

# ETRC Upcoming Events

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

# ETRC Newsletter

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

1. **March 10, 2024, Sunday: Club Trial #1, location Atchley Farm, Sevierville; rain date is March 17, 2024.**
2. **April 13-14, Saturday—Sunday: Weekend Master Only Hunt Test , Lucky 7 Ranch**
3. **May 14-15, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's**
4. **June 1-2, Saturday—Sunday: Quad Junior / Senior Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA**
5. **June 11-12, Tuesday—Wednesday, Midweek Master only Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch**
6. **September 15, Sunday: club trial, picnic, summer business meeting, Lucky 7 Ranch**
7. **October 19-20, Saturday—Sunday: Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, 2 JH, 2 SH, Master**
8. **November 12-13, Tuesday—Wednesday: Midweek Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's**

NOTE: The Kevin Cheff dog training seminar scheduled for March 22-24 has been canceled due to lack of interest from ETRC members. Our condolences to those people who signed up.

## Photo of the Month



Free at last! Mike Smith hands the Presidential Torch over to J. Michael Evans

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**SOON!**

## ETRC Club Trial

Sunday, March 10, 2024, Chuck Atchley's Farm

Our first event of the season will be a club trial that is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. at Chuck Atchley's farm in Sevierville. People who are judging and doing set-ups, please plan to arrive about half an hour early. This is a lovely farm with lovely fields bordering a river. The GPS address and directions are listed below.

What is a Club Trial? It is an event to work your dog in conditions that are more test-like than a training session. It's a good opportunity to check your dog's progress and readiness for an actual hunt test, and besides it's a ton of fun. Judges will be Club members, several of whom are licensed AKC judges, including Master National judge Alan Bruhin and judge and MN competitor J. Michael Evans, among others yet to be identified. We will need people to pitch in and trade off on planting blinds, re-birding, and setting up and taking down the equipment. We will be using our club-owned bumper launchers as well as wingers to reduce the amount of time people have to spend out in the field throwing marks and firing wingers.

**STAKES:** Singles Classic, Master, Senior, Junior, Puppy Stakes (Junior puppy & Senior Puppy, under 1 yr). Entry Fee: \$10.00 each stake per dog (dokkens), Puppy Stakes (bumpers) \$5.00 (1 PM). **The first two entries for members will be free.** Completion ribbons will be awarded for hunt test stakes and Advanced Junior stakes; placement 1-4 and JAM ribbons will be awarded for Singles Classic and the two puppy stakes. If you are interested in consideration for our end-of-the-year awards for Gun Dog and Puppy of the Year, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards. Club Trial Rules are included on page xxx.

**OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, PROS AND AMATEURS.** If you would like to join ETRC, membership forms will be available at the Trial, check with Secretary/Treasurer Karen Edwards. Membership is \$25 for a year, and entitles you to a monthly newsletter and other member benefits.

**WHAT TO BRING:** No E-collars allowed if you want to participate for ribbons and awards points. Collars will be allowed if you want to use the session for training only. All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless running tests. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), your lunch, and water for you and your dog, plus appropriate clothing for the weather. **NO WHITE SHIRTS** please, wear something neutral or dark. If you are bringing a puppy, you may bring your own retrieval items if you wish.

**WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY:** We will send out an email on Friday night if the weather is such that we are going to have to cancel. We will not cancel just for chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is expected to be monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or snowing in Sevierville, we will not run. So be sure to check your email Friday night! If you don't hear anything, come on out. Rain date will be same time, same place the following Sunday, March 17.

**ETRC TEE SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND HATS** will be available for purchase. Bring cash or a checkbook and stock up on some great items to advertise your club.

**ADDRESS:** GPS address is approximately 3498 Boyd's Creek Highway, Sevierville, TN. Get off on exit 407 (Sevierville / Gatlinburg exit), cross over the French Broad river, turn right on Boyd's Creek Highway immediately after crossing the bridge. Go 2.3 miles, turn right at the ETRC sign and continue on the farm road to the back of the property.

