

# ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXIII, Issue 7

July 2023



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

1. Thursday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. ETRC Board Meeting, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City. All members are welcome to attend.
2. Sunday, September 17, 2023: Club Trial with LIVE FLIERS, picnic, general business meeting. Cory Smith's farm in Niota. Free club trial entries for club members. More details to come,
3. September 30-October 1: Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater (tentative) — all levels.
4. November 14-15, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's
5. February 24, 2024, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Meeting: Bearden Banquet Hall, 6:00 p.m.

## Photo of the Month



*Happy Fourth of July, Folks! Enjoy a picnic, swim, go for a boat ride, or just stay home and have fun with your dogs!*

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

# ETRC Newsletter

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## Report: ETRC's June Mid-Week MH AKC Hunt Test

Brian Caldwell's Farm, June 6-7, 2023

Our fourth 2023 hunt test, a single-flight Master Hunter test, was held at Brian Caldwell's farm on June 6-7. 66 dogs signed up, 2 scratched, and 64 came to the line. 32 dogs passed. We again had bearable weather although it was pretty hot on Tuesday; Wednesday was cooler and we finished before the afternoon heat came on.

The entries included one Chessie, five Goldens, three Boykins and a Poodle, plus a boatload of Labradors in a variety of colors.

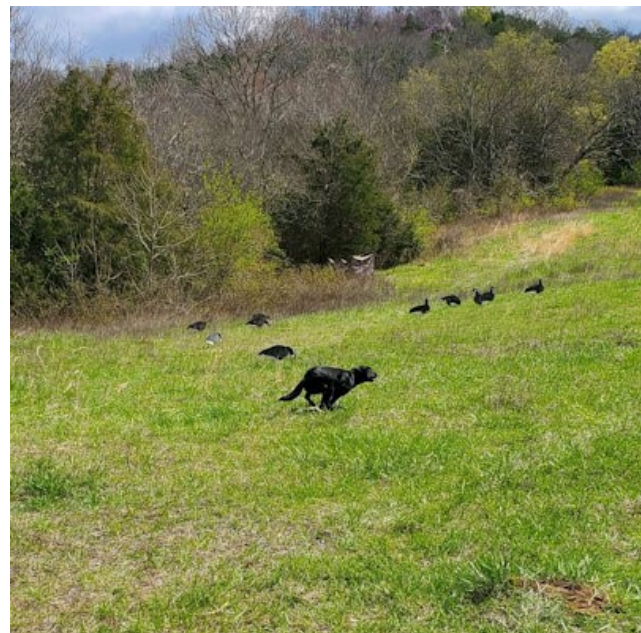
Judges were Patricia Jagoda and Mary Harding, who set up a challenging but fair test that made good use of Brian's terrific technical pond. Once again, we were fortunate to have professional bird technicians, including member Bob Smith whose arm is a national treasure. Thanks as always to Brian for the use of his land again, and to all our members who assisted by providing test support on a variety of tasks including test setup and tear down, judges' hospitality, duck procurement and handling, lunch preparation, equipment maintenance, etc. We again had several new members coming to watch and learn. We enjoyed meeting you and hope to see you participating soon in various club events.

Congratulations to the following members whose dogs qualified at this test:

- ◆ New member Britton Keyes, owner and handler of Labrador HRCH Harness Creek's Top Gun Remington;
- ◆ Pro members Mike and Lisa Vencill and their dog Lick Creek On The Money
- ◆ Alan Bruhin, breeder, owner, and handler of Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball and Cin's son Tennessee Gentleman Jack;
- ◆ Janet Summers, owner of Spitfire's Whiskey Teal, who was handled by Brian Caldwell;
- ◆ Luke McCoy, owner of McCoy's Precious Gem of the South, handled by Brian Caldwell.

Brian also handled another client-owned dog to a pass.

This wraps up our Spring hunt test season. We all get to take a deep breath and get ready for the fall now! We have two more tests scheduled, a full test with all levels September 30-October 1 at Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater, and a November Master Only test at Brian's. More info later on these two tests!



