

2018 Upcoming Events

1. April 7, 2018: ETRC Spring Club Trial #1, Saturday, signups begin at 8 AM, at Darryl Miller's Farm, Sweetwater, TN. More information & directions on page 2 below.
2. ORGANIZED TRAINING , April 7, 2018, following completion of the Club Trial. Details on p. 2
3. May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Judges Pending.
4. June ??? 2018: Youth Handler Seminar. Plans pending.
5. August ???, summer picnic/business meeting/seminar
6. October 20-21, 2018: Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch. Pending.



President's Message

Hello everyone! Hope everyone is getting their dogs ready for hunt test season even with this weather not cooperating very well for training.

Our spring test is set to open on Entry Express on May 2nd. If you would like a worker's code to gain early entry into master, please feel free to contact Hunt Test Secretary Carol McCorkle to volunteer for working at the test and to get access to a code. Carol's email address is schwartzpudel@hughes.net.

Also, if the weather cooperates, we will be having a club test at the Miller farm in Sweetwater on Saturday, April 7, followed by a training session in the afternoon. More information on that is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Don't forget that memberships lapsed as of March 1, and you will be taken off the membership rolls as of June 1. Don't wait until the last minute to renew.

As some of you may know, our long time former hunt test secretary Roberta Williams had a small stroke just a few days after our awards banquet. The prognosis is good and she is expected to make a full recovery. She is at home, in therapy, and her daughter Melody is staying with her. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she means so much to this club. If you would like to send her a get well card, her address is P.O. Box 4131, Sevierville, TN 37864.

Hope to see everyone at the club test next Saturday. In the meantime, continue training and stay safe.

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Spring Club Trial #1, April 7, 2018 Darryl and Sharon Miller Farm

ETRC will host a spring Club Trial on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at Darryl 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.

STAKES: 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, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards.

MEMBERS ONLY. If you haven't yet renewed for 2018 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 expected to be 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 hopefully 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.

DIRECTIONS: The Miller Farm is located next to the Holt Farm in Sweetwater, TN. The Millers have a right-of-way across the Holt farm to access their land. Please do not stop on the Holt Farm but continue through to the back ponds and the barn.

Take I-75 South to Sweetwater Exit 62. Turn right on Hwy 322. Go west for 1.7 miles to County Road 200 and turn right. Go 1/2 mile past the Holt Tractor Sales Building to 5249 Holt Road. Turn right into the driveway and go 3/4 mile to the barn headquarters.

ORGANIZED TRAINING AFTERWARDS: After the Trial is over, we will be able to use the grounds for training. If you would like to participate, bring along your training equipment and break it out after lunch. This will be a good chance to work on issues that you identified during the club trial.

Update on the Spring Hunt Test

Plans for ETRC's spring hunt test are proceeding well and we are on schedule. The test will be held over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 26 and Sunday May 27. 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, and we have committee chairmen working on all the myriad things that have to happen — birdkids, lunches, judges /workers dinner, judges' gifts, motel reservations for the judges, lining up gunners for the live fliers, ordering the ducks, etc.

Entries for the public open Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Central time, and close Monday, May 14, 2018 just before midnight Central time. Please note that our test is set up as two separate tests on Entry Express, and for Junior and Senior you will have to click on and enter both. The Master Stake is associated with the Saturday, May 26 test.

The Master test is limited to 120 dogs; people who volunteer to work some at the test can sign up and get a code from test Secretary Carol McCorkle (schwartzpudel@hughes.net) that will enable them to enter early — starting Tuesday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. Central time. Note: you can enter dogs for Junior and Senior stakes already.

Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 25; 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. To volunteer, contact Carol (email above), test chairman Luke McCoy (fonemn3@bellsouth.net), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com), Chief Steward Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com) or Secretary Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) to sign up for some hard work and good fun.

Judges are:

Master A: Chris Bodine and Rick Vaughan

Master B: Richard Hammond and William Skeels

Junior Sat / Senior Sun: James and Jan Burnett

Senior Sat / Junior Sun: Catherine Hammond and Don Hatfield



Best Western, Dayton, TN

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. Hope to see you there, as a competitor or worker or both!



Hiwassee Refuge



Youth Program Update

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is starting its third year and we already have a couple of enrollees. 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. A perpetual trophy is being designed and ordered along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program. The awards will be retroactive to 2016.

