

# 2018 Upcoming Events

1. June 5, 2018: Board meeting, 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN, 6:30 p.m.
2. August ???, summer picnic/business meeting/seminar
3. September or October, Fall club trial, dates & location pending.
4. October 20-21, 2018: Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch. Pending.



## President's Message

Check your email for Luke's President's message for June.



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## Spring Club Trial, May 12, 2018 Darryl and Sharon Miller Farm

### Thanks to:

- ◆ The Millers for the use of their beautiful farm and gorgeous technical pond.
- ◆ Judges: Singles Classic – Michael Evans & Sherie Catledge; Master, Senior, and Junior: Luke McCoy and Thomas Art Gibson.
- ◆ Jim Pearce for bringing the club's smaller trailer over, and Cory Smith for taking it back (and for taking it to and from the spring hunt test)
- ◆ Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce, who ran the table.
- ◆ Everyone who came, threw dokkens, ran dogs, brought donuts and cookies, helped set up the tests and re-load the trailer afterwards, and enjoyed a perfect day with dogs.

The Singles Classic was run first and was comprised of two long land marks, starting at the long pond below the barn and stretching across the farm road to the fields on the other side. The Master/Senior/Junior stakes were run on the same set-up on the other side of the property, and involved both land and water work. Signups and setups began at 8:00 a.m., and the action was underway by 9:30 a.m. after some interesting directions from GPS phone maps that made one of the judges a bit late. The weather was brilliantly sunny, comfortable in the morning but getting quite hot by the end of the day, up near 90. After the ribbon ceremony, there was a brief board meeting.

### Results:

**Singles Classic:** 23 dogs entered, 11 passed.

- ◆ First place: Cooper and Wayne Rasbury. This is a three-peat for Cooper, who also won both spring Club Trial Single Classic Stakes last year.
- ◆ Second place: Woody, with Lois Luthenauer.
- ◆ Third place: Bauer and Cory Smith.
- ◆ Fourth place: Callie and Jim Pearce.
- ◆ JAMs: Ivy and Michael Evans; Ella and her son Nugget with Brent McCoy; Echo with Luke McCoy; Suzy with Lois Luthenauer; and Zoey and Teagan with new member Barb Reed.

**Master Test:** 11 dogs entered and nine passed. This test included three marks and two blinds, with lots of swimming and in and outs. Passing were: Callie and Jim Pearce; Ivy and Mike Evans, Echo and Luke McCoy, Zeus and Haley O'Neill, Woody and Suzy with Lois Luthenauer; Bobby Joe with Sherie Catledge; Zoey with Barb Reed; and Teagan with Sherie Catledge.

**Senior Test:** 13 entered and 11 passed -- Charlie with Tom Gibson; Jake and new member Tod Kisling; Bauer and Cory Smith; Belle and Cade Chambers (ETRC Youth program member); Ivy and Michael Evans; Nugget and Sunny with Brent McCoy; Echo with Luke McCoy; Beau with Haley O'Neill; Zeke and Sherie Catledge; and Chance with Barb Reed.

**Advanced Junior Test:** None.

**Junior Test:** 13 entered, 11 passed. Passing were: Jet with Billy Sales (renewed member after many years' absence); Blue with Dicky Jones (another renewed old member); Andie with new member Joann Burk; Ammo and Tom Gibson; Rowan and Chris Miller; Jake and Tod Kisling; Gar, Bass, Charlotte and Tiger with Haley O'Neill; and Polly with Lois Luthenauer.

**Puppies:** Four entered but because of the unexpectedly large turnout (YAY!) we didn't end up running the puppy stake until around 4:30 p.m., by which time three of them had already left. The lone participant and winner of the Junior Puppy stake was Roxie with Lois Luthenauer.

## Club Trial Report, Cont.

### Financial Information:

	Memberships/	Entries /	Sales /	Donation	Total
Checks	\$25	\$80	0	\$0	\$105
cash	\$0	\$505	190	\$0	\$695
Totals	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$585</b>	<b>\$190</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$800</b>

The Club took in \$800 on the day. There were no expenses.

### Final Thoughts:

It has been many years since we have had such a well-attended Club Trial. If we had known there were going to be this many people, we would have divided the Master/Senior/Junior stakes up so that things would have run faster and more efficiently, and the puppy stake could have been run much earlier in the day.