## Revised, Proposed New Qualifier Format for the Master National

After much discussion with lots of people, the MNRC has revised their earlier proposal. The basics are still the same — each dog, after passing a certain number of Master tests in a year, must then qualify at a special regional-level test. There may be several of these qualifying tests within a particular region, but a dog can only attend ONE and if they do not pass they are not qualified for the Master National. The changes are shown below, cut and pasted from the MNRC proposal:

After our last communication with you regarding the Qualifier plan, we had several suggestions about possible tweaks or changes to the proposal. The following is the result of those suggestions. We are putting the suggested changes into two categories. Tweaks that will be part of the By-Laws amendment requiring a vote and Tweaks that do not require a vote but will be useful in evaluating the Qualifier Plan.

### **Tweaks requiring a vote of clubs via By-laws amendment:**

#### **Eligibility to run a Qualifier:**

Dogs eligible to run a Qualifier must have passed 5 Member Club tests during the qualifying period.

Dogs who have previously passed a Master National Annual Event are eligible to run a Qualifier. The 5 master test passes are not required.

We believe that this change will reduce the burden on all who participate.

#### **Number of Qualifier Attempts:**

We discussed the possibility of allowing two attempts at a Qualifier. While we understand why this was suggested, as we worked through the logistics of when and where the Qualifiers would be held, we realized quickly that adding a second attempt would make the plan too difficult to manage effectively; especially for the protection of host clubs to not be pressured to host multiple qualifiers.

We ultimately decided that the original idea of one attempt was the better solution.

#### **MNH Dog exemption:**

MNH dogs will be exempt from the required number of passes and exempt from running a Qualifier. MNH dogs will continue to automatically eligible for the annual event.

#### **Time Frame for Eligibility to run a Qualifier:**

The current time frame to earn the 5 passes of August 1- July 31 will remain intact. The time frame for passing a Qualifier will also be the same August 1- July 31. Dogs must first become eligible to enter a Qualifier and then pass a Qualifier during the same August 1- July 31 time frame. This change was requested by many participants that believed the original time frames were too long.

#### **Tweaks not requiring club votes:**

#### **Limiting Entries:**

Host Clubs will be permitted to limit entries based upon their abilities to accommodate

flights of dogs. We heard from many clubs that they needed this ability. We also will consider mid-week tests for Qualifiers, but the preference is for weekend tests. We recognize that in some cases, mid-week tests may be appropriate. We do anticipate this change adversely impacting our abilities to schedule Qualifiers. If a host club requests to limit entries, an amateur set aside will be available.

### **Host Club Reimbursement**

The host club reimbursement package has not been finalized. However, it is the position of the Board that each host club will be compensated appropriately to ensure they do not lose money by hosting. A few ideas being discussed include a 'minimum compensation monetary value' as well as a plan that would ensure Clubs that host a Qualifier will have 100% of their expenses reimbursed and receive \$22 per dog for hosting the event. \$2 of the \$22 is to recognize that some expenses are too tedious and difficult to document.

### **What can I expect at the Master National Qualifier?**

The original proposal had language that confused some people regarding what would happen at a Qualifier. The following is intended to simplify and clarify what will happen at a Qualifier:

Judges will test and evaluate the dog's based on the AKC Guidelines and requirements for a Master Hunter. The test will be the traditional weekend format with Master level test setups that will test dogs to the higher end of the standard as set out by AKC. Judges are expected to utilize terrain, bird placement and natural conditions in designing their test so a dog's abilities can be evaluated beyond the minimum requirements.

### **Is the Qualifier the first 3 series of the Master National?**

While the Qualifier may be a separate test, it is clearly an integral part of this new Master National model. It is a standalone event that requires all the required elements to make it a licensed AKC test and ribbons will be awarded at its conclusion. But it also will be judged by people selected by the MNRC Board, and managed by Hunt Test Committee selected by the MNRC board. Judges are expected to utilize terrain, bird placement and natural conditions in designing their test so a dog's abilities can be evaluated beyond the minimum requirements. As a result, the judges at the National event can expect to see a group of dogs that have undergone more difficult testing than seen in an average test.

### **Number of Series at the National Event**

There has never been a required number of series at the annual event other than those specified in the AKC Regulations and Guidelines. It is the objective of the Board that the number of series at the annual event will exceed (or go beyond) what you normally experience at a Master level test.

