

2018 Upcoming Events

1. December 9, 2017, Saturday, 10 a.m. Organized Training led by MN Judge Alan Bruhin. Roane Regional Industrial Park, Lenoir City, TN See p.
2. December: Time to nominate dogs and people for awards and club management positions
3. January 13, 2018, Saturday , 9 a.m. Organized Training: location & leader TBD
4. February 10, 2018, Saturday, 10 a.m.. Organized Training: location & leader TBD
5. February 17, 2018, Saturday: Awards Banquet & Business meeting, Tentatively at Calhoun's Bearden Hill. Alternate date is February 24; check next month's newsletter for final dates.
6. March 10, 2018: Spring Club Trial #1, location pending. ORGANIZED TRAINING following in the afternoon, Alan Bruhin leading.
7. April ???, 2018: 2nd Spring club Trial, TBD.
8. May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Pending.



EAST TENNESSEE RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. WWW.ETRCCLUB.ORG

ETRC Newsletter

President's Message

Well, Thanksgiving is over, the turkey is carved and consumed and even the pumpkin pie has disappeared! I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday and enjoyed the company of family and friends, I know I sure did. Now that that Thanksgiving is over, and it's been good training weather. I encourage everyone to take advantage of that next weekend – a formal club training event will be held on Saturday, December 9th. If the weather holds, we'll get together again in January.

It's also the time of year when the Nominating Committee proposes a slate of officers for next year, along with replacements for board members where necessary. Be sure to check out the proposed officers and directors elsewhere in this newsletter. Many folks are hesitant to serve on the board for fear that it will take too much time, but just like with the hunt test events, if we all pitch in then no one must do all the work! I appreciate everyone who has volunteered to serve the club in this way, we have a good time and do great things (I hope) for the club!

Up next on our agenda is the Annual Awards Banquet and General Membership meeting, so be sure to save that date in February! We will be electing officers and directors and this is your chance to participate in the decision-making process. We will also be passing out awards for the year, so start adding up your points! Details for points submission are elsewhere in the newsletter. The banquet is a great time for fellowship with club members without worrying about our dogs on the truck ... and the food is always great!

We are already hard at work on lining up judges for the spring hunt test, which will be back at Hiwassee. We are looking forward to a great event!

In the meantime ... happy hunting, happy training and Merry Christmas!

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Nominating Committee Slate for Election & Call for Nominees

The nominating committee headed by Board Member Luke McCoy, with assistance from Cory Smith and Chad Suttles, has recommended the following slate for ETRC officer and director positions for fiscal year 2018 (beginning at the end of the banquet in February):

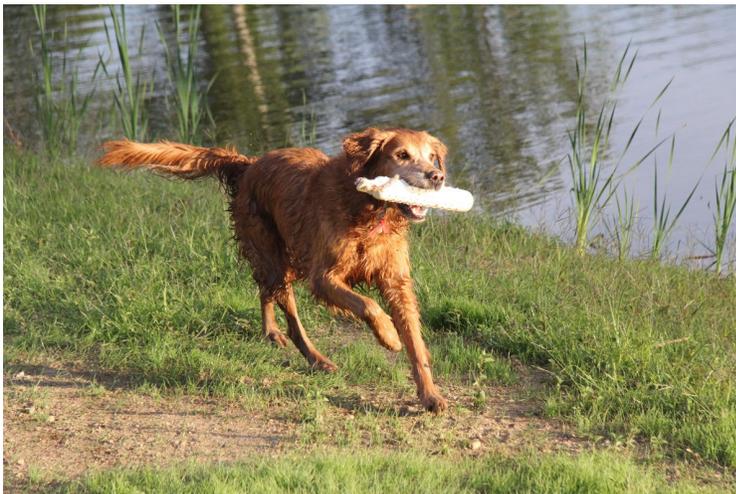
- ◆ President: Luke McCoy
- ◆ Vice President: Alan Bruhin
- ◆ Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Edwards
- ◆ Hunt Test Secretary: Carol Stone
- ◆ Two Director positions (Feb 2018 - Feb 2021): Cory Smith, Tom Gibson
- ◆ AKC Delegate: Michelle Fletcher

Remaining on the board are: Donna Smith & John Broucek (through Feb 2019), and Jim Pearce and Luke McCoy (through Feb 2020). Lois Luthenauer will serve as Past President through 2018 and in addition has agreed to serve as Chief Marshal for the spring and fall AKC hunt tests. These last two positions are not be on the ballot but are important to the workings of the club! If Luke McCoy is elected President, J. Michael Evans has agreed to serve out Luke's remaining Board term. Leaving the Board are Rick Fyfe and Tom Gibson. Many thanks to Rick for his hard work over the past several years, and thanks to Tom for agreeing to serve another term.

