

2017 Upcoming Events

1. **March 4, Saturday:** Open training at Brian Caldwell's near Hiwassee Refuge. See page 9.
2. **March 25, Saturday:** Organized training, Roane Regional. Weather dependent, see p. 9.
3. **April 8, 2017, Saturday:** Spring Club Trial #1: Darryl Miller Farm, Sweetwater
4. **May 13, 2017, Saturday:** Spring Club Trial #2: Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater
5. **May 27-28, 2017, Saturday & Sunday:** ETRC Spring Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Judges pending.
6. **August ??, 2017, Saturday:** Summer meeting and Jody Ware seminar, date & location pending.
7. **September ??, 2017, Saturday:** Fall Club Trial, date & location pending
8. **October 21-22, 2017, Saturday & Sunday:** ETRC Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater. Pending.



President's Message

Wow! What a turnout at the Banquet! It was great to see so many of you there, and if you were not able to make it, we missed you! Congratulations to all who titled a dog last year, and especially congratulations to our AKC Sportsman of the Year, Carol Stone; to Michael Evans, the ETRC Member of the Year; and Alan Bruhin and Grady, Gun Dog of the Year. Oh yes, and my little Polly, Puppy of the Year! Never thought I'd bring that one home! All the details, and some pictures, will be found in the pages of this newsletter, but it was good to see everyone.

Now that my company has cleared out, it's back to the grind, getting things lined up for the ETRC Spring Hunt Test, to be held at the grounds at the Hiwassee Refuge over Memorial Day weekend. Get those dogs out and ready, the season is upon us! While we get ready for the hunt test, we will have a committee reviewing the rules for the Gun Dog and Puppy of the Year awards, and we'll also be looking at whether we need to tweak the guidelines for the Kevin Luthenauer Youth Handler Program. If you know any young person interested, please have them get their essay ready and e-mail it to me! We have the funds to sponsor additional youth, and I'd love to read about what dog work means to the kids!

Meanwhile, I hope to see many of you at Brian Caldwell's on Saturday, March 4. We are very grateful for Brian for hosting these sessions and inviting any and all club members to come participate. What a great opportunity!

Happy training!

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President Lois Luthenauer & 2017 AKC Sportsman of the Year Carol Stone

Minutes for Banquet and General Membership Meeting, Saturday, February 18, 2017 Calhoun's Bearden Hill Restaurant, Knoxville, TN

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Patti Gibson, Donna Smith, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy

Absent, excused: Alan Bruhin, Michele Fletcher

Members present: Mitzi Evans; Ashley Goddard & parents; Cory & Elena Smith; Luke McCoy and friend; Brent, Val, Bailey and Taylor McCoy; Carol Stone; John & Carol Broucek; Tony, Denise, Erin, Ivan, & Cade Chambers; Michael Smith; Brian Caldwell; Bob & Chris Purcell; Jim Pearce; Lois Luthenauer's father Asa Lafara, his friend Ruth Connelly, Lois's son Matt Shoemaker.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. Twenty families were represented, and the current membership stands at 59 families. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. following dinner.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report: President Lois Luthenauer welcomed everyone and gave a wrap-up of events during the year: two spring club trials, a very successful spring hunt test, a summer picnic and seminar with Jody Ware, and a fall hunt test at new grounds. During the year the club made more equipment upgrades including new duck dryers and wingers, and completed the inventory and sale of excess/old equipment. This was the first year for the new Luthenauer Youth program, in honor of Lois's deceased husband Kevin Luthenauer. Also during the year, the Board decided the club should become a charter lifetime member of the new Master Amateur Retriever Club in order to show our support for the continued role of amateurs in our sport, and to support the inaugural running of the National Master Amateur test which will be this March in Georgia. Lois announced that we have a new corporate sponsor, Midwestern Pet Foods who sell the Sport Mix brand of dog food in county co-ops. They signed on as sponsors at our Fall hunt test; Lois urged everyone to support our sponsors as they support us. The official name of the new enhanced food, designed to compete with all of the other major brands, received a 5 star rating on its official roll out this past year, is "Sport Mix Canine X."

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on November 14, 2016. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since November 20. She called for a motion to dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted; Tom Gibson made such a motion which was seconded by Luke McCoy and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards passed out a Treasurer's report showing expenses and receipts for the past fiscal year from March 1 to date. During the year, income has exceeded outgo by \$1,742.54 and our current balance is a healthy \$15,661.69.