In addition, MNRC has uploaded a video explaining the Qualifier Model on the Master Nation Blog. In order to watch the video with sound, you must access the video through the Master National blog. Use the URL below to access and watch the video Maser National Qualifier Model.

<https://masternational.org/blog/>

The ETRC Board would welcome your thoughts as the we consider whether to vote FOR or AGAINST this proposal. Remember though, that if there isn't some change made quickly, the hunt test community stands the possibility of losing a national event at all, so be constructive in your comments and bear in mind that status quo is not an option. Please send any comments, questions etc. to Karen Edwards, ETRC Secretary / Treasurer, at edwardskc@gmail.com.

Some questions to consider in making your comments:

- ◆ Do these changes make it more or less likely that you would strive to qualify and attend a Master National test?
- ◆ What impact do you see from these changes on your anticipated costs of qualifying and attending the MN?
- ◆ Do you think this will make it harder for local clubs to run regular weekend hunt tests in prime spring and fall dates? Will this push more tests to midweek, or to marginal dates like early spring, hot summer, or late fall?
- ◆ Would you have any interest in seeing ETRC try to run one of the regional qualifying tests? We would need a lot more help than we usually have for our regular tests, plus we would need access to grounds that are suitable for running one or more 100-dog, three day Master flights, which means access to technical water and demanding land. If you are interested in seeing ETRC run such a test, we would need commitments for helpers beyond the usual group that helps at tests.
- ◆ Any other comments, suggestions, or thoughts about this proposed format and its impact on both Amateurs and Pros?

## Upcoming Live Flyer Event — Mark your Calendars

We are currently making plans for our annual summer event, which will be held on Sunday, the 17th of September, starting in the morning around 9:00 a.m. and lasting till probably mid-afternoon. We are planning to have a **live flyer** day, probably associated with a Club Trial, followed by a picnic and then a short business meeting. 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. We are currently thinking that this event will be free for club members — **no entry fees for members** — but for non-members we will charge the normal entry fees for the club trial & possible extra for the ducks.

Since we haven't been having live flyers at our tests lately at Brian's place (it's a no-live-ammunition zone because of kids, horses and cattle), this will give us all a chance to brush up on our live-flyer skills.

More details in the August and September newsletter — but mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



## Training Corner

# Field Dog Training Tips For Hot Weather

*The information below is edited and summarized from a 2016 Gun Dog article by James Spencer.*

With the arrival of warm weather, gun dog owners must be particularly mindful of the stress that training in warm weather places on a dog. Overheating during warm weather training sessions can lead to death if you're not mindful of the signs to look for that your dog is beginning to suffer from heat exhaustion. Here are some training tips to keep your dog from falling victim to overheating.

Dogs begin to suffer the effects of heat when the temperature reaches 70 degrees, and they suffer from it far more than humans do. For one thing, dogs work way harder during training than the handler does, and for another, when carrying a bird, the dog cannot pant, which is how they cool down. In heavy cover the heat is even more intense.