In accordance with the Bylaws, additional nominations may be made by any member prior to December 31, 2017, in writing to the Secretary, provided that the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one elective position (except for the position of AKC Delegate which may be combined with any other board/officer position, and Secretary and Treasurer which may be combined). We welcome additional nominations and encourage all members to become involved in the running of the ETRC -- without many volunteers helping, we would be unable to do all the events we put on each year. In the meantime, thanks to the nominating committee for your hard work, and to all the nominees for your willingness to serve.

To make a nomination, send it to Secretary Karen Edwards at edwardskc@gmail.com or by mail to 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Please specify the nominee's full name and the position for which you are nominating him or her, and send along the written agreement (forwarded email, for email nominations) of the nominee stating his/her willingness to stand for election. If there are any additional nominations from the membership, they will be announced in the January newsletter.

Voting for officers/directors and the AKC Delegate will be done at the annual Awards Banquet and general membership meeting. This will tentatively be held Saturday, February 10, 2018; more details and a confirmation of the date will be in the January newsletter.



End of the Year Awards — Call for Nominations

It's that time again! One of the highlights of the February end-of-the-year Banquet is recognizing people and dogs who have done well during the year. Club awards, nomination procedures, and due dates are listed below. All nominations and other information required for each award are due to J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com) by **JANUARY 10, 2018**.

1. **ETRC Member of the Year:** Any ETRC Member may nominate any other member for this award. The criterion is, who has done the most to help out the club during the past year? Please send your nominations along with a brief justification why you think the person is deserving of the award. The award consists of an engraved plaque.

2. **AKC Sportsman of the Year:** This award recognizes the member who best exemplifies the qualities you want to see in dog sports, and who has best furthered the aims of the AKC in promoting our sport. The award is an engraved plaque mounted with an AKC-provided medallion.

The final selection for the two awards above will be made by secret ballot of the Board of Directors.

3. **Gun Dog and Puppy of the year Awards** -- You must nominate your own dog or puppy for these awards, which are based on points earned in hunt test competition and club trials during the year. Information must be provided for each dog nominated. Remember to check the ETRC website (http://www.etrclub.org/gun_dogs.htm) for award rules and information on how to submit nominations and count points — however, you may provide the information in an email or letter and not use the form provided if you wish. Winning dog and puppy will receive an engraved plaque to keep and a silver perpetual trophy to display for a year. NOTE: New rules have been approved for these programs (see the meeting minutes on page 4) but the old rules will apply for this award year.

4. **Title awards:** If your dog has earned **any AKC field titles** during 2017, please send your name, your dog's registered name, title earned, and the date and place where you titled. ETRC recognizes these achievements with an engraved plaque.

5. **Master National Dogs:** If your dog was a **finalist** at the 2017 Master National, email the info to Michael along with a picture of you/your dog/your silverware. The award is an engraved plaque with the picture mounted on it. If your dog was **qualified to enter** the 2017 Master National and received an invitation from the MNRC to participate, but either did not run or did not pass all series, please send along that information too. No hardware, but we want to announce this achievement! Make sure you are clear which category your dog falls into.

When you send Michael an email about awards, please use a separate email for each different subject -- i.e., if you are entering for Dog of the Year and also earned a title, please put those in two separate emails so he can keep the categories straight. AND, please put the category into the subject line -- 'AKC Sportsman nomination', etc. Dates outlined above for response to Michael have very little flexibility -- the engraver that we use is in the midst of basketball season awards so we need the info by the dates specified in order to get the plaques back in time for the banquet. Once the order is in to the engraver, it can't be changed.