NOTE: For many, many wonderful pictures of this Club Trial, see [https://www.facebook.com/barbara.reed.5872/media\\_set?set=a.10214342076559023.1030401886&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/barbara.reed.5872/media_set?set=a.10214342076559023.1030401886&type=3)

Thanks to new member Barbara Reed for the great photography! A few pics are scattered throughout this newsletter.



## ETRC Board Meeting, 5/12/18 Daryl & Sharon Miller Farm, Sweetwater, TN

**Present from the Board:** Luke McCoy, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Tom Gibson, Cory Smith, J. Michael Evans

**Absent, excused:** Alan Bruhin, Carol McCorkle, Donna Smith, John Broucek, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present.  
Meeting called to order at 4:39 p.m. following completion of the club trial.

**Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports:** None; deferred to next meeting

### Old Business

**Club Trial#1:** held today. Huge success, many more people than usual. See special report for details.

**Training dates:** The training session scheduled for today after the club trial was canceled because the trial ran so long. We've only had one training session so far this year. No new dates were set.

## Minutes from 5/12/18 meeting, cont.,

**Spring Hunt Test:** Coming up very soon. Final arrangements discussed today:

- ◆ Test is open, Master is filled, other stakes filling.
- ◆ FFA group, Meigs county, has signed contract with us for birdkids. Karen will contact them again on Monday before the test to confirm any last minute arrangements. Because Karen and Jim won't be able to be there Saturday morning, we need someone to be the contact point. Lois as Chief Marshal?
- ◆ HT Secretary stuff: Lois brought along boxes from Roberta, and Michael will take them with him to get them to Carol.
- ◆ Judges' sheets: Alan has been providing regular paper sheets which are much cheaper to use if it's not raining. Karen will contact him to see if he will continue to do this although he won't be coming to the test himself because of his son's wedding.
- ◆ Ducks: Michael will call Kiley Buettner, the duck supplier, to order as soon as the numbers of entries are finalized. We will need someone to meet him at the test site, will insist on Friday after 2:00 so that no one will need to be at the site at any special time. Some discussion before AKC about not using any live ducks anymore at tests, because of increasing difficulties of getting live birds across state lines (regulations). We will need to keep on top of this.
- ◆ Gunners: Michael is still looking for one gunner, will be making arrangements for gas and ammo.
- ◆ Dumpsters and portapotties: Ordered, Michael will confirm next week and set Friday for delivery, Monday or Tuesday for pickup.
- ◆ Marshals: Lois is far along with getting these arranged. Two of the pros, Mike & Tammy Pierce and Brian Shanks and his wife, are agreeable to handling the entire Master stake that they will be in, whichever one it turns out to be, for both days. They will marshal, provide runner services, tear down and set up. The Chambers – Denise, Erin, Cade and Ivan – will do the same thing for the Senior Stake both days. Erin will be one of the gunners. Lois will provide names to Karen as soon as this is finalized so that she can provide instruction sheets and contact sheets with phone numbers as backups to the radio system.
- ◆ Cory Smith has agreed to take the small trailer home for today and will bring it to and from the hunt test, since Jim Pearce will be out of commission and unable to attend.
- ◆ Radios: Karen will bring the radios to the test on Friday and pick them up on Sunday. Someone will need to take charge of them in the interim. Karen will ask Cory if he will be responsible for keeping them locked up and recharged overnight.
- ◆ Patti G will be handling the judge's dinner and has made arrangements with Lois and a few other people for providing desserts etc.
- ◆ Patti G has also agreed to take over from Karen on the lunches. With Jim's surgery on Thursday, Karen will plan to come for several hours each afternoon but will not be able to stay all day (can't make enough husband-sitting arrangements!).
- ◆ 4-wheelers: we will have 4 or 5 hopefully.

**New Business: Deferred to next meeting.**

**Adjourn:** It being late, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. Michael seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



## Spring Hunt Test — a Big Success!

ETRC's spring hunt test was held Saturday May 26 and Sunday May 27, 2018, at the Hiwassee Refuge near Birchwood & Dayton, Tennessee. The test was a double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master (limit 120 dogs), and was held at the Hiwassee Refuge near Brentwood / Dayton Tennessee. The Master stake reached the limit of 120, and there were so many entries in Senior on both Saturday and Sunday that we had to split the Senior stake. We had to quickly locate four more judges and scramble to figure out ways to have 5 setups on the Hiwassee site.

