitch charged \$1000 a day. There may have been expenses as well, but Lois provided sleeping accommodations and meals so that wasn't an issue. He took 10-12 working spaces and as many people who wanted to audit as wanted to come. So for example, if we had a one day seminar, we could charge maybe \$50 for each working slot, no charge for members who wanted to audit, and the club would absorb the remainder of the costs. We could have a date by which members could sign up for the working slots, and then open it up for anyone to come – but non-members would have to pay a higher fee for a working slot, and a fee to audit.

Next Steps: Karen will send out the same questionnaire link to members again in the February newsletter, urging them to respond if they haven't already. Then we need to start working on looking at the feasibility, timing etc. for a pro-led seminar perhaps for late summer. Training groups – it may be a good idea to develop a new questionnaire to get more info on where training groups could be located and degree of interest.

Board Minutes, Continued

- ◆ **Club Member Incentives:** Also discussed last month. We discussed the following options:
 - ◆ Refunds without vet certs for bitches in season and injuries for club members. We discussed and didn't see any downsides to doing this for established members, i.e., members who have been on the roles long enough to be full members. We will announce at the Banquet and in the March Newsletter that this is going to be in effect for all tests this year.
 - ◆ Refund of one entry fee for one dog per year if a worker met a certain minimum requirement for working for the club. There are some implementation issues with doing this that would have to be thought out – how much working is enough, who tracks and records, who decides whether criteria are met. Also, this would not take care of people who work hard but don't have dogs competing during a particular year. We could possibly use free entries as raffle prizes for people who work at a particular hunt test, or to encourage participation at the annual summer meeting / winter banquet. This would be easy to do; the award would be a slip of paper to present to the Treasurer at the end of whichever ETRC test for which they want a refund. This was not discussed at length and may be brought up again at a later meeting.
 - ◆ Payment of motel fees for hunt test chairman (~\$250 - \$350 with pets) as well as or instead of HT secretary. Michele moved that the Hunt Test Secretary no longer get a paid motel room, and that this money go towards meals for workers at tests, if they want to go. This was seconded by Jim Pearce and the vote was all ayes except for one Nay. Motion carried. There was no vote taken on whether the HT Chairman's motel would be reimbursed.
 - ◆ Payment of meals on Saturday night at hunt test for workers. What about going back to having dinner Friday night for judges and set-up workers? After some discussion, it was decided that we don't want to go back to having a formal judges' dinner. Usually these days, one of the Board members goes to the restaurant with them after the test set-up or on Saturday night, and if anyone who has been working wants to go along, that would be OK. We can try this for a while and see how it goes.
 - ◆ Free or reduced cost seminars with well-known trainers like Mitch White once a year for club workers, etc. See discussion above under the Membership poll. Basically, ORKC members would all be considered the same for this sort of seminar.
- ◆ **Equipment:**
 - ◆ Update on decals for trailers (Michele): They are in, and quite lovely! Michele left them with Karen, who will get them to Mike Smith fairly soon.
 - ◆ Duck Pen modifications: The new system that Cory put in seems to be working well so nothing needed so far.
 - ◆ Ribbons: Karen did a ribbon inventory. It looks like we are good on everything this year except for MH ribbons, where we have an estimated shortfall of about 71 ribbons. We only have 12 MH title tabs so need a new order for those as well. Although we could just buy 100 new MH ribbons, if we buy 200 we won't have as big an order for next year. Lois moved that we buy 200 Master ribbons and the Master tabs. Michele seconded this, and Karen will get with Hodges Badge company while their sale is still on (mid-February) to get these on order. Cost should be around \$1,200 or thereabouts.
- ◆ **Awards Nominations:** Call for awards published in the December & January Newsletters. Last day for getting awards nominations in to J. Michael for dogs and people is Friday, 1/26.

New Business:

Board Minutes, Continued

◆ **New Members:**

- ◆ Donna / Richard Post, 6920 Flagstone Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363, 727-560-5259, email blackdogs4@me.com . Interested in dog training, hunt tests, club trials. Have a yearling Flatcoat Retriever. Used old membership application (from 2005) but eventually it came to me when Chuck Atchley forwarded it. Got Mary Hext to go online and kill that old form. Sponsors: Mike Smith and Michele volunteered to serve as sponsors.

Jim moved we accept these people into membership on first reading; Lois seconded; the vote was unanimous.

- ◆ **Any other new business?** Peter Torok, who was present via telephone, remarked that this was probably his last meeting as a board member since his term is expiring in February. He said that he had enjoyed working on the board and we certainly all enjoyed having him! Don't be a stranger, Pete!

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Alan seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Renewal Information for Master Amateur Retriever Club

he New Year is here and both the MARC and EE are ready for you to renew your membership!

**Now is the time to renew your MARC membership and pay
your annual dues for the 2023-2024 qualifying year.**

**Starting this year, there is a slight change in the
cost of member dues:**

- **Single membership remains at \$50**

(one vote for a single person)

But.....

- **Household membership is now \$55**

(Two votes for each household)

You must be a current member to run the 2023 MAI Invitational in Giddings, so don't delay, renew now! ***NOTE: While you are renewing your membership, make sure you update your information. The name you have on file must be the SAME as the name you use to sign in as an amateur at Hunt tests, or your pass may not count towards the MA.***

Link to renew: <https://www.masteramateur.com/memberoptions20.html>

Basic Judges Seminar in Augusta, GA, February 4th

Fall Line Retriever Club is hosting a Basic AKC Judges Seminar on Saturday, February 4th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Jerry Mann will be the Speaker. The seminar will be held in Augusta GA at the Hyatt Place Hotel Conference Room (160 Mason McKnight Parkway, Augusta GA 30907).

This is a classroom seminar to learn how to judge a AKC Hunt Test and **how to understand what a Judge is looking for while being judged at an AKC Hunt Test.** You can register at Entry Express, or directly with Fall line. If mailing entry in, please include: Name, Address, Cell number, Email Address, and include a check for \$35 made out to Fall Line Retriever Club. Send to: Gina Blitch, 2003 Cedar Hill Court, Augusta, GA 30909. If you have any questions, please email Gina at gina.blitch@gmail.com or call 706-830-2603. See Flyer attached.

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: TIME TO RENEW FOR 2023

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).