Member Award Winners Last 6 years:



Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2016	J. Michael Evans	Carol Stone
2015	Derek Dieterich	J. Michael Evans
2014	Jim Pearce	David Knott
2013	Carol Stone	Jim Pearce/Karen Edwards
2012	J. Michael Evans	Ken Wade
2011	Robert Dodson	Hubert Helton

ETRC Board Meeting, 11/1/17 **Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN**

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)]

Absent, excused: Donna Smith, Rick Fyfe, John Broucek

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: Lois congratulated everyone on a successful Fall hunt test, and commented that although most of the work for the year is done, we still have dates to set for upcoming training and spring events.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was 10/7/17; the minutes were approved within a week via email and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as recorded on the website. Michael Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership: End of year 2016 membership was 59. Current membership is 60 including 3 new members pending first reading today & 3 others pending final vote in February. 15 members from 2016 did not renew; several were people who moved out of the area or who were new last year and soon lost interest; there were only a couple who were a surprise.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 11/1/17 is \$23,537.05, which is \$7,825.48 more than we had on January 1, 2017. Bills still owed: one invoice from Patti Gibson for spring food; have not yet received bills for porta potties and dumpster at the Fall test, duck sale receipts from Sherie Catledge (received at the meeting), 2018 AKC dues, and any additional scratches decided upon by the Board.

AKC Representative's Report: Michele Fletcher. No new information coming out of AKC.

Old Business

Fall Hunt Test: October 21-22, 2017, Lucky Seven Ranch, Sweetwater

- ◆ 154 dogs entered. The grounds are OK for a test that size, but we can't use Lucky 7 for any test that has more than 3 setups. There was apparently a dog injured at the master test – had a cut foot that required stitches. There was some discussion about what happened (probably the rocky soil). We did not hear about the dog actually needing stitches until after the test was over, and still don't have particulars about the name of the dog and handler involved.
- ◆ Once again we had an AKC representative on the grounds for the entire test. No one can think of any other test except Fall Line that is so routinely blessed by the AKC's presence. It makes us wonder if they think we are doing something wrong. If there are any issues identified, they will send us a report within a month of the test date – so no news is good news.
- ◆ Ken Campbell's grounds fee/donation to the Youth program: Michael will call him to make sure he wants us to internally transfer \$ to the youth fund rather than send him a check and then he sends us a check for the donation. This is the second year that Ken has donated the grounds fee towards this program. Huge thanks!
- ◆ Birdkids: McMinnville FFA, things did not work out well this fall, with only 12 out of 20 showing up on Saturday, and 9 out of 20 on Sunday. The FFA teachers had no advance notice that the kids were not planning to come and consequently, neither did we. Considering that they have been the best ones we have had to date for a number of years, and that they gave us a second chance after the unfortunate 'cussing judge' event from the spring, we decided to ask them again for spring 2018 and hope for a better result.
- ◆ Chad Suttles has moved the trailer and the duck crates back to Hiwassee, and the trailer is now sitting on concrete pavers to try to preserve the tires. We still need duck crates back from Sherie Catledge and Ken Campbell; Lois will pick up the one from Sherie next Wednesday and John B has agreed to get the one back from Ken. Then we will just have to worry about getting them back to Hiwassee before spring. Thanks, Chad!
- ◆ Scratches: Karen has paid all the scratches for people who provided vet certificates. However there were several others who had called in advance notifying us that they were scratching, and our emergency Hunt Test secretary Sherie Catledge was recommending that we do partial refunds on all people who called in advance. This is not our club policy, which was printed in the premium – our policy is that IF REQUESTED and a justification is provided, the Board can DECIDE to do a partial refund on an entry fee. There was only one that looked as if it met this criteria, and that was a dog that Sherie Catledge was slated to handle. The dog was sold the week before the test and the new owners decided not to run the dog. Roberta moved that we refund Sherie's entry other than the \$40 processing fee. Jim seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Since there is an ownership transfer involved and it isn't clear who should get the refund, Karen will send the check to Sherie made

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out in her name, and it will be up to her to determine who should get the money.

