



2020 Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's EVENTS!

1. Sunday, February 9, 2020: Directed training session, focusing on transition work. Sherie Catledge will conduct. 12:00 CENTRAL– 4 p.m. Retriever Retreat, 3058 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN. Weather dependent. RSVP please; see article on page 3.
2. Saturday, February 22, 2020— (tentative) Annual Awards Banquet & election, 6:00 p.m., Calhoun's Bearden Hill, Knoxville — more details on p.3
3. March TBD — Directed Training, details next month
4. April (TBD) — club trial
5. May 23-24, 2020: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee. 2 flights Master (132), double Junior & Senior.

Photo of the Month



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Awards Banquet 2/22/2020; Dinner is on us! RSVP please.

The annual Awards Banquet is Saturday, February 22, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at Calhoun's on the Bearden Hill, 6515 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. This is the same location where we have been for several years. This year, **DINNER IS ON US!**

New members are particularly urged to come - don't be shy, come and meet folks! This is also our election meeting and general membership meeting, and a close-out of fiscal 2019 for the club. Come celebrate a successful year... and help us look ahead to our many activities for 2020.

ETRC will pay for your meal — a delicious buffet featuring Calhoun's award-winning barbecued ribs, smoked brisket, or lemon chicken over rice, with a bread basket of rolls, corn muffins and biscuits; Smokey Mt. Baked Beans, spinach Maria, cinnamon apples, fresh baked chocolate chip cookies, and coffee, tea or water. If you want any alcoholic beverages, you will need to pay for your own drinks. The servers in the room will be glad to fill your orders and run an individual tab for you.

Please RSVP by SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (edwardskc@gmail.com), to make sure we have enough food for everyone. We can handle a few last minute attendees, but please let us know if you are coming as soon as possible and hopefully before the RSVP date.



Final Slate for Election of Officers and Board Members

The nominating committee has recommended the following slate for ETRC officer and director positions for fiscal year 2020, beginning at the end of the banquet in February:

- ◆ President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Secretary: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Treasurer: Lois Luthenauer
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2020 - Feb 2023): Jim Pearce, Peter Torok
- ◆ AKC Delegate: Michelle Fletcher

Remaining on the board are: Tom Gibson & Cory Smith (through Feb 2021), and Mike Smith and Jeff McNutt (through Feb 2022). Luke McCoy will serve as Past President through 2020 and Lois Luthenauer has again agreed to serve as Chief Marshal for the spring and fall AKC hunt tests. These last two positions are not on the ballot but are important to the workings of the club! Going off the board and into new positions are J. Michael Evans and Jim Pearce.

In accordance with the Bylaws, and as announced in December's newsletter, additional nominations could have been made by any member prior to December 31, 2019, in writing to the Secretary, using the process outlined in the newsletter. No one has made any additional nominations, so the nominations are now closed.

Voting for officers/directors and the AKC Delegate will be done at the annual Awards Banquet and general membership meeting (see above).

Training Day: Transitions 02/9/2020

Come join us on a Sunday afternoon (1:00 –4:00) for a directed training session, focusing on transition work. Pro trainer Sherie Catledge, who focuses on training amateurs to train their own dogs, will conduct. 12:00 CENTRAL– 4 p.m. Retriever Retreat, 3058 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN. Weather dependent. This is a make-up session from the one originally scheduled for January 19, which was canceled because of iced-over puddles in the fields.

Bring your dog, a chair, appropriate clothing for the weather, water for your dog, your personal training equipment for your dog, and a few bumpers marked with your name.

RSVP please to Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) or Lois Luthenauer (info@TheRetrieverRetreat.net) with info about your dog's training level so we can have some activities that will be useful at every level represented.

We are hoping to offer another of these directed training days during early March.

If the weather doesn't cooperate (rain, snow, or temperatures that are truly dreadful), we will cancel. If the forecast is iffy, I will send out an email on Saturday night with a go/no go decision.