**RSVP:** Please let us know if you are planning to come. Contact me at [edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com). Come anyway — but it's courteous to let us know approximately how many people to expect.

## Awards Banquet: A Ton of Fun!

**On February 24, 2024, Saturday evening, ETRC held its annual Awards Banquet, General Meeting, & Elections at the Bearden Banquet Hall in Knoxville.** The event started at 6:00 p.m for socializing and before-dinner drinks, and the dinner buffet started at 6:30 p.m. Free to all members and their families and guests, the menu included a buffet of green salad with tomatoes, cheese and crumbled bacon; yeast dinner rolls, Honey Pecan Chicken, Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, and cheesecake. Beer was available for purchase, and wine, lemonade, iced tea, coffee, and water were complimentary.

Look over the articles on the next several pages for pictures and information on awards, elections, a recap of our events over the past year and a look ahead to plans for 2024. For those of you who came, it was great to see and visit with you in an informal setting; for those of you who were didn't come, you missed a fun evening and some good food, and we hope you can join us next year!



*Karen Edwards meets guest Jon Osteen*



*Donna Smith talks with Bob Houston and Lois Luthenauer*



*Banquet hall, above*

*Presidents corner, left: Vice President Alan Bruhin, President J. Michael Evans, Past President Mike Smith — with Cynthia Bruhin, seated.*

## End-of-year Awards

The following awards were handed out at the banquet to member owners and member-owned dogs. Congratulations to everyone who won any of the awards, and thanks to J. Michael Evans for being our awards coordinator. This is not an easy job!

### AKC Title Awards:

**Junior Hunter:** two dogs earned their Junior title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- 1 Dick's High Flying Lazer Teal JH ("Teal"), owned and handled by Dick Lamping;
- 2 Gus The Ol' Goose Getter JH ("Gus"), owned and handled by Brent Naveiro.

**Senior Hunter:** One dog earned a Senior Hunter title this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- 1 Fern Hill Fiona McCool SH ("Fee"), Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce, trained and handled by Jody Ware .

**Master Hunter:** 2 dogs earned their Master Hunter titles this year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- 1 Cane Creek's Fresh Squeezed MH ("Juice"), owned by Heath Shuler and handled by Jon Osteen.
- 2 Spitfire's Whiskey Teal MH ("Teal"), owned by Janet Summers and handled by Brian Caldwell.

### National Competition Awards:

**Qualifying at the Master National:** The Master National Invitational Hunt Test was held in Thomasville, Georgia in October 2023, with more than 1100 dogs showing up to start. Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to one ETRC member for making it all the way through all 6 very tough series:

1. Ringtail's Headhunter MH ("Clyde"), bred, owned and handled by ETRC pro member-Brian Caldwell.

**Qualifying at the Master Amateur:** Two ETRC members made the trek to Giddings, Texas in April 2023 for this national invitational event and made it through all 6 series. They were presented with a picture plaque honoring this achievement:

1. Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH ("Cin"), owner / handler / breeder Alan Bruhin
2. Rader's Charlie Belle MH ("Belle"), owner/handler Jeff Rader

**Being Invited to One of the National Competitions:** Congratulations also to the following ETRC members and their dogs who qualified to go to one or more of the National events, but either did not go or did not make it through all the series. Just qualifying for an invitation is a huge achievement!



Alan Bruhin with Cin, and Jeff Rader with Charlie Belle, at the 2023 Master Amateur

**Master National Invitees:**

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

**Master Amateur Invitees**

1. Gator Pts Don't Mess With My Toot Toot MH, owned by Mike Reed
2. Trinity's Zoey Love MH, owned by Barbara Reed

While we are on the subject of National invitation events, Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce would also like to brag that a puppy they bred, **Fern Hill Panda's Sunday Best \*\* MH40 MAH FDHF, "Violet"**, owned and handled by Bruce Hayes, Berkeley, CA, also earned her MAH title and qualified for the Hunt Test Hall of Fame at this year's Master Amateur. She has two previous Master National passes but didn't go this year. Violet is a daughter of Panda (Fern Hill Pandemonium MH WCX OD), and is a littermate sister of Zoey (Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo MH).