Gun Dog/Puppy/High Point Dogs of the Year rules: Karen has revised the draft rules after the September discussion, to reflect changes agreed upon at that session:

- ◆ Points for passing club trials and AKC Hunt tests will be on a tiered basis: 1 point for a Junior pass, 2 points for a Senior pass, and 3 points for a Master pass.
- ◆ Junior dogs may be considered for Gun Dog of the Year award.
- ◆ New rules were drafted for three new awards agreed upon at the September meeting: Junior high point dog, Senior high point dog, & Master high point dog. Only tests/trial stakes at that level will be considered for each level (i.e., a dog's eligibility for these awards is not tied to title level, just points for tests passed at each level).
- ◆ No bonus points will be awarded for perfect attendance at Club Trials, and the number of points awarded for a club trial will be the highest points earned for which eligible (i.e., if a dog enters 4 events including Master and passes Master, he will get the 3 points for the master pass. The dog does not have to pass every class entered in order to get master points; he could conceivably fail the senior test and still pass the Master level for 3 points).
- ◆ Master National and Master Amateur passes are awarded like two master tests since they are 6 series each. Therefore, a dog who passes one of these tests will be awarded 6 points for the award year in which the test was run. Note that points earned for qualifications for these tests may be in a different award year than the test itself, and the point awarded for qualification will be applied to the year in which the qualification is EARNED, not to the year in which the MA or MN event is held.

Karen had sent out the new drafts to everyone several weeks ago, and there was more discussion on whether any additional changes needed to be made. We agreed on the following:

- ◆ The rules will not be presented to the membership in a vote. The approval of the Board is sufficient to ratify the rules for use in 2018. These rules will be printed in the January Newsletter along with an explanation of the reasons for the change, and will also be discussed at the Awards Banquet in February.
- ◆ There was some concern about how many ties there may be, particularly for the High Point awards. Michael commented that it was likely that Junior or Senior dogs will not continue competing at that level once they get their title, so that all dogs that title in Senior, for example, may be tied for the High Point Senior title. Karen pointed out that not all dogs will earn all their passes towards a title in a single award year – for example, a dog may earn two passes in the fall and finish up in the spring. Also, some dogs who don't go for the lower level title will need 5 passes at senior rather than four, some dogs will have insurance legs when they are entered in both Saturday and Sunday and title on Saturday, some dogs will have passes at the Club Trials in addition to hunt tests, etc. Jim Pearce then suggested that we use participation in Club Trials as a tie breaker. If two or more dogs have the same number of points for a particular award, then the dog that participated in the most club trials during the award year will be declared the winner. If that still results in a tie, all tied dogs will be given the award. Alan moved that we add this tie-breaker provision to all sets of award rules – Gun Dog, Puppy, and High Point awards. Tom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- ◆ We will be reconvening the Awards committee next year to look into how to handle awards for field trials and whether to set this up as a separate award or somehow fit it into the Gun Dog award. John Broucek has agreed to serve on this committee along with Karen, Michael and Mike Smith. It is likely that the committee will need to be reconvened again after next awards year when we see how the changed rules are working, and if we want to consider future changes.
- ◆ At the conclusion of the discussion, Alan Bruhin recommended that the new sets of rules presented before the meeting be approved as amended by the addition of using Club Trials as a tie breaker. Jim Pearce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Karen will prepare a final copy of the rules for distribution to the Board, with further email discussion if necessary on the wording of the new tie-breaker provision for clarity and to ensure that it captured the intent of the Board.

Club Trials: during the discussion of the new awards rules, there was also quite a bit of discussion on how to improve participation in club trials. In years past (long ago), the Trials would last all day and there might be upwards of 50 dogs entered in Singles Classic. In recent years, participation has dropped off dramatically to the point where we normally have only 12-14 dogs participating in all stakes. The points bonuses in the Awards rules were added to encourage participation, but this is not working. This may be because the points implications of Club Trials are not well understood by club members although the information is readily available online and in newsletter info. Several suggestions were made:

- ◆ Open Club Trials back up to pros and encourage them to participate. Apparently at some point in the past, a

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decision was made by a previous board to exclude any DOGS that were not member dogs, thereby removing most of the pros from participating.

