

ETRC Upcoming Events

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February 2024



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

ETRC Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. February 24, 2024, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Meeting: Bearden Banquet Hall, 6:00 p.m.
2. March 10, 2024, Sunday: Club Trial #1, location TBD
3. March 22-24, Friday—Sunday, Kevin Cheff Retriever Transition Seminar, Clarkrange, TN
4. April 13-14, Saturday—Sunday: Weekend Master Only Hunt Test , location TBD
5. May 14-15, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's
6. June 1-2, Saturday—Sunday: Quad Junior / Senior Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA
7. June 11-12, Tuesday—Wednesday, Midweek Master only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's
8. September 15, Sunday: club trial, picnic, summer business meeting
9. October 19-20, Saturday—Sunday: Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, 2 JH, 2 SH, Master
10. November 12-13, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only Hunt Test, location TBD

Photo of the Month



Oops! Guess we've got 6 more weeks of winter!

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End-of-year Awards Banquet: RSVP Now!

February 24, 2024, Saturday evening: ETRC Awards Banquet, General Meeting, & Elections. The location will be Bearden Banquet Hall (Buddy's), 5806 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Come at 6:00 p.m for socializing; the dinner buffet starts at 6:30 p.m. This is our annual big party, and the food is on us! The Bearden Banquet Hall can hold large events, and we will be seated at 8-person round tables with space between.

The menu will include Honey-Pecan Chicken, Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Cheesecake. Wine will be provided by the club, and beer will also be available for purchase. Iced tea and water will also be available.

At this event, we will present awards to both people and dogs for titles earned, national invitational events qualified for, national events completed, Dog of the Year and Puppy Of The Year awards, our new Lifetime Dog Achievement Award, Member of the Year, and AKC Sportsman of the Year. Come cheer everyone for their achievements during 2023! Doorprizes will be awarded as well, including some free entries into one of our hunt tests, hats, tees, and more.

This is also our election meeting and general membership meeting, and a close-out of our Club's very busy fiscal year 2023. Come celebrate a successful year... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2024. We do need a quorum to conduct business — new members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks and find out how you can get more involved in 2024.

No cost to attendees. Please RSVP to Karen Edwards at edwardskc@gmail.com, or text 865-300-7607 and leave a message — your name and number, and the names of people coming with you.

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
Hall-
Pictures

Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

The nominating committee for 2024 elections, as appointed by President Mike Smith on September 17, 2023, consisted of Alan Bruhin as Chairman, along with non-Board members Peter Torok and Donna Smith. The committee has completed their work, and present the following slate of officers and board members for fiscal year 2024 (beginning March 1).

- President: J. Michael Evans
- Vice President: Alan Bruhin
- Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- Board Members for 2024 -February 2027: Bob Smith & Kyle Griffin
- AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher

Continuing on the Board without being re-elected this year are: Lois Luthenauer & Luke McCoy (2022-2025), and Jim Pearce & Jeff Rader (2023-2026).

Board terms expiring are Denise Chambers and Cory Smith. Many thanks to both of them for their expertise, advice and hard work over the past several years. Denise and her family have moved out of the state — we will miss you guys and wish you all the best in your new home!

Mike Smith will serve as Past President through 2024 (thanks for serving as President these busy last two years!) and Donna Smith will continue as Chief Marshal. 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.

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, 2023, 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 beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at the Bearden Banquet Hall; see article on page 2 for more details and a call for RSVPs.

We already have a very busy year lined up for 2024, with many hunt tests, club trials, a pro seminar, business meetings, and more. Thanks to everyone who agreed to serve on the Board and as officers for this busy upcoming year!



J. Michael Evans



Alan Bruhin



Mike Smith



Karen Edwards



Michele Fletcher

Upcoming ETRC Field Events

CLUB TRIAL: SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 2024

Our first event of the season is a Club Trial. We'll start around 9 a.m. and go as long as necessary to finish with all the dogs that come. Full details will be provided next month (including a location; we are still up in the air about this). Briefly, club trials are kind of a cross between an actual AKC-sponsored field event and a training day. We set up courses that can be adapted to the training level of the dog, from Junior up through Master, and our judges for the event are usually AKC judges that can provide some advice and assistance on you and your dog. We normally use Dokkens but sometimes people bring a few frozen ducks that we can use as well. It's a good tune up for the hunt test season, particularly to see if your young dog is ready to go!