**ETRC Club Awards:**

**Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2023:** This award is given to the puppy under one year of age who earns the most points in AKC and ETRC hunt tests and club trials. The award is recognized by a plaque for the owners to keep, and custodianship for a year of the perpetual trophy. The winner this year is:

- ♦ **Fern Hill I Mint To Do That ("Mint").** Mint is a Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, and was shown to her qualifying wins by Jim. She is now in training with Jody Ware and hopes to make her Senior Hunter debut this fall. Mint is by Wynwood's Over The Top MH13 QA2 CCA and out of Fern Hill Py In The Sky MH.



**Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2023:** This award goes to the ETRC-owned dog who during the previous year has earned the most points in AKC field events and Club Trials. For the third year in a row, the award (an engraved plaque to keep and custodianship of the perpetual trophy for the year) goes to:

- ♦ **Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH,** bred, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin. This talented pair is obviously hard to beat, with 34 points during the year!



**Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award, 2023:** This is a new award named for charter member and long-time club officer Chuck Atchley. The award is intended to honor one dog yearly who over its lifetime has made significant contributions in the field, and/or breeding shed, and other dog-related endeavors. Although the award is in the name of the dog, this is a team activity, and lots of credit also goes to the owners, trainers, and handlers involved in achieving these accomplishments. The inaugural award for 2023, which consists of a plaque for the owner to keep and custodianship of the new perpetual trophy for a year, goes to:

- ◆ **Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH:** Coal is owned by David Knott, and has been trained and handled by both David and by Brian Caldwell. He has 5 Master National passes, passed 23 Master Hunt tests entered, and is a top sire of many fine dogs who are already competing and earning accolades. Coal died last year, but his impact on the sport will continue for some time! See article by David on page 8.



David Knott & Coal, October 2021

**AKC Sportsmanship Award for 2023:** The award this year goes to President Mike Smith, who has worked his socks off at all our events during the year, led the club, made all the contacts with the Boy Scouts for possible use of their property in the future, and has taken up handling his own young Labrador.

**ETRC Member of the Year, 2023:** The Member of the Year is **Donna Smith**, who served as Chief Marshal, filled in on lunch duty for one test, took care of updating the club's first aid kit, all while running her dog(s) in multiple events.



Dynamic Duo Mike and Donna Smith



**Special Award:** Mike Evans presented a special honorarium for outgoing president Mike Smith, who has guided the club tirelessly for the last two years. He was presented with a \$250 gift card for Bass Pro, and a thank you card signed by all the Board members and officers present.

## A Selection of Awards Presentation Pictures



*Dick Lamping picks up his Junior Hunter Award Plaque*



*Brent Naveiro gets his Junior Hunter Award , with Luke McCoy helping in the background.*



*Jeff Rader, left, and Alan Bruhin, right, with their Master Amateur Qualifier plaques.*

## Cole's Story, By David Knott

*Editor's Note: Cole (Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH) is the winner of the inaugural ETRC Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023. Here is Cole's story, told by his owner.*

I was at the ETRC Spring AKC Hunt test in 2012 at the Hiwassee Refuge. Bella and I were done with the Senior test and went to watch the Masters. Jody Ware was running a dog (Razor Sharp's Lucky Charm MH "Chloe"). Three marks were thrown. The dog was sent and picked up the first mark. Then the dog was no'd off the marks and Jody and the dog turned 180 degrees and picked up the blind and then picked up the remaining marks. I was amazed at what I had just seen. I had never seen anything like that with the control and talent of the dog. I caught Jody at the truck and told him how amazed I was with that dog. He said, "If you think she's good, her sister runs even better. The client of mine that has her just had a litter of puppies with the 2011 NAFC Grady." The sister was RLA Powers Lean Cheyenne MH "Chey." I never dreamed I would have an opportunity to have a puppy with a pedigree like that. I went home and thought about it and called Jody's client Randy Allen. We somehow found enough money to get one of those puppies. It was a big purchase for the family.



