



2020 Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's EVENTS!

1. Monday, March 9, 2020: ETRC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN. Members welcome.
2. Sunday, March 29, 2020: Directed training session, aimed at attendees' needs. J. Michael Evans will conduct. 1:00 EASTERN- 4 p.m. Roane Regional, Lenoir City, TN. Weather dependent. RSVP please; see article on page 8.
3. April (TBD) — club trial; details next month
4. May 23-24, 2020: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee. 2 flights MH (132), double JH & SH
5. August TBD: Summer picnic
6. October 23-24: ETRC Fall Hunt Test, Sweetwater. 2 flights MH (132), double JH & SH

Photo of the Month



Outgoing President Luke McCoy gets a plaque and an honorarium to thank him for serving as our President for the past two years. Yes, that is a duck he is holding in his mouth in that picture!

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Minutes for Banquet and General Membership Meeting, Saturday, February 22, 2020 Calhoun's Bearden Hill Restaurant, Knoxville, 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, Jeff McNutt

Members present: Mitzi Evans; Denise, Tony, Erin, Cade, & Ivan Chambers; Debbie Bruhin; Elena, Hunter, and Abigail Smith; Peter & Mara Torok; Donna Smith; Lisa Styles; Justin Crippen; Gwen & Bill Coon; Katie McCoy; Liz Gibson; Patti Gibson; Kile & Tracey Gibson; Jake Greenwell

Guests Present: Lois's guest Todd McGee, Debbie Bruhin's granddaughter, Abigail Hunter's guest.

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. Nineteen memberships were represented, and the current membership stands at 53 (20% would be 11). Therefore, a quorum was present.

After a delicious buffet paid for by the Club, the business meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Welcome, and President's Report on last year's activities: Luke gave a brief wrap-up of events during the past fiscal year –

- 3 AKC hunt tests – Master only in March, regular spring and fall tests.
- Summer picnic / seminar at the Retriever Retreat with Jody Ware
- A Spring Club Trial at Roane Regional and a partial Fall club trial at the Retriever Retreat
- 4 training/ seminars from November through February.
- Thanks to:
 - Darryl Miller, who was willing for us to hold a club trial at this place in the spring until the rains intervened;
 - Ken Campbell for letting us use his farm for our fall hunt test;
 - Lois and Sherie Catledge for hosting the summer picnic and several of the winter training seminars.
 - Lisa Styles and Sherie Catledge for leading the recent training sessions/ seminars during November, December, January and February
 - Everybody who worked, helped and participated in any of our events during the year
- New equipment: Recently, the club has continued upgrading our equipment with the purchase of a new big trailer and the sale of the old one. Much better organized now! Thanks to Jim Pearce, Mike Smith, J. Michael Evans, Cory Smith, and Luke McCoy for installing shelving and storage inside the container, and to Lois Luthenauer and Karen Edwards for helping with the organization. We also purchased 4 new aluminum large duck dryers 2/19/2020, to be ready for spring hunt test., and authorized the purchase of 4 new pop-ups to be delivered before the spring hunt test; Lois Luthenauer is ordering these for us.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 8, 2020. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since January 15. Alan Bruhin moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted. The motion was seconded by Lois and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards: Balance in the treasury as of 2/22/20 is \$18,130.70, before paying for the banquet and for the awards. Karen handed out a single copy of the full Treasurer's report for the past year; this included separate sheets for calendar year 2019 and for Calendar year 2020 to date, as well as a sheet that showed the money in and out of our Youth Program fund. Balance in our ORNL FCU account at the end of 2019 was \$20,389.42, of which \$4,413.57 is earmarked for the youth fund. Recent payments were for the first insurance bill of the year, more ribbons, and new duck dryers. Alan Bruhin moved we accept the Treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by J. Michael Evans, and unanimously approved.

Banquet Minutes, Continued

AKC Delegate's Report: Michele Fletcher: nothing to report since last meeting.