- ◆ **Keep Travel Kennel Well Ventilated.** When traveling to and from the training grounds in warm weather, you should keep your dog in a well-ventilated crate in a well-ventilated place in your vehicle, preferably with drinking water available for him. You shouldn't put more than one dog in a crate. Ideally, you should travel only in the early morning and late evening. Include a frozen milk jug full of water in the dog's crate – he will lick them and rub against them. In really hot conditions, you can rig up a fan to blow across the milk jugs to the dog and that will help keep them cool.
- ◆ **While on the training grounds but not running your dog,** you should keep him staked out in a shady area with drinking water available. When he's staked out and you are helping someone else run his dog, you should check on your dog frequently.
- ◆ **Hit the Bottle Often.** Before running your dog, you should wet down his head and chest. You should always carry a squirt bottle full of water so you can give him occasional drinks while he's running.
- ◆ **Check Your Birds.** During warm weather, check the dead birds you use and re-use in training. They can deteriorate rapidly. Birds too far gone can lead to training problems. Some dogs blink them; others chew them. You're out there to solve problems, not to create them. Have your bird throwers carefully check every bird before throwing it, and store them in the freezer every night.
- ◆ **Avoid Heavy Cover Workouts.** To prevent overheating in warm weather, avoid training areas with heavy cover, and include water work in your training sessions. In land tests, you should set things up so the dog has to run or swim through a stream or pond on his way to the marks and blinds. Don't run your dog very long. Watch him closely for signs of tiring. Try to pick him up just before he starts to tire. For that, you have to know your dog and know his condition level.
- ◆ **Don't Do Long Marks.** When it's warm, don't set up long marks and blinds. Run a lot of singles off multiple set-ups. If a dog has a long hunt on a mark, stop working him immediately. Don't let him continue and risk becoming overheated. It just isn't worth it. It's better to stop, cool him down, and then get him back out later.
- ◆ **Train Early Or Late.** During warm weather, train early in the morning and in the evenings. If that isn't possible, try to teach just one task per day. Bear in mind, in warm weather, scenting conditions are usually rather poor. Wind and humidity help, but finding birds on hot, dry, windless days can be impossible, so don't expect too much of your dog.
- ◆ **Watch for These Trouble Signs.** The early signs of overheating are heavy panting, followed by wobbling around. If left untreated, the dog will collapse and then soon die. Thus, when you see the early signs in your dog, you should realize that the situation is very serious and you must take

immediate action.

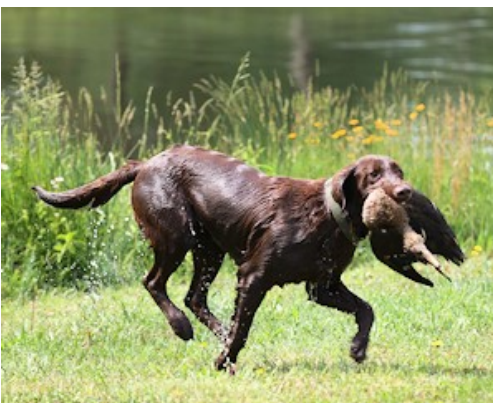
- ◆ **Cool them Down Quick.** If your dog starts panting noticeably, you should get him to lie down in a shady area right away, give him water to drink, and apply cool water to areas where blood flows heavily, like the insides of the legs and around the ears. Rubbing a little isopropyl alcohol in his ears may also help cool your dog down. If possible, get him into cool water, such as a pond or stock tank, immediately. One good shady spot is the front seat of your vehicle, with the air conditioning running full blast, blowing cool air on him. Don't put him in a crate until he has stopped panting. If your dog is in the later stages of overheating, you must get him to a veterinarian as quickly as possible.

As a final thought, if the weather's too warm for you, it's way too warm for your dog, so don't take any chances on harming him. He loves to run and hunt, and he depends on you to keep him from overheating. It's also your responsibility to keep him in proper condition for the work you expect of him. As a final thought, realize that, in summer, you have to work around the weather. Sometimes it will be too hot and still to accomplish anything in the field. In such a case, stay at home and do yard-training or "hold" and "give" work on the bench. Do something that won't take more out of your dog than your training lesson will put into him.

## Member News and Brags

Look who got married! Lois Luthenauer and Bob Houston tied the knot on June 16, 2023. The venue was the lovely open-air pavilion at the Retriever Retreat.

Best Wishes to both of you for many happy years together and lots of dogs!



One of the guests —



## Youth Program



The Luthenauer Young Handler program was established as a memorial to ETRC member Kevin Luthenauer. The program is supported by generous contributions from family and friends to encourage youth participation in retriever sports. Kids who are interested in applying are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at [http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub\\_youth\\_program.htm](http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm).

There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees and any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation awards for everyone in the program.

## ETRC Membership Information

Membership in ETRC is a bargain! The cost is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Both new member and renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just cut and paste the link, print it off, and send it along with your check to:

***Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.***

Membership includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make friends with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year ongoing in 2023 with 6 AKC hunt tests, club trials, seminars, training days, and more.

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

## Newsletter 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, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs 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: When I first took over the newsletter, I just continued on with the volume # from the last issue, then upped it by one every year. But, it makes no sense, and doesn't reflect how many years of newsletters we have anyway. So beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XXIII (for 2023).