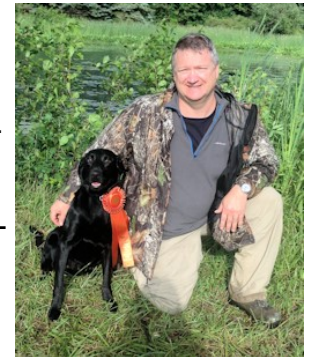
*Coal & David, ETRC puppy stakes 2012*

Coal and I worked hard just about every day. I thought he was something special. Everything came so fast for him and he loved to work. We earned our first Master pass in October 2014 in Bristol and it snowed that weekend. I was beyond thrilled with this pass.

Prior to this test, I had been going to Brian Caldwell's farm after work getting in a few runs with him and his dogs over the past months. I'd known Brian through the club for several years; we didn't know each other well but he was really generous with his time and property.

The season was over with that test and I really thought with the caliber of dog Coal was, he really needed a better trainer. Brian quit his day job and went full-time pro in January 2015. It was really a perfect fit especially since Brian had Coal's littermate Cracker (aka Crackhead).

Brian fixed Coal's dig-backs and got him to actually change directions on a cast. I was thrilled because I didn't know how to fix it. Brian got four more Master passes. We were coming up short one pass for a title and Master National Qualification in June 2015. I found a test in Chardon, OH. I never imagined I'd be driving 10 hours on a Friday to a hunt test on Saturday but there I was. It rained the entire weekend – through all three series. Coal had one brief handle on a water mark the entire series and we had that title and were going to the AKC Master National in 2015.



*MH Title, Ohio, June 2015*



Coal qualified at the Master National in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2021 and he earned 23 Master Passes in his career. He took me all over the country. I'm so grateful to have had such a good boy and all the friends and experiences because of this sport.

I want to say thank you to the club for honoring Coal and me with The Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award. It's a great honor. I also want to say thank you to Jody Ware for being an inspiration for me. Seeing

his dogs work got me hooked! Thank you to Brian Caldwell for being a great friend and trainer. You took Coal to the next level.



*Out Hunting with Seth Knott*



## ETRC Weekend Master Only AKC Hunt Test April 13-14, 2024 , Lucky Seven Ranch

Our first AKC hunt test of the season is coming up in April. It will open March 20 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time (a day earlier for Amateurs and people with worker codes) and will close April 1 at 11:59 p.m. . This is a Master Only test with a single flight of 66 dogs. Start time will be 8:00 a.m. Eastern time each morning. Judges are Mike Perry and Wesley Bowman. Check Entry Express for the premium list and further details.

**We are looking for volunteers to help us put on this test — Call or text J. Michael Evans at 865-824-8638 to sign up. Just a few hours on even one day will be a big help!** We need a few people to serve in bird stations, some to help set up and tear down tests, run errands on this large site, clean up the site afterwards, and more. A bagged lunch and the club's undying gratitude will be provided to all workers at the test, along with a worker code for your dog to enter if you need one.

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:** Lucky 7 Farm, 6720 Erie Road, Sweetwater, TN. BE AWARE that some GPS services may take you to the wrong place, around the back of the farm where there is no entrance. Alternatively, use the address 6979 Erie Road, which is right across the street from the L7 Farm entrance.