Election of New members: Lois reminded the membership that new members have to first be provisionally approved by the board on first reading of the application, than sponsors are assigned. Final approval takes place at the next general membership meeting following provisional approval, after the sponsors have signed off that they believe the person(s) should be accepted into full membership. We currently have 7 provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors have recommended approval.

1. Ashley Goddard, lives in Knoxville, has a Golden Retriever puppy. Sponsors Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher.
2. Jeff & Cheryl McNutt, live in Seymour, have a young black Lab. Sponsors Roberta Williams and Tom Gibson.
3. Chad & Brandi Suttles, live in Dayton, TN; have black labs. Sponsors Michael Evans & Luke McCoy.
4. Scott & Joanne Ring, sponsor Midwestern Pet Food, live in Columbia, TN, sponsors Michael Evans, Luke McCoy.
5. Cory & Elena Smith, live in Knoxville, have a young Chessie. Sponsors Alan Bruhin & Luke McCoy
6. Todd & Martha Kisling, live in Rockwood, have a Golden puppy. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin & Karen Edwards
7. Bill & Kelly Rowland, live in Clinton, have an American Water Spaniel. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin, Roberta Williams

Ashley Goddard and the Smiths were present; they were asked to stand up and briefly introduce themselves. Michael Evans moved that all these members receive final approval; the motion was seconded by Carol Stone and the vote was unanimously in favor. Welcome!

Banquet Minutes, Continued

Old Business

- ◆ **AKC Representative's Report** . Our AKC representative since October 2016, Michele Fletcher, was off on a judging assignment. She supplied a report to Karen Edwards that there was nothing in the last several months that affects the retriever field world.
- ◆ **Spring & Fall Hunt Test 2017 updates:** Lois Luthenauer mentioned that our spring hunt test will be back at Hiwassee over Memorial Day weekend. It will be a double junior, double senior, and two flights of master with a limit of 120 Master dogs. Several judges have been pinned down and we expect to finalize our judges' panel shortly. The fall test will be October 21-22, back at Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 ranch again. We have not decided the format finally, but are thinking we will have a double Junior, double Senior, and single flight of master with a limit of 60 dogs.
- ◆ **Kevin Luthenauer Youth Fund:** Lois Luthenauer: The fund is fully funded for next year thanks to the generosity of Ken Campbell of Lucky 7 Ranch. The Board needs to re-visit the criteria and operation of the program, but mainly we need more youth participants. Anyone who has suggestions about changes to the program, please let Lois or secretary Karen Edwards know.
- ◆ **Dog of the Year and Puppy of the Year awards** : Lois commented that she would like to take a look this spring at the rules for this program and see if any updates/clarifications are needed. Last time the program was reviewed was in 2011. Anyone interested in serving on a committee in the next month to look at these programs, or if you have any suggestions to make about the program, please contact Lois or Karen.

New Business:

- ◆ **Awards Presentations (Lois Luthenauer):** See article and pictures later in this Newsletter!
- ◆ **In Memoriam:** Lois Luthenauer – Last year we had a roll call and pictures of member dogs who had died during the year, but it was such a tear jerker that we decided not to do that this year. However, we do have an memorial page on the website, and welcome pictures and tributes to any member dogs who pass on during the year. Please send info and photos to Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter and the website. Lois announced the death of her dog Watermark's Troublesome Bonnie, and invited anyone else to mention dogs they had lost this year. Patti Gibson announced that she lost her old girl Lazy Daisy in the fall.
- ◆ **Special Recognition of our Pros:** Lois Luthenauer congratulated the pros in the club for all they do to help other members, giving generously of their time and knowledge: Jody Ware, Brian Caldwell, and John Broucek.
- ◆ **Election of Officers/Board.**
For the slate of officers and board members / other club positions presented by the nominating committee, see the article later in this newsletter. No additional nominations were made by the membership during the December time period for making such nominations. Since none of the positions were contested, Brent McCoy moved that we dispense with written ballots and hold the election by a voice vote. Beth White seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Brent then moved that we approve the slate of officers and board members as presented. Carol Stone seconded the motion, which also was approved unanimously. New officers & Board members assumed their new positions at the conclusion of the meeting.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Carol Stone moved that we adjourn; Jim Pearce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Bob & Chris Purcell, Karen Edwards, guest Asa



Tony Chambers, Rick Fyfe, John & Carol Broucek

End of the Year Awards 2016

At the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, February 18, the following End-of-the-Year Awards were passed out. Congratulations everyone!