The test went well, and there were no major problems. Despite forecasts of rain, the weather cooperated and the rain fell mostly at night. Saturday was a bit warm, but on Sunday the highs stayed in the low 80s so it wasn't too bad. The birdkids from the Meigs County FFA were terrific, and a big thanks to all the club members and a few non-club members who helped with setup on Friday, prepared the judges dinner, brought extra food along to share, ran errands, set up and tore down the test, marshalled, etc. And of course, thanks to everyone who came and ran your dogs!

Here are some results from the test:

### ***Master A: Judges Chris Bodine and Rick Vaughan***

60 entries, 16 scratches so 44 started, and 33 passes. Congratulations to members Chad Suttles with Blythe Ferry's Bristol, and Jeremy Majors with Troublesome Delta's Highseas Mae MH on your passes, and to member pros Jody Ware and Brian Caldwell who handled a number of dogs to passes. We had an unusually high number of scratches — in addition to the usual bitches in heat, we had two pro kennels that scratched with kennel cough; very sorry about that but thank you for not bringing other dogs who might not be symptomatic yet and exposing other dogs! Another pro had to scratch 7 dogs because of a truck breakdown and a borrowed trailer that wasn't big enough for all the dogs that had been entered.

### ***Master B: Judges Richard Hammond and William Skeels***

60 entries, 4 scratches, 56 started, 46 passed. Congratulations on your passes to members Haley O'Neal with Carter's Buddy Zeus, Brandon Lawson with Zeke Lawson SH, and Bruce Fox who co-owns Troublesome Captain Call QAA.

### ***Senior A (Saturday) : Judges Catherine Blackburn and Don Hatfield***

34 entries, 30 started, 17 passed. Congratulations to members Cory Smith with Ned's Dedication JH (Bauer); J. Michael Evans and HR Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen JH (Ivy); Junior member Nick Ware with home-bred dog RSR's Double J; Donna Smith with buck's Beau of Stoneridge. Also kudos to pro members Jody Ware and Brian Caldwell who handled several other dogs to passes.

### ***Senior B (Saturday) : Judges Kyle Bertram and Jeff Henderson***

34 entries, 27 started, 12 passed. Congratulations to member Jeff McNutt and Hooked Us a Gem for your passes — the few, the proud!

### ***Junior (Saturday): Judges James and Jan Burnett***

38 entries, 34 started, 17 passed. Congratulations to members Hayley and Ben O'Neal, who handled several friends' dogs to passes.

### ***Senior A (Sunday): Judges James and Jan Burnett***

27 entries, 23 started, 7 passed. Congratulations to members J. Michael Evans with Ivy; Cory Smith with Bauer; Konrad Heider with Roddydogs Little Brown Nash JH, and to pro handler Jody Ware.

### ***Senior B (Sunday): Judges Alan Dillard and Richard Gravely***

27 entries, 23 starts, 14 passed. Congratulations to member Ben O'Neal with RoddyDogs Flying Hawaiian JH.

**Junior (Sunday): Judges Catherine Blackburn and Don Hatfield**

33 entries, 27 started, 19 passed. Congratulations to members Ben and Haley O'Neal for handling several friends' dogs to passes.

**NOTE FROM PATTI GIBSON:** Everyone who stayed at the Best Western, check your statement. There was an overcharge on hers which she caught and they corrected. Along the theme of "it takes a village" to put on a hunt test, we office dwellers want to also mention some

**FROM THE Hunt Test Office**

by Secretary/Treasurer Karen Edwards

Michael's article on the next page is such a nice acknowledgement of the people who worked out in the field, I thought I'd try to call out some of the people who worked in the office this past weekend.

First of all, Carol McCorkle in her first time as Hunt Test Secretary did an incredible job and all the paperwork flowed smoothly all weekend — and there is a lot of it! A big thanks to Cory Smith as well, who took care of the club radios and assisted Carol on Saturday afternoon while waiting for Master A to finish.