## ETRC Mid-Week Master Only AKC Hunt Test May14-15, 2024, Brian Caldwell's Farm

Our second AKC hunt test of the season will be in mid-May. This is a Master-Only test which will be held at Brian Caldwell's place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 14 and 15. Start time will be 8:00 a.m. Eastern time each morning. Judges are Keith Maready and Robbie Griffin.

The test will open Wednesday, April 24, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time (a day earlier for Amateurs and people with worker codes) and will close Monday, May 6 at 11:59 p.m. Check Entry Express for the premium list and further details.

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. **Volunteers are needed to help out with test set-up and breakdown. Call or text J. Michael Evans at 865-824-8638 to sign up. Just a few hours on even one day will be a big help!** Free bagged lunch will be provided to all volunteers who stay till lunchtime or come early for the afternoon session.

**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.

New members, or people looking to get into the hunt test game, are encouraged to come and spectate. This is an easy test to watch, since there is only one set up at a time and plenty of room to set up a chair and watch — also plenty of people to ask questions and find out what is going on.

## Minutes for Banquet and Meeting, Saturday, February 24, 2024 Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN

*Editor's Note: These minutes are not complete. The section on awards has been moved to a feature article on pages 3-6. A complete set of the minutes is online at [http://www.etrclub.org/fyi.htm#ETRC\\_NEWSLETTERS\\_](http://www.etrclub.org/fyi.htm#ETRC_NEWSLETTERS_).*

**Present from the Board:** Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Jeff Rader, Lois Luthenauer

**Absent, excused,** Cory Smith, Denise Chambers

**Members present:** Cynthia Bruhin; Gale Frana; Kyle Griffin; Bob Houston; Blake and Kim Johnson; Dick & Jolynn Lamping; Nate, Hayley Lamping and son; Brent & Macy Naveiro; Nancy Rader; Bob Smith; Donna Smith; Ryan Smith.

**Guests Present:** Jon Osteen, potential new member. Manager of the old Petsafe boarding / training facility; has 150 acre Loudon property that they are thinking about offering field training classes /events on.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 17 memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 58 (20% would be 12). Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. following dinner. The menu included honey pecan chicken, prime rib, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes, dinner rolls, garden salad, and cheesecake for dessert. It was all extremely good! Complimentary wine, water, lemonade, coffee, and ice tea were available, as well as beer that could be purchased from the Banquet Hall bartender.

### Officer's Reports

#### ***Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report on last year's activities:***

Mike Smith welcomed everyone. He then gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year—

- ◆ Our first 2023 AKC Hunt Test on March 14-15 at Brian Caldwell's place. This was a single flight Master Only test.
- ◆ April 1 and 2, a quadruple Junior / Senior hunt test, at the Hiwassee Reserve. This was an opportunity to earn a title in a single weekend and was extremely well attended.
- ◆ Several club member open training events at Lois Luthenauer's Retriever Retreat during April, May and June.
- ◆ Another Master Only hunt test at Brian Caldwell's May 16-17;
- ◆ A third Master Only hunt test at Brian Caldwell's June 6-7;
- ◆ A fall picnic combined with a Club Trial and frozen ducks, September 17 at Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater. This trial featured two FREE entries for each member!
- ◆ Our fall hunt test at Lucky 7 Ranch September 30 – October 1, with a single Master stake and double Junior / Senior.
- ◆ Fourth and final Midweek Master only hunt test at Brian Caldwell's, November 14-15.

Thanks to:

- ◆ Brian Caldwell, who let us use his farm repeatedly this year for mid-week hunt tests and for a second flight of Master during our spring test.
- ◆ Lois Luthenauer, for conducting a number of club training events at her place during the spring;
- ◆ Ken Campbell for the use of his wonderful Lucky 7 Ranch;
- ◆ Members J. Michael Evans, Lisa Vencille, Lisa Styles, for judging some of our hunt tests this year, and thanks and congratulations to Lois Luthenauer for apprenticing; she is now able to judge Junior / Senior tests.
- ◆ Cory and Elena Smith, for storing our club trailers and for taking care of leftover ducks in the ETRC duck pen on their property

- ◆ Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year

**New equipment:** After replacing much of our equipment over the last several years, we are in pretty good shape. We did buy some umbrellas for the bird technicians, a few more blinds to replace ones that are worn out, and a couple of the new smaller thunder boomer shotgun simulators for use at tests. Also, we ran out of duck calls for the bird kids and had to do an emergency re-supply during the fall.

