



Summer/Fall 2016 Upcoming Events

1. **Saturday, 8/20/16: Jody Ware Training Seminar and Summer Picnic Meeting,** Fyfes' and Fletchers' adjoining farms, 100 Retriever Lane, Pikeville, TN. Starting at 7 a.m. Central time (8 a.m. Eastern) Mark your calendar; details on page 2.
2. **Fall Club Trial, Dates and Location to be determined.**
3. **October 22-23, Fall AKC Hunt Test,** Lucky 7 Farm near Sweetwater. Master (2 flights), single Junior, single Senior. Judges pending; AKC & TWRA approval of grounds pending.

President's Message

Well, summer is in full swing, with its very hot and humid weather! I know some folks have managed to escape the heat at least for a bit, hope those of you who stayed in Tennessee are managing to find some time to train - it's almost too hot to think, much less train! In this newsletter you'll find information about the upcoming Annual Meeting and Picnic. Once again this year we will combine the summer membership meeting with a seminar by Jody Ware. Be sure to come out and get some great training tips, enjoy fellowship with other club members without the stress of putting on a hunt test, and hear what the board is up to on behalf of the membership! Hope everyone can make it, I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Until then, be safe in the heat!



Beating the heat the old-fashioned way.....

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Summer Picnic and Jody Ware Seminar August 20, 2016

Mark your calendars now for the second annual combined Jody Ware Training Seminar, annual picnic and summer business meeting. This event is for ETRC members /families only, and the only cost is food that you bring to share. If you were a member last year, you can still come if you bring your renewal to Karen Edwards first thing on Saturday morning. **RSVP NOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME** – see below.

The location will be the Fyfe's and Fletchers' adjoining farms at 101 Retriever Drive, Pikeville, TN. They have a technical pond, a swim-by pond and a general purpose oval pond that we can use for water work. There are broad rolling patches of grassland for marks, and some shady, flat areas for drills. The picnic itself and the business meeting to follow will be in a large, shady, open-sided pole barn.

The seminar will start at **7 a.m. Central time** so we can get in as much work as possible before the heat of the day. Work will begin with more advanced training and handling, then move on to beginning handling, then to beginner / young dog basics and yard work. We will use as many dogs as time allows. There will be thawed ducks, bumpers, and dokkens.

Plan to stay afterwards for our annual picnic and business meeting. The picnic will begin at noon Central time and the business meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. We have some important decisions to make on topics such as purchasing some new equipment for the Club, news about our fall hunt test, and final voting in of new members who have joined during the first half of the year.

Lunch will be a potluck picnic in the covered pole barn -- bring something to share -- cold food only, including chips, dips, desserts, cookies, salads, sliced tomatoes, lettuce, sandwich condiments etc. Please ask for suggestions or coordinate what you are planning to bring with Patti Gibson at holstonview@bellsouth.net. The club will provide bread, deli meats and cheeses for sandwich making, paper plates, napkins, and plastic utensils. **Attendees should also bring chairs, hats, and sunscreen; tie outs for your dogs, water dishes, and drinks for yourself.** Shade for parking is limited.

RSVP to Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) or Patti (address above) no later than August 15, 2016 so we can put your name in the pot and know how many dogs to expect. RSVPs are not needed if you are planning only to attend the business meeting.

We will need to know:

1. The number of people attending, and the ages of any children;
2. The number of dogs you are bringing, their name, age, and general description of training level;
3. The dish you would like to bring.

DIRECTIONS & CONTACTS:

Diane Fyfe: 423-331-7560

Michele Fletcher: 850-582-9111

Karen Edwards: 865-300-7607

From Knoxville or points south of Athens: (1 hour 45 minutes from Knoxville)

Take I75 S (or North if you are coming from up from south of Athens) to Exit 49 in Athens.

Follow TN 30W through Decatur and Dayton to Pikeville, about 42.6 miles.

Turn L onto US-127S / Main Street, go 2.0 miles turn R into Retriever Drive (driveway.)

.From Knoxville area: about 1 hour 40 minutes

Take I40 west to Exit 329.