The picture to the right shows Cade Chambers receiving his JH title award that he earned in 2017 with his Ches-sie, Dead River's Rascally Reed JH.



Membership Renewals Due NOW

Your 2017 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!

Master Amateur Renewals Due

The qualifying year for the 2019 Master Amateur Invitational (in Butte, MT) begins on March 1. If you're an annual member, be sure to renew soon to have your master passes count during the qualification period, you can't go back and retroactively count passes. Renew here: <https://www.masteramateur.com/membership-options.html> Please note that ETRC's lifetime membership in MARC does not mean individual members have the same status.

Training Corner

Ten Pitfalls In Retriever Training

Top pitfalls trainers face and how to correct them

By Mike Stewart, Wildrose Kennels

Editor's Note: To recap from last month, (pitfalls 1-4) many of the problems that owner-trainers experience when training retrievers could be minimized easily if addressed early in training. It is much better to not condition in a problem that you must later train out. Here are more of the top pitfalls trainers face. ***As always, the opinions expressed in these training articles are those of the trainer and their reproduction here does not imply ETRC institutional agreement!***

5. Setting Pups Up to Fail: Nothing is learned from failure in the dog world. It is vital that pups succeed every time in training to develop confidence in you and in themselves. Don't expect young dogs to exceed their capabilities. Nothing succeeds like success. If necessary, walk out and help locate the fall yourself, shorten distances, simplify the concept or re-visit basic core skills. Train, don't test.

Teach every skill within a concept and then link them together. Dogs learn from association established through consistent repetition. In effect, we are establishing a learning chain through causal relationships. Be careful not to circumvent this process. Think "win, win" ... how can the exercise be set up to enhance the possibilities of success?

6. No Transitional Training: This error commonly occurs in one or two forms when individuals eagerly press their dogs into hunting situations too quickly. For example:

- a. They rush through skills and exercises without sufficient repetition to make a skill a habit. When pressed on the hunt, the pup becomes confused or merely disregards the commands and spins out of control.
- b. Individuals do not sufficiently transfer training skills introduced in drills to practical hunting situations.

A proper training sequence for a gundog includes:

Yard work—introduction to skills in a controlled environment

Field training sessions—training exercises and drills usually conducted on familiar training grounds to entrench skills

Transitional training—practical exercises in simulated hunting situations including varied terrain, locations and natural environmental factors that will likely be confronted on the hunt, such as birds, gunfire, boats, etc.

Training on the hunt—The first hunts with a young gundog must be dedicated to training, not taking game. Early hunting experiences are extensions of training. The settings, circumstances and conditions of the hunt must be controlled to the highest extent possible. Focus remains on specific goals. Attention is placed on the dog and his particular needs. Young prospects should not be rushed into hunting situations until all basic gundog skills are understood and thorough transitional experiences have been afforded the handler and the dog.

7. Counterproductive Interference: Many hunting dog prospects spend much of their time in uncontrolled environments such as the home, apartment or office, where they remain unconfined during off-training periods. Well-meaning friends, visitors or neighbors commonly confront them with opportunities for dysfunctional behavior/activities. Dogs are learning all the time, not just in training.

Question what is being learned outside the controlled training environment. Many times the experiences occur while the owner/handler is not present. People love to amuse themselves by playing with an eager, enthusiastic retriever, and they may be promoting unsteadiness by tossing repeated, mean-

Training Corner, Continued

ingless retrieves; encouraging free running or swimming; or perhaps even a bit of rough house, tug-of-war, or chase. Guests, kids at home and neighbors all may unintentionally become ambassadors of hyperactivity and dysfunctional habits for our gundogs. People may also interfere with the concentration of your dog/pup during training by attempting to praise, interact or provide treats while the dog is involved in a session. These acts are seemingly harmless from the individual's perspective. They want to interact only briefly with your dog, but the practice must be discouraged and avoided.

- a. Establish rules for family members to follow when handling the dog while you are away.
- b. Instruct visitors and neighbors about acceptable conduct with your dogs, especially pups.
- c. If you cannot control the situation while you are absent, control the dog's environment. Invest in a space where the dog can remain away from others while you're away, such as an outdoor pen, enclosure, etc.
- d. Don't allow others to interfere with or distract your dog while involved in training.