Title Awards: ETRC awards a brass plaque with the dog's name, owner's name, new title, and date the title was earned, for all member dogs who have been reported as earning an AKC hunting title during the year. Award recipients for 2016 are:

Junior Hunter:

- ◆ Wayne Rasbury and his Golden Retriever Fern Hill Golden Boy Cooper JH ("Cooper")
- ◆ Ben O'Neal and his Labrador Roddydogs Flying Hawaiian JH ("Mae")
- ◆ Bailey McCoy and her Golden Retriever McCoy's Only Sunshine JH ("Sunny")

Senior Hunter: No club member dogs reported earning their Senior Hunter titles this year. Hopefully next year we will have a couple of plaques to present!

Master Hunter:

- ◆ Terri and Lane Arthur, HRCH Loaded Down and Flyin' High MH (Labrador)
- ◆ Dr. Richard Cook, Adirondac Sir Charles MH, "Charlie" (Golden Retriever)

Qualifying at the Master National: Congratulations and a plaque were presented to:

- ◆ Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH, "Coal," owner David Knott, handler Brian Caldwell

Qualifying for the Master National but did not go or did not qualify: Other than David's dog Coal, no other members reported having dogs qualified this year for the Master National.

Qualifying Member Handlers: Kudos to the following ETRC members who successfully handled dogs at the 2016 Master National:

- ◆ Jody Ware, with several non-member qualifiers
- ◆ Brian Caldwell, with member David Knott's qualifier Luther's High Grade Black Coal MHx

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year: Coon Creek's Polly Wanna Quacker, Chocolate Labrador bred and owned by Lois Luthenauer.

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of the Year: Grady's Tennessee Moonshine SH, Labrador owned and handled by Alan Bruhin. Second year in a row!

ETRC Member of the Year: J. Michael Evans, who was everywhere and did everything this year. He was Past President, attended every board meeting, and was Test Chairman for the spring test and Assistant Chair at the fall test. He was almost single-handedly responsible for getting approval of our new Fall test grounds from AKC, and coordinates with TWRA to keep us "in" at Hiwassee as well. Without him, our fall test would not have happened and none of the other events would have run as smoothly. Well deserved!



AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2017: Carol Stone, who not only came to both hunt tests and helped out from dawn to dark for three solid days each time, but who actively participates in Hunt Tests, tracking, agility, and obedience. Carol is truly a credit to the world of dog sports and demonstrates the highest level of sportsmanship in all the venues she participates in. Congratulations, Carol! We're proud you're a member of our club!



Junior Title award — Bailey McCoy and McCoy's Only Sunshine



Trainer Brian Caldwell picks up the Master National Qualifier Trophy for David Knott's dog Coal



Brian Caldwell, Michael and Donna Smith



New members Cory and Elena Smith

Tom Gibson, Bailey, Taylor, Brent, Luke & Val McCoy

Banquet Scenes



Carol Stone, Joe and Beth White, Cade and Erin Chambers

Pictures from the ETRC Awards Banquet and Business Meeting, February 19, 2017, Calhoun's Restaurant Bearden Hill, Knoxville, TN

ETRC Officers / Board Members for 2017

Here is the list of officers, board members, and other important club positions for 2017, as voted in at the banquet on February 18 and the brief Board meeting following. Email addresses are provided for everyone; phone numbers are available on the membership listing which is in the "Members Only" section of the website www.etrclub.org. If you have suggestions or comments on any matter about the club, please contact one of the people below:

President: Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com)

Vice President: Alan Bruhin (wabruhin@utk.edu)

Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com)

Hunt Test Secretary: Roberta Williams (sharphlw1145@aol.com)

Past President: J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com)

Board member 2015-2018: Tom Gibson (tinytomgib@yahoo.com)

Board member 2016-2018: Rick Fyfe (filling remainder of D. Fyfe's term) (rickfyfe@yahoo.com)

Board member 2016-2019: Donna Smith (donnasmith1@gmail.com)

Board member 2017-2019: John Broucek (filling remainder of A. Bruhin's term) (rtrvrblvr@aol.com)