Old Business

Election of New members: Luke McCoy. We have 6 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval. They are:

- **Burton Beakley & Heather Ludwig.** Live in Signal Mountain, TN, have two yellow Labradors, interesting in training and hunt tests, is a DU member. Volunteers for training supplies. Sponsors Mike Smith, Mike Evans.
- **Dave & Jamie Cope:** live in Maryville, TN. Have a black lab puppy, 11 months old. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, dog training, is a DU and NRA member. Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Sponsors Mike Smith, Lois Luthenauer.
- **Justin Crippen,** Old Hickory TN. Has 2 Golden. Very active in obedience, getting started in field work. Interested in field trials, hunt tests, and dog training. Volunteers for whatever is needed and hunt test set up. Has come to most of the recent ETRC events. Sponsors Sherie Catledge and Jim Pearce.
- **Kyle & Tracey Griffin:** Knoxville, TN. Have a young black Lab, just getting started. Interested in hunt tests, field trials, training, club trials, beginners looking to learn. Sponsors Jim Pearce and Mike Smith.
- **Pat Kowalski:** Fairfield Glade, TN. Has a young Golden. Previously active in SAR work, interesting in learning about field work. Sponsors Catledge and Luthenauer.
- **Sharon Zickler,** Crossville, TN. Sharon has a young golden male, participates in various other dog sports, belongs to the ORKC & the Cuyahoga Valley GRC, is interested in field training and hunt testing. Volunteers for hunt test set up and food prep/supplies. Sponsors Sherie Catledge and Gwen Coon.

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

Upcoming Events Updates: We have a full line-up of events for this coming year, and planning is already well underway for the following events:

- **Winter Training:** next date is Sunday, March 29, 2020 at the Roane Regional training grounds, 1:00 – 4:00. Mike Evans will lead (assuming all is well with the new family additions due March 14).
- **Spring Club Trial:** Not scheduled yet. Luke asked the membership if there was any interest in continuing these events, since they have been very poorly attended for some time. Alan Bruhin suggested that the Board make this an item of discussion at the next board meeting, to try to increase interest in these events. We will need to decide a time and a location, plus identify someone willing to take on running the event, finding judges, contacting the farm owner.
- **Spring Hunt Test:** May 23-24, 2020, Hiwassee. This is usually our biggest event of the year and we need help with set-up, marshaling, and more. We have a small glitch on one of the judges, who needs to pass a test before AKC approval, plus we need some ideas for bird kids as we will not be able to use the FFA Monroe County chapter again.
- **Summer Seminar and Picnic:** date and location to be determined.
- **Fall Club Trial:** Ken Campbell's ranch is available in late September / early October if we decide to continue on with the Club Trials.
- **Fall Hunt Test:** October 17-18, 2020, Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 Farm. 2 flights MH, double JH double SH, same format as our spring test, dates confirmed with Ken. Info on the test has been entered into Entry Express and the AKC website. Next step is locating judges.
- **Fall Training:** We will pick up with more club training events starting next November.

Banquet Minutes, Continued

New Business:

Awards Presentations . President Luke McCoy announced awards for 2019 — See article on page 6 for details.

Youth Program: Lois Luthenauer spoke concerning the youth program and its current status. The two backbones of our sport are Amateurs and young people coming up who will become our next group of working amateurs. Participating in retriever sports can be an expensive hobby for families, and the Youth Program, in honor of Lois's deceased husband Kevin Luthenauer, was developed to help families be able to afford for young people to participate in hunt tests and other club activities. Lois thanked the Board and Ken Campbell for providing funding for this program. Unfortunately, there were no entrants in the program for 2019, but we have back awards for 2017 and 2018, and the introduction of our new perpetual Young Handler of the Year trophy. The McCoy sisters were on the plaque for their participation in 2017, and Erin and Cade Chambers who shared the honor for 2018.

In Memoriam: Luke McCoy mentioned that for those people who have lost dogs during the year, we do have an 'in memoriam' page on the website and in the newsletter, and welcome pictures and tributes to any member dogs who pass on during the year. Please send the info and photos to Karen Edwards.

Election of Officers/Board. See article on page 7. The slate presented by the nominating committee was put up for a vote. A motion to approve by voice vote rather than secret ballot, and to approve the slate as presented was made by Jim Pearce, seconded by Lois Luthenauer, and passed unanimously.

Statement by New President: Alan Bruhin thanked Luke McCoy for his past two years as President, and presented him with a picture plaque, a gift card from Bass Pro, and a thank you card. Alan announced that he was excited to serve as our President for the upcoming year, and with the strong Board, has some ideas that he is hoping will make the club even stronger.

Door Prizes: Alan Bruhin handed out slips for door prizes and called up recipients. Prizes awarded included bumpers, lighted-up nighttime collars, whistles, and a variety of club tee-shirts and hats.

