

**Minutes for Banquet, Election and Meeting, Saturday, February 21, 2026
Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville, TN**

Present from the Board: J. Michael Evans, Mike Smith, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Kyle Griffin, Nate Lamping

Absent, excused: Luke McCoy, work assignment, Alan Bruhin, conflicting MN Board meeting; Miehele Fletcher, agility judging assignment; Jeff Rader, unspecified.

Absent, Unexcused: Bob Smith

Members Present: Dianne & Randy Clark; Ronnie & Paige Cowan; Tracey Griffin; Bob Houston; Dick Lamping; Brody Lamping; Lois Luthenauer; Brent & Macy Naveiro, Zack & Tyra Pry; Donna Smith; Ryan Smith; Lisa Styles; Peter & Mara Torok; Josh & Macy Wilcox.

Guests Present: Dr. Andrew Lewin DVM (Speaker); Olivia Guthrie (Lisa Styles' guest).

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 16 memberships were represented, and the current FY2025 membership stands at 67 (20% would be 14). Therefore, a quorum was present. Total number present was 27; an additional 6 people had signed up but did not come after all.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Andrew Lewin, BVM&S DACVO, Veterinary Ophthalmologist, Vision Vets for Pets, Common Eye Diseases in Dogs.

Dr. Lewin was introduced by President J. Michael Evans. Dr. Lewin hails from the UK, namely the Scottish Borders. Dr. Lewin graduated from Edinburgh veterinary college in 2010. Following a period in small animal general practice, he completed a residency in veterinary ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison then later joined the faculty at Louisiana State University and the University of Tennessee. Over his veterinary career, Dr. Lewin has run eye clinics for pets, taught veterinary students, interns and residents, volunteered for national veterinary ophthalmology organizations, established an eye research laboratory and authored numerous scientific and clinical articles on various topics in ophthalmology. He has presented the results of his award-winning research at major national scientific conferences and also presents at continuing education events for veterinary professionals. Dr. Lewin is passionate about helping animals in need and has volunteered his services to shelter organizations for many years.

Dr. Lewin is an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease in animals and has a special interest in eye surgery and corneal diseases. He lives locally in Knoxville with his wife, who is also a veterinarian.

Dr. Lewin gave a very interesting presentation, with slides showing various eye conditions. A rundown of his presentation with slides will be included in either the March or the April Newsletter as space permits.

Officer's Reports

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

J. Michael Evans welcomed everyone, and then gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year – which included 3 club trials (the fall one with a picnic lunch), and 6 hunt tests including 4 single flight Master Only tests, a Double Junior / Senior test, and a Fall test that included Master and double JH / SH tests. It was a very busy year beginning in early March and ending in early November.

Michael mentioned that our upcoming year was going to be a bit lighter, but will still include a spring and a fall test with one flight Master and double Junior / Double Senior tests, and 2 other Midweek Master-only tests. We will also hold 2 club trials and a Basic Judging Seminar in July. We need people to help Marshal, set up, tear down, repair equipment, wrangle ducks, prepare lunches, and all the other things that go into putting on a hunt test, especially for the spring and fall tests which are usually quite large and need lots of workers. He also reminded people that any club member who puts in at least 8 hours or more helping at the hunt tests during a year is entitled to one free entry to a test later on during that year.

Michael called out several people and groups for special thanks:

- o Ken Campbell & Brian Caldwell for letting us use their properties repeated times during the season for hunt tests and club trials. Ken Campbell mentioned to J. Michael that both he and his farm manager Brandon Kamp have noticed that after our club holds a weekend test, we leave the place clean as a pin, which is much appreciated.
- o Cory and Elena Smith, for storing our club trailers and for taking care of leftover ducks in the ETRC duck pen on their property; and
- o Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 7, 2026. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and were published in the February newsletter. They will go up on the website during the next month. Lois moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Jim and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence:

- a. Notice from AKC that our annual report is due following conclusion of this meeting, identifying our new officers and board members.
- b. Recent renewal of our Club General Liability insurance policy. Price went up by \$210.35 to \$1110.35 this year.
- c. The Annual report for the State of Tennessee is due soon, and tax information is due to our tax accountant. Now that we are bringing in more than \$50,000 a year in gross income, we can no longer use the simple 'postcard' return that we have been able to use in the past.

