

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXIII, Issue 8

August 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

Photo of the Month



CONTENTS

Upcoming Club Trial, Picnic, Meeting 9/17/23	2	Board minutes, 7/13/23 meeting	6-10
Club Trial Rules	3-4	New AKC Rule for JH tests	10
Member News and Brags	4	ETRC's Luthenauer Youth Program	11
Communications Changes	4	Membership info	11
More Proposed Changes For Master National	5	Newsletter Info / Facebook info	11

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

Plans are coming along for our annual summer event on Sunday, September 17, starting at 9 a.m. with a club trial, followed by a picnic lunch provided by the club, and then ending up with a general business meeting. We expect to be finished around 3:00 in the afternoon.

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



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

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

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

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



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

Club Trial Rules, Continued

- 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.

Member News and Brags

Look Who's Got a New Baby!



Left: In the hospital . Above: at home a few days later

WELCOME to Silas Andrew McCoy, baby son of Luke and Katy McCoy. He was born Friday morning, July 14, 2023 and weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces. Parents and baby are doing fine, and are now at home recovering.

Have you ever seen a cuter camo onesie? The baby is pretty adorable too! Congratulations Luke, Katy, and SAM!



Communications Changes

We've made some changes lately in how we communicate with members and the outside world.

First, check out our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ETNRetrieverClub> . Thanks to Kyle and Tracey Griffin for getting this set up, and to Alan Bruhin who has agreed to be the moderator! If you have info that you would like to put up on this page, you can either post it directly as a comment or contact Alan Bruhin at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu . Lots of interesting info up there, check it out and bookmark it!

Second, our website manager has retired. Thanks to Mary Hext for her years of prompt and efficient service (since 2005). She did a great job! For now, Karen Edwards has agreed to be the new webmaster. The URL is still www.etrclub.org/ . A few changes you may note: We have decided to do away with the 'members only' password protected page, and minutes and the Bylaws are now posted in the open from inks on the front page. We will no longer be posting membership lists; instead, Karen will attach them to the January and July issues.

Notice that when the website moved, even though it is still with the same provider (GoDaddy) the security certificate did not transfer. Karen will need to call GoDaddy to get this fixed. In the meantime, there is no place on the site that asks you for any contact info or bank accounts so it's not a big safety issue but we WILL get this fixed soon!

Proposed Changes for the Master National

There are now three sets of proposals for changing the format and requirements for the Master National. As we all know, with around 1000 dogs competing each year, the logistics of finding land, judges, workers, and infrastructure to host these events is daunting. Also, the large number of dogs means that the test goes on and on, limiting the number of series that can be run particularly if there is any heavy weather involved. As a result, many feel that the quality of the tests and the judging has been watered down to accommodate the huge numbers of dogs, and that the test does not represent challenges 'at the highest end of the sport.' AKC has gotten involved in this issue and has threatened to take away their support and the accompanying AKC titles that go along with success, unless changes are made to address these issues.

Unfortunately, the MNRC Board and the wider community cannot seem to agree on an approach that should be taken, and there are various factions that support widely different approaches. At the present time, ETRC (as a member club of the MNRC) has been asked to vote FOR or AGAINST three separate proposals along with proposed Bylaws language changes that accompany the proposals. Each of these proposals are backed by different MNRC Board members and groups of clubs. The first two proposals were (1) add a qualifier test that a dog must pass after passing 5 club Master Tests, before being eligible to attend a single national event; and (2) Split the national test into two or more locations as needed to accommodate the number of qualifying dogs, allowing the MNRC Board of Directors to decide how many tests each year and where they will be. These proposals were discussed in detail at our last Board meeting, which you can read about in the Minutes later on in this newsletter. Briefly, your ETRC Board decided to vote NO on the first proposal and YES on the second.

Several days ago, we received a third proposal. This one takes the approach that a dog must pass 6 out of the first 8 Master Hunter tests entered during the year in order to qualify for the Master National, which would remain a single test in rotating regions of the country. In order to avoid the problem with scratches after the test started, which was a big issue when this approach was tried a number of years ago, they have added language as follows: **"Any dog that is scratched from a Master weekend test after being sent for a single bird will be marked as a failure, with the exception of illness, injury, or death of the dog or for bitches who come in season, each case requiring verification by a licensed veterinarian and confirmed by the hunt test committee and/or the judges."**

The ETRC Board had a lively email discussion about this proposal and the following points were made:

- This proposal will not eliminate judge shopping or late scratches, as you can scratch up to the time the dog has come to the line but before being sent for a bird. You can look at the test, watch a couple of dogs, decide you don't like it, and scratch before running your dog.
- It would likely reduce the number of entries at local tests, particularly in the spring and early summer, since many people will quit entering once they have two fails. Financially, the MN has been a boon to local clubs, as with full master entries we are making enough money to buy better equipment, put on more seminars and other activities free for the membership, etc.
- Faulty language: 'weekend tests' when we have many midweek tests; 'after being sent for a single bird' can be read as you can scratch if you have gone after two or more birds.
- No exception for illness or injury of handler causing them to need to scratch.
- This will reduce the number of dogs qualifying, which will answer the mail on making the MN test more manageable; this will also mean that the dogs that are qualified are generally more consistent performers at the Master level. It will preserve the truly national, one event per year format, and will continue to be rotated among the four regions.