**Possible New Grounds For Events:** Mike has kept in touch with the new Boy Scout Camp Davy Crockett in northeast Tennessee, which comprises several hundred acres with a mess hall. This group is willing for us to use their property for some of our events, but at the time of the initial contact, there was no available pond or ponds. Mike recently contacted the camp manager, who relayed that an area has been cleared, and a contract let for digging a large pond. This may be finished by this fall. This camp is located off I81, north of Morristown and south of Rogersville, about 20-30 minutes away from any motels / restaurants.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on December 5, 2023. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since February 2. Alan Bruhin moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois Luthenauer, and passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:**

- ◆ AKC report due following conclusion of this meeting, identifying our new officers and board members.
- ◆ Recent renewal of our Club General Liability insurance policy. Price remained the same at \$815.

**Website, Newsletter and Facebook Page:** We are continuing to try to improve our communications with members and people who might be interested in becoming members. Alan Bruhin is the Facebook page manager, and Karen deals with the Newsletter and website. Please, if you have news to share – a new puppy, a litter announcement, a new title, a dog passing, a new dog-related business – even important personal news like a new baby or a new spouse! – please let us know and we'd be happy to spread the news.

**Membership:** Our current membership is 58 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and new memberships for 2024 are now due. We have brought along a supply of forms which are available from Karen, who will be happy to take your check or cash.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/23/24 is \$37,663.66, which is about \$464 less than we had at the same time last year. Karen had placed two copies of the full Treasurer's report for the past year on each table. This includes all expenses and income from the date of last year's banquet (2/25/23) to today. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the youth fund. Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$2,800 including awards and food), \$1,145 for ribbons on order, \$136 for duck bands on order, and \$360 for a security certificate for the website so we will no longer get that irritating 'danger/ Warning! Notices when you sign in. This will leave us with around \$33,000 to go into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape.

**AKC Delegate's Report:** Michele Fletcher reported that the only changes during the year are ones already mentioned in the newsletter: a change to the Junior Hunter rule change allowing handlers to talk quietly with their dogs and touch them for reassurance; and a change making it

easier for hunt test clubs to add Field Trial events to their Hunt Test events.

## Old Business

**Election of New members:** Mike Smith. We have 3 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.

- ◆ Melissa Dobson, Calhoun, GA. Melissa is a pro trainer who comes to most of our tests and does very well with her dogs. Sponsors Mike Evans and Luke McCoy.
- ◆ Brent & Macy Naveiro: Clinton, TN. Have a young black Lab. Sponsors Mike Evans, Mike Smith. Brent and Macy are here tonight, so welcome!
- ◆ Christi Williams, Acworth, GA. Christi runs an Irish Water Spaniel and came to our fall test. Sponsors are Karen Edwards & Lois Luthenauer.

Karen Edwards moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. J. Michael Evans seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

**Upcoming Events Updates:** We have a full line-up of events for this coming year, and planning is already well underway for the following events:

