



Fall 2016 Upcoming Events

1. **Fall Club Trial**, Saturday, October 1, 2016 (tentatively), Location to be determined.
2. **October 22-23, Fall AKC Hunt Test**, Lucky 7 Farm near Sweetwater. Master (2 flights), single Junior, single Senior. Judges pending; AKC approval of grounds pending.

President's Message

It was great to see so many people at the Annual Membership Meeting and Summer Picnic on August 20! Jody Ware put on a great seminar for the folks who were there with their dogs. This is the second year we have used this format, with the seminar starting early in the morning, before it gets too hot, and then the picnic and membership meeting after the seminar. This gives a lot more time to socialize with everyone, we get to bring our dogs, Jody always shares plenty of helpful tips and tricks for working with the dogs, the food is always great and the Board has a chance to let the members know what we have been doing on behalf of the club since the last membership meeting. And you — the members — have a chance to participate in the decision making processes! All in all, it is a great opportunity to get together and work together in a fun atmosphere. If you missed it this year, be sure to come next year and join in the fun!

We are still working on pulling together a fall hunt test. Our dates are fixed — October 22 and 23, 2016 — and we are now anxiously awaiting AKC approval of our new site for the fall. See the update on page 4 for more details. We will include an update in the October newsletter, and will post updated information on the website as well. Once we get approval (or the drop-dead date for approval, October 6, passes without any word), we will notify all members with an email.

Fall is just around the corner, the hunt test season is underway, and hunting season is not far off. In the meantime, happy training!

Lois Luthenauer
ETRC President



People at the seminar. We put up pop-ups for shade but mostly didn't need them as it stayed cloudy and cool. Left to right: Lois Luthenauer; Rhey, Noah & Jennifer Houston; Mike Evans, Luke McCoy, Kevin Niethammer, Chris & Bob Purcell.

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Training Seminar and Picnic, August 20, 2016

A total of 27 people (including kids and spouses) and 16 dogs participated in the seminar. For the advanced dogs (7 of them), Jody set up a series of three difficult and quite long blinds, with obstacles, slots and some interesting terrain changes. He critiqued each handler and helped identify and recommend solutions for problems encountered in the set-ups. Next, he worked on the concepts of pile work for a group of 5 junior-level dogs who are in the throes of beginning handling. Finally, he finished up with a group of four young / beginner puppies ranging in age from 4 to 10 months, discussing age-appropriate puppy work. Jody was ably assisted by his son Nick, who has been working as Jody's assistant this summer and is turning into a fine handler!

It was great to see three junior handlers out there working their dogs – Taylor and Bailey McCoy with their Golden littermate brothers Sunny and Nugget, and Noah Houston with the Houston's Black Labrador Teddy. Jody has the wonderful talent of 'speaking dog' and can instantly identify issues and offer suggestions to fix them, and although he is quite direct about handler errors, he always manages to get the information across without hurting any feelings. Huge thanks to Jody and Nick for the wonderful morning. Also thanks to the Fletchers and Fyfes for the use of their adjoining farms. Most amazingly, the weather even cooperated – there were a few unexpected sprinkles during the lunch hour but nothing serious, and the temperatures were amazingly cool for a day in August, staying below 80 with shade from the cloud cover for the entire morning. Notes from the seminar are included in this month's "Training Corner" below.

Picnic, 12 – 1 p.m.

The Fyfes/Fletchers large pole barn was perfect for the picnic and meeting. Also thanks to Patti Gibson who coordinated the fantastic feast, and to all the members who brought such great food along as their entry fee to the seminar. Everything was great but the blueberry and peach cobblers in particular were spectacular!). It was nice to have some time to visit, meet new members, and 'talk dogs'.





***Pictures from the
Jody Ware Semi-
nar, August 20,
2016***



***Jody, Mike Evans, Bob Purcell, Taylor and Bey
McCoy, Rich Fyfe.***

Fall Hunt Test Update

ETRC's Fall AKC Hunt Test is scheduled for October 22-23, at a private farm near Sweetwater. As you remember, AKC's way of counting weekends differs from TWRA's method, and this means that periodically our approved dates don't coincide. We were unable to work out a date that was agreeable to both Hiwassee and AKC and so had to look elsewhere.

Michael Evans has taken the lead in getting approval from AKC and TWRA for our use of the new grounds for this fall. Over the summer, he collected all the required information from the farm owner and has gotten it to AKC. Unfortunately, the AKC process takes quite a while for the approval, and it is possible that we will not receive the approval in time for the fall test. Our drop-dead date is October 6; if we have not received approval from AKC by that time, we will have to cancel the test.