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 Edwards 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 – even important personal news like a new baby or a new spouse – please let us know and we'd be happy to share the news.

Membership: Our current membership is 67 people. Reminder that membership ends at the end of the banquet, and membership dues for 2026 are now due. Those of you who joined after November or have already sent in your 2026 memberships, you are fully covered already for the 2026 fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/20/26 was \$37,980.16, which is \$4755.47 less than we had at the same time last year (\$42,735.63). We made less money on our Hunt Tests this year due to increased expenses and fewer entries, but also spent less on new equipment. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year, from the 1/1/25 to the end of the year, and a second one from 1/1/26 to the present. \$4,533.57 of this amount is earmarked for the Youth Fund.

Upcoming expenses are for the banquet (which will be around \$3,000 including awards and food), around \$1000 for ribbons that need to be ordered very soon, and around \$500 for our website annual fees. This will leave us with approximately \$33,000 going into the spring season. We are financially in excellent shape but do need to keep an eye on expenses more this year and may need to reconsider some discretionary expenses if entries continue to be down.

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher is unavailable tonight; keep an eye on the newsletter for any AKC changes.

Old Business

1. **Election of New members:** J. Michael Evans. We have 8 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval.
 - a. Gay & Bob Coffin, Signal Mountain, TN. Retired couple with Flatcoats. Sponsors Bob Smith & Jim Pearce.
 - b. Scott Corum, Georgetown, TN, Engineer who has a black lab. Bob Smith and J. Michael Evans were sponsors.
 - c. Colton & Tiffany Cross, Cleveland, TN. He works for the gas company, have a 2 year old Black Lab. Mike Smith and Bob Smith are sponsors.
 - d. Steve & Robin Cumbie, Powell, TN. He's a swimming pool builder. They have a young Golden puppy. Jim Pearce & Karen Edwards were sponsors.
 - e. Samuel & Alexandra Hartsell, Knoxville, TN. They work in the finance industry and have a young yellow English lab. Brent Naveiro and Alan Bruhin were sponsors.
 - f. Kenny McCormick, Cleveland, TN, Ocoee Steel manager. Has a black lab Master Hunter. J. Michael Evans and Alan Bruhin were sponsors.
 - g. Nicole Pizzo, "Nikki", Ceres, VA. She works with Mike and Lisa Vencille, and has a yellow and a black lab. Michele Fletcher and Mike Smith were sponsors.
 - h. Bobby & Judy Stogner, Knoxville, banker. Has a black lab puppy. Sponsors are Alan Bruhin & Nate Lamping.

Jim moved that we accept all these people into full membership in ETRC. Lois seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. **Awards Presentations.** J. Michael Evans mentioned that awards for titles are down this year. Some of this is because we had fewer dogs competing at the lower levels, and at the higher levels that were untitled, but apparently some members did not pay attention to our awards program and did not notify us of their dogs receiving titles. He urged everyone to please notify us whenever your dog titles, and pay attention to the three calls for awards that are included in the December and January newsletters and followed up with special all-hands emails calling for awards. He then announced the following awards for 2025:

Junior Hunter: Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- Cowan's Cask Strength Whiskey JH, owned and handled by Ronnie Cowan

Senior Hunter: 7 member-owned dogs earned Senior Hunter titles this past year. Congratulations and a title plaque were presented to:

- JJ's Troublesome Lady Spitfire SH (Lady), a Labrador owned and handled by Robert White;
- Dicks High Flying Laser Teal SH (Teal), a Labrador owned and handled by Dick Lamping;
- Fern Hill I Mint To Do That SH (Mint), a Golden Retriever bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce, and handled by both Jim and Jody Ware;
- Gus the Ol' Goose Getter SH (Gus), a Labrador owned, trained and handled by Brent Naveiro;
- Calamity Jane's Special Brew SH MX MXB MXJ MJB MFB T2B (Chai), a Golden Retriever bred, owned, trained and handled by Michele Fletcher;
- Thistle Rock's Amber Waves SH (Amber), a Golden Retriever owned, trained and handled by Michele Fletcher; and
- HR Waylon's Harley Under the Shade SH (Waylon), owned, trained and handled by Zach Pry.