The first two of these sessions this fall/winter season have been extremely useful — come take advantage of some of our members' expertise that they are kindly willing to share with us!

Hope to see you there!

Youth Program



The Luthenauer Young Handler program will soon enter its fifth year. 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/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 ETRC Club Trials are free for enrollees.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program. The awards are retroactive to 2016. A young handler's seminar for spring is also in the works, and details will be announced when plans are finalized.

ETRC Board Meeting Monday, 1/8/2020

Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN

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

Absent: Jeff McNutt

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

Minutes: Last meeting was 10/7/19; minutes approved and sent to the club website 10/10/19. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Lois Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: AKC membership paid.

Membership: Membership at the end of the year was 52 as of 12/31/19, including 4 waiting final vote in February and two for first reading. 17 members have not renewed from 2018; EOY 12/31/18 membership was 61. Karen passed out end-of-the-year membership rosters to everyone on the Board.

- ◆ **Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 12/31/19 was \$20,355.37 and as of today is \$20,443.43. Upcoming expenses: Have one check that aged out – a scratch from the spring HT. No other expenses in hand. Even after buying the new trailer, we have only \$4,138.68 less in the bank than we had 12/31/18. Karen passed around a detailed report of 2019 income and outgo.
- ◆ **AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher: There is a new AKC rule coming into effect on March 1 that will no longer require hunt test secretary and event chairman's addresses to be included in the premium list – only the city and state where they live. Despite the fact that addresses are easily available on the internet, somehow they figure this will improve people's security and privacy.

Old Business

1. **Fall club trial:** At the October meeting, we had decided to have a November 16 event at the Retriever Retreat with Sherie Catledge coaching, and try to work out something that will suit for everyone, that combined parts of a club trial with a training session, and open it up to non-members. We did have the event with good participation – about 16 or more people came. We had puppies and beginners in the morning, then ran the puppy stake, then ran the Singles Classic, then moved on to transition and advanced level dogs in a training format. Good session. Thanks to Lois and Sherie for the use of the facilities, for lunch, and for the coaching.
2. **Equipment:**
 - Upgraded big trailer: finished, it's wonderful, it's now being stored at Cory Smith's place in West Knoxville.
 - Equipment sales: advertised duck dryer and shotguns/stands in the Oct newsletter. Mike Smith was supposed to take a shotgun stand home for Donna; no other interest or response. Need to decide what to do with the guns if we couldn't find buyers, but reached no conclusion. Alan commented that there have been problems with several of the shotgun simulators running on MAP gas blowing up and causing injuries, and there is some discussion of whether their use should be banned. He does not know whether these were the actual Thunder simulators like we have, or one of the cheaper knock-offs. In light of this, he suggested that we just sit tight on disposing of any of the shotguns. There is plenty of room in the trailer. Cory will take a look to see how many we still have; we have to have at least 5 for handlers' guns.
 - New equipment: We have authorized purchase of two more big pop-ups (Lois) and 4 more of the large duck driers and some winger parts (Karen). We decided to do this after the first of the year. Are we ready to pull the trigger on these now? Mike Smith moved that we go ahead with the purchases in time for the spring test; Lois seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. Awards Banquet