- ◆ Combine a club trial with a training session. Since they are ending pretty much by noon or 1:00 these days, say there will be an afternoon organized training session and encourage people to come to both.
- ◆ Encourage sponsors to do a better job of communicating with new members, inviting them to Club Trials and explaining to them about the club trials and the awards programs.
- ◆ Allow people to bring their bitches in season and participate in Club Trials, subject to some courtesy rules – keep her on the truck till time to run, run her last, etc. This might actually be a good training opportunity to let unaltered males know they still have to pay attention no matter if there are such enticing distractions present.
- ◆ Karen will write an article for the Newsletter before the next Club Trial discussing their relationship to awards, the advantages of attending, etc. to try to drum up more interest.
- ◆ The subject of club trials will be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting, and also on the agenda for the Awards Banquet for members to express their opinions and offer suggestions.
- ◆ The first club trial will be offered March 10, 2018, place to be determined but possibly up at Chuck Atchley's farm in Sevierville. The trial will be followed by a training session in the afternoon which Alan volunteered to lead.

Report from Nominating Committee: Luke McCoy stated that the committee is very close to having all the positions filled, but he still needs to talk to a person or two about a few things. Karen reminded him that an email or typed letter to her as Secretary is due on or before 11/24/17, outlining the nominations, as required by the Bylaws. This email/letter must be signed by all three members of the nominating committee, but 'signatures' can be done via email chain concurring with the candidate slate.

Kevin's Fund: Status Report

- ◆ Rules: review and make any changes necessary. Karen and Lois have been tagged to do this but have not done it yet. We promise to get it done before the end of the year and have it ready to discuss at the next Board meeting.
- ◆ Youth Fund Balance as of today: \$3,675 including Ken Campbell's donation in lieu of grounds fee. Program participants: Cade and Ivan Chambers.
- ◆ Youth Handler's seminar: Lois is talking to Sherie Catledge about putting this on for us, possibly in March.

Equipment: We need to look at continuing / new equipment needs in time to get anything necessary ordered in time for the spring hunt test. We are now down to 5 decent coolers (four test setups and one at the office) and may need to buy a few more. Discussion tabled until after the first of the year.

New Business:

First Reading, New members:

- ◆ Scott & Libby Chaney, pro dog trainer, McMinnville, TN. Sponsors assigned: John Broucek, Lois Luthenauer.
- ◆ Brandon Lawson, Customer Service, Church Hill, TN. Volunteered to be a gunner – requested Lois as one sponsor, need a second. Has a 17 month yellow lab. Tom Gibson volunteered to be the second sponsor.
- ◆ Larry Moody, TDOT, Morristown, TN 37814. Has two Chessies, one has a JH. Lois Luthenauer and Tom Gibson volunteered to be the two sponsors.

Michael moved that these new members be accepted on first reading. Alan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Karen will notify the new members and the sponsors and the final vote will be scheduled for the February banquet.

Renewals at the Hunt Test: Neil & Jodi Martin, who have not been members since around 2003 or thereabouts. Brian Caldwell, lapsed in June and now renewed.

Banquet Planning. The date will be Saturday, February 17, 2018 with an alternate date of February 24, 2018. Michael agreed to contact Calhoun's – Bearden Hill to see if we can again use their facilities. Michael agreed to once again serve as the Awards coordinator. Awards calls will go out in the December newsletter, with information needed by Michael no later than January 17.

Training Sessions: The following dates and locations were set for upcoming training days.

Saturday, December 11, Roane Regional. Alan Bruhin will lead.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, location to be determined. Lois will ask Brian Caldwell if he would host us for this

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one.

Saturday, February 10, 2018, location to be determined. Possibly Lucky 7?

Saturday, March 10, 2018, following the first spring Club Trial. Location to be determined.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Michael moved that we adjourn. Luke seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Winter Training Days Announced

ETRC will sponsor organized training sessions on the following Saturdays:

- ◆ December 11, 2017 at 10 a.m. at Roane Regional.
- ◆ January 13, 2018 at 10 a.m., location and leader TBD
- ◆ February 10, 2018 at 10 a.m., Roane Regional.
- ◆ March 10, 2018 at 2 p.m. following the completion of the Club Trial. Details to follow.

Bring your dogs, water, and training equipment; live ammunition is not allowed for events held at Roane Regional and we will have several of the Thunder Simulators on site for use.

