



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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

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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, 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, 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.

Final Call : End of the Year Awards Nominations

There's still time to get in your nominations for our club's End of the Year Awards. These will be presented at February end-of-the-year Banquet. 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 (fowlmouthk9@gmail.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

Awards Banquet: Mark Your Calendar Now!

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! More details and menu items will be provided next month — but we can tell you a fair bit already. 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!

AND, don't forget to nominate your dogs for titles they have earned this year, plus end of the year awards for both dogs and people! See [D:\MyImages\ETRCpics2022\banquet1.jpg](#) article on page 3 and get those nominations in ASAP!



**Banquet
Pictures
from
2022**

Minutes: Board Meeting December 5, 2022

254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, J. Michael Evans, Peter Torok (telephone), Lois Luthenauer (replacing Jeff McNutt)

Absent, Excused: Alan Bruhin, Cory Smith, Denise Chambers, Luke McCoy.

All Board members: Please remember you are unexcused unless you contact another Board member/Officer via email, text, phone, or in person before the meeting to say you won't be able to attend.

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 6 people present initially, and then 7 after the vote on appointing Lois to the Board. 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 11/9/22; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website on 11/28/22. Mike Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Jim seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Correspondence:** AKC wants to know if we want to adopt a new category of junior membership. See item later in agenda
- ◆ **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. 57 today. Issues from last month (money but no application; application with no check) now resolved; to be voted in tonight on first reading.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$37,887.19 after paying all known bills from Hunt Tests. Paid Lin Gelbman (\$542.82) for trip to Kentucky where she got sick. She was super grateful so we have some credit built up there. Costs were for 1 night motel + gas from Minnesota to Kentucky, each way. She didn't charge us for meals or for her time in Kentucky while she was sick.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele reported there will be a meeting next quarter to further discuss whether Springer spaniels can take place in Retriever events.

Old Business

1. Replacement of Jeff McNutt.

Lois Luthenauer has volunteered to fill Jeff's unexpired term through February 2025. Karen moved that we approve her appointment to the board. Michele seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Welcome back, Lois!

President Mike Smith asked Karen to send a Letter of Appreciation to Jeff and Cheryl, thanking them for all the work they have done for the club over the last 4 years since Jeff came onto the board, and wishing them well.

2. Schedule for 2023 Hunt Tests.

Upon discussion with Brian Caldwell about our tentative schedule for 2023, Brian suggested we move the September Master Only test to June to give more people one last chance to qualify for the MN. Pros: gives people one last chance, as stated. Does not interfere as much with preparations for the Master National.

Board Minutes, Continued

Cons: Possible extreme heat. We have been trying to get away from Memorial Day for years because of the heat, and now we set up one in June. Also, this is letting the MN continue to dictate our schedule, wiping out both September and October as viable months for this year. Making it harder and harder for local clubs to plan schedules.

Discussion, motion and vote: There was general acknowledgement that having a test in June is not ideal from a weather standpoint. Most of the Board members thought it would fill well, though, since the MN is in Georgia this fall, and this will be a last chance for many people. Some concern was expressed that the club is expending so much effort on putting on so many hunt tests, that it is not doing much for the people who are just trying to get into the sport. We have been very spotty in having club trials, and cancel them frequently. Several people remarked that there doesn't seem to be a lot of interest, that usually only 4 to 6 people come to the training days / seminars. However, there is also recognition that it is hard for people to learn about how to get into the sport without these kinds of activities and that we should offer them even if only a few people show up.

It was decided that Lois and Karen will work up a poll to be sent to all members, asking them to let us know what they would like to see in addition to hunt tests – more training with other people? Club trials? Seminars? We discussed several options – various groups sending out informal notices of training in different locations, such as up on the plateau at Lois's; down at Cory's; with the Smith's at their training grounds, over near Sevierville with J. Michael and Alan, etc. Lois will stop by Karen's on Wednesday the 7th to work on this, and we will issue a draft to the Board for review before sending.

With this decision, Mike Evans proposed that we accept the change in dates, eliminating the September test in favor of one in June. Michele seconded it, and the vote was 5-1 in favor of the change. Michele will notify AKC and Entry Express of the changes.