Board member 2017-2020: Luke McCoy (fonemn3@bellsouth.net)

Board member 2017-2020: Jim Pearce (jwp@pegasustech.com)

AKC Representative since October 2016: Michele Fletcher (michelemfletcher@yahoo.com)

Head Marshal for 2017: Tom Gibson (see above)

AKC Announces New Junior Recognition Program

AKC's new Junior Recognition Program will be recognizing Juniors across sports, beginning in March 2017. A Junior Handler number is required, and the number should be put on every entry form to ensure that your results are counted. For more information on this program, contact the AKC at juniors@akc.org or call 919-233-9767. Juniors will be recognized by sport, by breed and across events.

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

It's official! 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!

Minutes from the 2/18/17 Board Meeting

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Donna Smith, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, John Broucek

Absent, excused: Alan Bruhin, Michele Fletcher

President Lois Luthenauer called for a brief Board meeting of the new board and officers following the conclusion of the general membership meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m. The following topics were discussed:

- ◆ Board position. With Alan Bruhin being elected Vice President, this leaves a board vacancy for the remainder of his unexpired term (until February 2018). After a brief discussion, Lois asked John Broucek if he was willing to serve. He was. Karen Edwards moved that John be appointed to fill Alan's unexpired term; Tom Gibson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At this point, John joined the meeting.
- ◆ Next Meeting: Lois suggested and all agreed that we needed a board meeting soon to discuss where we stand with the hunt test and to schedule spring club tests. There was a general consensus that next Wednesday, February 22, 2017, would be the night that most people were able to come. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Pegasus Technologies Building, 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN. John B. does have a conflict and may not be able to rearrange his schedule but everyone else present can make it. Karen will send out a reminder/notice to the entire Board tomorrow.
- ◆ Michael and Karen volunteered to serve on the committee to re-look at the rules for puppy and gun dog of the year awards. We thought it would be a good idea to have a non-board member on this committee as well, and Mike Smith was pressed into service.

There was a general consensus that due to the late hour and the noise in the restaurant, that all other items would be discussed at the meeting on Wednesday.

Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn; Tom Gibson seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous, and we adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Member Brags

Ben Rogers is proud to announce that his Lab Elizabeth Bella Rogers SH ("Liz") earned her Senior Hunter title last summer . She is trained by Brian Caldwell.

Minutes from the 2/22/17 Board Meeting

Present from the Board: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher (AKC rep)

Absent, excused: Lois Luthenauer, Donna Smith, John Broucek.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Alan Bruhin (in Lois's absence) at 7:05 p.m., adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Representative's Reports

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last two meetings were the banquet / general membership meeting and a short board meeting, both on February 18, 2017. Minutes were sent out for approval on 2/19/17 via email, have 4 approvals so far, have not been sent yet to the club website. Rick moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Luke Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Correspondence:** AKC listing of officers: updated, faxed to them on 2/22/17. Letter from Kevin Cheff soliciting an invitation for him to put on a pro training seminar for our club.
- **Website changes made & pending:** added minutes from November meeting, December, January, February newsletters. Am working on list of changes needed to reflect elections and awards, hope to finalize soon.

Membership: End of year membership was 59. Current membership for 2017 is 26.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 2/22/17 is \$14,870.69 with no bills outstanding. Insurance club liability bill (\$850) just paid along with check to Michael (\$181) to pay for the awards, check to Karen to pay for AKC spring test (\$15). Michael moved we accept the Treasurer's report; Jim Pearce seconded, the motion was approved unanimously.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher reported that the next AKC meeting is next month.