8. Late Whistle Introductions. Often, individuals introduce whistle commands far too late in the pup's training cycle. Starting pups very young on the whistle for recall (here) and sit (stop) pays huge dividends, yet most ignore the opportunity. Introduce the whistle by associating pleasurable experiences early during puppyhood. Pups will readily respond to the recall whistle by eight weeks old. I have had entire litters of six-week-old pups rush to the whistle peeps in excitement.

When pups associate a positive experience with the whistle, they will respond to accept their reward of affection, food, treats, or a short retrieve ... always something positive. The same is true of the "sit" whistle. Pups can consistently comply with this whistle command by three months old. They will eagerly sit on the whistle when the associated reward is sufficient and the commands are conducted infrequently.

Waiting to implement whistle commands offers no benefit. Too often, six- to seven-month-old pups pay no heed to their handlers' recall command, making the training challenge more difficult. Similarly, once the pup has advanced in basic training and is charging hard on retrieves, whistle stops are much more difficult to introduce.

9. Postponing Hand Signals. Another common mistake is to wait to introduce hand signals until a pup has completed extensive marking training and has had some actual hunt experience. This strategy promotes a self-employed, overly independent dog. What we want to produce is an interdependent hunting partner who readily works with us to locate game, and one who easily complies with direction in the field. Get the young dog handling well on casts and whistle commands before providing too many marking exercises and certainly before hunting exposure.

10. Poor Timing. Incorrect timing of praise and rewards for correct behavior is meaningless. Incorrectly timed correction or punishment for inappropriate behavior likewise has no value and is often counterproductive. A simple rule applies here: To be effective in modifying behavior, rewards and/or corrections must occur exactly when the desired or undesired behavior occurs, and at the location of the action. If we wait to reward a great cast or stylish water entry with verbal praise until the dog returns to our side, the dog associates the reward with returning to heel with the bumper, which is his most recent act, not the act we wanted to encourage. The same is true of correction. Negative behavior or improper response to commands must be corrected immediately at the time of the behavior and as close to the exact spot of the infraction

Training Corner, Continued

as possible. For instance, a non-response on a stop whistle must be corrected immediately and in the exact place the refusal occurred, if possible. It requires immediately returning the dog to the exact spot where the refusal occurred, making the correction and re-emphasizing the command at that location. This is why we must thoroughly drill skills to proficiency on land before progressing to water, unless we are fond of swimming.

Correction in dog training seems to be a favored method for many trainers. Actually, reward stimulus usually carries a much more powerful behavior modification effect if properly utilized. Yet, from my observation of handlers, they do not properly reward their prospects in training enough for effort, and when they do, it is usually mis-timed, holding little meaning for their dog.

Parting Thought: As always, the best strategy for gundog training is to set pups up to suc-

Around the Region

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| ceed and to not con- lem that will to be recti- later. | Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests | dition in a prob- hannock have fied |
| | Rappa- River RC (double J/S/M) Remington, VA | 4/13/18 |
| | Yadkin River RC (double J/S/M) | Cedar Grove, NC 4/14/18 |
| | Poodle Club Natl.Spec | St. Charles, MO 4/14/18 |
| | Neuse River RC | Kinston, NC 4/21/18 |
| | Atlanta RC | Buckhead, GA 4/21/18 |
| | Magnolia RC | Greensboro, AL 4/28/18 |
| | Labrador RC of Piedmont | Patrick, SC 5/05/18 |
| | Mid South RC | Bruce, MS 5/05/18 |
| | Cooper River RC | Cheraw, SC 5/11/18 |
| | Middle TN RC | LaVergne, TN 5/18/18 |
| | Master Amateur National Invit. | Sedalia, MO 5/20/18 |
| | ETRC Spring Test (120) | Hiwassee, TN 5/26/18 |

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Blue Ridge RC D/Q | Farmville, VA | 4/06/18 |
| Mid-Atlantic RC double D/Q | Farmville, VA | 4/06/18 |
| Lincoln Trail RC | Grahamville, KY | 5/04/18 |
| Tall Pines RC | Leesburg, GA | 5/04/18 |
| Blue Ridge RC | Farmville, VA | 5/18/18 |

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: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).