After this discussion, the Board decided to vote NO on this proposal, with a split vote of 8 to 1 and one members not voting. Stand by for more to come, we will keep you posted!

**ETRC Board Meeting, Thursday, 7/13/23
254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN**

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

Absent: Michele Fletcher (at an agility match), Jeff Rader (work commitment), Cory Smith (unexcused), Denise Chambers (unexcused)

Others Members Present: None

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was met with 7 people present. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- ◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 4/26/23; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website by 5/2/23. Lois moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Mike Evans seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Membership:** Membership at the end of December was 58. Membership as of today is 52. 11 from last year haven't rejoined. Sent out reminders to people on 4/18/23 and mid-May; cut people who haven't rejoined from the email list on June 1. We have two new members to vote on later (included in the 52).
- ◆ **Correspondence:** Stuff from MNRC to be discussed later.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$41,264.16. We just about broke even on the last two MH only tests at Brian's; netted around \$200 on the May test (lower entries), and around \$450 on the June test. Judges expenses on the June test were high – over \$1,300 for the two women's travel expenses. Duck costs were higher as well, and our new policy of entertaining judges and workers is taking up much of the profit (\$481 May, \$428 June). Handed out reports on first four tests of year completed so far. Treasury still doing great, don't need to make any changes at this point but need to keep an eye to make sure we don't start losing money.

AKC Delegate's report: Michele not here, so none.

Old Business

1. 2023 Remaining Hunt Tests.

- September 30 - October 1: Judges are confirmed: Bonnie Cuddihy and Lisa Vencille for JH / SH; Jim Cuddihy & Clint Catledge for the other SH/JH pair; Ethan Corken and Allen Dillard for a single flight of Master. Still looking good for Lucky 7 to be available for this test; Mike Evans is staying in touch with the owner and monitoring the status of the property's sale. Bird techs – Alan B has contacted Robert Brewer at the wildlife society and that tentatively looks good. Ducks won't be a problem with transport with as many as we are getting.
- Nov 14-15 master only at Brian Caldwell's: judges will be Jack Gravely & Micky Taylor.
- Equipment – Mike Smith: recommends we purchase 4 more holding blinds (the big 54" tall, 4 post ones, available from Steinman's for \$200 each), and 4 of the mini thunder sticks (available but backordered from Thunder Equipment; cost \$274 each) for a total cost of ap-

Board Minutes, Continued

proximately \$1,900. During the April quad JH/SH test, we ran out of blinds for the test and were short 1 thunderstick; another one has a faulty button. Alan moved that we purchase this equipment; Mike Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mike Smith will make the purchase.

2. **Summer Event:** Date set for Sunday, September 17, tentatively at Cory's, with live flyers. Need to discuss rest of arrangements, format (club trial? Picnic? Club pays, or potluck, etc). This is a Bylaws requirement for a second general meeting in addition to our winter banquet/ meeting. After some discussion about the difficulty of getting live flyers in small quantities at that time of year, we decided to use frozen ducks instead. Also discussed was the possibility of doing this at Lucky 7 rather than Cory's; the grounds and picnic facilities are great and it would give members the opportunity to try out their dogs there before the fall test at Lucky 7 several weeks later. As far as food goes, the general consensus was to go to Sweetwater to get pizzas; ask everyone to bring their own drinks, and suggest that people make a selection of desserts to share. Karen is going to have a feature write up of this in the newsletter sent out on August 1 and again in September; she will need confirmation of whether this can be at Lucky 7 before then.
3. **Pro Seminars:** We had discussed having a big name presenter, like Mitch White, come for a one or two day seminar. Lois and Karen have been supposed to work on this some; Lois has contacted Mitch and he has available December 1-3 and also may have some dates in February or March. Karen and Lois will work up a proposal for the next meeting that addresses costs, timing, charges to members / non-members, advertising, etc.
4. **Training groups:** Lois has offered training several times and has very little participation. Karen and Jim were regular, but only one other person, a new member, showed up at any of the sessions. Sounds like people think training groups are good in theory but when it actually comes to showing up, people would prefer to stay home and train by themselves or with some of their own friends that are outside the club structure.
5. **Winter Awards Banquet:** Date is set with Bearden Banquet Hall, Saturday, February 24, 2024. K paid deposit and reimbursed for \$250.
6. **Improved Emergency Care at Hunt Tests:** At our last meeting, we decided against buying a defibrillator because of all sorts of reasons. However, Mike Smith commented that county EMTs often attend things like ball games etc., and volunteered to contact the county EMTs to see if they might be willing to come and be on site for our hunt tests, and what the fee would be for this. Mike reported that he did call the Meigs Co. rescue squad (which cover both Hiwassee and Brian's place) and they said that if we call them in advance with our test dates, they will regard this as 'not a cold call' and can be sure to have someone hanging around that weekend in case we need them. They can have someone there within about 20 minutes. It turns out that Lucky 7 appears to be in Loudon County, so Mike will call them and see if he can work out the same deal for there. Mike also talked with Peter Torok, who agreed to take a look at our first aid kits and supplies and make sure we have what we need and it's not out of date – and will also try to come up with some kind of checklist to make it easy to keep it updated from year to year. He is planning to come to the September 17 event and will pick up the stuff then.
7. **Webmaster Change:**

