

Volume IX, Issue 4

April 2019



2019 Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9 a.m. — Club Trial, Darryl Miller Farm, Sweetwater. See article inside on p. 2
2. Saturday/Sunday, May 25-26, 2019: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee, pending final approval
3. August Seminar / Picnic: Date & location pending
4. Fall Club Trial: Date and location pending
5. Saturday / Sunday October 19-20, 2019: ETRC Fall Hunt Test, Hiwassee, judges pending

Photo of the Month



Barb Reed Photo

ETRC's Mid Week Master Test

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Spring Club Trial, April 13, 2019 Darryl and Sharon Miller Farm

ETRC will host a spring Club Trial on Saturday, April 13, 2019, 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. We will be using our new club-owned bumper launchers for the first time at this trial, to reduce the amount of time people have to spend out in the field throwing.

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 2019 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 if you want to participate for prizes. 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.

Report on our March Mid-Week Master Only Hunt Test, 3/26-27/19

Our first Mid-Week Master Hunt Test is in the books! We decided to put on this event because of the difficulty in getting into Master Hunt tests in our area. 60 dogs were entered, but 8 scratched between the date entries closed and the actual test itself, so only 52 actually started. Of those 52, 39 qualified.

A big thanks to the work crew, who came out Monday afternoon, met with the judges, and got all three series ready to go for Tuesday morning. The judges were Keith Maready and Linc Huffman; the work crew included Luke McCoy, J. Michael Evans, Jim Pearce, Alan Bruhin, Mike Smith, Corey Smith, Hunter Smith, Jeff McNutt, Lois Luthenauer, and Michele Fletcher. Barb Reed helped set up the Clubhouse along with Karen Edwards, and she made the most delicious coffee cakes which we all enjoyed over the next two days. Also thanks to the set-up/test dogs, Callie and Panda, Bauer, and Suzy. IF I MISSED ANYONE, please let me know — you are appreciated!

The test ran very smoothly. It was easy, not having to run back and forth between Master and other stakes, and everyone being all together at the same location for the duration of each series. We used club members at the gunner stations, with most of the hard work being done by the same people mentioned above for set-up plus assistance from Brian Caldwell and Jody Ware. Donna Smith was the Marshal, and Karen Edwards handled the office. Thanks especially go to Ken Campbell for the use of his beautiful facilities and grounds — they just get better every year!

Congratulations to members whose dogs competed and earned a pass:

- ◆ Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH, owned and handled by Alan Bruhin;
- ◆ RSR's Double J SH, owned by Jeremy Majors and handled by Brian Caldwell;
- ◆ Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen MH, owned and handled by J. Michael Evans;
- ◆ Coon Creeks Backwater Quack Head MHA, owned and handled by Lois Luthenauer;
- ◆ Trinity's Zoey Love MH, owned and handled by Barbara Reed;
- ◆ Buck's Beau of Stoneridge., owned and handled by Donna Smith



Hunt Test Photos



Barb Reed Photo

Member News and Announcements



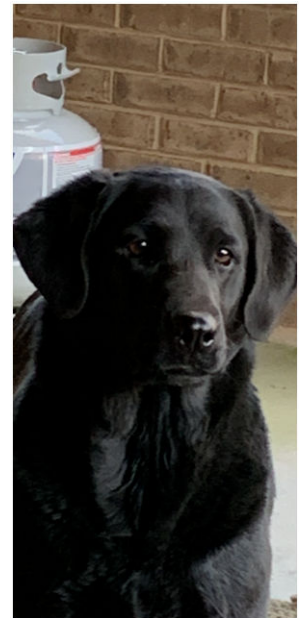
John Broucek is off to another good year! Two of his dogs competed at the Bluegrass Retriever Club's Derby in Grahamville, KY on March 22. Percy (Seasides Troublesome Fowl Pursuits) won first place, and Pharaoh (Troublesome American Pharaoh) won 4th, out of 17 entries. Congratulations to John and these fine young dogs!

For those more familiar with the Hunt Test world, Derby is the division of Field Trials reserved for dogs older than 6 months, but who haven't yet reached their 2nd birthday. The dogs in a Derby are tested on marked retrieves, both land and water. While the dogs must exhibit sufficient training to deliver to hand and be reasonably steady on line, the emphasis is on natural abilities related to marked retrieves. Typically a Derby stake will consist of four tests, two on land and two on water, each a set of double marked retrieves.