Patti Gibson did her usual fantastic job of fixing the delicious judges' dinner and cleaning up the club house both before and after the test. Patti makes it all look easy as she fixes delicious meals for 25+ people, and then turns around and makes 90 sandwiches every day. She had major help on the sandwiches this time from our FFA birdkid chaperones who pitched right in.

Lois Luthenauer and her crew of nephews were invaluable — running errands, selling tee shirts, helping with ribbons and more. Thanks also to J. Michael for assisting with the Master A ribbons Saturday night. Ribbons are usually my job, but I was only at the test for about four hours each afternoon because my husband had surgery Thursday.

Tom Gibson not only helped outside, he was a big help inside as well, running errands and doing whatever needed doing.

Also, big thanks to all the people who served as marshals out at the stakes — Michele Fletcher, Donna Smith, Cheryl & Jeff McNutt.

I'm sure I missed a bunch of people, and my apologies — not being there full time, I didn't see everyone, but your contributions were invaluable whether I saw them or not!



## FROM THE FIELD

by J. Michael Evans, Assistant Hunt Test Chairman

All of my work at our hunt test is concentrated in the field, everything from ducks to dirt. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank a few folks, members and non, who worked diligently to make this hunt test run smoothly and step up when we were in a real bind in the field.

First and foremost thank you to Jason Jackson, TWRA Manager of the Hiwassee Refuge. He stayed all day Friday to meet with judges and bushhog anything they needed in order for them to set up challenging tests.

Next I would like to thank the entire Chambers family! Every time I turned around one of them was there offering assistance! They ALL were there Friday for set-up and stayed until the very end on Sunday. There wasn't a single task they didn't perform, marshal, gunner, equipment set-up and breakdown, duck delivery and anything in between. Thank you so very much!

Ray and Melissa Shanks, Mike and Tammy Pierce: Before our test opened Melissa was in contact offering to help in any way they could. Her and Tammy Pierce offered to completely run an entire flight to help the club. They not only used their own equipment, brought gunners, 4-wheelers, marshaled, set up and tore down the stakes but their diligence allowed the Master A flight to be completed on Saturday! What an amazing feat!

Mike Smith, Thomas Art Gibson and Chad Suttles: Talk about workhorses!! These guys were on the move all day, every day all weekend long! There is no way I could possibly list everything they did for the club over the weekend, simply put, if there was something to be done, they were there!

Chris Miller and Larry Moody: These two gentlemen were lifesavers! They showed up and said "put me to work where ever you need me." I was happy to oblige. They did yeoman's work both Saturday and Sunday.

Ken Goss: Ken brought a host of other photographers with him and did a wonderful job. He has most of the pics up on his Facebook page under "Retrievers in Action." If you have a dog that competed go have a look, he is an amazing photographer!

Lastly, Ray Shanks and Haley O'neal provided 3 gunners for the weekend and, embarrassingly, I do not have their names. I want to personally thank them for their help, we could not have done it without you!

There were many, many other folks who worked this event and no way could we have pulled it off without them. I simply wanted to praise some of the members, and non members, who volunteered and were constantly on the move making sure all of the stakes had what they needed all weekend in the field. Thank You All Very Much!!



## Youth Program

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is starting its third year and we already have a couple of enrollees. Kids who are interested in working with dogs in field work are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at [http://www.etrclub.org/etrc\\_youth\\_program.htm](http://www.etrclub.org/etrc_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. A perpetual trophy is being designed and ordered along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program. The awards will be retroactive to 2016.

## Membership

Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Renewal and new member forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just click the link, print it off, and send it to Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Cost is just \$25 which includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events including those classified as members-only, and consideration for end of the year awards. Best of all, membership provides the opportunity to make friendships with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain!

## Master Amateur Renewals Due

The qualifying year for the 2019 Master Amateur Invitational (in Butte, MT) begins on March 1. If you're an annual member, be sure to renew soon to have your master passes count during the qualification period, you can't go back and retroactively count passes. Renew here: <https://www.masteramateur.com/membership-options.html>

Please note that ETRC's lifetime membership in MARC does not mean individual members have the same status.