Any other new business?

Several of the members present thanked the Board for the free dinner, which made the Awards Banquet feel more festive and was a very nice thank you to the club members.

Lois urged people to get involved in the Master Amateur program. This year's event will be held in California (and Lois and Woodie are again going), but next year's will be much closer. The judges are the same caliber as the Master National judges, and at this point it is still a much more manageable event with 150 dogs last year in two flights, as opposed to the Master National which is now running at nearly 1000 dogs a year. The eligibility period for next year begins March 1, and Lois urged people who are considering making a run for the test to join the MA Club now so their passes in the spring can be counted for qualification.

New Treasurer: Outgoing Treasurer Karen Edwards made the following motion: "The Board of Directors authorizes new Treasurer Lois Luthenauer to be added as a signatory to the Club's ORNL Federal Credit Union Account #0004060650, with authority to endorse and make deposits, sign checks, withdraw funds, and otherwise operate the account on behalf of the Club. Karen Edwards and Michele Fletcher will also remain as authorized signatories on the account. It is recognized that ORNL Federal Credit Union shall have no liability whatsoever for any transaction undertaken by any one of the persons listed above."

The motion was seconded by J. Michael Evans and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. The motion was



End of the Year Awards 2019

Each year, ETRC recognizes a number of members and their dogs for a variety of achievements during the previous year. Awards include engraved brass plaques, and a few awards also have a perpetual trophy that the winner gets to keep for a year. The following End-of-the-Year Awards were passed out at the Awards Banquet on February 22.. Congratulations everyone!

Junior Hunter Title Awards:

- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball JH ("Cin"), Labrador Retriever bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Fern Hill Kepes Arany Sugar JH ("Kepes"), Golden Retriever owned and handled by Peter Torok, bred by Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce
- ◆ Falkinburg's Patriot Gold JH ("Kenji"), Golden Retriever owned and handled by Justin Crippen
- ◆ Topbrass El Jefe de Conejitos Espinosos JH ("Jefe"), Golden Retriever owned and handled by Justin Crippen

Senior Hunter Title Awards:

- ◆ Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo SH ("Zoey"), Golden Retriever bred & owned by Jim Pearce and Karen Edwards; handled by Jody Ware.

Master Hunter Title Awards:

- ◆ McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name SH ("Echo"), Golden retriever bred by Brent McCoy, owned by Luke McCoy, and handled by Luke and Brian Caldwell.
- ◆ Chota's Acer the Eraser MH ("Ace"), Labrador Retriever, owned & handled by Lisa Styles
- ◆ Razor Sharp Retrievers JJ MH ("JJ"), Labrador Retriever, owned and handled by Jeremy Majors, bred by Leigh Ware

QA2 (Qualified All-Age 2):

This is an AKC title award to dogs who qualify twice to advance to All-Age field trial competition. Winning one of these prestigious titles in 2019 was Troublesome Oklahoma Girl MH ("Okie"), Labrador Retriever owned by Jake Greenwell;

Qualifying at the Master Amateur:

Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to Labrador Retriever Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie") and owner / handler Lois Luthenauer.

Qualifying For the Master National: None of our members completed the MN this year, but just qualifying to go is a huge achievement. People who either qualified but didn't go, or attended but didn't complete all the series, were:

- ◆ Alan Bruhin and Labrador Retriever, Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH ("Shine");
- ◆ David Knott and Labrador Retriever, Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH ("Coal");
- ◆ J. Michael Evans and Labrador Retriever, HRCH Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH ("Ivy");
- ◆ Luke McCoy and Golden Retriever, McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name MH ("Echo")
- ◆ Lois Luthenauer and Labrador Retriever, Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie")

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year: The winner of the Perpetual Trophy for 2019 and a plaque to keep was Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball JH ("Cin"), Labrador Retriever bred, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of the Year: This year the plaque and Perpetual Trophy went to Labrador Retriever Coon Creek's Backwater Quackhead MH ("Woodie") and owner / handler Lois Luthenauer.

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2019: The honor this year was presented to our Hunt Test Secretary and AKC Delegate Michele Fletcher, who in addition to training and competing in hunt tests is a top Agility judge and competitor.

ETRC Member of the Year: The award this year went to Karen Edwards, who has served as our Secretary / Treasurer during 2019. Karen also publishes the Newsletter monthly, and is chief nag-in-residence for the Board members.

