

# ETRC Upcoming Events

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September 2023



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

1. Sunday, September 17, 2023: Club Trial with FROZEN DUCKS, picnic, general business meeting. Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater. Two free club trial entries per club members. See article inside on page 2.
2. September 30-October 1: Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater — Double JH / SH, one flight Master (66 entries). See article on page 4
3. November 14-15, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's, one flight (66 dogs)
4. February 24, 2024, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Meeting: Bearden Banquet Hall, 6:00 p.m.

## Photo of the Month



**READY FOR THE FALL HUNT TEST SEASON?**

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EAST TENNESSEE RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. WWW.ETRCCLUB.ORG

# ETRC Newsletter

**SOON!**

## Club Trial, Picnic, Summer Business Meeting — Mark your Calendars, Send RSVPs!

Plans are finalized for our annual summer event on Sunday, September 17, starting at 9 a.m. with a club trial, followed by a picnic lunch provided by the club, and then ending up with a general business meeting. We expect to be finished around 3:00 in the afternoon. **RAIN OR SHINE** for the picnic and meeting; we will have the Club Trial as well unless there are violent thunderstorms in which case I will send out an email Saturday night.



The event will be at Lucky 7 Ranch, where we are scheduled to have our September 30-October 1 weekend full hunt test. The Club Trial portion of this event will mean you can try out the grounds and amazing ponds, and get your dogs used to the place two weeks before the test. This will definitely be an advantage particularly for younger or less experienced dogs. Also, Lucky 7 has a wonderful covered pavilion built out over one of the large ponds, complete with a roof and fans to keep us cool and dry during the picnic and meeting part of the event. Nice toilet facilities are also available.

We were hoping to have live flyers for the Club Trial but unfortunately our duck supplier can't accommodate this request so we will be using thawed frozen ducks instead, plus bumpers and dokkens. Also, please remember to bring drinks for yourself, chairs to sit in out in the field, water and training equipment for your dog. If you are entering the puppy stakes, you may bring the retrieval object of your choice or use one of ours. The full rules for club trials are printed on the following pages.

### **We will be waiving the entry fees for all club members for this event for up to two entries.**

Non-members are welcome to come, but they will be charged \$10 per stake entered (Junior Hunter, JH Advanced, Senior Hunter, Master Hunter, Singles Classic) and \$5 for the puppy stake.

The club will provide lunch at no charge to attendees — tentatively we are planning to bring in pizzas — but if you would like to bring a dessert to share it would be appreciated!

And, please plan to stay for the meeting. We will keep it brief, but we do need a quorum to vote in the new members who have joined since our February general meeting, and to conduct other business. At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to help us figure out the general outlines of our 2024 year — number of Hunt Tests, Club Trials, whether you want more training, more seminars, whatever. Please mark your calendars now, and if you know you are coming, send in your RSVPS now to secretary / treasurer Karen Edwards at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!





## Club Trial Rules

### ***In-Club Rules for SINGLES CLASSIC stake:***

- ◆ Two (2) Single long marks. Marks are at least 100 to 200 yards subject to the judges' placement. The dog that runs the straightest line OUT to pick up the bird wins the stake. The line BACK to the judges is not scored. Judges should draw the line taken by the dog on the judge's score sheets and grade the retrieve on a 1 to 10 basis with 10 being the best.
- ◆ Judges should draw accurate diagrams of the retrieves because several dogs may be in competition for the placements and First Place.
- ◆ Entered dogs must be steady on the line and cannot break. Young dogs may be run and held by the buckle collar or lead but no ribbons are awarded. One judge should call "DOG" to release the dog at the line.
- ◆ All dogs must deliver to hand without touching the dog. The handler should then hand the duck to the judges.
- ◆ Dogs are placed First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Fourth Place, and JAMs. A JAM is a Judges Award of Merit where the dog completes the retrieve but does not place First, Second, Third, or Fourth. Green club ribbons are awarded for completions; colored placement ribbons are awarded for first through fourth place.
- ◆ No points are awarded for Singles Classic towards Gun Dog or Puppy of the Year Awards.