Mary Hext, who has been our webmaster since 2005, has retired. She has been outstanding and super reasonable in price.

Status of website: Karen as Secretary has taken it over and has updated it with new officers, last year's awards and pictures, dates of events, etc. There are still a few transition issues –

Board Minutes, Continued

The certificate is not current on the new website for some reason and Karen will have to contact the provider, Go Daddy, to get it updated so there aren't a lot of 'unsafe website' notices that come up when people go to it. This will probably cost money.

The members only page is not working. This may be tied to the issue above, or it may be something else. Do we want to continue with that? Right now, it has only three things on it – meeting minutes (which are published in the open in newsletters that are posted on the site), the Bylaws (and WHY are these secret?) and the membership lists. Karen suggested she could attach the membership list to the emailed (bcc) newsletter twice a year at the end of June and the end of December and we could dispense with this page altogether, or conversely she could spend a lot of time with Go-Daddy trying to figure out why it no longer works. If this is just tied in with the lack of a security certificate, it won't be a big deal to keep it up but people generally don't remember the password anyway so the page is of limited use.

The transition so far has cost \$216 for the transfer and new webpage, and will cost another \$75 soon when the domain name comes up for renewal. We haven't gotten any bills from Mary for the first two quarters, and she has spent a lot of time on the transition. I am using the same software I use for my other websites so no charge there.

8. **Facebook:** I notice that someone has been posting a lot of great stuff on the Facebook and I thanked the Griffins who set the page up, and they said it was mostly Alan doing the good work. Can we make that official, that Alan is our moderator for that endeavor? Yes, by acclamation!
9. **Update on boy Scout Camp:** Mike Smith reported that work is underway at the big boy scout camp property up north of Morristown. A large area has been cleared of trees and work on digging a pond is ongoing. This might be a solution for our land shortage issues at some point in the future.

New Business:

1. **New Members:**

- ◆ Britton & Julia Keyes: Sales Manager, 7475 British Road, Ooltewah, TN 37363. Volunteer for whatever is needed, have a 3 year old Labrador with an HRCH title, were at one or more of the spring tests. Requested Brian Caldwell and Andy Buck as sponsors.
- ◆ Logan & Lindsay Fugate: Logistics, Georgetown, TN, volunteer for whatever is needed, have a 4-year old chessie, says he has some judging experience at the Master level, interested in dog training and AKC hunt tests. Brian is their trainer, have been at a couple of spring hunt tests. Sponsors: Mike Smith and Mike Evans.

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

2. **MNRC Rule Changes:** MNRC Board have submitted two separate formal proposal for changes to the Bylaws to modify the MN. We are supposed to vote yes or no on each of them. There was a lengthy discussion on this issue, as both Mike Evans and Alan talked at length with the MNRC president about this issue. Apparently there is a lot of contention and split on the MNRC Board and the various member clubs about what is the best approach to take to fix the serious problems with the MN Test as currently formulated. Here is what we have on the books right now for a vote from our club:
 - ◆ **Proposal for a qualifier test:** Changes proposed to Bylaws sections dealing with the process for selection judges for qualifier tests, and to add language about Qualifiers in eligibility section – basic qualification would be passing 5 local master tests and a

Board Minutes, Continued

Qualifier, and each dog would have only one chance per year at a qualifier. We have to vote for or against approval by August 10, in time for their specially called meeting on August 11. This is the proposal that the MNRC Board has been pushing for some time. Karen sent this out to all ETRC Board members for review and analysis so we would be ready for discussion tonight. Basically, the change in the section on judges is straightforward; the new Bylaws language changes suggested for eligibility is faulty. There is a misnumbered section which makes the references to it wrong, and more importantly the language is confusing in several respects. For example, as written, the Bylaws change would basically mean that anyone who ever passed the Canadian Master National test once is eligible forever for the US Master National; and anyone who passes the Master Amateur once is forever eligible for two passes toward the number required. Also, the eligibility dates for both tests and qualifier tests are massively confusing. This is not intended, but it's poorly drafted language. More importantly than the poorly written Bylaws changes proposed, there is the basic question, which is – do we want to support the concept of a qualifier test? Mike Evans moved we vote NO on this proposal; Jim seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.