Litter of pups for sale — Billy Sales, 865-804-5269, \$800
Sire: Sales Supersonic Jet
Dam: Sales Little Sadie Come On
Grandsire NAFC FC AFC PADDLE CREEKS PACK YOUR GRIP
Grand dam SKATCHS JAZZTIME PEACH MOONSHINE MH
These pups have great conformation and a big motor. 6 weeks old 3/30/2019.



Jet



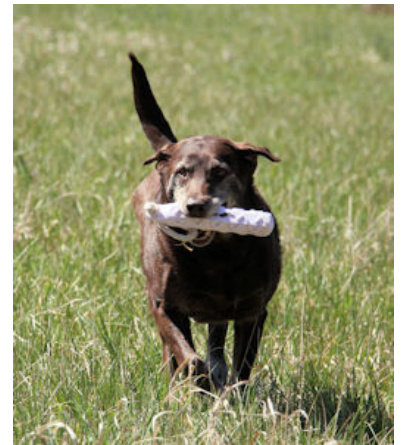
Sadie

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for Michele Fletcher's wonderful MACH RPO's Calamity Jane UD SH MXG MJS MFB T2B3 CGCA WC ADHF. After a rough pregnancy, Callie had 6 healthy puppies (3+3), but was still having health problems and had to have surgery when the puppies were about 10 days old. She seems to be doing better, and always took care of her pups who are growing normally. Fingers crossed that the pups are soon eating independently and that Callie continues to improve. Thinking of you, Michele, Callie and pups!

Adult Handler's Seminar with Sherie Catledge

Pro trainer and ETRC Club Member Sherie Catledge hosted an adult handler's seminar in Clarkrange on Sunday, March 31. The seminar was held at Retriever Retreat, the new facility that Lois Luthenauer and Sherie Catledge bought jointly about a week ago. Very private, the property features several guest cabins, some 20 acres of fields and a large pond, in addition to the house and other outbuildings. We are excited to see them off to a great start on their new venture, and wish them all the best!

The weather was sunny but cold, with a stiff wind. Sherie set up several different scenarios including marks and blinds, and walked each handler through, giving instruction and tips on how to improve handling skills and communications with the dogs. Excellent session — everyone who attended felt like they got a lot out of it. Thanks Sherie and Lois!



***Pictures from Sherie's
Handler's Seminar
March 31, 2019***

Nearby Field Trial

By Lisa Styles

ETRC members, there is a wonderful opportunity to observe a field trial this month close to us. The weekend of April 12-14, a new field trial club (Tennessee Valley Retriever Club) is having an inaugural trial at Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 ranch. They will be running three stakes that weekend — a Derby (this is for dogs under two years of age, marks only), an Amateur, and an Open. These last two are for dogs of all ages who have qualified for participation by placing in a Qualifying Stake. In the Amateur stake the handler must be an Amateur. They will run four series, usually with the marks and blinds separate — two series on land and two series on water. So — land marks, land blind, water blind, and for those left, water marks! You know the grounds so it will be interesting to see how field trial judges set up their tests. If you can, come out!

Youth Program Update

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is entering its fourth 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. A youth handler seminar conducted by Sherie Catledge and open to any youth who is interested in retriever sports will be held on March 30, 2019 at Sherie's and Lois Luthenauer's new farm, 3508 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN. Contact Lois (mountainLO717@gmail.com) to register so we know how many to expect.



A perpetual trophy will be awarded annually along with a plaque to keep, and a participation award for everyone in the program. Fees for hunt tests attended and all club events will be free for participating youth program members.

Membership Renewals Due NOW

Your 2018 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!

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 25 and Sunday May 26. 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 are still working to identify, birdkids, lunches, judges /workers dinner, judges' gifts, motel reservations for the judges, lining up gunners for the live fliers, ordering the ducks, etc., but work is proceeding.

Entries for the public open Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. Central time. Workers with codes can enter on Tuesday, 4/30/19 at 8:00 p.m. Central time. Entries close Monday, May 13, 2019 just before midnight Central time. This year our test is set up as a single test on Entry Express, so you only have to click on one test in order to enter both Junior and Senior tests.

The Master test is limited to 120 dogs; people who volunteer to work at the test can sign up and get a code from Assistant Test Chair J. Michael Evans — text or call him at 865-824-8638, or email at Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com. You will have to sign up for at least 4 hours of work at the test to get a code.

Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 24; 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 a helper 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 with the judges and hunt test committee on Friday night. To volunteer, contact test chairman Luke McCoy (fonemn3@bellsouth.net), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (contact info above), Chief Steward Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com) or Secretary Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) to sign up for some hard work and good fun.

The official motel will again be the Best Western Inn, 7835 Rhea County Highway (US 27 North), Dayton, TN. A total of 12 rooms will be 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. You may find that you can get a cheaper rate online or with other discounts you are entitled too through other organizations. The phone number is (423) 775-6560. Hope to see you there, as a competitor or worker or both!



Best Western, Dayton, TN



Hiwassee Refuge



Training Corner

Maintaining the Whole Dog

By Dennis Voigt

Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from an article in the Golden Retriever News Field Issue, November-December 2018. Other topics covered include training philosophy, talent vs. training, and studying trainers to see which training techniques work best. Dennis is a pro trainer for field trials, who has gotten a number of field titles on dogs he trains.

In the long term, failure to look after the whole dog is usually the downfall [in maintaining an advanced dog to be competitive week after week, year after year.] By the whole dog, I mean both the mental and physical well-being of the dog. His attitude and his head are as important as his physical condition. He needs to be mentally alive and looking forward to every day. He needs to find life both interesting and challenging. A certain amount of balanced and proper stress is important for all animals. Stress can come in the form of physical hardship or mental challenges. It can also come in the form of pressure. A dog that gets absolutely no pressure for three or four weeks can come quite unglued when he warrants pressure. The way I train I may go a week or two without correcting my current top dog. He is often that consistent or making that much effort. I find it important to look for areas that might require a touch-up so that he is better prepared for a significant correction when it is needed. That is never grounds to set a dog up or treat him unfairly. On the other hand, if a sequence of days occurs in which he gets a correction daily, I know that there will be an accumulation of pressure and a subsequent decline in performance or attitude. I need to make book.

Micro-management of attitude is extremely important. Attitude is affected by the difficulty of the work, the amount of praise versus correction, the amount of success on blinds versus correction, the amount off success on blinds versus marks, the ratio of water versus land, the number of birds and flyers, the number of off days, light days and heavy days, the amount of kennel versus home time. While this is only a partial list, it is the careful attention to and balancing of such items that is necessary to maintain a dog's attitude and performance. Each dog will require a different balance so ultimately you have to read your dog and watch for early tendencies.

Addressing early tendencies to problems involves high standards. All too often I see trainers allow issues to fester for weeks before doing anything about them. Your standard on maintaining dogs has to be as high as when developing them. Many people have trouble paying that much attention to detail. If you work at this it eventually becomes second nature and simply a habit. Think of it as developing good habits and not as being obsessive.

A dog making mistakes and not making effort are two other signals of looming problems. Remember our approach to training embraces corrections for lack of effort but not for mistakes. However, instances of both are signals. Sometimes these are subtle and from no obvious cause. My top dog recently went through about 10 days wherein each day he did something uncharacteristic — perhaps missing casts, looping guns, trying to cheat, over-running a bird. I correlated it with a period in which I had suddenly been spending a great deal of time with a new puppy. While he and the puppy were around me together and I thought he was therefore getting the same attention, he was no longer number one. I didn't have to change much except micro-manage my attention to him and he responded with more consistent training, two blues, two reds and a yellow in three weeks.

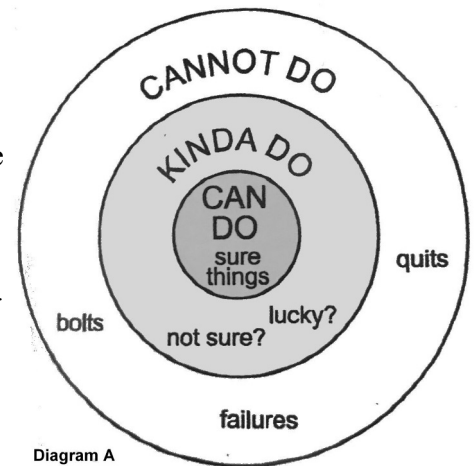
The well-maintained dog will have to be handled on a daily basis according to their softness, and sensitivity versus their desire. Days off become very important and I usually work five and take two off. After a long weekend competing, Monday is almost always a down day. The afternoon before a trial is a time of relaxation. Some days, the best medicine is physical activity without retrieving. That will mean a long one-on-one walk or an ATV run.