Turn R onto Market St, go .1 mile

Turn L onto US70W, go 1.0 mile

Turn L onto Cox Valley Road, go 3.4 miles

Turn R onto TN68N, go 4.3 miles

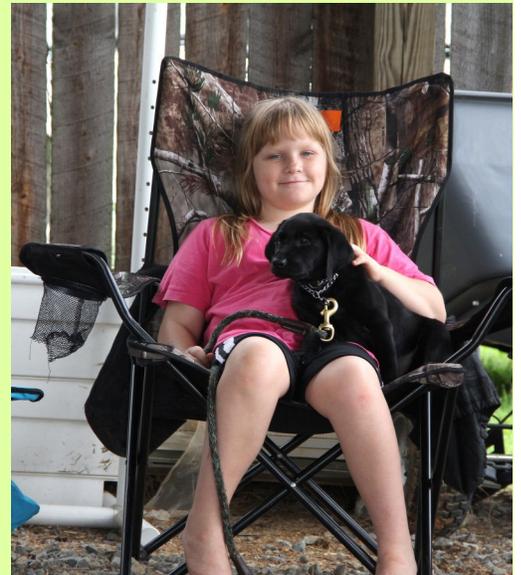
Turn L onto US-127 S and go 23.8 miles

Stay straight onto US-127 Bypass, go 1.5 miles

Continue onto US-127S Main Street, go 2.0 miles turn R into Retriever Drive (driveway.)

If your GPS doesn't recognize Retriever Drive, try entering the neighbor's address, 115 Main Street, Pikeville Tennessee.

Pictures from Last Year's Picnic



Summer 2016 Business News

In email 'meetings' over the summer, the club has decided to purchase 14 canopy chairs for use by bird boys at our hunt tests. This may help a bit with sunburn issues. We are still looking at options for making it cooler for dogs and handlers on the way to the line. Any ideas are welcomed!

We are also in the process of purchasing 30 more Dokkens for use at club trials.

Good News for Dog Breeders

There was some interesting statistical data reported at the Royal Canin International Breeding Conference in Paris this summer. Using a database that contained information collected from over **200,000** (!!!) puppies, the following key points were presented:

- ◆ Of all bitches bred, 82% delivered, and 8% became pregnant but aborted or otherwise lost the litter before birth. A fertility rate of over 80% is pretty amazing, and shows that in 2016, fertility in dogs is still very high overall.
- ◆ The highest number of puppies per litter were born to bitches when bred between 2-6 years of age. This seems to be a good indicator that for the health of both the bitch and the puppies, keeping the breeding career between those two ages is probably for the best in most cases.
- ◆ The highest abortion rate is seen during the summer. Bitches can cycle anytime during the year; however, the data studied indicated that there were more litters lost to abortion during the summer. Veterinary science has already determined that in mammals, high temperatures do have an impact on the development of both eggs and sperm, and the maturation of embryos. This would tend to indicate that it is probably best to breed during cooler seasons, or at least make sure that the bitch is not subjected to undue heat stress during her heat cycle or pregnancy.

As more studies are done on this huge database, it will be interesting to see what other findings come out. Big Data has arrived in veterinary medicine!

New ETRC Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined ETRC recently:

- ◆ Bob & Chris Purcell, of Vonore. The Purcells own a Flatcoat puppy.
- ◆ Gary and Tammy Neil of Georgetown, TN, who own a black Labrador

If you see them at one of our events, please introduce yourselves and make them welcome. Along with the new members introduced over the last several months, they will be voted into final full membership at the August meeting.

The 2016 Luthenauer Young Handler's Program



Future young handler at the 2015 ETRC Summer Picnic

The Luthenauer Young Handler's program is designed to encourage young ETRC members to become more active in the sport. Named in honor of long-time club member, past president, and enthusiastic sportsman Kevin Luthenauer, and funded largely via donations from his family and friends, this 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 our website at <http://www.etrclub.org/>**

Training for Junior Hunting Tests, by Bill Speck

Editor's note: This article was originally published in March, 1995 in the AKC Hunting Test Herald. Bill Speck was an AKC Field Representative in the days before Jerry Mann took over the post. Our club archivist, Roberta Williams, says that we used to pass out this article as part of a welcoming packet of material for new members. Seems like a few ideas have changed since then, but still good stuff!

You have a new puppy. You have seen the AKC Hunting Tests and they look like fun. You want to show everyone the great dog you have and can't wait to start training. Slow down!

The first thing you must do is to let the puppy be a puppy. Do not start any serious retriever training until the puppy is at least 6 months old. During this time you should concentrate on socialization. Have the puppy around as many people as possible and around other dogs. Expose it to various noises, let it ride in the truck (always in a crate) and most of all, let this early part of its life be fun.

During this period you should teach the pup to sit, heel, walk on a lead, and, most important, come when you call.

At about 6 months of age begin throwing bumpers. Use only white bumpers so your puppy can easily see them. Attach a long check cord to the puppy so when it picks up the bumper you can be sure it brings it back to you. Young dogs are notorious for running out, picking up a bumper, then running everywhere except back to you.