- Awards nominations: Deadline to have info to J. Michael is 1/14/20. Will send out a final reminder email next week. Title awards, MN and MA awards, member awards. So far, Michael has NO member awards.
- Format, location and place: reserved Calhoun's Bearden Hill 2/22/20 (Saturday night), at 6:00 (earlier time – previously 6:30 -- moved by Jim, seconded by Tom, and passed without verbal dissent). New format – we must have a buffet and will not be allowed to order off the menu. J. Michael reported on his discussions with Calhoun's management, and brought along a variety of menu options and costs. This will make it easier for restaurant staff and management, but significantly less convenient for us. The various options were buffets for \$20/person, \$26, \$29, \$30, and \$32. The information sheets were not at all clear about some of the various options, and the woman J. Michael talked with was telling him something a bit different than what the papers seemed to show.
- After lengthy discussion, and a motion that was made by Tom and seconded by Alan and passed, we decided to go with the \$26 option which was the 'country hoedown' version. The menu will feature ribs, chicken and rice, fried fish, baked beans, slaw, spinach maria, breads, and chocolate cake. We can make a few minor menu adjustments which J. Michael will explore.
- This is a rather steep price, about twice what the same items are if ordered off the menu, and we will have to decide for next year if we want to explore other options for the banquet. The minimum cost will be \$1009, including \$800 minimum for food, tax, and 20% gratuity. At \$26 a person, this will cover 30 people which is around the number we have been having in attendance; the buffet will handle a few extra people at no additional cost. The Club will pay the full bill for the banquet this year. However, we also decided that people will be responsible for going to the bar in the main part of the restaurant to get their own alcoholic beverages should they want any, and the club will not pay for that.
- Elections: no nominations received from the membership so the slate will be as presented from the nominating committee.
- Anything else about the banquet? No other items were brought up.

2. Spring 2020 Hunt Test(s) –

- Dates: May 23-24, 2020, on our normal Memorial Day weekend. Alan has started working on judges – he has 6 pinned down and is waiting for a couple from Texas (one Master judge, one Junior/Senior judge) to get back to him with a commitment. Judges will be: Master: Dave Christianson, Link Huffman, Mary Williamson, Matt Griffiths. Jr/Sr: Mary Gregg, Hilda wood; Terrie Leafstedt and Vicki Christianson. The Christiansons are the couple still not committed. J. Michael will submit the judges panel to AKC when ready; Alan will give Karen the names and emails for judges' letters.
- Basic information needs to be entered into the AKC website very soon (Karen).
- Alan will be the Hunt Test Chairman this year for both tests.
- At the last meeting, we decided to raise our entry fees for Master competitors, so the fees will be \$70/\$80/\$100. We decided not to revisit this decision.
- New birdkids will be needed. J. Michael will contact his old high school in Cleveland to see if they might be interested, and others are going to think about possibilities. If anyone wants a copy of the contract we have been using, to discuss with the possible schools, Karen can provide it via email.
- Michele has contacted TWRA and has gotten the paperwork done for using Hiwassee this spring.
- There was some discussion about not having good water for the second Master flight at Hiwassee. The best solution for smooth running of the test would be to set up four sites and have a round robin for land/water/land-water. Judges are often unwilling to do this, but Alan will make the attempt to get this going especially since we will be having even more dogs in Master this year (66 per flight instead of 60) and this would definitely improve time management in terms of setups, gunners, etc.

3. Fall 2020 Hunt Test

- Dates: September 26-27, 2020 are our AKC-authorized standard dates. However, once again this will conflict with the Master National which is running from September 20-27 this year. We decided to try for dates in October. Michele, our hunt test secretary, has judging commitments on October 24-25 and the Halloween weekend, but would be available on any of the first three weekends. Based on last year's schedule, Chattanooga will have their test on October 10 weekend, so we will aim for October 17. J. Michael will get in touch with Ken Campbell to make sure this date is OK with him and won't conflict with the TVRC's fall field trial, and then will call AKC to see if we can get that date instead.
- Assuming we can find a date that works with both AKC and Ken, we will go with the same format as spring – 2 flights of master, double junior, double senior this year. We can have one Master flight over on Ken's new prop-

erty entirely.

4. **New members:** the following have applied to become members of the ETRC:

- Burton Beakley & Heather Ludwig. Live in Signal Mountain, he is an anesthesiologist. Willing to help with training supplies. Has two yellow labs, one 10, one 5, interested in hunt testing and dog training, is a DU members. Was active in the past and wants to get back into it.
 1. Sponsors: Mike Smith and J. Michael Evans agreed to be sponsors.
 2. Tom moved that we accept him/them into membership, and Alan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. **Any other new business?**