I am a strong believer in carefully managing the trial sequence for a dog. In general, I don't run more than two weekends in a row without taking one off. I think many folks compete with their dogs way too much,

resulting in a general deterioration in dog performance. I don't buy the argument that you can't win unless you go and so the more you go the more you win. If you are consistently missing a callback or just getting greens, try running fewer trials and working on fundamentals in between. You will end up with more points!

Pushing the Envelope

This is always a difficult area. Diagram A indicates a way of looking at this. It shows various degrees of achievement as concentric circles. Your dog should operate most of the time at the outer edge of the inner circle where he CAN DO. Venture into the KINDA DO but avoid the CANNOT DO. However, here is the real goal: to make the inner circle bigger and bigger until it is almost as big as the outer circle. Don't view the circles as static. Also, at some level, say below 75% success, you will find poor attitude likely. The maintenance dog needs to operate in the upper success level but not in the upper difficulty level every day.



Certain training setups are used to maintain and improve dog performance. Basic field setups employ themes a lot over a period of a few days. They also invoke three-peats on blinds on a regular basis. At the first sign of deterioration, certain drills come into play depending on the issue. These include wagon-wheel lining, bird-boy blinds, poison bird drills, tune-up drills, cheating singles and far or Chinese drills I strive for an ABCD a week.

Synopsis

A dog is never "finished." While he can always learn more, at some advanced stage increments of improvement become small and are slow to be seen. At this stage, the emphasis should be on maintenance of the whole dog. This requires as much careful and consistent work as bringing a dog up through Basics and Transition levels. I should not need to remind you that A-1 health is mandatory. Maintaining an advanced dog can be a tremendous challenge but, at the same time, the most rewarding of retriever work. When you get there, take the time to enjoy the trip!

Master Amateur Renewals Due

The qualifying year for the 2020 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 online: <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. A club does not have to be a member of MARC in order for their event passes to qualify. Note that in order to qualify for 2019 and 2020, only 4 Master passes are required during the qualifying period, which runs from March 1—February 28 of each year.

Upcoming Pro Seminars

Pat Burns Seminar, Bristol, TN, April 29-May 3. For more info, see <https://www.eliteretrievers.com/training/> or call Pat at 920-896-2911.

Around the Region — Seminars, Tests, & Trials

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Tidewater RC	Emporia, VA	04/03/19
Rappahannock River RC	Remington, VA	04/12/19
Yadkin River RC	Mebane, NC	04/13/19
Poodle Club National Specialty	St. Charles, MO	04/13/19
Atlanta RC	Buckhead, GA	04/13/19
Lower Alabama, Master Only	Lillian, AL	04/23/19
Cooper River Double Master	Cheraw, SC	04/26/19
Magnolia RC	Greensboro, AL	04/27/19
MTARC Master Only	LaVergne, TN	04/29/19
Palmetto RC Master Only	Camden, SC	04/30/19
Labrador RC of Piedmont	Patrick, SC	05/04/19
MidSouth HRC	Bruce, MS	05/04/19
Atlanta RC Mid-week Master Only (90)	Greensboro, GA	05/07/19
Golden RC of St.Louisi	St.Charles, MO	05/10/19
Sandhills RC (60)	Pinebluff, NC	05/11/19
DelBay RC	Elkton, MD	05/11/19
MTARC	LaVergne, TN	05/17/19
ETRC	Birchwood, TN	05/25/19
Master Amateur Invitational	Butte, Montana	06/02/19

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Blue Ridge RC D/Q	Farmville, VA	04/05/19
Pro RTA	Pavo, GA	04/05/19
TN Valley RC	Sweetwater, TN	04/12/19
N. Alabama RC	Greensboro, AL	04/12/19
Tidewater RC 2D/Q	Emporia, VA	04/17/19
Mobile ARC	Greensboro, AL	04/18/19
Memphis ARC	Hernando, MS	04/19/19
Kansas City RC	Sedalia, MO	04/19/19
American Amateur RC	Lincolnton, GA	04/19/19
Middle TN ARC	LaVergne, TN	04/26/19
Atlanta RC	Buckhead, GAA	04/26/19
Lincoln Trail RC	Grahamville, KY	05/03/19
Tall Pines RC	Leesburg, GA	05/03/19
Green River RC	Grahamville, KY	05/10/19
Blue Ridge RC	Emporia, VA	05/17/19

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 either of the following: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com); or Lois Luthenauer (mountainLo717@gmail.com) .