Kevin Luthenauer Young Handler of the Year: There were no program participants for 2019. However, the perpetual trophy and plaques for 2018 were presented to the 2018 winners, Cade and Ivan Chambers. Just a little late!



ETRC Officers / Board Members for 2019

Here is the list of officers, board members, and other important club positions for 2019, as voted in at the banquet on February 22. 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: Alan Bruhin (wabruhin@utk.edu)
- ◆ Vice President: J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com)
- ◆ Secretary: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com)
- ◆ Treasurer: Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com)
- ◆ Board Member 2020-2023: Jim Pearce (jwp@pegasustech.com)
- ◆ Board Member 2020-2023: Peter Torok (pandmtorok@outlook.com)
- ◆ Board Member 2019-2022: Jeff McNutt (seymournutts75@gmail.com)
- ◆ Board Member 2019-2022: Mike Smith (mmsmith2314@gmail.com)
- ◆ Board Member 2018-2021: Tom Gibson (tinytomgib@yahoo.com)
- ◆ Board Member 2018-2021: Cory Smith (lrrs223@gmail.com)
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Michele Fletcher (michelemfletcher@yahoo.com)
- ◆ AKC Representative: Michele Fletcher (michelemfletcher@yahoo.com)
- ◆ Past President: Luke McCoy (non-elective) (fonemn3@bellsouth.net)
- ◆ Chief Marshall for 2020 tests: Lois Luthenauer (non-elective) (mountainLO717@gmail.com)

A big thanks to Luke McCoy for serving as President for the past two years,, in addition to going to school, working full time, judging hunt tests, competing at the highest levels, getting married, buying a house, and taking on a new puppy. We appreciate you!



Some of the Awards in clockwise starting at top left: Lisa Styles with her MH plaque; Jake Greenwell with his QA2 plaque; Michele Fletcher getting her AKC Sportsman of the Year award; Lois Luthenauer's surprise Gun Dog of the Year award. Congratulations all!



Directed Training Day 03/29/2020

Come join us on a Sunday afternoon (1:00 –4:00 Eastern) for a directed training session. One of ETRC's most accomplished amateur trainers and handlers, J. Michael Evans, will conduct the training. It will be focused on training amateurs to train their own dogs. Location: Roane Regional Training Grounds, behind 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

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 J. Michael — (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com) with info about your dog's training level so we can have some activities that will be useful at every level represented.

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. Also, Michael is expecting a litter of puppies on March 14 and he has asked me to include a caveat that he may have to cancel if there are unexpected issues.

Hope to see you there!

Youth Program



2018 Award Recipients, Cade and Ivan Chambers

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

Membership Renewals Due NOW

Your 2019 memberships expired the last day of February. You will stay on the email notification list until June 1, at which time we purge the rolls and change the passwords on the website.

So why not renew now while you are thinking about it? 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 plus the opportunity to make friendships with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain!

Member News

Litter Announcement: Hank x Ivy



HRCH Hilltops Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH (“Ivy”) is bred to GRHRCH Magnolia’s Hammerin Hank MH MNH7 for puppies due March 14. Owner J. Michael Evans is looking forward to the fun and chaos that puppies will bring — this will be his first litter since helping his Dad whelp beagles when he was a kid. All puppies should be yellow and should have terrific field talent, with lots of FC-AFCs in the pedigree. Contact J. Michael if you might be interested in one — fowl_mouth_k9@aol.com or phone him at 865-824-8638.

Training Equipment For Sale

New member Burton Beakley (Maryville) has just upgraded his training equipment and has the following for sale:

1. Garmin Delta XC with two collars and Garmin holster — Asking \$22
 - 2.5 mile range
 - Expandable up to 3 dogs with purchase of additional collars
 - Remembers each individual dog’s training settings when using with multiple dogs
 - 3 Training configurations
 - Waterproof (IPX7 rating)
 - Ergonomic design
 - Quick charge Li-Ion batteries that are user replaceable (3-5 year lifespan with proper care)
 - LED display lets you see stimulation settings quickly and easily
 - 18 levels of continuous or momentary stimulation
 - Non-stimulating tone and vibration functions
2. Five Gunners Up Original Wingers and two Carrying Cases- asking \$220 per winger and \$15 for carrying bag, all in very good condition.
3. Owen DIY double aluminum dog box- Asking \$275

For more information, contact Burton at 985-778-8387 or email him at bbeak11@gmail.com.