## New Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined ETRC since the end of our 'fiscal year' the end of February:

- ◆ Victor & JoAnn Burk, Chuckey, TN. The Burks both compete with Golden Retrievers in field, rally, and obedience.
- ◆ Gwen & Bill Coon, Crossville, TN. The Coons compete with Golden Retrievers in the field, in agility, obedience, and tracking, and split time between Tennessee and Michigan.
- ◆ John & Teena Hewgley, S. Pittsburg, TN. The Hewgleys have a black Labrador.
- ◆ Micheal & Robin Jones, Lenoir City, TN. The Jones have a young black lab and have experience in HRC field work; they are interested in hunt testing, training & field trials.
- ◆ Barb & Mike Reed, Cincinnati, OH. They compete and breed with chocolate labs.
- ◆ Sparky & Nicky Roberts, of Chatsworth, GA. They have a young yellow lab.

Training  
Corner

# Results and Findings from the 2017 Hunting Test Community Survey

*Editor's Note: While this is not exactly a training article, it is interesting and important information about the state of our retriever sport. Thanks to the Master Amateur Retriever Club for doing this survey and providing clear and cogent results.*

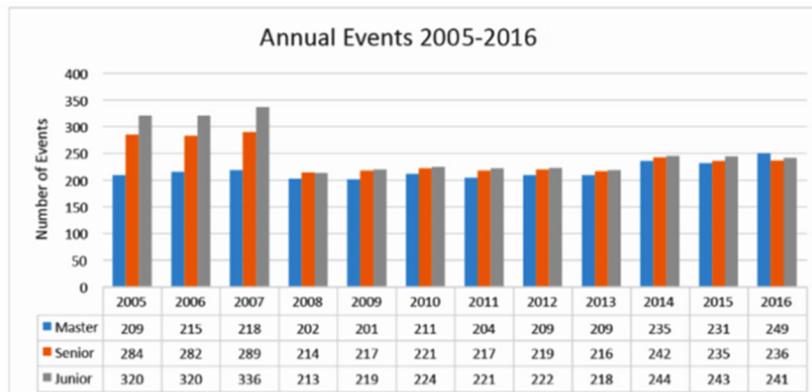
You may recall that several months ago we reached out to the retriever hunt test community with some initial observations about trends in entries and events and a request for additional information. At that time, we promised to let you know what we learned. This report is meant to be a down payment on that promise.

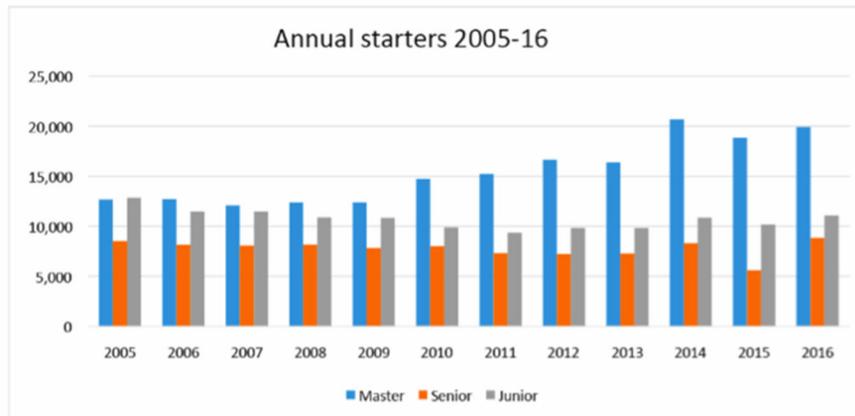
According to data provided by our friends at *Retriever News*, annual Master **starters (entries)** significantly increased over the past decade. In particular, there were 12,391 entries in 2009 and 19,888 in 2016, a jump of approximately 60 percent in seven years (see charts and table below). During that same seven-year period, annual Master **events** increased only about 24 percent (201 events in 2009 and 249 events in 2016). As a result of these two developments, **starters per event** increased by 30 percent, from 62 starters per event in 2009 to 80 in 2016.

Similar annual **entry** growth did not occur in the other HT stakes. At the Senior level, entries remained essentially the same (8,493 in 2005 to 8,826 in 2016), while Junior experienced a slight drop during that same period, from 12, 834 to 11,057. However, although Master **events** markedly increased, Senior events dropped slightly during the decade (from 284 to 242) and Junior events are down roughly 30 percent (320 to 241). More specifically, Junior and Senior **events** declined markedly from 2007-2008 (289 to 214 events for Seniors; 336 to 213 events for Juniors), a drop from which neither stake has yet fully recovered.