- Lois brought up the issue of tee shirts. We are no longer able to get the nice hot-selling performance camo tee shirts, unless we want to order 144 of the same size. She brought along samples of two other 'camo' style shirts in the same performance fabric. One of them was a digital black and white camo that was absolutely migraine-inspiring (also available in neon green), and a fairly nice dark gray/black camo with dots that we decided is fairly classy looking – i.e., most of us would wear it. It's also available in neon. We authorized Lois to buy a small run of the latter shirt in gray/black to see how it sells this spring. The logo will need to be done in a lighter gray so it shows up.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Alan seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Member News



Fern Hill Sunday at the Zoo SH (Zoey) is proud to announce the birth of 8 puppies on January 28, 2020. There are 6 girls and 2 boys; all are spoken for. Zoey and her mother Fern Hill Pandemonium MH WCX (Panda) get to help pick which of the girls will be staying home with them. Proud father is Bravhart KC Run For The Border *** MH WCX (Jessie) (pictured at right), who has 19 all age points in Open and Amateur and is very close to his AFC title. Zoey plans to finish up her MH title this spring hopefully, after weaning her pups. Two more legs to go! Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce couldn't be happier with how easily the whelping went and what a great first-time mother Zoey is turning out to be.

Training Corner

Recall Collar Conditioning 101

Editor's Note: This is a handout from the Finger Lakes Retriever Club that was prepared by one of their pros. It's a good first step kind of article for people who are collar conditioning for the first time.

Turn the collar on and have both contact points touching your arm. Feel the various levels of stimulation. It is important to know for yourself what each level feels like. Any tool can be abuse. Used correctly, the e-collar is a wonderful and life saving tool!

Let's get started!!

- ◆ Have your dog wear the e-collar for a couple of weeks. Put it on for walks and wear it a little bit around the house. It is not turned on, the dog simply needs to wear it to get used to the feel of it and so they don't think of it as something bad. It goes on for walkies... this is a good thing! It must fit snugly. Two fingers max in the collar, the prongs must have a good contact. It is not to move around as this will cause differing stimulation results and is not fair to the dog. The contact points should stay in one spot so they don't rub back and forth causing an abrasion.
- ◆ Have the dog wearing the collar in the house turned on. Do not have any distractions around and just go about your daily business. Set the control to a starting low level. I usually start at say a 10 with Dogtra or a low/medium 2 with a Tritronics. I use the continuous setting and just do a 1-2 second stimulation. The response you are looking for is "hey, what was that"..... start low and work your way up until you get that response. You DO NOT want any vocalization. You are simply finding out where your dog feels the stimulation. This will be different for every dog. My dogs have all gotten a desired response with a Tri-tronics low 3 – medium 3 (20 on my old Dogtra). I tend not to use a High on my Tritronics collar... I get vocalization on the high so I just use low and medium settings.
- ◆ Now you know what your baseline level is we are ready to get started. Off to a distraction -free area/greenspace/park you go with a long line and cookies! The dog must already know what "come" means. The collar is NOT for teaching the recall it is for reinforcing it.
- ◆ Allow dog to wander and check out the environment as you walk him/her on the long line (not a flexi as you will let the dog drag the long line). You can do a "free" recall (no stimulation) or two with a nice treat for coming to you. The next step as the dog is wandering around is to say "Fido, come" and push the continuous stimulation button at the SAME time. The second the dog turns toward you the stimulation stops. Gently use the long line to make sure they come in to you initially if needed. The dog is learning how to turn the stimulation off. It turns off by coming towards the handler. Treats are given for the recall. The dog should not be vocalizing or be getting upset. Some dogs may pause and wonder what the heck is that.... That is why the long line is on. The dog can never be wrong. Bring it toward you with the long line and then the stimulation stops. Since your dog already knows come this should not be much of a problem.
- ◆ Repeat several times with some "free" ones in between ("Fido, come" without stimulation, give the dog a chance to respond in a speedy fashion). Lots of praise and treats for a job well done.
- ◆ It is not uncommon for the dog to use its brain and want to stay close to you... this is perfectly normal. Something weird happens when I'm a certain distance away from my owner. They will figure it out quickly though. Continue walking around until they start to investigate the environment again.
- ◆ Stay on the long line in a distraction-free environment for 2-3 sessions — "Fido, come" plus stimulation. Stimulation stops when dog turns toward you and comes in. If the dog starts to come toward you (the stim has stopped) and then decides to abort and go sniff grass, repeat "Fido come" with simulation.