- ◆ **Proposal for possible multiple MNs every year.** This proposal is pretty much identical to one of the proposals we voted on last year, which was rejected by the membership as a whole. Although the people supporting this proposal assured Mike Evans and Alan Bruhin that what they intend is to have two tests each year, one in the East and one in the West, the Bylaws language change in this proposal does not say this: basically, it gives the MNRC Board the authority to decide how many Master National tests to put on each year (one to whatever) and where. There is nothing that says there will be two tests; nothing that says one will be in the East and one in the West; and as written it would allow the MNRC Board to do whatever they want with the Master National Test structure without going back out to the member clubs for approval of any changes. According to the transmittal memo, this is the approach desired by “numerous professional retriever trainers” and we have to vote yay or nay on this one as well. Our vote on this proposal is due by August 19.

Alan Bruhin moved that the ETRC vote yes on this proposal. Mike Evans seconded it, and it was opened for discussion. It was discussed that ETRC Bylaws do not allow proxy voting, so the proxy that Jeff Rader provided to Alan was not valid.

During the lengthy and earnest discussion on this proposal, we all agreed that we like the idea of two Master National tests, one in the east and one in the west, and would all support such a proposal. However, some of the Board members were concerned that the language as proposed was inadequate as outlined above. Others believed we should trust the MNRC Board to do the right thing and set it up as they have said they would, despite the actual Bylaws language proposed that would not require them to do this. The vote was called, and there were three Ayes and three Nays, and the tie was broken by President Mike Smith, who voted Aye. With his vote, the motion passed.

Karen, as Secretary, will mark the ballots accordingly and get them off to the MNRC Board by the dates required.

Rumor has it there may be other proposals coming out for a vote as well. Apparently there is a facebook comment on MNRC's page that one proposal is being withdrawn (but it wasn't clear which); the MNRC President seemed to indicate the same thing to Mike E and Alan, and it is possible that other member clubs with other ideas are working on yet other proposals that may be coming in the next few days or weeks.

Obviously this is a hot topic in the retriever world among professional trainers and that small subset of amateurs who chase the Master National titles. And, hanging over all our heads is that if the community doesn't find some consensus, AKC is saying they will

Board Minutes, Continued

remove their approval of the event and the associated titles. Clearly the Master National Test has had a big impact on filling our Master tests every year which has a big positive impact on member club finances. However, it was noted that having a Master National test in each part of the country every year will exacerbate the issues with local clubs scheduling fall tests every year, and not just every two or three years.

Any other new business? None.

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 8:10 p.m.

New AKC Rule For Junior Hunt Tests

AKC has published a new rule concerning Junior Hunters. Text of their notification is pasted below; This regulation update has been posted on the web at: <https://www.akc.org/sports/retrievers/hunting-tests/news-updates/>. Please send any comments or questions to: retrievers@akc.org.

July 2023

To: All Clubs Licensed to Host Retriever Hunting Tests
Subject: Talking to Your Dog in the Junior Test Level

This is to inform your club of a change to the Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers. This change is effective August 1, 2023.

This change allows handlers in the junior test level to speak quietly to their dog and pet their dog for reassurance anytime during the junior test level. This is intended to be encouraging to new handlers and new dogs and to help them gain confidence at this beginner level. This will only be allowed at the junior level.

The exact wording of this change is underlined and in bold and will appear in the next printing of the regulations as follows:

Chapter 4. Standards for Junior, Senior and Master Hunting Tests, Section 6. (3rd paragraph) The handler of the working dog shall remain silent from the time handler signals for the first bird to be thrown until the Judges release the dog. Except handlers in the junior test level at anytime may speak quietly to their dog and be allowed to touch their dog for reassurance or positioning.



More pics from the two mid-week tests at Brian Caldwell's in May & June.



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 ongoing in 2023 with 6 AKC hunt tests, club trials, seminars, training days, and more.

The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year.

Newsletter / Facebook Info

NEWSLETTER: The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, usually on the 1st of the month. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs, items and services, death notices, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items to: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).

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.