While the numbers themselves do not explain why the Master entry increase occurred alongside essentially stagnant Junior and Senior numbers, it is important to note that it began at roughly the same time that AKC announced the new Master National Hunter title in December 2010. It also is possible that the economic recession contributed to the 2007-2008 decline in Senior and Junior events and that they never bounced back.

Recently (March 2018), *Retriever News* published its annual hunt test numbers for 2017. The number of **events** at all three levels remained essentially the same as 2016, but annual **starters** were down from 39,771 (2016) to 35,156. Most of that decline came within the smallest of the three groups (senior): down from a decade high of 8,826 (2016) to 6,038. In fact, average number of senior starters per event declined by about 1/3 over those of 2016.





Our November 2017 survey went to approximately 7,800 individuals in the retriever hunt test community, and 961 of you (12.4 percent) responded. The first 19 questions collected background information about the individual respondents and their experience in retriever hunt tests. In summary, most were over 50 years old, most had participated in the sport more than a decade, and most either have, or had, Master dogs. The complete details are on our [website](#).

When it came to the final question (*“What one thing would you change to improve the sport of retriever hunt tests?”*), several themes emerged from the responses. By far, the most common theme (252 comments) was limited amateur access to Master level events. The focus on the Master stake is not surprising, since about 80 percent of respondents reported running dogs at this level. Essentially, these handlers pointed to what they viewed as the increasing difficulty of entering events before they filled. It is worth noting that these comments very well may be related to the trends outlined above, in which the number of Master entries are increasing annually while events essentially are not keeping pace with this demand. Of those who pointed to reasons for this, 104 mentioned Pros and their multiple entries, while 48 mentioned the drive for national qualification beyond titling.

**Representative comments include:**

“I would like the two National organizations to make a more focused, priority commitment to solving the issue of limited, excluded entry for Master at weekend events...there remains an unhealthy disparity in the key limited resources consumed by people pursuing national qualification vs. the resources contributed by the same.”

“The ability to enter and get into a Master Hunt Test as an Amateur. For a working professional, it is almost impossible to get into a Master test.”

“The ability for the amateur to enter at the master level. When pros can enter multiple dogs with one click on the computer it is unfair to the amateurs who want to enter. The AKC forgot why hunt tests were started...Several fellows that I train with have already said that’s enough, they quite entering hunt tests. It has also crossed my mind if things continue in the future as they are now.”

“Limit pros’ number of entries so amateurs can get in hunt test. I’ve experienced more than once the frustration of entries filling up in less than five minutes of them opening up and not getting in because Pros sign up 20+ dogs at a time.”

“An easier way of getting entered. It’s very difficult to participate in the ‘feeding frenzy’.”

“The weekend entry system. Pro’s take up 90% of the spots and tests fill up in 2-3 minutes. Requiring the Amateur to have 6 passes to qualify for Master Amateur Invitational only added to the problem.”

“...ease the entry procedures on Entry Express at the time it opens. I went from running 9-10 Master tests a year to only 1-2 because it is so hard to get into most tests on Wednesday nights.”

“Limit pro entries so more amateurs can enter stakes.”

**Suggestions here included (in no particular order):**

- a. More and better judge education
- b. Easier process for becoming a new judge
- c. Tighter and more clear guidelines for test setup and clearer performance standards

A third theme related to straying away from "realistic hunting" situations (76 comments). In most cases, these comments were tied to judging/judges and test scenarios. But many pointed to AKC for allowing the sport to stray from its intended purpose(s).

“AKC to instruct judges to set up hunting test scenarios not master national skill based tests.”

“I would like them to go back to what they were originally designed for...Today’s hunt tests are not realistic forms of hunting.”

“Go back to the original purpose of HT. Now they are mini FTs instead of highlighting our meat dogs.”

“Stop the judges who are making tests more like a field trial than a hunt test. ...We are judging hunting dogs!!!!”

“More emphasis on the hunting aspects of the sport.”