- ◆ Next have some distractions present while still on the long line at a reasonable distance - i.e. kids playing / people walking / other dogs at a safe distance on a leash. Do not use the collar on your dog if another dog is approaching or while visiting another dog. Your dog is still in the learning phase and you don't want the dog to associate the stimulation with the approach of another dog, in addition you don't want your dog to run toward you, away from another dog and perhaps bring on an attack.
- ◆ Do 2-3 sessions with distractions
- ◆ If your dog is doing well (which it should be) remove the long line. Go back to a distraction free environment. Again, "Fido come" with stimulation, stimulation stops when dog turns toward you. Mix this up with "free" recalls too.
- ◆ Next, repeat in a distraction area. There should be total understanding at this point.
- ◆ You may find you have to up the intensity of the stimulation if the distraction is quite exciting... ie. Baseball being thrown, squirrel etc. each dog is different and you will have to figure out what level is required. For example I varied between a low 3 and a medium 3 for my training.
- ◆ Use caution while around other dogs. If you are going to call your dog do it at a respectful distance. Do not stimulate your dog while it is saying hello to another dog. Use common sense !

At this point you should have a dog with a 100% reliable recall.... It's a wonderful feeling J

Health Notes

There's an interesting article in January's *Veterinary Medicine News*, reporting a high incidence of Bartonella in dogs with hemangiosarcoma — <https://cvm.ncsu.edu/bartonella-bacteria-found-in-hemangiosarcoma-tumors-from-dogs/> is the article, which provides links to the research paper.

Since this cancer is such a scourge in both Labs and Golden Retrievers, this could be a great discovery. Bartonella is a bacteria that can be transmitted to dogs and humans by ticks, lice, and fleas. It can be fatal without treatment, or can resolve on its own. It also can lie dormant in tissues for many years in what appears to be an otherwise healthy dog.

Dr. Breitschwerdt of North Carolina State University, one of the country's leading experts in Tick borne diseases, reported that he and his team looked at tumor tissue, non-tumor tissue and blood samples from 110 dogs with hemangiosarcoma, from all over the country. They determined that 34% of the tumor tissues, 63% of the non-tumor tissues, but none of the blood samples contained Bartonella DNA. Other pathogens checked for, babesia and mycoplasma, were negative or only in a very small percentage of samples.

It is too early to tell for sure, but this may indicate that infection with Bartonella at sub-clinical levels can predispose towards hemangio. Keep an eye on this one — it could be very important in preventing this horrible disease that kills so many of our retrievers!

Around the Region — Seminars, Tests, & Trials

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Wiregrass RC (132)	2/29/20	Greensboro, AL
N.Alabama RC	2/29/20	Meigs, GA
Jax RCC (MH only)	3/3/20	Sylvania, GA
Palmetto RC	3/7/20	Patrick, SC
Black Warrior RC	3/7/20	Greensboro, AL
Lower Alabama HRC	3/13/20	Lillian & Elberta, AL
Carolinas RA (132)	3/14/20	Cheraw, SC
Mid Atlantic HRC	3/20/20	Emporia, VA
Bootheel RC	3/21/20	Millersville, MO
Fall Line RC	3/21/20	Lincolnton, GA
Tidewater RC	3/28/20	Emporia, VA
Central Kentucky RC	3/28/20	Kevil, KY

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Membership 2020

The membership year runs from March 1—February 28. 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> — click the link, print it off, and send it to Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Cost is \$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! Members joining in November and December are covered for the following year, so start sending in your renewals now!

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, 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).

You may notice we have a new 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 issue, the volume number will be the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XX (for 2020).