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

Special info for training at Roane Regional: If it is muddy, park in the Pegasus parking lot and walk back to the fields to the left of the red barn behind the office building. If it is dry, go past the Pegasus building and take the first gravel/dirt track on the right, several hundred yards further down the road. We will be up on the hill for starters.

Under our policy for training at Roane Regional, RSVPs are required in order for us to actually have the session. **If at least four people do not respond saying they are intending to come, by NOON on the Friday before the scheduled training, we will not have the session.** Also, we will cancel if the weather is not predicted to be in the mid-40s or higher, or if it is raining or snowing. Send your RSVPs to Secretary Karen Edwards, Edwardskc@gmail.com. Karen will send out an email the evening before the training if it is to be canceled.

Directions:

From Knoxville: Take I-40 West towards Nashville, stay right on I-40 at the I-75/I-40 split. Go 4.1 miles. Take exit 364 for TN-95 toward U.S. 321 West/Lenoir City/Oak Ridge and turn right onto TN-95 at the end of the exit ramp. Go 4/10 mile and take the first left onto Buttermilk Road West. Go one mile. Take the 2nd right onto Sam Rayburn Parkway. Go 5/10 mile. Take the second left onto Pawnook Farm Road. Look for a small tan block building with racing stripes on the right (Pegasus Technologies). There is a sign.

From Points East: Take I-40 East toward Knoxville. Take the exit "Industrial Park Road" Turn left onto Industrial Park Road and cross over the Interstate. Go 3/10 mile. Take the first right onto Buttermilk Road West into the Roane Regional business park. A VW plant and the H. T. Hackney plant will be on your left. Go 1.2 miles. Turn left on Sam Rayburn Parkway. Go .5 mile. Take the 2nd left onto Pawnook Farm Road. Look for a small tan block building with racing stripes on the right (Pegasus Technologies). There is a sign by the road.

The Trained Retrieve - Part II

By Jim & Phyllis Dobbs and Alice Woodyard

[Last month's article covered the beginning part of the Trained Retrieve, through table work with the Drop and Hold commands., using a dumbbell. Jim, Phyllis and Alice are the authors of *Tri-Tronics Retriever Training*. Jim and Phyllis are the directors of the Tri-Tronics Training Center and have been giving retriever training seminars throughout the US and Canada since 1982. Alice competes with her retrievers in hunting tests and field trials. This article first appeared in: *The Retriever Journal*, v.1, #1 Oct./Nov.'95 and is now available online.

Introduction to Birds

Next, have the dog hold frozen birds, then freshly-killed ones. If possible, use all the types of birds the dog may retrieve in the future. Be sure to include large game birds such as ducks and pheasants. Introducing birds when the dog is up on the table and under control enables you to help the dog learn how to hold them properly. When dogs are introduced to birds in this kind of controlled situation, they are much less likely to develop hardmouth problems.

Reinforcing "Hold" with the Tri-Tronics Collar

Once you have completed the above procedures, and you notice that the dog will open its mouth as you offer the bumper, you can begin using the Tri-Tronics collar to reinforce "Hold."

Place a bumper in the dog's mouth. If the dog drops the bumper, apply very low electrical stimulation. Release the button as you place the bumper back in the dog's mouth.

You must use a collar with continuous stimulation and variable intensity to work on the trained retrieve, including the "Hold" command. Continuous stimulation means that the stimulation stays on until the trainer releases the button. Variable intensity means you can change the strength of what the dog feels by changing colored plugs or contact points on the collar.

The correct level of stimulation to use to reinforce "Hold" is quite low. For example, if a dog works in the field with a # 4 plug, you'd normally use a # 1 or # 2 plug for reinforcing "Hold" in the yard.

Introduction to Carrying

You don't want the dog to "Hold" in a stationary position so long that it thinks "Hold" is a command that also means stand still. So unfasten the dog from the post, and lead it up and down the length of the table while having it carry a bumper. When the dog drops the bumper, press the low button. Release the button as you place the bumper back in the dog's mouth. With repetition, the dog will realize that letting the bumper fall out of its mouth causes mild discomfort from the collar.

The Delivery to Hand

While the dog is up on the table and being taught "Hold," you have an ideal opportunity to develop a nice delivery. At this stage of training the dog would like to drop the object rather than hold it. So by allowing the dog to "get rid" of the object by giving it to you, the dog will develop a nice delivery to hand.