**Suggestions here:**

- a. Recruiting more judges with hunting experience
- b. More AKC oversight to emphasize realistic hunting scenarios

So, with that information where do we, as a club and as a community, go from here? The first step is to share the survey and the responses. The data and response summary can be found on the [MARC website HERE](#). We will also share the survey and results with our friends in the MNRC, AKC Performance Events, [Entry Express](#) and the Retriever Hunt Test Advisory Committee. The RHTAC is the vehicle within which most Hunt Test regulation amendments are initiated. To be sure, much of what we heard in the survey is not new, or surprising, but there is value in summarizing and sharing a broad based opinion survey.

As a community, it is vital that we continue to engage in dialogue about efforts to improve and grow our sport. I encourage everyone to stay in contact with their representatives in both MARC and the MNRC regarding their concerns and suggestions for improvement.

As the data on entries and events show, there is a growing supply and demand imbalance. The

number of entries at the Master level is growing far more rapidly than are Master events. So a logical answer is to increase the supply by adding more events to the calendar. Initiatives are underway by members of MARC to encourage and assist clubs to add events to their schedule and work with non-HT clubs to add a Hunt Test to their calendar. Gordon Schlichting, MARC Central Region Director, recently wrote an excellent article on how the Greater Minnesota Hunt Test Association is coordinating through its member clubs to hold regular judging seminars and support each other's events. Gordie has already spoken with folks in other regions about how they might establish similar regional associations to coordinate mutual efforts.

Perhaps the most troubling is that the data show a stagnant or even declining participation in Junior and Senior stakes. And a look at MARC's membership indicates most folks are middle aged and beyond. So, from where is our growth and the future of our sport going to come? That is an issue on which MARC is going to be focused.

Do we have a magical silver bullet that will instantly address everybody's concerns? No. And since some of the expressed concerns are mutually contradictory there will never be one single solution that makes everybody happy. What we can and will do is to continue to engage in dialogue and look for concrete steps to further improve our sport and, more important, encourage more folks to train, hunt and compete with their retrievers.

**Member News, Announcements, and Brags**

**FOR SALE:**

Diamond deluxe two hole dog box . Insulated, slam latches, top storage, only 1 month old. \$700. Contact Billy Sales at 865-804-5269 or email [billy.sales@aol.com](mailto:billy.sales@aol.com)



**Litter Announcement**

**FC AFC Low Tides Pounder (L.B.) X Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH (Shine)**

Litter is due to be whelped 6/4/2018, \$1,500, Sevierville Tennessee

**Contact information: Alan Bruhin**

Phone: 865-850-8712

Email: [wabruhin@utk.edu](mailto:wabruhin@utk.edu)

<http://k9data.com/pedigree.asp?ID=898422>

**Congratulations to New Titlists**

- ◆ **HR Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen SH (Ivy)**, yellow Labrador owned, trained, handled, and loved by J. Michael Evans, who earned her Senior Hunter title at our spring Hunt Test.
- ◆ **McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name (Echo)**, Golden Retriever owned and handled by Luke McCoy, and bred by his uncle Brent McCoy. Echo titled at the Middle Tennessee hunt test the weekend of May 20.



Shine is a daughter of NAFC FC Cody Cut A Lean Grade out of an FC AFC dam

## Around the Region

### Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Cuyahoga Valley GRC	Chardon, OH	6/09/18
Blue Ridge RC	Goldvein, VA	6/23/18
ETRC Fall Test	Sweetwater, TN	10/20/18

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

### Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Back Bay RC double D/Q	Goldvein, VA	6/16/18
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## Transition Seminar with Jim Engren Ohio Buckeye Retriever Club

Date: Saturday & Sunday, August 25 and 26, 2018  
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Hambden Nursery, 9130 Kile Road, Hambden, Ohio 44024  
Cost: \$325 with your dog, \$125 to audit without dog  
Entries close June 1

Jim has over 36 years of experience in training young dogs.

For Questions, more detailed brochure, and application forms, contact:

- ◆ Sally Koepke: 440-564-9702, email: [skoepke@momsgourmet.net](mailto:skoepke@momsgourmet.net)
- ◆ Pat Daly: 330-212-2471, email: [patrickdaly072@gmail.com](mailto:patrickdaly072@gmail.com)

## 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, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs and services, 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)).