Master Hunter: No dogs earned their Master Hunter titles this year, or at least none that we heard about.

Amateur Field Trial Champion: None this year

Field Trial Champion: None this year

QA2: (Qualified All-Age at field trials two times): None this year

Qualifying at the Master Amateur: June 22, 2025 - Sunday, June 29, 2025, Waterville, Maine: Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to:

- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH MAH, "Cin", with owner/breeder/handler Alan Bruhin. Cin is also now in the MA Hall of Fame.
- Rattling Ridges Willin @ RanMar MH MNH4 MAH, "Alice" with owner/handler Randy Clark. She is now in the Master Amateur Hall of Fame.
- RanMar's North Bound Train MH MAR, "Tripp", who is Alice's daughter, with owner Dianne Clark handling.
- Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH "Miss Ivy", with owner/handler J. Michael Evans.

Qualifying at the Master National, October 30 – November 9, 2025. Bastrop/Lee County, Texas. Only three of the following people requested their picture plaques, but we wanted to mention the other members who qualified even without a plaque. Congratulations to:

- Troublesome Fowl Addiction MH, owned by John Broucek & Jeff Coffey, and handled by Jody Ware;
- Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH25 MAH, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin. She is also now in the Master Amateur Hall of Fame!
- Tennessee Gentleman Jack MH, bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin.
- Moon Over the Coosawattee MH, owned by Andy and Pam Buck and handled by Jody Ware;

- L7TroublesomeWhatAboutBob MH, owned by Bob Smith and handled by Brian Caldwell;
- Southern Comfort's Run Your Tail Off MH, owned and handled by Melissa Dobson;
- Southern Comfort's Crack Shot MH, owned and handled by Melissa Dobson;
- Pro members Jody and Brian also passed with another non-member client dog each, and pro member Melissa passed with 4 other client dogs.

Congrats also to people who qualified to attend, and either did not attend or did not make it through all series. Qualifying for these events takes 4 (Amateur) or 6 (Open) MH passes during the year and is quite an achievement in itself. Congratulations!

Qualifying to go to the Master Amateur:

- Tennessee Gentleman Jack, owner/handler Alan Bruhin.

Qualifying to go to the Master National:

- Ranmars North Bound Train MH, MAR, owned by Dianne Clark
- Rattlin Ridges Willin' O Ranmar MH MNH MAH, owned by Randy Clark.
- Dennis Wilcox qualified with 4 dogs, Chosen Spots Black Ice Warning MH; Chosen Spots Irish Nobleman MH, Chosen Spots Splash of Tequila MH, and Rsr's Leader Of The Pack MH.
- Coosawatte Backwater Drake MH, owned by Andy Buck
- Crosspoint's Blindside Blitz MH, owned by Rhey & Noah Houston
- Troublesome Lucky On Heads MH, owned by Jeff Coffey
- Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH "Miss Ivy", owned by J. Michael Evans. Michael was a judge at this year's Master National so could not compete.

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year, 2025: None awarded this year; no one submitted their puppy for this achievement.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of year, 2025: For the fifth year in a row, this award went to the elegant and incomparable Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball, a Black Lab bred, owned, and handled by Alan Bruhin.

Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award, 2025: This is the third year for this award, which was established to recognize a member-owned dog who has achieved over its lifetime notable achievements in the retriever field and/or other competitive fields, in the breeding shed, etc. The award this year goes 1posthumously to Norwood's Ocoee JJ MH MNH8, a yellow male Labrador Retriever owned and trained by also-deceased long time ETRC member Fay Council Norwood. During his 13 years, he hunted and hunt tested all over the Eastern half of the country with Fay, and JJ was only the second dog to achieve 8 Master National passes. He is in the Master National Hall of Fame for this accomplishment. Although largely deaf in his later years, he competed successfully at the Master level until a few months before his death.

AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award for 2025: The award this year goes to Bob Smith, who not only trains with Brian Caldwell and competes with his dog L7TroublesomeWhatAboutBob, but also breeds fine Labrador Retrievers and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

ETRC Member of the Year, 2025: Brent Naveiro won the prize for 2025. He helped at every test and worked long and hard. We appreciate you, Brent!