Old Business

- ◆ **Spring Club Trials.** Dates set for April 8 and May 13. The first trial will be at Darryl Miller's farm in Sweetwater. The one in May will be at Lucky 7, also in Sweetwater.
- ◆ **Fall Club Trial:** Too many unknowns (hunting schedule set by TWRA) to set a date now for a Fall Trial. Tabled for a future meeting.
- ◆ **Spring Hunt Test:** May 27-28, Hiwassee.
 - ◆ Karen has entered the info on committee, format, fees (\$70/80/90), start times, open/close dates into AKC's event management website and has paid \$15 for the 2nd test on 5/28 (the first one is free).
 - ◆ Roberta will submit paperwork to TWRA shortly & will coordinate with Entry Express to get the date listed.
 - ◆ Bird boys – will try to use the FFA again; they were good last fall. Karen will contact Rhey Houston.
 - ◆ Judges: Still looking for 2 Master judges and a pair of Junior/Senior. Aiming to get the judges all lined up within the next several weeks so we can submit the judges panel to AKC in a timely manner.
 - ◆ Judges dinner and gifts: Patti Gibson will handle them again. Karen and Patti will handle lunches.
 - ◆ Ribbons – Karen reported that we are OK on the ribbons for the spring test
 - ◆ Ducks: Lois will coordinate. Issues receiving ducks at Hiwassee since the gates are now closed at sunset. Discussed some ways to deal with this.
 - ◆ Tee shirts: Lois will need to do an inventory and order any more needed for the spring test.
 - ◆ Gunners: we will need 8; Michael Evans asked for volunteers to locate some and let him have the contact info. Need to purchase more live ammo this time around.
 - ◆ Other supplies: equipment repairs, Map gas, winger rubber needed (Karen will buy 2 boxes).
 - ◆ Signs: we decided to purchase ~20 campaign-style signs with the wire feet, in neon-bright colors, printed on both sides in black with ETRC and an arrow. We can use magic marker to designate Master A, B, Junior, & Senior, and can use unmarked signs for pointing to the grounds. Rick volunteered to contact a sign company in Pikeville for a quote.
- ◆ **Training Dates:** March 4 at Brian Caldwell's, March 25 at Roane Regional with Alan Bruhin leading.
- ◆ **Fall Hunt Test,** October 21-22, Lucky 7. Discussed and decided to have double Junior, Double Senior, single flight of Master (60 dogs). We conflict with the Master national so won't get a lot of master dogs anyway.

New Business:

- ◆ Committee to look at Dog/Puppy of the Year rules: Karen, Michael Evans, Mike Smith: Working, but nothing yet.
- ◆ Summer Seminar: Jody is getting us dates. Possible locations at the Fyfes/Fletchers or at Lucky 7.

This is a summarization of the minutes. A full copy is available on the ETRC website in the members-only section.

March Training Days

First of all, a belated THANKS to Brian Caldwell for putting on an open training session for ETRC for our January training. The weather didn't cooperate like we wished it would have, but a few hardy souls showed up and we have heard that it was a very good session in spite of the cold and snow. It was great of him to do this, and everyone who went benefited tremendously. Thanks again, Brian!

ETRC will sponsor organized training sessions on the following Saturdays:

- ◆ March 4, 2017 at 9 a.m. at Brian Caldwell's, 1810 Hwy. 58 S, Georgetown, TN (note: this is not far from Hiwassee). There is a double gate; entrance is the left gate, please close it after you enter. **Rain or Shine**, come on down and get tips from one of our excellent pro trainers!
- ◆ March 25, 2017 at 10 a.m. at Roane Regional Industrial Park, with Alan Bruhin. Use 108 Pawnook Farm Road as the GPS or google maps address. See weather & RSVP policy below for training at Roane Regional.

Bring your dogs, water, and training equipment. New members are encouraged to attend — come meet other club members and let us get to know you and your dog(s)! We will have activities for dogs at all levels, from puppy to Master-level dogs.

Policy for training at Roane Regional:

- ◆ RSVPs are required in order for us to have the session. **If at least four people do not respond saying they are intending to come, by NOON on the Friday before the scheduled training, we will not have the session.**
- ◆ We will cancel if the weather is not predicted to be in the 40s or if it is raining/ snowing.
- ◆ Send your RSVPs to Secretary Karen Edwards, Edwardskc@Gmail.com. Karen will send out an email the evening before the training if it is to be canceled.
- ◆ Live ammunition is not allowed at Roane Regional and we will use Club Thunder Simulators and Dokkens.