TWRA approval seem to be going OK; we will probably have a TWRA representative drop by during the test to make sure we are using proper sized shot and all the ducks are pen-raised (and therefore missing a toe). We will be paying \$1,500 for the use of the property, which is similar to the amount that other clubs pay for the use of private grounds..

The test format will be 2 master flights, a single Junior test on Saturday, and a single Senior test on Sunday. The farm has plenty of water, but unfortunately isn't large enough to have four setups with adequate separation between them. John Broucek has been added to the fall HT committee as the owner's representative.

We are working to locate judges, and have pinned down the Junior/Senior judges and one Master judge so far. Atlanta has canceled their test for this fall because of conflicts with the MN, and we may be able to pick up some of their judges. We have decided to go ahead to get everything lined up including judges, bird boys, marshals, helpers, etc. and not wait for AKC approval. If we aren't approved in time, we will have to cancel and will let people know this is a possibility.

Rhey Houston volunteered to contact one of his local FFA chapters to see if they would be willing to serve as birdkids. He has been provided with the birdkid contract and information he will need to talk with the coordinator.

Lois Luthenauer, who orders the ducks, says it will not be a problem to wait to order ducks until after we receive AKC approval. She usually waits until after the entries close so she can tell the supplier how many we need. There is an issue with that – as of July 1, a new AKC rule requires we have two ducks per entry. If we actually order this many, it will substantially increase our costs and we will likely have a large number of excess ducks. The Board needs to discuss this more and reach some kind of conclusion about what to do. Duck disposal is an issue at the private farm as well. Jody Ware suggested we look into renting a dumpster for the weekend, and Rhey Houston volunteered to call Santek around the Sweetwater area and get us a quote.

We will need to set up early at Lucky 7, or at least on Friday morning. Will need to have lots of signs, road cones etc. for the traffic patterns and it will be very important that we keep the place very nice if we ever want to use it again. If anyone would like to help with set-up, equipment wrangling and marshaling during the test, please contact Jim Pearce, Chief Marshal, at jwp@pegasustech.com.

Nominating Committee for 2017 Formed

Hard to believe, but it's already time to start thinking about our next business meeting in February, which includes the annual election of officers and board members. ETRC's Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4, provide that the board shall select a nominating committee consisting of 3 members and 2 alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Board shall name the chairman. The Committee must hold a meeting on or before November 15th, and not later than NOVEMBER 24 must report the nominations to the Secretary. On or before December 1, the Secretary shall notify the membership in writing of the candidates nominated and additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31. Positions to be filled:

- ◆ 2 board positions ending Feb 2020 (replacing Patti Gibson and Luke McCoy, who is serving on a temporary appointment to a position that expires in 2017);
- ◆ President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, hunt test secretary, Secy and Treasurer are the only officer positions that can be combined, and Past President is a non-elective position.
- ◆ AKC Delegate: can be combined with any other officer or board position, or not;
- ◆ Chief Steward for 2017 events (non-elective, but an important role that is filled in advance).

Remaining on the board: Art Gibson & Richard Fyfe (until Feb 2018); Alan Bruhin & Donna Smith (until Feb 2019). Lois L. would become past president. Current officers: Lois Luthenauer, President; Michele Fletcher, Vice President; Karen Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer; Michael Evans, Past President; Roberta Williams, Hunt Test Secretary. AKC Delegate: Michele Fyfe. Chief Marshal 2016: Jim Pearce.

At the picnic meeting, Michele Fletcher was appointed as the Board representative and Nominating Committee Chairman. Kevin Niethammer agreed to serve on the committee as well. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GREATER PARTICIPATION IN ETRC, please contact Michele (michelemfletcher@yahoo.com) and volunteer to get involved. It's a lot of fun!

The 2016 Luthenauer Young Handler's Program

In order for Junior Handler points to count towards AKC's program, the Junior Handler and his family must obtain a "JUNIOR HANDLER NUMBER" from the AKC Performance Events Department. At the end of each test, one event judge and the Hunt Test Secretary must sign a Junior Handler certificate, and the control number identifying the Junior Handler must be submitted with the Hunt Test Secretary's official catalog at the end of the event.

A few AKC Junior Handler Certificates are included in the AKC Hunt Test packet sent to the Hunt Test secretary. This packet is mailed to the club when final approval is given for the event. Additional copies may be obtained by calling AKC (919) 233-9767 or email juniors@akc.org. Also, copies can be printed off the AKC website under "Downloadable Forms" — www.akc.org/downloadable-forms/ If you are a Junior Handler, it might be a good idea to print off a copy or two when you go to a test to make sure one is available.



The Luthenauer Young Handler's program is designed to encourage young ETRC members to become more active in the sport. Named in honor of long-time club member, past president, and enthusiastic sportsman Kevin Luthenauer, and funded largely via donations from his family and friends, this program will support kids up to college graduation who want to participate in retriever sports. **For full information on this program please visit our website at http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm** our website at <http://www.etrclub.org/>at [http://](http://www.etrclub.org/)

Minutes Summary, August 20, 2016

Editor's Note: *complete minutes are available on the website from the link on the home page. Some of the more interesting information on the Fall Test update and the Nominating Committee have been extracted into separate articles in this Newsletter and are not included in the summary below.*

General Meeting: 12:55 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

A quorum (20% of the membership) was present for the meeting, which was called to order at 12:55 p.m.

Officer's Reports

President's Report: Lois Luthenauer thanked the Wares, Fletchers, Fyfes, Patti Gibson and others who helped set up and run the day's events. Lois then introduced Luke McCoy as a new board member until February 2017, replacing Ron Burger's unexpired term (replacing David Knott's unexpired term).

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards reported that the last Board meeting was June 8, 2016. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since June 12, 2016. Jim Pearce moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. Michael Evans seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards reported that our current balance in ORNL FCU as of 8/20/16 is \$19,752.10 with no bills outstanding other than picnic expenses from today.

Election of New members:

Gary & Tammy Neil: sponsors Rhey Houston, Luke McCoy
Bob & Chris Purcell: sponsors Michael Evans and Karen Edwards
Bob & Margaret Smith: sponsors J. Michael Evans and Karen Edwards
Erik & Lisa Zucky: sponsors John Guinn and Lois Luthenauer
Andrew Sellin: sponsors Jim Pearce and Tom Gibson
Tracy & Daniel Heard: sponsors Patti Gibson and Donna Smith
Ben and Mandy Dorton: sponsors Michael Evans and Alan Bruhin
Haley & Ben O'Neal: sponsors Michael Evans and Alan Bruhin

All sponsors have recommended that these people be accepted into final membership. The Purcells and Andrew Sellin were there and were introduced in person. Michael Evans moved that these new members be accepted. Patti Gibson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Welcome everyone!

Old Business

Fall Hunt Test: See article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Kevin's Youth Fund: Lois Luthenauer: Lois mentioned that we have two participants (Taylor and Bailey McCoy), and invited Noah Houston who was out there today in the seminar handling one of the Houstons' labs, to join as well. We have an application from Brian Caldwell's young assistant that still needs to be addressed; Lois is trying to contact Brian Caldwell to discuss. Lois is hoping to set up a handling seminar for kids only this fall.

Minutes Summary, Continued

Dokkens: Michael Evans. 30 purchased last spring and worked well at the second club trial (and today at the seminar). The Board has decided to purchase 30 more as of June 8 meeting; Michael will get these on order soon.

Club Newsletter: Karen Edwards reported that Roberta Williams and she are trying to get an issue out around the first of every month. Karen requested more submissions from members, including suggestions for new articles such as bio sketches of new members, old members, club pros; information about litters, new dogs, dog-related businesses members are involved in; brags, pictures, etc. Deadline for each month is the 25th of the previous month (August 25 for the September newsletter). Feedback was generally positive, with most present saying they do read the newsletters. No one seemed to have computer issues with the size, or with the idea that most communication from the club will come this way with many fewer emails during the month.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: See separate article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Graphics for the new trailer: Do we want to get a logo put on both sides of the trailer? Wrap it in camo? Or just leave it plain? The consensus seemed to be that leaving it plain was a good idea, but that we should have some way of identifying it if it is stolen. As it is, we would not be able to recognize if it's ours or not. Tom volunteered to bring over his welder and put some kind of permanent identification in a hidden spot, and we would then take a picture of it to keep on file. Michele moved that Tom be authorized to do this; Jim Pearce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Better equipment box for each stake site: Chief Marshal Jim Pearce suggests the club purchase some more items that would go to each test site, including several brush cutters, and a few tools and parts to be able to fix wingers with (wrenches, screwdrivers, nuts/bolts as needed for wingers, cotter pins, a carrier to hold all this stuff, etc.) See handout. He mentioned that the prices quoted on the handout were from Home Depot, and that he plans to check other places (Harbor Freight, Amazon) to see if he can get better prices for equivalent equipment. The \$400 total for 4 sets should be considered an upper-end figure. Rhey Houston moved we authorize Jim to buy four test-site tool kits for no more than \$400. Michael Evans seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Shade for holding blinds & birdboy stations. The Board has been discussing the purchase of some equipment to help with the extreme heat we often encounter at our spring test. At the last board meeting, a purchase of 14 chairs with tops was approved for use by Birdboys, but this will not work for holding blinds. Patio umbrellas are too expensive, bulky, and would have to be staked. Several people mentioned that pop-ups aren't terribly expensive and would provide the needed shade for holding blinds – but they are bulky and we would have to have quite a few of them which would overwhelm our two trailers. Brent showed us a camo umbrella with a metal ground stake holder that he was given as a judge's gift that might work. His came from Lion Country, but apparently Academy Sports has something similar. They are small, don't take up too much space, come in both sitting (birdboy) and standing (holding blind) models, and might be our best option. The shade issue was tabled; more work needs to be done on looking at various options before we purchase anything.

Final Words: Lois again thanked everyone for organizing and putting on the seminary / picnic.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. Rhey Houston seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m. and everyone pitched in to make clean up and quick and simple task.

Notes from the Jody Ware Training Seminar 8/20/16

The seminar began at approximately 7:30 a.m at the Fyfes'/Fletchers' farm in Pikeville, TN.

Jody set up a triple blind. For the advanced dogs. Each was long and had difficulties including angles to pass an obstacle (a vegetable garden), sending through a slot between the garden and a tree, and going up a hill. Two of the three marks had some interesting terrain variations. After the advanced dogs worked, Jody used a combination of the same setup, but simplified for the less experienced dogs, then set up a back pile to discuss the concepts of forcing to the pile.

Each person who came up with a dog did the work with Jody advising, and then Jody explained some points afterward to the gallery and the handler. Dogs in the session included four master hunters – three of them have been out of training for a number of months and one was handled by a junior handler just learning the game. The other dogs were an SH dog who is not in current training, and an “SH Wannabe” who is very advanced in other disciplines; a ‘worried’ SH level dog, a number of JH dogs wanting to move on to Senior, and a 6 or 7 puppies. Points that Jody made are summarized below:

- ◆ **Outside, Outside, Inside:** When running three blinds in practice, always use the same pattern of working the blinds.
- ◆ **Heeling:** when walking to the line, use the command “Here” to keep them at your side, and “Heel” if they are forging and need to return back to your side.
- ◆ **Lining up the dog:** SHEA – Spine, Head, Eyes, Attitude. Several handlers were using mixed signals on lining up the dog to best face the blind. To adjust the dog so that the spinal column is in a straight line to the bird, be consistent with your commands. You may use any word you choose as a command, just always be consistent. You can use “Here” to turn the dog to the right as you pat your left side and step to your right. You can use “Heel” and step back with your left leg while pushing the dog with your right leg getting them to back up and turn left. You should pull the dog’s front to you with a tap on the leg and the command “here” and push the dog’s rear with finger snaps and the command “heel.” Use the minimum amount of movement to get the dog lined up, don’t walk them around in a circle and start over. Small handler foot movements, combined with the tap-here or snap-heel commands. Jody emphasized that this is a part of early training that should begin when the dog is very young and should be done consistently. Also, keep your feet together and straight at the line – some of the handlers had a tendency to have one foot quite far ahead of the other, or the foot on the other side of the dog pointing away from the line. When the dog is coming back, line yourself up facing the next blind (same thing applies for marks). The dog should come back to you and only need slight corrections to be ready to go for the next send.
- ◆ **Consistent Send Commands:** Always use the dog’s name to send for marks, mutter ‘dead bird’ for blinds and send with “Back”. This teaches the dog to know when he is on his own for marks and when the handler is driving, for blinds. The hand over the dog’s head is just reaffirmation of the line – make sure it is OVER the dog’s head and not in front of their eyes. When you send, don’t move the hand forward, just let the dog run out from under your hand.
- ◆ **Calling a dog back when they have strayed too far off line:** Always use voice for this, not tweets. “No Here” is the command Jody uses; the No is a mild correction and the Here is the command to return. If you tweet, experienced dogs think they have just overrun the blind and their head goes down and they start hunting.
- ◆ **Selecting the Best Cast:** The handler gave the dog a right angle back and the dog took way too much angle. The dog was sitting on a hill that sloped downward to the right. In this situation, Jody recommends using a straight “Back” command since the dog will tend to roll off the hill anyway. You need to keep the terrain in mind when selecting which cast to use.
- ◆ **Voice vs Silent Casts:** A verbal cast is an authority cast. The voice will drive a dog usually in the same direction they were going before and is good to use if momentum was breaking down, and especially if the direction you want them to go is straight back. For changing directions, better to use a silent cast.
- ◆ **Collar Corrections on Missed Casts:** The first missed cast, even for experienced dogs, should be a collar freebie. Don’t nick -- whistle them to a stop and give the cast again. If they still refuse to go in the direction sent, “No Here” and nick them. Then tweet for a sit, and GIVE THE SAME CAST that they refused earlier.

- ◆ **Stay Calm and Unhurried:** Some handlers tend to give the commands too fast, don't give them long enough, and don't wait till the dog is looking at them. Sit the dog, and then let the dog think about it for a few seconds before giving very clear signals.
- ◆ **Be Prepared:** When you send the dog from the line, immediately have the whistle in your mouth and your hands in a steeple in front of your chest ready to give commands. If you don't, your signal may be way late especially if you have a fast dog, and this will tend to lead to frantic and hasty signals (see point above).
- ◆ **Proper Casting:** Don't make your hand movements out to the front as the dog can't see them clearly. For a Back signal, make sure your arm is by your ear and straight up. For side casts, the gesture needs to be clearly away from the body and out to the side. If you want to reinforce the command with a step, make sure you step to the side not to the front.
- ◆ **Simplify for Better Success:** If you are working a difficult set-up and the dog doesn't get it – rather than doing 7 or 8 whistles in all different directions, call the dog part way back and simplify by going up to where the dog is sitting, shortening the distance and removing some of the obstacles. Insist on the line from that location, and if it still doesn't work, keep moving forward. After success, move back to the original line and try again. This way the dog will learn something; otherwise it will just learn to run around in circles till eventually it gets there.
- ◆ **Blinds:** remember the acronym “SHEA” – Spine Head Eyes Attitude. Don't send them on a blind until you have all four – the spine is lined up on the location of the blind, the head is pointing in that direction, the eyes are looking out there and the dog is obviously ready to go. This will get you a good initial line on a blind and make the handling far easier.
- ◆ **Teaching Blinds:** Once you have all the basic yard work done on handling, move on to pattern blinds. Use a featureless field with no obstacles and as flat as possible. Let the dog see you place the blind, then throw a mark or two, then come back and try them on the blind. As your dog progresses, add complexities like slots, obstacles, terrain, etc. As soon as they run into difficulties, back up to allow them to know where they are going by seeing where the blind is planted then try the blind again. Simplify as you need to in order to teach the lesson and let the dog have success. Keeping the dog's attitude is key here – you want to avoid them feeling bewildered and taking a lot of collar corrections which may kill desire. It's all about being successful. Generally, don't mix marks and blinds at first – other than throwing a few very simple marks when you have shown them where the blind is planted. Work just on blinds or just on marks and wait till they are farther along before you combine them.
- ◆ **Leaving the line:** After you are done, be sure to leave the line by turning so that your body is between the dog and the direction they have been going for the blinds/marks. If you have a real eager dog, this helps to prevent them breaking and running back out into the field. If the direction you have to exit is in the opposite direction, still turn to keep your body away from the field and circle so the dog stays on the away side.
- ◆ **Coming Out of the Holding Blind to the Line:** Use “Here” or “Heel” to come out of the holding blind, not a random command like “Come On.” Again, use consistent commands to avoid confusing the dog!
- ◆ **Worried dogs:** If your dog doesn't want to look out when you are working blinds, that is a sign they are worried and are taking the ‘back’ command just to get away from the handler. Do not give them a collar correction; that will make the worry worse. If the dog isn't accepting the whistle, go back to the yard to get that fixed and don't try to fix it while running the blind. To give the dog confidence after you have done more yard work, show him where the blind is for a while and use pattern blinds before transitioning back to a cold blind.
- ◆ **Forcing to the pile:** First, work on SENDING to the pile, without using nicks from the collar. Work for several days or a week before introducing a nick, which should have the effect of making them move faster to the pile. In response to a question from the audience – ‘do you have to do the forcing with a dog that enthusiastically runs to the pile every time without it’, Jody answered yes, in most cases, even if you have a very eager dog. The collar really shouldn't be used to FORCE but rather to REINFORCE an already learned activity, to make it so the dog just knows he is doing it on YOUR command rather than because he wants to. The idea is, this will teach a dog to keep running even if he doesn't know on a long cold blind where he is going or how far. In this sense it is similar to the ‘force fetch’, i.e. that the dog learns there isn't a choice. In very rare cases with super sensitive dogs but eager dogs who race to the pile, he might not – but usually if

**Training
Corner,
con't.**

the dog is sensitive, he just uses a different pile to do the forcing and then moves back to the original pile without nicking.

◆ **Importance of Good Dogs:** It is just much easier to train a dog, and get better results, if the dog has the inbred desire to do the work. This is why it is important to use good stock and good genetics for breeding. You can build desire to some extent with good training, but really you can't FORCE a dog to do the work the way you want it done – they have to want to do it, and you are just REINFORCING that desire and those inherent traits with your teaching and training.

◆ **More on Collars:** Following up on the idea of using the collar as a reinforcing tool – don't 'nag' them with the collar. Don't correct on every little thing. Don't use a 1 or 2 unless you have an extraordinarily sensitive dog, because it's so mild that especially if you use it a lot they will just learn to ignore it. Jody almost always uses a 3 with rare exceptions above and below depending on the particular dog. He advises NEVER nicking a dog that is sitting at your side – that should be the dog's safe spot and any correction you give at your side should not use the collar.

◆ **Collar conditioning for young dogs:** It's all about getting a response. Get the dog used to wearing the collar for at least a week and better a month before ever using it, and always wear the collar during every work session so they don't get the idea that the nick comes from the collar and they can do what they want when they are not wearing it. Collar condition on 'sit' for 3-4 days first – AFTER they have thoroughly learned the sit command – to improve response time – and do it from in front of the dog so the dog isn't at your side when getting nicked. Be a few feet away and gradually increase the distance. Don't nick every time, Jody uses a nick about every fourth time. Give a sit command, back up from the dog, call them in – tweet 'sit' and nick. Then repeat. Then collar condition on the 'Here' command but don't combine it with sits for several days. Then start combining the two commands with nicks on occasions and not every time. Before moving on to forcing to the pile, you need to have completed collar conditioning and force fetch, and have switched from pinch fetch to nick fetch.

◆ **Force Fetch:** First, teach 'Take' and 'Hold' on command and 'Drop' on command, without any pinches or forcing. Once the dog knows these and easily takes, holds, and drops the dumbbell, then it is time to teach them to hold the dumbbell and walk with it without dropping it. ONLY THEN, when you know that the dog already understands the commands and is fairly stable on the carry, are you ready to do the ear pinch, to REINFORCE the commands and make sure the dog understands that compliance is not an option. Jody uses ear pinches during this phase. He also uses a wooden obedience-type dumbbell for this in order to avoid turning a sensitive dog off bumpers. Others use a dowel, but Jody likes having the ends there so the dog learns better how to hold it correctly by the middle.

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Backwater Retriever Club	09/10/16	Albion, IN
Labrador Club of Potomac RC	09/10/16	Brandywine, MD
Tidewater RC	09/16/16	Emporia, VA
Ohio Valley RC	09/24/16	Cohocton, OH
Mid-South RC	09/24/16	Bruce, MS
Mid-Atlantic RC of VA	09/30/16	Providence, VA
Master National RC	9/30-10/8/16	Weldon Springs, MO
Buckeye RC	10/01/16	Chardon, OH
American Chesapeake RC	10/01/16	Chardon, OH
Middle Tennessee RC	10/14/16	LaVergne, TN
Lumber River RC	10/15/16	Rose Hill, NC
Rappahannock RC	10/22/16	Remington, VA
East TN RC (PENDING)	10/22/16	Sweetwater, TN
Bootheel RC	10/22/16	Millersville, MO
Neuse River RC	10/29/16	Kinston, NC
North Alabama RC	10/29/16	Greensboro, AL
Central KY RC	10/29/16	Kevil, KY

Newsletter Info

The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, as close to the 1st of the month as we can get it together. Send us your test results, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs and services, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items to any of the following: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com); Lois Luthenauer (mountainLo717@gmail.com) or Roberta Williams (sharphlw@usit.net).