### ***In-Club Rules for PUPPY STAKES:***

- ◆ There are two separate classifications of the puppy stakes. Junior puppies are from ten weeks through six months (27 weeks of age). Senior Puppies are from seven months to one year (28 weeks to first birthday). Junior puppies should be run first so as not to confuse them with scents and other factors. Junior marks are two (2) singles thrown in the lowest cut grass available at 20 to 30 yards. Senior marks are extended out to 50 to 60 yards or more.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ A running line is established by the judges using a stick or marker to start the dogs from. Handlers may hold Junior puppies any way they want until one of the judges says the word "DOG" to release the pup. Judges should release the pup to retrieve as soon as the bumper or bird hits the ground. The puppies are judged on the straightest line OUT and BACK because the hardest thing is to get the puppies back to the handler.
- ◆ Puppies must get the bumper or bird back across the line to earn placements or points. Junior or Senior puppies do not have to deliver to hand. Judges should draw diagrams on the judge's score sheet so as to grade the puppies' performance.
- ◆ Bird technicians should stand quietly and still after throwing. The judges may ask the bird tech to help the puppy find the bumper or bird after the puppy has gotten out of the area of the fall.
- ◆ Placements of First, Second, Third, Fourth Place and JAMs (Judges Award of Merit) ribbons are awarded for each division. Points for Puppy of the Year are as specified in the current rules for that award.

### ***In-Club Rules for MASTER, SENIOR, JUNIOR and ADVANCED JUNIOR stakes:***

- ◆ All stakes may be run on a single setup, or on separate setups. Factors in deciding how many and which setups to use will be made based on availability of land and water and number / qualifications of member judges.
- ◆ Master Stakes will include at least one series that involves both land and water if at all possible. Two series may be used, any combination of land and water, if space and time permit. At least one triple mark and master-level blinds will be included in the Master setup.
- ◆ Senior stakes will include at least one series that involves both land and water if at all possible. Two series may be used, with one land and one water, if space and time permit. At least one double mark and two blinds will be included in the Senior setup.
- ◆ Advanced Junior stakes will include at least one series that involves both land and water if at all possible. Two series may be used, with one land and one water, if space and time permit. Advanced Junior marks are doubles, but there are no blinds.
- ◆ Junior stakes will include at least one series that involves both land and water if at all possible. Two series may

be used, with one land and one water, if space and time permit. At least two single marks will be included in the Junior setup, but no blinds.

- ◆ No points are awarded for Advanced Junior stakes towards Gun Dog or Puppy of the Year Awards.
- ◆ No electronic collars or other training devices are permitted if the dog is being presented for completion ribbons or awards points. However, a handler may declare the dog is being presented for training only and will be allowed to run the stake and be judged for information and advice for improvement.
- ◆ Green club ribbons are awarded for completions.

Our big fall hunt test will be held at Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater on Saturday, September 30

## Next Hunt Test Coming up soon!

and Sunday, October 1, 2023. This will be a full test, with double Junior, double Senior, and a single Master stake limited to 66 dogs. This may be our last time at this wonderful property, as it is listed for sale and a new owner may not be willing to host us.

Judges are:

- ◆ Master, Ethan Lane Corkren & Allen Dillard
- ◆ Senior / Junior: Clint Catledge & James Cuddihy, Jr.
- ◆ Junior / Senior: Bonnie Cuddihy & Lisa Vencille

Entries open on Entry Express: Wednesday, September 06, 2023 7:00 PM Central. The Workers/Amateur Set Aside opens Tuesday, September 05, also at 7:00 PM Central. 35% of the Master entries are set aside for Amateurs; unused slots will be available for anyone if not taken by opening time on Wednesday. If you are planning on having a pro run your dog, you will need a worker code to enter early — contact J. Michael Evans at 865-824-8638 or fowlmouthk9@gmail.com for a work assignment and a code.

Entries Close: Monday, September 18, 2023 11:59:59 PM CT. Entry fees are \$100 for Master, \$90 for Senior, and \$80 for Junior dogs.

This will be a big test and we will need lots of help. Please, if you can volunteer half a day, all day, or both days, contact one of the people listed below to find out what is available.

- ◆ Work set up / tear down / maintenance requests / running errands: contact J. Michael Evans (above) or Mike Smith at 865-824-8638 or mdsmith2314@gmail.com.
- ◆ For marshaling, contact Donna Smith at 615-419-7370, email donnasmith1@gmail.com, or Lois Luthenauer at 865-803-1187, email mountainLO717@gmail.com.
- ◆ For assistance in the office (answering questions, making lunches, selling tee-shirts, coordinating radio calls) contact Karen Edwards at 865-300-7607 (Text), email edwardskc@gmail.com, or Hunt Test Secretary Michele Fletcher at 850-582-9111 or MicheleMFletcher@yahoo.com.