Directions to Roane Regional:

- ◆ **From Knoxville:** Take I-40 West towards Nashville, stay right on I-40 at the I-75/I-40 split. Go 4.1 miles. Take exit 364 for TN-95 toward U.S. 321 West/Lenoir City/Oak Ridge and turn right onto TN-95 at the end of the exit ramp. Go .4 mile and take the first left onto Buttermilk Road West. Go one mile. Take the 2nd right onto Sam Rayburn Parkway. **Go .5 mile. Take the second left onto Pawnook Farm Road. Look for a small tan block building with racing stripes on the right (Pegasus Technologies). If it's muddy, park in the Pegasus parking lot and walk back. If it's been dry, go past the Pegasus building and take the next gravel track on the right up the hill.**
- ◆ **From Points East:** Take I-40 East toward Knoxville. Take the exit "Industrial Park Road" Turn left onto Industrial Park Road and cross over the Interstate. Go 3/10 mile. Take the first right onto Buttermilk Road West into the Roane Regional business park. A VW plant and the H. T. Hackney plant will be on your left. Go 1.2 miles. Turn left on Sam Rayburn Parkway. Then follow the instructions highlighted above in red.
- ◆ **From Points South:** Come up I75 and get off at the Lenoir City exit. Go towards Oak Ridge on Hwy 321/95. You will stay on 321 through a couple of stop lights and will then pass under I40. Take the next left after the underpass onto Buttermilk Road West. Go one mile. Take the 2nd right onto Sam Rayburn Parkway. Then follow the instructions highlighted above in red.

Training Corner



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jim and Phyllis Dobbs operate the Dobbs Training Center in Marysville, CA. They regularly write for The Pointing Dog Journal, The Retriever Journal, and Front & Finish magazine. Jim and Phyllis specialize in the use of e-collars and are constantly developing new training techniques. Many of these techniques are shown in their videos. Jim and Phyllis can be reached at (530) 741-0375 or 1-888-E-COLLAR.

Training Tips

By Jim & Phyllis Dobbs

The come-in whistle may vary somewhat with each handler. But generally speaking, the most common way of giving a come-in whistle is to rapidly blow three whistle trills in a row. To make a trill, draw the whistle out a bit rather than giving a quick "toot." Most handlers use three trills for their come-in whistle to keep it clear for the dog. A come-in whistle that ends in a distinct toot can be easily misinterpreted as a sit whistle.

Marks

We want the come-in whistle to be a meaningful command, so we do not blow it when the dog picks up a mark. The exception would be if the dog were to dawdle over the bird or not come directly back.

If the dog has been trained to retrieve, what do you think will happen when he picks up the bird? Odds are he will come back to deliver the bird whether or not you blow the whistle. So don't make the mistake of washing out the effectiveness of your come-in whistle by making it merely background music.

Blinds

When running blinds, there are several situations that can erode the meaning of the come-in whistle.

Improving Whistle Commands Part II: The Come-In Whistle

The first common mistake we see occurs when dogs are being taught to cast during the T pattern drills. A handler will stress "over" and "back" casts and forget the come-in whistle.

To prevent the come-in whistle from becoming ineffective, incorporate it often into your T pattern drills. Send the dog to the "back" pile and, as he is going, toss a dummy about 20 feet in front of you. Give a sit whistle and, after he is sitting, give a come-in whistle. With this setup, he must come almost all the way to you to find the dummy. Repeat this exercise often so that the dog will obey the come-in whistle as well as he obeys an "over" or "back" cast.

You can turn an "oops" into a positive in much the same fashion. Whenever you send the dog on a blind to a bumper pile and you realize that there are no more bumpers to retrieve, use the same procedure. When the dog isn't looking, toss a bumper about 20 feet in front of you and

give a sit whistle. Then, call him in to pick up the bumper with your come-in whistle. Instead of adversity, you get a good repetition of having the dog come in to you.

Correcting a crooked sit by giving a come-in whistle followed quickly by a sit whistle may cause problems with the come-in whistle command.



Around the Region

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Wiregrass Hunting RC	3/4/17	Meigs, GA
Chesapeake RC	3/11/17	Cheraw, SC
Black Warrior RC	3/11/17	Greensboro, AL
Tallahassee Hunting RC	3/18/17	Thomasville, GA
Bootheel RC	3/25/17	Millersville, MO
Fall Line RC	3/25/17	Lincolnton, GA
Tidewater RC	3/31/17	Remington, VA
Palmetto RC	3/31/17	Cheraw, SC
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
Ohio Valley RC	4/28/17	Coshocton, OH
Carolinas Ret. Assn.	4/29/17	Cheraw, SC
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
East TN RC	5/27/17	Birchwood, TN

Master Amateur Update

The Inaugural Running of the Master Amateur Invitational is coming up at the end of April — 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).