AKC MASTER ONLY HUNT TEST: SATURDAY—SUNDAY, APRIL 13-14, 2024

This test will tentatively be held at the Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater. Judges will be Mike Perry and Wes Bowman. Entries open Wednesday, March 20 (a day earlier for Amateurs and worker-code set-asides) at 8:00 p.m. ET. This will be a single flight with 66 entries. Full details next month.

AKC MASTER ONLY HUNT TEST: TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY, MAY 14-15, 2024

This test will be at Brian Caldwell's farm, State Highway 58S, Georgetown, TN. Single flight only, 66 entries. Judges are not finalized yet, we're working on it! Entries will open April 24, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. ET (again, on Tuesday for Amateurs and people with worker codes).

AKC QUAD JH—SH HUNT TEST: SATURDAY—SUNDAY, JUNE 1-2, 2024

To be held at the Hiwassee WMA, Birchwood Tennessee. There will be two Junior and two Senior stakes each day; an opportunity to finish up a title in one weekend. Judges still to be determined.

AKC MASTER ONLY HUNT TEST: TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10-11, 2024

This test will be at Brian Caldwell's farm, State Highway 58S, Georgetown, TN. Single flight only, 66 entries. Judges will be Jack Gravely & Linc Huffman. Opens May 22, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. ET (Tuesday, May 23 for Amateurs and people with worker codes).

We have more tests and other events planned in the fall, after a summer break until September. All of these events need volunteers to help plan and work these events. You can participate with your dog and still work — good fun, free lunch and other food, good companionship. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact J. Michael Evans via email (fowlmouthk9@gmail.com) or text (865-824-8638) and we'll get you signed right up. If you are interested in marshalling at one of the tests (a good way to learn more about the sport), contact Chief Marshal Donna Smith (donnasmith1@gmail.com or 615-419-7370). Or, just contact me, edwardskc@gmail.com, text 865-300-7607). The more we have to help, the easier it is on all of us!

ETRC Sponsors Kevin Cheff Training Seminar



Intermediate Skills Building Workshop

March 22-24, 2024

Coordinator: Lois Luthenauer
The Retriever Retreat
3058 Martha Washington Road
Clarkrange, TN 38553
865-803-1187
Retrieverbednbiscuits@gmail.com

This seminar is now open for registration for everyone, ETRC members and non members. We had five members express interest in attending, and the Board voted to sponsor them in the amount of \$500 for a handling slot, and \$250 for an auditing slot. The four who have eventually decided to go are Denise Chambers and Karen Edwards (auditing slots), and Jim Pearce and Cade Chambers (handling slots).

Regular tuition is \$750 per dog/owner team, and \$400 per person auditing the seminar. These costs are inclusive and cover all Kevin's expenses, grounds fee, and provision of all equipment needed for the seminar as well as 2 workers for setup and bird tech work for all three days. The price also includes one dinner for all participants on Saturday night. Limited lodging (cabins) is available onsite at the retreat, and people wishing to stay can contact Lois directly for details and bookings. Lodging is also available in Crossville about 20 minutes away. The workshop starts at 8 a.m. Central each morning and goes till about 4:30 in the afternoon. Kevin doesn't stop the seminar for lunch, so participants would need to bring their own bagged lunches — plus a chair, gear for their dog, rain gear, etc.

The workshop is focused on Intermediate Skills building, and is designed for handlers who are through basics and ready to begin transition to the upper levels. Kevin will take up to 9 owner / dog teams and an unlimited number of auditors without dogs. Drills, skill development and confidence building; the mechanics of marking development, marking concepts, fighting the factors that will influence the dog's ability to make the retrieve, and more will be covered

Kevin Cheff (www.thetrievercoach.com) has over 27 years of experience in training and handling dogs in hunt tests and field trials, both professionally and as an amateur. He has put Hunting Retriever Champion titles, Field Champion titles, and National Retriever Champion titles on numerous dogs. He is known for his in-depth knowledge, great communication skills, an abundance of patience and a passion for teaching.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Lois right away and let her know whether you are interested in a working slot or an auditing slot.

Members who didn't sign up before the January 15 deadline mentioned in last month's newsletter will be registered on a first come, first served basis for available slots at the time of application; tuition assistance may or may not be available at that time, and may or may not equal the amount agreed upon for the early registrants, but inquire and we will let you know.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH ONE OF THE BEST RETRIEVER TRAINERS/COACHES IN THE COUNTRY AT A REDUCED PRICE! Thanks to Lois for giving the club the opportunity to participate in this seminar.

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.

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 planned in 2024 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).

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.

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.