3. **Status report on 2023 tests:** we need to get cracking on getting these tests going, particularly notifying judges. Also, in January it will be time to get the paperwork in place with Hiwassee for the April test, and Michele will need to work with AKC to change the format from our usual 2 MH, double Junior, double Senior to a quad SH/quad JH format. Water may be an issue. Judges can possibly all come from the club, with J. Michael, Alan, Luke and Lisa Styles all possibles for this weekend test. Ducks will be an issue, as Kiley Buettner's ducks in March and April are still babies and are small and ratty. But, other places don't deliver. The situation with Lucky 7 for our fall test is still up in the air; the property sale is not finalized yet. J. Michael periodically is in touch with Ken Campbell about this situation and will keep us apprised.
4. **Club Member Hunt Test Fee discounts for member workers:** discussed last month. Michele presented a brainstormed list of ideas including (1) refunds without vet certs for bitches in season and injuries for working club members; (2) refund of one entry fee for one dog per year if a worker met a certain minimum requirement for working at tests; (3) possible payment of motel fees for hunt test chairman as well as HT secretary; (4) payment of meals on Saturday night at hunt test for workers (or alternatively, gas money for people who drive back and forth every day); (2) free seminars with well-known trainers like Mitch White once a year for club workers, etc. Discussion: we need to be careful as some of these can be expensive and could possibly run us into the red; we only made about \$1,500 on our fall hunt test which is less than average. It may be a good idea to start with just a few ideas and then expand them as we go. Michele will send the Board copies of these ideas for more fleshing out and editorial suggestions, and we will consider these either at a January board meeting, or with a board email vote. The plan is to present this to the membership at the February banquet as an incentive for people to volunteer for more worker opportunities.
5. **Equipment:**
 - ◆ Update on decals for trailers (Michele): the trailers are all aluminum, so magnets won't work. Vinyl decals will work, and can be peeled off (but not reused) if we decide to sell the trailers at

Board Minutes, Continued

some point in the future. We agreed that the vote at the last meeting, to authorize Michele to spend the approximately \$180 to buy 4 decals, covers this situation and Michele will get them on order.

- ◆ Duck Pen modifications: Still working on this. Cory has bought materials and plans to extend the pen to the back of the barn area. Possibly this can be done so the netting can be detached from the sides and used to squeeze the ducks into a smaller space to avoid so much mess in wrangling them. Mike Smith will get with Cory in January to work on this.
 - ◆ Winger repair: Mike Smith has bought the rest of the parts we need for maintenance on the wingers, including some additional rubber. Bill presented and paid.
 - ◆ Thunder stick: Jim can't repeat issue of flameout with gas cylinders; suspect it may have been an issue with the gas cylinder that was being used, or possibly a sticky button which came unstuck.
 - ◆ Anything else we need? No one could think of anything at this time.
- 6. Nominating Committee:** Changes made to slate to replace Cheryl McNutt with Jeff Rader for the 2026 director position. Printed in the December newsletter; we are obligated by Bylaws to accept nominations from the membership up until December 31, which are to be sent to Karen as Secretary. None so far.
- 7. Awards Nominations:** Call for awards published in the December Newsletter. Be sure to get your title awards, invitations to MNRC and MARC, nominations of your own dogs for Dog of the Year and Puppy Of The Year, and nominations for Member of the Year and AKC Sportsman of the Year in to J. Michael by January 5. We can accept a few late ones. J. Michael suggested that Karen issue a correction to his email address as published in the last newsletter; it's his old one. He still has access to it but doesn't like to use it.
- 8. Winter Awards Banquet:** Confirmed for Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 25, 2023. Will need to get with them and set up menu. Alan did it last year, and in his absence was volunteered to do it again this year.

New Business:

1. New Members:

- ◆ Matthew / Kristi Tipton; 2845 France Court, Maryville, TN 37803. Tiptonmd83@gmail.com, phone 865-696-0797. He's an electrician, volunteers for whatever is needed, interested in dog training and is a DU member. Own a 10 mo old female chocolate lab 10 with a JH title. No other dog club memberships. Joined 11/15/22. Sponsors: Mike Smith and J. Michael Evans agreed to be sponsors.
- ◆ Kevin / Tami Anderson, 2955 Hodges Landing Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920. Kevinsoar@gmail.com, 865-216-3459. He's a retired CRNA, volunteer activities 'to be determined,' belong to the AKC Merican water spaniel club, interested in AKC hunt tests, dog training, is a DU member, and is looking for hunting buddies to start up again now that he is retired. Own a standard poodle puppy. Joined 9/2/22. Sponsors: Lois Lutheanuer and J. Michael agreed to be sponsors.

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

Board Minutes, Continued

- 2. New Membership Category for Juniors:** AKC sent out an email notifying us that we can add a new category of membership to our bylaws without getting AKC approval, as long as we use their standardized language: “Junior – open to children under 18 years of age; a non-voting/non-office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular membership at age 18.”

Our current Bylaws contains a Youth membership as follows: “Youth Memberships shall be available to persons over the age of ten (10) but under the age of eighteen (18). Youth members shall not be entitled to vote nor to hold office. Youth Memberships shall automatically convert to Regular Membership upon the youth member attaining his or her eighteenth (18th) birthday. Each application for Youth Membership shall include parental signature of permission and waiver of liability.”

If we wanted to adopt the new language, we would need to follow our own bylaws which would require a 2/3 vote of members (ALL members, not just board) before adopting the change, and then we would send the new Bylaws to AKC.

Since we already have similar but more explicit language in our bylaws, it was general agreed that no further modification was needed.

Any other new business? None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, J. Michael moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Member News, Brags, & Announcements



Congratulations to Lois Luthenauer, whose chocolate Lab Fired Up's Maximum Overdrive SH ("Max") earned his first Master Pass on December 4, 2022, at the Palmetto Retriever Club's Fall Test.

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).