- ◆ **March 10:** Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3:00? Chuck Atchley's farm, Sevierville. Good practice for the hunt test season. The location at Chuck's farm is confirmed; Alan or J. Michael will get with Chuck to get a street address so this can be advertised in the March newsletter for GPS purposes. Rain date will be March 17.
- ◆ **April 13-14:** Weekend Master Only Test, limit 66 dogs, tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater.
- ◆ **May Midweek Master Only Hunt Test:** 1 flight, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 14-15, Brian Caldwell's farm.
- ◆ **Spring quadruple JH / SH Hunt Test:** June 1-2, Saturday and Sunday, Hiwassee WMA. Unlimited entries.
- ◆ **June Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, June 11-12 (Tuesday – Wednesday), tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch.
- ◆ **Fall Club Trial, Picnic, Business Meeting,** September 15, Sunday, tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch.
- ◆ **Fall Hunt Test:** October 19-20, tentatively at Lucky 7 Ranch. This will be a full test with double JH, double SH, and at least one MH flight, possibly two.
- ◆ **November Midweek Master Hunt Test,** 1 flight, November 12-13 (Tuesday – Wednesday), Brian Caldwell's farm.

**Other Activities:** We are looking at adding some other activities such as a summer seminar with a pro trainer that would be free or reduced cost for members; big and small group training sessions, etc. We need your feedback on what you would like your club to offer.

## New Business:

**Awards Presentations.** *[[Editor's notes: See information and pictures on awards presented in the article about the banquet on pages 3-6.]*

**Election of Officers/Board:** Mike Smith. The slate of officers/board members and other

positions from the nominating committee as listed below is presented for election . There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the By-laws, and nominations are now closed.

- ◆ President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Vice President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Board Member Feb 2024- Feb 2027: Bob Smith
- ◆ Board Member Feb 2024- Feb 2027: Kyle Griffin
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Past President: Mike Smith (non-elective)
- ◆ Chief Marshall for 2024 tests: Donna Smith (non-elective)

Remaining on the board are: Luke McCoy & Lois Luthenauer (through February 2025); and Jim Pearce and Jeff Rader (through February 2026).

Thanks so much to Cory Smith and Denise Chambers, who are going off the board, for your service these past years. Denise, you didn't have to move to Mississippi to get away from us!

Mike Smith called for a motion to approve the slate of candidates by voice vote rather than by secret ballot. This motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Michele Fletcher, and passed unanimously.

Then J. Michael Evans moved that we approve the slate of candidates as listed. Jim Pearce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Statement by New President:** J. Michael Evans urged everyone to get involved in volunteering to help run events. Doesn't have to be long – an hour or two a day will be a big help. With us putting on so many tests, and always having the same people doing all the work, it's wearing people out. He also thanked ETRC's Secretary Treasurer Karen Edwards and Hunt Test Secretary Michele Fletcher for all the work they do behind the scenes, and asked for a round of applause in appreciation. J. Michael mentioned that we are going to be losing Hiwassee altogether very shortly, so if anyone knows of any other locations we can possibly hold hunt tests, to please be thinking about it. He is looking forward to a busy and productive year, and wished everyone the best.

**Door Prizes:** Alan Bruhin brought along raffle tickets and made sure each person attending got one. During the meeting, Mike Smith called out numbers for 2 or 3 prizes at a time, finishing up with the last door prize just before adjournment. There were a variety of door prizes, including 3 reimbursement vouchers for entry fees for ETRC tests (worth up to \$100 each); decoys, gift certificates from Rural King, fresh farm eggs, leashes, etc. There were enough door prizes that everyone who attended got one!

**Any other new business?**

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lois Luthenauer, the vote passed unanimously, and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## Minutes for After-Banquet Board Meeting Saturday, February 24, 2024 Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN

**Present from the Board:** J. Michael Evans, Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Jim Pearce, Jeff Rader, Lois Luthenauer, Luke McCoy, Kyle Griffin, Bob Smith

**Absent:** None

**Others Members Present:** Several people from the banquet

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with all eleven officers and directors present. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m.

**This is an abbreviated meeting to go over a few things to get ready for our first events.**

### ***Locations for Events.***

TJ. Michael spoke with Ken Campbell, who said we were welcome to use Lucky 7 for whatever we wanted this year – with the caveat that the place was for sale. If it is sold, Ken will try to get the new owners to honor the commitments to us, but cannot guarantee this.