Congratulations to all; earning a title is a mark of achievement, training, involvement, expense and good breeding; and qualifying for and competing at the National Events in our sports is a year-long commitment involving significant time and expense. We are proud of you all!

2. ***Election of Officers/Board.*** The slate of officers/board members and other positions from the nominating committee is presented for approval. There were no additional nominations from the membership during the December time period allotted in the Bylaws, and nominations are now closed.

The proposed slate is as follows:

1. President: Alan Bruhin
2. Vice President: Brent Naveiro
3. Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
4. Board Member Feb 2026- Feb 2029: Jim Pearce
5. Board Member Feb 2026- Feb 2029: Lois Luthenauer
6. Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
7. AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher
8. Past President: J. Michael Evans (non-elective)
9. Chief Marshall for 2025 tests: Donna Smith (non-elective)

Remaining on the board: Kyle Griffin & Bob Smith (through Feb 2027). Luke McCoy & Nate Lamping (through Feb 2028).

Thanks so much to Jeff Rader and Mike Smith, whose terms are expiring, for your service and expertise these past years.

J. Michael called for a motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot. This motion was made by Dick Lamping, seconded by Dianne Clark, and passed unanimously.

J. Michael then called for a voice vote to approve the slate of officers and board members. The motion was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Karen Edwards, and passed unanimously. So the slate of officers and board members for 2026 is approved.

3. ***Statement by Incoming President:*** In the absence of the newly-elected President, Alan Bruhin, who is having way too much fun in Texas at a hastily-called Master National Board Meeting where he is not only on the board but was called to make an important presentation, J. Michael Evans continued on with the meeting. Karen Edwards came up to the podium and presented J. Michael with an honorarium from the Board on Alan's behalf. This is to thank him for spending so much time and energy in the last two years as our President, and consisted of a gift card to Bass Pro. Michael thanked everyone for the privilege of having worked for the club and stated his continuing commitment to helping the club for the foreseeable future.
4. ***Other Activities:*** If you have any suggestions for other activities you would like to see, please let us know. Contact any of the board members or officers and make suggestions for any areas where the club can better meet your retriever needs.
5. ***Member Incentives:*** Being in ETRC has more perks than a free meal in February and title awards for your dogs. For members who have been members for at least a year, and who are running bitches - we will refund your entry fees for any test of ours that you enter, and

your bitch goes into season and can't compete, without a vet certificate. If you work at one or more hunt tests or club trials, you will be entitled at the end of the season to a refund of your entry to one hunt test that you participated in.

6. **Door Prizes:** J. Michael asked Mike Smith to help with drawing numbers for the various door prizes which were laid out on a table at the back. Prizes included two free entries to ETRC hunt tests, worth up to \$110 each; 2 free tee shirts of your selection to be picked up at one of our events (worth up to \$25 each), a half-zip fleece with the ETRC logo embroidered on it (a \$35 value), several ETRC and other retriever related hats worth up to \$25, and a variety of other retriever-related swag.

Any other new business?

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Edwards
ETRC Secretary/Treasurer

Changes:

1. Lois Luthenauer: changed title from Agenda to Minutes; added back omitted new member first name; fixed typo (used # instead of \$) 2/23/26
2. Alan Bruhin, 2/23/26: Cin is also now a member of the Master Amateur Hall of Fame, MAH.
3. Michele Fletcher, 2/23/26: misspelling of name in the paragraph about member of the year.
4. J. Michael Evans, 2/23/26: added call name for Michele's Amber; corrected to show that Miss Ivy is not in the Master Amateur HOF yet; and changed the title award from AKC Sportsman to AKC Sportsmanship Award.

Approvals:

1. Nate Lamping 2/23/26
2. Lois Luthenauer 2/23/26
3. Alan Bruhin, 2/23/26
4. Michele Fletcher, 2/23/26
5. J. Michael Evans, 2/23/26
6. Kyle Griffin, 2/23/26
7. Brent Naveiro, 2/23/26
8. Karen Edwards, 2/23/26
9. Jim Pearce, 2/23/26