Member News, Continued

Litter Announcement: Black Labradors

Jack QA2 (9 Open Points) x Nellie QA2 (Am Win)

Litter is due to be whelped around 3/12/20 in Tennessee. Blacks and Yellows.

Jack had 41 Derby points and has 9 Open points with a win. He just needs 1 more point to earn his FC which will likely occur very soon.

Nellis had 15 Derby points and has an Amateur and Qualifying win. She also has 4 other litter-mates with All Age points.

Contact John Broucek, 865-659-9207 for prices and more information.

Seaside's Pompano Jack QA2 (BLK)

Hips: LR-226585E24M-VPI (EXCELLENT)
Elbows: LR-EL77853M24-VPI (Normal)
EIC: LR-EIC0875F-PI (CLEAR)

Jack QA2 (9
Open Points) x
Nellie QA2 (Am
Win)

Indi's L7 Nellie QA2 (BLK)

Hips: LR-224852E24F-PI (Excellent)
Elbows: LR-EL76323F24-PI (Normal)
Eyes: LR-EYE9981/16F-VPI (Normal)
CNM: LR-CNM1752/30F-PI (Clear)
EIC: LR-EIC4193/30F-PI (Clear)



FC AFC Dare to Dream (BLK)

Hips: LR-55003E31M (EXCELLENT)
Eyes: LR-22943/1999--95
EIC: (CARRIER)

Seaside's Shaqadellic QAA (BLK)

Hips: LR-201653E24F-VIP
Elbows: LR-EL57531F24-VIP

'11 NAFC FC AFC Cody Cut A Lean Grade (BLK)

Hips: LR-159258G4M-PI (Good)
Elbows: LR-EL30615M24-PI (Normal)
Eyes: LR-52237 (Normal)
CNM: (CLEAR-PIV)
EIC: LR-EIC462/53M-VPI (CLEAR)

FC AFC Indi Go Girl UD (BLK)

Hips: LR-198173G28F-VPI
Elbows: LR-EL54911F28-VPI
Eyes: LR-EYE5842/61F-VPI
CNM: VPI Clear(per whitelist)

FC-AFC Wilderness Harley To Go (2003 Hall of Fame) (BLK)

Hips: LR-19528 (GOOD)
Eyes: LR-1930/1995--145 (NORMAL)

FC-AFC Fishtrap Aggie (BLK)

Hips: LR-26064E24F(Excellent)

FC AFC Wood River's Franchise (BLK)

Hips: LR-171841E63M-PI (EXCELLENT)
Elbows: LR-EL20613M29-PI (Normal)
Eyes: LR-37070 (Normal)
CNM: Clear (Per White List)
EIC: LR-EIC167/88M-VPI (Clear)

FC AFC Flyway's Ruby B. Gonia (BLK)

Hips: LR-168672E31F-PI (EXCELLENT)
Elbows: LR-EL35671F31-PI (Normal)
Eyes: LR- 49940 (Normal)
CNM: (CLEAR)
EIC: (CARRIER)

FC AFC Code Blue (2000 Hall of Fame) (BLK)

Hips: LR-65244G60M (EXCELLENT)

Ms Lean Mac'ce QAA (BLK)

Hips: LR-106035E31F (EXCELLENT)
Eyes: LR-33975 (Normal)

FC AFC Tartan Prime Time (BLK)

Hips: LR-132787E24M-PI
Elbows: LR-EL19089M24-PI
Eyes: LR-35555 (03)
CNM: LR-CNM05-306-M-PIV
EIC: LR-EIC40/87-VPI (Normal)

A Shot Of Tuaca QAA (YLW)

Hips: LR-153282G33F-PI (Good)
Elbows: LR-EL27694F33-PI
Eyes: LR-55411

Member News, Continued

Litter Announcement: Black Labradors

AKC registered all black litter. 6 males 3 females. Sire: Sales Super Sonic Jet, grand sire NAFC FC AFC Paddle Creeks Pack Your Grip. Dam: Sales Midnight Star Constellation, Grand dam FC AFC Dottie Rays Blue 4 You. Sire and Dam OFA cert. Excellent drive and trainability. Sire and Dam are excellent markers/retrievers field and water. Both big jumpers. Full registration. 7 weeks old March 16th. All shots and vet checked. Health guarantee. 865-894-5269. \$700



Training Day

There was another guided training day at the Retriever Retreat on February 16. This was rescheduled from January and then from March 9, so third time was the charm! Unfortunately, with all the rescheduling and the fairly short notice, attendance was smaller than it would have been for the earlier sessions. Sherie Catledge conducted the session, which was pretty much the equivalent of a private lesson for the people attending! In attendance were Justin Crippen, Tom & Liz Gibson, Lois Luthenauer, and Gwen Coon. We worked young dogs on blinds, blinds, blinds, and then doubles with blinds! A great time was had by all! Thanks, Sherie, for hanging in there with us!