Because we have had so very many events at Brian Caldwell's this past two years, we have imposed on him a lot and have somewhat worn both him and the property out. After some discussion, we decided to have the following events at Ken's, tentatively, assuming it's not sold:

- The weekend Master Only hunt test, single flight, approved AKC dates April 13-14, 2024.
- The June 11-12 Midweek Master only hunt test (Tuesday – Wednesday).
- The Summer Picnic and Club Trial, tentatively scheduled for September 15, 2024.
- The Fall hunt test, October 19-20.

This would leave two Master-Only midweek tests at Brian's – May 14-15, and November 12-13. The June 1-2 Quad JH / SH test will be at Hiwassee.

We discussed the procedure for having to change locations later in the event Lucky 7 sells. We should have at least a month and possibly two months' notice, given the typical timeframes for closing. However, once Entry Express goes live, changing things is virtually impossible and cancellation might be required. This is most likely to be a problem with the fall test; the picnic / club trail doesn't involve AKC or EE.

### ***Bird Techs.***

J. Michael asked Bob Smith if he would be able to arrange bird techs for tests that aren't at Brian's. Bob said he would give it a try, and asked Karen to send him a list of the dates and events that he would need to find people for. J. Michael or Alan Bruhin will contact Brendan, the Lucky 7 farm manager, to get the dates put on his calendar. These minutes will satisfy this request.

Alan has contacted the Cleveland State Community College about being bird techs for our June 1-2 Quad JH / SH test. This is after school is out and so far, he has only located some 8 kids to work for us. Presumably they will also be used at Lucky 7 for the fall test, and that should be easier.

### ***Hunt Test Judges.***

This past year, we have had a number of judges bail out on us at the last minute. In most cases, J. Michael has stepped into the breach and judged for us. However, if he is the head of the Hunt Test Committee, he cannot do this unless he resigns from the HT committee chair position (and can this be done with AKC and Entry Express? How much time would it take?). Others of our member judg-

es may have to step in and judge for us. Of course, if it's really at the last minute, we can do whatever we need to including pulling someone out of the gallery even if they are not a qualified judge – like we had to do with Donna Smith last year for one of our tests.

Judges have now been pinned down for the June 1-2 Quad test. Judges will be Lisa Vencille / Bonnie Cuddihy; Robert Shell / Kenny West; Ray Rogers / Clint Catledge; Dick Lamping / Haley Shealey. Thanks to Dick Lamping who volunteered to step in as a judge at the Banquet. This pretty much finalizes all our judging assignments for the year except for JH /SH judges at the Fall hunt test.

**Ducks.** In addition to the usual problems of finding ducks, the recent outbreaks of bird flu around the country have made them even harder to come by. Kiley Buettner says he will have trouble supplying us with ducks in June, and in November, as there are no other nearby tests that we can share hauling expenses with. We will probably have to arrange with Cory Smith to carry over some of the ducks from one test to another, if he is willing to do that this year. J. Michael or Mike Smith will talk to Cory about this.

**Live Fliers.** For the past several years, we have not been able to do live flyers as Brian's place is a 'no live ammo' location as approved by AKC. Michele commented that the AKC and EE information on our tests show no live fliers anywhere, including Hiwassee and Lucky 7. We decided not to push on L7 and Hiwassee to get this changed; yes, a few people have stated they won't come to our tests because they don't get live flier practice, but the logistical issues of locating gunners, locating ammo and working guns, etc., means that it will be a lot easier on us if we just go with the current restrictions.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting will be after the Club Trial at Chuck Atchley's on March 10 (March 17 for a rain date).

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Lois seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

## 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.



## Youth Program

2022 Award Recipient, Bella Martin



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 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 / Website 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).

**WEBSITE:** Updated recently to add a security certificate so no more pesky 'danger/warning!' notices. A repository of current & past information. Send material for the website to webmaster Karen Edwards ([edwardskc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com)).