It is extremely important that the young dog has nothing but success during this period. When throwing bumpers do it in an area where the puppy can see them on the ground, and don't make the retrieves more than 15 or 20 yards. Only do this for about 15 minutes per day.

About now the puppy should start getting its permanent teeth. When this happens it will pick up the bumper and drop it a lot, because the teeth and gums are really too sore for much retrieving.

After the permanent teeth come in it is time to do the most important training for a retriever, training that will affect everything the dog does for the rest of its life. The dog must be "force trained," and forced properly. There are many books and articles about this procedure. If you are not sure you can do this properly, seriously consider sending the dog to a professional for proper forcing.

The training will take four to six weeks if it is properly done. I cannot overemphasize how important this is. When a dog is properly forced, its previous training to sit, heel and come will be incorporated into the training for new tasks. The dog will also be taught to hold the bird properly, to deliver to hand and not to retrieve until told to do so. If there is any indication of a hard mouth it will be dealt with at this time, as this is also the proper time to introduce birds to the dog.

The end result of proper forced training is that when you send the dog on a retrieve it will pick up the bird and return it to you. You will not see the dog rolling the bird on the ground, dropping or playing with it. It will only return the bird to you.

Now that you have the dog forced it is time to get serious about training for hunting and hunt tests. It is always best to have someone to throw bumpers for you, as later on the dog's retrieves will be farther than you can throw. Having a thrower will also teach the dog to look out into the field for the falls.

Start out with retrieves of 25 to 30 yards using white bumpers. Since you are working with the natural instinct to retrieve you want this to be fun and the dog to be successful. At first "salt" the area with four or five bumpers, well spread out, so the dog will almost surely find something. Have the thrower use a duck call to get the dog's attention. When the dog is looking in the area of the thrower, signal for the thrower to shoot and throw the bumper into the salted area.

Repeat this for a few sessions until the dog is having success on each retrieve, then do away with the extra bumpers.

As the dog progresses, begin moving the line back five to 10 yards at a time, using the original fall area. Don't be in a big hurry — you are teaching the dog to mark with these drills and instilling confidence at the same time. Should the dog have a problem with a mark and begin to leave the area of the fall after an extended hunt, have the thrower yell, "Hey, hey, hey!" When the dog looks at the thrower, the thrower should throw up the bumper, and have it land in the same area. When you have to help the dog, repeat the test until the dog gets it right.

At this point in the training you should have retrieves stretched out to 100 to 125 yards. Why such long retrieves when hunt test rules say retrieves shouldn't normally exceed 100 yards? By teaching and exposing a dog to long retrieves you will lessen the likelihood of a dog hunting short. A dog that overruns a mark will eventually work its way back into the area. A dog that hunts short almost never extends its hunt.

During the later part of this training you should begin to throw the bumpers into cover, weeds, high grass, etc. You should also put falls where the dogs have to negotiate ditches, logs, etc.

Training should now proceed to the water. There is an old field trial saying, "You win or lose when you get wet." Sometimes you can have perfect marks on land, then very easily lose it all on the first water mark. Begin training water marks in a pond clear of sticks, heavy weeds, etc. Have your line of departure at the water's edge. Again, your bird thrower should get the dog's attention, shoot and throw the bumper into open water. As soon as the dog puts the bumper in its mouth, begin blowing the come in whistle (this is equally important on land). You should be encouraging the dog to return directly to you as soon as it touches the bumper. This will help prevent the dog from getting out on the shore and running back to you by land. Once a dog learns it can run around a shore rather than get wet, you could have a big problem on your hands.

As the dog begins to become comfortable making water entries from the edge of the shore, move the starting line back about five yards at a time until it will eagerly do a 20-yard entry with no hesitation. Again, take your time and don't rush the water work.

The Junior test requires two single land retrieves and two single water retrieves. You may also lightly restrain the dog on line. However, if you have properly forced the dog it will sit until told to retrieve.

Always wait for the judge to call your number before sending the dog. I suggest you use the dog's name as your command to retrieve. Use "back" as the command on blinds.

When your dog has completed the retrieves, take the bird and hand it to one of the judges. Never throw the bird on the ground. Then put the lead on your dog and thank the judges.

Any time you are not sure of what is expected of you or your dog, ask the judges before your running. They will be glad to answer your questions.

Don't forget, properly force train your dog, cultivate the natural ability of your retriever to mark the fall and have fun.

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, and any other brags you care to share, along with pictures! Even if you don't have a current brag, send pictures. Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items for inclusion to any of the following: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com); Lois Luthenauer (mountainLo717@gmail.com) or Roberta Williams (sharphlw@usit.net).