Working is a lot of fun and can also be extremely educational if you've not been in the sport long. No previous experience required, we'll pair you with an experienced hand and teach you the ropes! There is plenty of time to run your dog as well as work. Hope to see you there!

## Update: Master National News

We still don't have an answer to making changes to future Master National Hunt Tests, so that the number of dogs is reduced (making it more manageable) and so the quality of judging can be higher. Results are in on the first two proposals, and they both failed. In order to pass, 2/3 of the member clubs must vote for a proposal. There are approximately 175 member clubs, so around 68 votes are required to pass.

Proposal one was the Qualifier proposal: basically, dogs would have to pass 5 regular Master tests, and then would be eligible to enter ONE qualifier and would have to pass that as well in order to be eligible to attend the Master National. There would continue to be one Master National test each year in rotating parts of the country. Our club voted NO on this proposal — The final vote of all clubs was 37 for the proposal, and 73 against. Not a popular proposal!

Proposal two was the Split proposal. The language of the change would have allowed the MN Board of Directors to decide how many "National" tests to have each year, and the location of the tests, without any further input from the clubs. The board members SAID they intended to have two tests a year, one in the East and one in the West, and that they would rotate the locations around the two regions so people didn't have to travel too far every year — but this was not in the proposed language for the Bylaws change itself. Our club voted YES on this proposal. The final vote was 48 for and 54 against. Comments on the MNRC Facebook page seem to indicate that many clubs were turned off by the lack of detail and turning all the decisions over to the MN Board without more specific guidelines.

The third proposal is that a dog would have to pass 6 out of the first 8 tests entered. Because of the problem with judge shopping, late scratches, and tests not filling as dogs stop competing once they have failed 3 tests, we felt this one would have the biggest negative impact on our club and we voted NO. Final votes on this proposal were due August 22 and we expect the results from the MNRC Board by September 1.

Meanwhile, there are 1,220 entries in this year's Master National coming up in the fall (October 26-November 5), out of some 1492 qualifiers. Clearly, this is an unworkable and unsustainable number for a single test. Entry fees this year were \$575, and that still was not enough to keep the number of entries under control. Rumor on the Facebook page has it that next year it would go up to \$650.

Best guess is that proposal three will also fail, and the MNRC will be back to the drawing board on how to revamp the Master National to be more management. Hopefully, AKC will give us more time to try to come up with a workable solution that is accepted by 2/3 of the member clubs, before removing their stamp of approval and canning the MNH titles. Comments on the MNRC Facebook page indicate we will likely see modifications to both the Qualifier and the Split proposals at the very least. So, stand by!

### **Congratulations and best wishes to ETRC Members who will be going to the Master national this Fall in Thomasville, GA:**

- ◆ McCoy's Precious Gem Of The South MH, owned by Luke McCoy & handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Blythe Ferry's Indy Dos MH, owned by Mike and Donna Smith & handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ CrossPointe's Blindside Blitz MH, owned by Noah and Rhey Houston, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ L7troublesomewhataboutbob MH, owned by Bob Smith & handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Gator Pts Don't Mess With My Toot Toot MH, owned by Barbara & Mike Reed, handled by Mandy Cieslinski or Alan Sandifer

If I missed anyone, please let me know — my eyes were crossing looking at the thousand plus entries!

## Youth Program



The Luthenauer Young Handler program was established as a memorial to ETRC member Kevin Luthenauer. The program is supported by generous contributions from family and friends to encourage youth participation in retriever sports. Kids who are interested in applying 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 awards for everyone in the program.

## ETRC Membership Information

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 ongoing in 2023 with 6 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 / Facebook Info

**NEWSLETTER:** The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, usually on the 1st of the month. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs, items 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: beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is Volume XXIII (for 2023). Newsletters are archived on the club Website, [www.etrclub.org](http://www.etrclub.org).

**FACEBOOK:** we now have a Facebook page! Either post on it yourself, or send pics and info to our moderator, Alan Bruhin, at [wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu](mailto:wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu).