

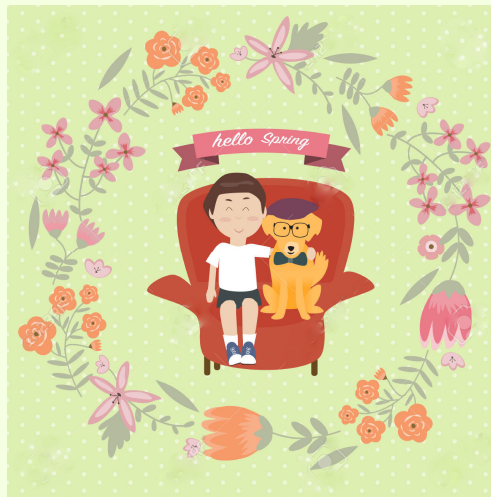
2017 Upcoming Events

1. April 8, 2017, Saturday: Spring Club Trial #1: Darryl Miller Farm, Sweetwater. See page 2
2. May 13, 2017, Saturday: Spring Club Trial #2: Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater. Details next month!
3. May 27-28, 2017, Saturday & Sunday: ETRC Spring Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Judges approved.
4. August ??, 2017, Saturday: Summer meeting and Jody Ware seminar, date & location pending.
5. September ??, 2017, Saturday: Fall Club Trial, date & location pending
6. October 21-22, 2017, Saturday & Sunday: ETRC Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater. Pending.



President's Message

Hello....our President is ill and it's time to get the newsletter out anyway — March was a good month for training, and here's hoping April will be even better. Look inside for more information about our Club Trial THIS COMING SATURDAY, April 8, and our hunt test which is fast approaching.



Time to Be Outside Playing With Your Dog!

Training at Brian Caldwell's, 3/4/17: Wayne Rasbury & Cooper at the line with Brian



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Spring Club Trial #1, April 8, 2017 Daryl and Sharon Miller Farm

ETRC will host its first spring Club Trial on Saturday, April 8, 2017, at Daryl and Sharon Miller's Farm, 5249 Holt Road, Sweetwater, TN, Exit 62, I-75 South (see directions below). Signups begin at 8 am and we hope to have the first stake up and running by 9 a.m. Judges will be club members and we will need people to pitch in and trade off on operating wingers, planting blinds, and setting up and taking down the equipment.

EVENTS: Singles Classic, Master, Senior, Junior, Puppy Stakes (Junior puppy & Senior Puppy, under 1 yr). Entry Fee: \$10.00 each stake per dog (dokkens), Puppy Stakes (bumpers) \$5.00 (1 PM). Completion ribbons will be awarded for hunt-test stakes and Advanced Junior stakes; placement 1-4 and JAM ribbons will be awarded for Singles Classic and the two puppy stakes. If you are interested in consideration for our end-of-the-year awards for Gun Dog and Puppy, these stakes weigh heavily in completion points.

MEMBERS ONLY. If you haven't yet renewed for 2017 or want to join for the first time, forms and people to take your membership fee (\$25 for the year) will be available before you sign up.

WHAT TO BRING: No E-collars allowed. All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless running tests. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), your lunch, and water for you and your dog, plus appropriate clothing for the weather. **NO WHITE SHIRTS** please, wear something neutral or dark. If you are bringing a puppy, you may bring your own retrieval items if you wish.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY: We will send out an email on Friday night if the weather is such that we are going to have to cancel. We will not cancel just for chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or snowing in Sweetwater, we will not run. If there is too much rain in the days before the test, the fields and roads may be too soft to use. So be sure to check your email Friday night! If you don't hear anything, come on out.

NEW TEE SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND HATS will be available, including some of the great performance camo tees that are so popular. Bring cash or a checkbook and stock up on some great items to advertise your club.



Carol Stone & Karen Edwards at a previous Club Trial. Come prepared!



Young Hopeful, Fern Hill Sunday at the

March Training Report

Thanks to Brian Caldwell for hosting ETRC members at a training session on Saturday, 3/4/17. A number of club members took advantage of the opportunity! Brian set up 3 series, each one involving 3 singles. The first series involved challenging terrain through a partially dug slightly wet pond, and also featured two blinds. On the second series, one of the marks was across the gravel driveway and there were no blinds. The third series involved a very long blind, ~160 yards. Interesting setups all!

Also thanks to Brian for providing lunch — chicken, ribs and pork tenderloin on the smoker; buns, sauces, a variety of chips, desserts, and home-made cole slaw provided by Donna Smith. Great job everybody!



ETRC's second training session was held at Roane Regional on March 25, 2017. Alan Bruhin set up the various scenarios which were designed to be expandable from Junior to Master dogs. We had a good turnout at this session as well, and the weather was warm enough that we were able to do some water work. We had to share the pond with a nesting Canada Goose, but Alan set up three marks and two blinds and dogs could do these as singles, doubles, triples, one or two in the water and the other one up the bank, use one as a poison bird, etc. The goose made an interesting decoy for sure! The blinds were at opposite ends of the pond and one involved a long swim tight against the bank while the other one went across shallow water. Great fun and a good turnout!



Update on the Spring Hunt Test

Plans for ETRC's spring hunt test are proceeding well and we are ahead of schedule. The test will be held over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 27 and Sunday May 28. The test will be a double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master (limit 120 dogs), and will be back at the Hiwassee Refuge near Brentwood / Dayton Tennessee. We have an approved judges panel, bird kids are lined up, we have committee chairman working on all the myriad things that have to happen — lunches, judges /workers dinner, judges' gifts, motel reservations for the judges, lining up gunners for the live fliers, ordering the ducks, etc. We are also working to have a photographer at the event, one who will not only take action pictures but who can do individual photo shoots on site. We may have a couple of new sponsors as well! More info next month!

Entries for the public open Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. Central time, and close Monday, May 15, 2017 just before midnight Central time. The Master test is limited to 120 participants; people who volunteer to work some at the test can sign up and get a code from test Secretary Roberta Williams (sharphlw@usit.net) that will enable them to enter early — starting Tuesday, May 2, at 8:00 p.m. Central time. Note: you can already enter dogs for Junior and Senior stakes.

Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 26; for gunners, stewards and assistants and equipment moving/maintenance on Saturday and Sunday; for cleanup on Sunday, and for many more tasks. If you would like to work inside, we are looking for helpers who will sell tee shirts and assist with preparing lunches for workers and judges on Saturday and Sunday. Four-wheelers or small utility vehicles are also needed for the weekend to help get workers and equipment from one test site to another quickly. All workers will be treated to a free dinner Friday night and their names will be entered in the Worker's Raffle for Saturday afternoon. To volunteer, contact Roberta (email above), test chairman Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com), Chief Steward Tom Gibson (tinytomgib@yahoo.com) or myself to sign up for some hard work and good fun.

Judges are:

Master A: Ken Kogut and Andy Sonntag

Master B: Steven Kelley and Jack Combs

Junior Sat / Senior Sun: James and Jan Burnett

Senior Sat / Junior Sun: Mary Gregg and Janine Hayes

The official motel is the Best Western Inn, 7835 Rhea County Highway (US 27 North), Dayton, TN. A total of 12 rooms have been blocked out with the hotel and will be held until the Wednesday before the test. If you want to stay at this Inn, contact the Best Western directly and tell them that you are coming for the ETRC Hunt test in order to get the special rate. The phone number is (423) 775-6560.



Best Western, Dayton, TN



Hiwassee Refuge



Tick Reminder

Tick season came early this year. We were already seeing ticks in January and we've had a couple of reports of ticks after our recent training session. Just a reminder that we field people are more prone to being in tick-infested areas than many other dog sports, and you need to plan accordingly for you and your dog.

- ◆ Keep your dog on a good tick killer/preventative year-round and be diligent about the timing of the doses and any other requirements like no water work before or afterwards (topicals).
- ◆ Apply bug repellent to the bottom of your pants and on your socks before going out in the field. After any field training or competition, check yourself carefully for any passengers. Good idea to check your dog too, although with hairy dogs that is not always easy. Supposedly if you catch a tick bite within 5 hours and pull it out, there won't be enough time to become infected — and usually it takes much longer, around 24-36 hours. Flat ticks are safer than fat ones (engorged).
- ◆ Become knowledgeable about the symptoms of the various diseases, and if you or your dog start feeling ill, always bear in mind the possibility of a Tick Borne Disease (TBD) and mention this to your doctor or vet. Some vets are unfortunately very reluctant to treat for TBDs until proven beyond a reasonable doubt — we changed vets after a refusal to prescribe doxy for one of our dogs (“She’s a Golden, it’s cancer, let’s do a liver biopsy instead”), and by the time the titers came back positive, she was close to death from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. She ended up with permanent kidney and neurological damage, so you may have to discuss the matter forcefully with your vet.

AKC's Canine Health Foundation has a good article about the most common forms of TBD here: <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/your-dogs-health/caring-for-your-dog/canine-tick-borne-disease.html>. There are new TBDs being discovered daily.... So be prepared and diligent, and don't let the buggers get you down!



The 2017 Luthenauer Young Handler's Program



We're off and running for 2017! It is now time to sign up again for the 2017 Young Handler's Program! Any young person at the undergraduate college level and below is eligible to join. Participants will be reimbursed for entry fees into AKC Hunt Tests and will participate free of charge in ETRC Club Trials. There will be a free Young Handler's seminar as well — and you will be expected to volunteer for at least 4 hours at one of our club events.

All it takes to participate: you must be a member of ETRC, and you must submit a one-page essay to the program coordinator stating why you want to join the program and what retriever sports mean to you. Submit your essay to Program Coordinator, Lois Luthenauer, MountainLo717@gmail.com.

Named in honor of long-time club member, past president, and enthusiastic sportsman Kevin Luthenauer, and funded primarily via donations, ETRC's Young Handler 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**

Time to Renew Membership for 2017

As of March 1, memberships from 2016 are now expired unless you have already renewed for 2017. We will keep expired members on the email notification list until June 1, at which time we purge the rolls and change the passwords on the website.

Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). The renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just click the link, print it off, and send it to Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Cost is still just \$25 which includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. It's a bargain!

Member Brags



Congratulations to Alan Bruhin and Shine (Grady's Tennessee Moonshine) who just earned his Master Hunter Title this spring.



Also, kudos to ETRC Members Michele Fletcher and her Golden Retriever Callie, and Beth White and her Mini Poodle Nina, who competed at the AKC National Agility Championships at Perry, GA March 24-26, 2017, and did very well. Like the Master National Hunt Test, just being invited to go is a huge honor and represents many hours of training and competing — and a good dog to start with! Member Carol Stone was also there course-building. Both Nina and Callie have Junior Hunter titles and are working towards Senior — Callie already has her first leg.

Training Corner

Getting Started on Multiple Marks

From the series, 'Training with Mike Lardy'

Get so accustomed to running advanced field trial retrievers on complex triple and quadruple marks with multiple retired guns that I take for granted what a big step it is for a young dog to retrieve memory birds. Like so many retrieving skills, the ability to remember and go after a memory mark is something that is taught most effectively in a very deliberate progression. If you attempt to run memory marks without such a progression, you may run into significant problems such as no-goes, spinning, popping, or other attitude-related problems that can really bog down your training or even limit your dog's potential.

Actually, the progression toward running multiple marks starts when you first begin simple single marks.

Fundamental retrieving "mechanics" on single marks are the first prerequisite for running multiple marks. That is, your pup should watch the mark, go get it, and bring it back. That sounds simple enough, but a lot of early problems on multiple marks stem from problems with marking mechanics. There are several issues with marking mechanics that must be addressed before you proceed with multiple mark training.

- Your pup should be at least somewhat steady on line; that is, he should watch any marks to the ground without squirming around in your arms or while constantly tugging or twisting on a lead. It is best if your pup is "lead steady" – sits still on a taut lead.

Having the Gun Help

Throughout a dog's training, and especially when teaching multiples, it is not uncommon for the dog to get lost or otherwise have difficulty finding a bird. One way out of that kind of trouble is to have the gun help. This means that the thrower helps the dog that is lost in the field. Helping can take many forms. The gun can:

- Stand;
- Stand and Yell, "Hey Hey";
- Stand, Yell, and Wave Arms;
- Stand, Yell, Wave Arms, and Walk Toward the Mark;
- Stand, Yell, Wave Arms, Walk Toward the Mark, and Throw the Bird Up.

The gunner should help in response to a signal from the handler such as an arm wave, or to a request by radio. The gun should give as much help as necessary and as little as possible. It is always better to have the dog resume his hunt in the fall area and find the bird on his own. As the dog resumes his hunt in the fall area, the gunner should retreat to his chair.

If you intend to use your dog for hunting, it is helpful to have the gunner repeatedly use some cue such as, "Find the bird" or, "Hunt it up" as the dog comes in to the fall area while being helped. You will use this cue while hunting to encourage your dog to hunt up a dead bird it did not see fall or to hunt up and flush a live bird.

Mike Lardy has trained more than 70 Field Champions and has won the National Retriever Championship a record seven times. Training with Mike Lardy, a two-volume set of Mike's RJ articles from past issues, and Mike's three videos – Total Retriever Training, Total Retriever Marking, and Total E-Collar Conditioning – are all available from Younglove Broadcast Services at 800-848-5963, or on the web at totalretriever.com.

- Get your dog accustomed to the "mark" cue. That is, tell him, "Mark" before a single is thrown. This cue will get him to focus on the thrower, and will later be used as a cue prior to sending on memory birds.
- Your pup should run eagerly after single marks, and hunt aggressively when a single mark is hidden in moderate cover. Your dog's enthusiasm for memory marks will be less than it is for single marks, so you can't hope to have him be eager for memory marks if he's only mildly interested in singles.
- Your pup should be accustomed to getting "help" from the gun. That is, over the course of his training, whenever he was completely lost on a mark, he should have learned to recover with help from the thrower (see sidebar). Your dog is even more likely to get confused or lost on memory marks, so it is important to be able to take help.
- Your pup should return to you directly and deliver to hand. If your pup drops the bird away from you, or you are getting into delivery hassles, that is not the time to teach memory marks. This last prerequisite generally means your dog ought to have completed force-fetch in the yard before commencing on teaching doubles in the field.

If your dog's retrieving mechanics meet the above criteria, then you ought to proceed toward multiple mark training. However, before we actually start teaching doubles, there are a few steps in the marking progression.

Around the Region

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Central KY RC	4/1/17	Kevil, KY
Lumber River RC	4/8/17	Bennettsville, SC
Rappahannock RC	4/14/17	Remington, VA
Yadkin River RC	4/15/17	Cedar Grove, NC
Neuse River RC	4/22/17	Kinston, NC
Master Amateur Invitational	4/22/17	Cairo, GA
Details are here: http://www.masteramateur.com/2017-mai-event-info.html		
Atlanta RC	4/22/17	Buckhead, GA ***
Ohio Valley RC	4/28/17	Coshocton, OH
Carolinas Ret. Assn.	4/29/17	Cheraw, SC
Magnolia RC	4/29/17	Greensboro, AL ***
Red Hills RC	4/29/17	Greensboro, AL ***
Mid-South RC	5/6/17	Bruce, MS
Labrador RC of Piedmont	5/6/17	Patrick, SC
Cooper River RC	5/12/17	Cheraw, SC

*** These tests are being handled by HuntTestHelper.com. All others are handled by EntryExpress.com.

NOTE: There are still a number of openings for Master at the Atlanta RC Hunt Test.

Master Amateur Update

The Inaugural Running of the Master Amateur Invitational is beginning April 23, with 315 dogs qualified to run. and about half of them so far entering. The MARC has done a ton of work to get this program up and running and we wish them a very successful event. **NOTE: They are now accepting entries from qualified dogs.**

Advanced Retriever Seminar for Judges in Ohio, August 2017

Co-sponsored by: Buckeye Retriever Club & the Presque Isle Retriever Club of Erie PA. Cost \$55. A box lunch will be provided both days. Afternoon snack. For more information, contact Robert Samios, 724-932-5956 or robertsamios@zoominternet.net.

Saturday August 5, 2017: Classroom. Registration 7:30-8:30, Coffee and Pastries
Location: Euclid Rifle & Hunting Club 17100 Whitney Rd., Montville, Ohio 44064

Sunday, August 6, 2017: Field Exercises. Registration 7:30-8:30, Coffee and Pastries
Location: Hambden Nursery, 14849 Rock Creek Rd (SR166), Chardon, Ohio 44024

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).