To develop your dog's delivery on the table, *don't* reach for the object the moment you stop walking and the dog stops beside you. Wait until the dog looks up at you. Attract it if necessary by tapping your chest or saying "Look." The moment it looks at you, take hold of the object and say "Drop." Because of the dog's desire to get rid of the object, it will soon be looking up and presenting the object for you to take.

"Hold" and Carry on the Ground

After the dog will carry a bumper while on the table, practice having it carry a bumper while off the table and walking on a leash. If the dog drops the bumper, reinforce "Hold" with the Tri-Tronics collar the same way you did when you walked the dog on the table.

Coming Next Month: finishing the Trained Retrieve.

Member News and Brags



Litter Announcement

**FC Seaside's Gorgeous George
("Clooney") x Indi's L7 Nellie QAA
NDL ("Nellie")**

Litter of all-black puppies due o/a 1/7/18.
Contact John Broucek,
865-659-9207 or Rtrvrblvr@aol.com

New Members

Please extend a welcome to new member Bryson Bayles, who lives in Evansville, TN and owns a black lab 10-month old puppy.

The Luthenauer Young Handler's Program

Calling all kids! It is now time to sign up for the Young Handler's Program. Any young person at the undergraduate college level and below is eligible to join. Participants will be reimbursed for entry fees into AKC Hunt Tests and will participate free of charge in ETRC Club Trials and other ETRC events. You will be expected to volunteer for at least 8 hours at one or more of our club events during the year.

All it takes to participate: you must be a member of ETRC, and you must submit a one-page essay to the program coordinator stating why you want to join the program and what retriever sports mean to you. Submit your essay to Program Coordinator, Lois Luthenauer, MountainLo717@gmail.com. Full details of this program are on the club website under "Youth Program."

Big thanks to Ken Campbell of Lucky 7 Ranch for sponsoring this program for the second year with a generous \$1,500 contribution. We appreciate you more than we can say!

2018 ETRC Memberships

Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). New member and renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just click the link, print it off, and send it to Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Cost is still just \$25 which includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. It's a bargain! The membership year runs from March 1—February 28; members who join in November or December are also considered to be paid for the following year.

Around the Region

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Mid-Florida Golden Retr. (90)	Monteverde, FL	12/8/17
Cooper River RC of SC (Unlim.)	Manning, SC	12/13/17
Mid-Florida GRC (120)	Monteverde, FL	2/10/18
Jacksonville, RC	Williston, FL	2/17/18
Wiregrass HRC of GA (120)	Meigs, FL	3/3/18
N.AL RC	Greensboro, AL	3/3/18
Carolina RA, Cooper Black (120)	Patrick, SC	3/17/18
Tallahassee HRC	Thomasville, GA	3/17/18
Fall Line RC of GA (180)	Lincolnton, GA	3/24/18
Yadkin River RC (double J/S/M)	Cedar Grove, NC	4/14/18
Poodle Club Natl.Spec	St. Charles, MO	4/14/18
Master Amateur National Invitational	Sedalia, MO	5/20/18
ETRC Spring Test (120)	Hiwassee, TN	526/18

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Palmetto RC Derby/Q FT	Bennettsville, SC	12/8/17
Carolina Piedmont RC Derby/Q FT	Bennettsville, SC	12/8/17
Talloaks RC of GA	Pavo, GA	12/8/17
Treasure Coast RC	Okeechobee, FL	1/6/18
Palmetto RC	Cheraw, SC	2/23/18
Labrador RC	Smithville, GA	2/23/18
Snowbird RC of S.GA.	Boston, GA	3/2/18
Tar Heel RC	Snow Hill, NC	3/9/18
Black Warrior RC	Greensboro, AL	3/16/18
Carolina Piedmont RC	Cheraw, SC	3/23/18
Bluegrass RC	Grahamville, KY	3/23/18
Montgomery RC	Greensboro, AL	3/29/18
Blue Ridge RC D/Q	Farmville, VA	4/6/18
Mid-Atlantic RC double D/Q	Farmville, VA	4/6/18

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 any of the following: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com); Lois Luthenauer (mountainLo717@gmail.com) or Roberta Williams (sharpplw@usit.net).