The next training day will be March 29, 2020 at Roane Regional. See the article earlier in this issue with more information.

Training Corner

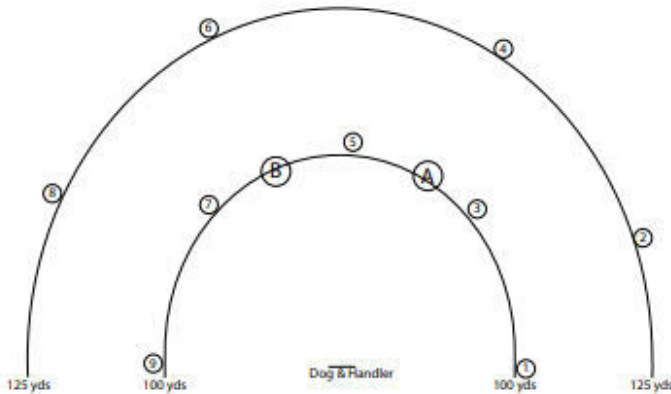
An Alternative to Pattern Blinds

By Rody Best

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the January 2015 edition of Retriever News. Reprinted by permission.

I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR new and more effective methods for teaching retrievers how to handle better on blind retrieves in the field. A couple of years ago, I discovered a drill termed "9 Point." I have read a lot of books and been to many seminars, but I had never heard of this drill before. This drill is an alternative for pattern blinds. At the time, I wasn't completely convinced that 9 Point was going to complement my training program, but I decided that I would set it up as soon as I got home and start running some dogs through it anyways. Ultimately, this turned out to be a very good decision!

Let me first outline the 9 Point drill and then I will go over its benefits. First, you will need a relatively flat and featureless field where you can run blinds out to at least 150-175 yards. You will need 9 blind stakes or flags. You will also need at least 5 large white bumpers and 4 large orange bumpers. Ground cover needs to be low, ankle to shin high is acceptable. You need to set up the drill with your back to the predominant wind direction (for example, we usually have a south wind in Texas, so I set up my 9 Point drill facing north.)



Before we begin, your dog must have already completed the simple T-drill – i.e., your dog must be able to sit on a whistle and take a cast reliably (we prefer to have also completed swim-by, but this is not mandatory.) Begin this drill by 'identifying' the location of the front 5 blinds (white bumpers, #'s 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9) for the dog. We use a bird boy and get the dog's attention by either shooting or yelling "hey-hey-hey-hey" and throwing the white bumper to the first stake. Send your dog to the bumper on its name (this is a mark, not a blind.) Receive your dog and now send your dog back to #1 on a blind retrieve. Repeat the same process for #'s 3, 5, 7, and 9. We usually do this for a couple of days until we feel confident the dog has a general

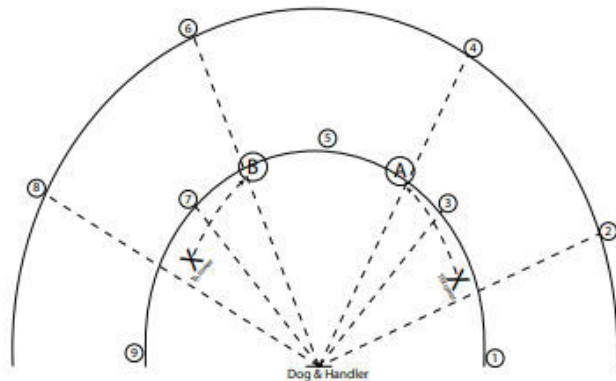
understanding of the location of these five blinds.

The next session, we begin running the five blinds "cold," meaning we run the blinds without identifying them first. This process can take up to a week, sometimes two – depending on the trainability of the dog. The ultimate goal would be to have the dog lining or completing the blinds in one to two whistles before your dog is ready to move forward. Now it is time to introduce the orange bumpers (#'s 2, 4, 6, and 8.) Follow the same procedure that you did for the white bumper – identify as a mark first, and then repeat as a blind. If your dog is having difficulty, you can move up and run from the arc of the white bumpers first, then back up and repeat. After a couple sessions of identifying the location of the orange bumpers, you can begin running them "cold." It is important to note here that this is NOT a lining drill; in the beginning, do not spend a great deal of time concerned with the initial line your dog takes. In fact, this is the point of this drill – most of the time your dog will take an initial line towards one of the white bumpers. This will allow you the opportunity to cast your dog away from the suction of the white bumpers and towards the orange bumpers. It is very common to have difficulty handling to the orange bumpers because your dog will have to go between two white bumpers – #4 and #6 seem to really give our dogs a difficult time. Run your dog on the orange bumpers until your dog is lining them or completing them in

one to two whistles.

The next step is to start running all 9 blinds in order, from 1 through 9. If you encounter trouble on a certain blind, scoot up and work through the issue. If you have a particularly difficult time on a blind and your dog becomes tired, you may not be able to complete all 9 blinds in one session – that's ok. In fact, during the hot summer months in Texas, we usually reduce the number of blinds and only run #'s 2 through 8 (skip #1 and #9.) Towards the end of the drill, I begin to pay attention to lining; the white ones are generally pretty easy to line, the orange ones can be a challenge. As a general rule, I recall the dog if they try to go back to a blind they just completed (just be cautious or you can create popping and/or no-go issues.) I want to see effort by the dog to go in a new direction; not back to an old fall. Generally, depending on the caliber of the dog, this can take 8 to 10 sessions at least to fully complete.

The last step is to add marks to the drill (see diagram right.) Have a gunner throw a bird to location A, and send your dog to retrieve the bird. Next, run blinds 2, 3, and 4. I call this opposite side marks. Usually the gunner is a good distraction and will allow you to work on pulling your dog off and lining them up on the blinds. Repeat the same procedure on the other side. Gunner throws to B, and then run blinds 6, 7, and 8. Once your dog is sufficiently running the blinds with the presence of the gunner in the field, it is time to do same side marks. This is effectively the same procedure, except the Gunner and the blinds are run on the same side of the field.



It is important to note that these blinds have a relational concept to the gunner – #2 is behind the gun, #3 is under the arc of the mark and #4 is through the old fall of the mark. This will teach your dog to be able to recognize and be successful running blinds that are influenced by a gunner's station. After completing this last step, you have essentially completed the 9 Point drill.

The 9 Point drill is an effective way to help transition your dog from the drill field to running cold blinds. However, its applications are actually endless. I have been known to use the drill as a simple tune-up for my advanced dogs, increase confidence in a young dog, improve momentum, work on popping or no-go issues, scalloping, digging back or even teaching poisoned bird blinds. I hope you will discover its usefulness as we have and implement it into your training programs.

Best Retrievers, Rody and Kristin Best. Rody Best has been training retrievers professional for nearly 20 years. He has competed in both AKC Hunt Tests and Field Trials, HRC Hunt Tests and the Super Retriever Series. Located in Paige, Texas, Best Retrievers also trains gundogs for dove and waterfowl hunting.

Around the Region — Seminars, Tests, & Trials

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

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
Boothel 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
Red Hill RC	04/03/20	Fosters, AL
Lumber River RC	4/4/20	Rocky Point, NC
Rappahannock River (double MH 66)	4/10/20	Remington, VA
Dardenne RC (66)	4/17/20	St. Charles, MO
Greater Atlanta RC	4/18/20	Buckhead, GA
MTARC (MH only)	4/28/20	LaVergne, TN

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Black Warrior RC	3/13/20	Greensboro, AL
Bluegrass RC	3/20/20	Grahamville, KY
Mid Atlantic HRC of VA DQ2	4/3/20	Farmville, VA
Ms Valley RC	4/3/20	Weldon Spring, MO
Down East HRC of NC	4/9/20	Rocky Point, NC
N.Alabama RC	4/9/20	Greensboro, AL
TN. Valley RC	4/10/20	Sweetwater, TN
Golden RC D/Q	4/11/20	St. Charles, MO
Tidewater RC	4/17/20	Emporia, VA
Mobile ARC	4/17/20	Greensboro, RC
MTARC	4/24/20	Lavergne, TN

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 2020 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).