



# 2017-2018 Upcoming Events

1. November 1, 2017, 7 p.m. ETRC Board Meeting, Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City
2. December: Time to nominate dogs and people for awards and club management positions
3. Saturday, December 9, 2017: organized training, Roane Regional, Lenoir City
4. Saturday, January 13, 2018 & Saturday, February 10, 2018: organized training, location TBD
5. Saturday, February 17, 2018: Awards Banquet & Business meeting, Calhoun's Bearden Hill
6. Saturday, March 10, 2018: Spring Club Trial (a.m.), organized training (p.m.), location TBD
7. May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Pending.

## President's Message

Well, another Hunt Test in the books! This test was a little different, much smaller than in the spring, but still well attended. We sure missed Roberta, who had health issues and for the first time in 26 years (yes, 26 YEARS) missed a hunt test. The headquarters was just not the same without Roberta sitting there, and we sincerely hope she is on the mend and can be back with us in the spring. Many thanks to Sherie Catledge, who stepped in and performed the duties of Hunt Test Secretary for us on very short notice, and still ran dogs in both Junior and Master! And many thanks to everyone who helped, I'm sure I'll miss someone but ... Mike Evans, Alan Bruhin, Tom Gibson, Patti for the wonderful chili & tamales for the judges' dinner and working with the lunch crew, Karen Edwards for just about everything! Jim Pearce for being where we needed him when we needed him. Luke McCoy, Michael Smith, Michele Fletcher and Rick Fyfe. And it was so great to have John Broucek out - marshaling! Welcome back John! And of course, many thanks to Ken Campbell for the use of his wonderful facility – the weather was perfect and the pavilion made a perfect headquarters. Also, thanks to Brandon, the manager at the Lucky 7 for all his help. So many thanks to everyone who helped out with the mechanics of the putting on the test, those who sat in a bird blind, planted birds, etc. we could not have done it without you!

Next up on our agenda is the Annual 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 be sure to be adding up your points – more info on that in the December issue! 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!

Stay tuned as we try to schedule some training dates, if the weather holds fair. Until next time ... happy training!

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## ETRC Fall Hunt Test, October 21-22, 2017

Another milestone met! The club hosted a successful test at Lucky 7 Ranch in Sweetwater this fall — a single Master stake (60 dogs), with a double Junior and double Senior. A total of 154 dogs entered. Master was full and we had around 25-30 dogs in each of the other stakes each day. The weather cooperated as well; sunny, with cool morning temps and highs in the low 70s. A perfect weekend!

Of course it takes a lot of help to run a hunt test, and many people stepped up Friday (setup) through Sunday (teardown). Thanks to everyone, and if I missed any names below, it is because of my faulty memory and not your memorable contribution to the success of the test! Special thanks go to Sherie Catledge, who stepped in for us at the last moment to be hunt test secretary while Roberta was recovering from an unexpected hospitalization. Sherie also showed a bunch of dogs at all levels, so she was arguably one of the busiest people at the test! Big thanks go to Lois Luthenauer and Mike Evans, who as test chairman and chief assistant were responsible for overall coordination and problem solving. Tom Gibson was Chief Marshal this year, Jim Pearce was equipment chairman, and Patti Gibson was responsible for the delicious Judges and Workers dinner Friday night. Chad Suttles dragged the heavy big trailer back and forth from Hiwassee to Lucky 7. Other people seen helping around the grounds in all sorts of different capacities include: John Broucek, Alan Bruhin, Karen Edwards, Michele Fletcher, Rick Fyfe, Ashley Goddard, Brandon Lawson, Luke McCoy, Cheryl McNutt, Jeff McNutt, Chris Miller, Cory Smith, and Mike Smith. Thanks to the McMinn County Future Farmers of America for supplying some super birdkids — we didn't get as many as we needed, but the ones we got were outstanding. Thanks to our judges, who were courteous and polite and set up excellent tests for us. Our Master judges were Joel Hardy and William Skeels; Senior and Junior were Kim Bridgewater, Judy Merians, Lisa Neel and Robert Wolfe.

And especially, thanks to Ken Campbell for letting us use his wonderful grounds. We appreciate you more than we can say!



### **ETRC Member Ribbon Winners at our Hunt Test:**

#### ***Master:***

Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH, owner/handler Alan Bruhin

#### ***Senior, Saturday***

Hooked Us a Gem, owner/handler Jeff & Cheryl McNutt

Lawson's Landing Shug Avery, owner/handler Danny Lawson (new member)

Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen, owner/handler J. Michael Evans

Zeke Lawson, owner/handler Brandon Lawson (new member)

Lawson's Landing Creek Johnson, owner/handler Danny Lawson (new member)

## **Hunt Test Report 10/21-22, 2017, Con't**

### **Junior, Saturday**

Coon Creek's Polly Wanna Quacker, owner Lois Luthenauer , Handler Sherie Catledge  
Roddydog's Little Brown Nash, owner/handler Konrad Heider

### **Senior, Sunday**

Zeke Lawson, owner/handler Brandon Lawson (new member)  
Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen, owner/handler J. Michael Evans

### **Junior, Sunday**

Coon Creek's Polly Wanna Quacker, owner Lois Luthenauer, Handler Sherie Catledge (TITLE)

### **Puppy Stake**

Junior Puppy:

1st place, Ammo, owner Tom & Liz Gibson

Senior Puppy:

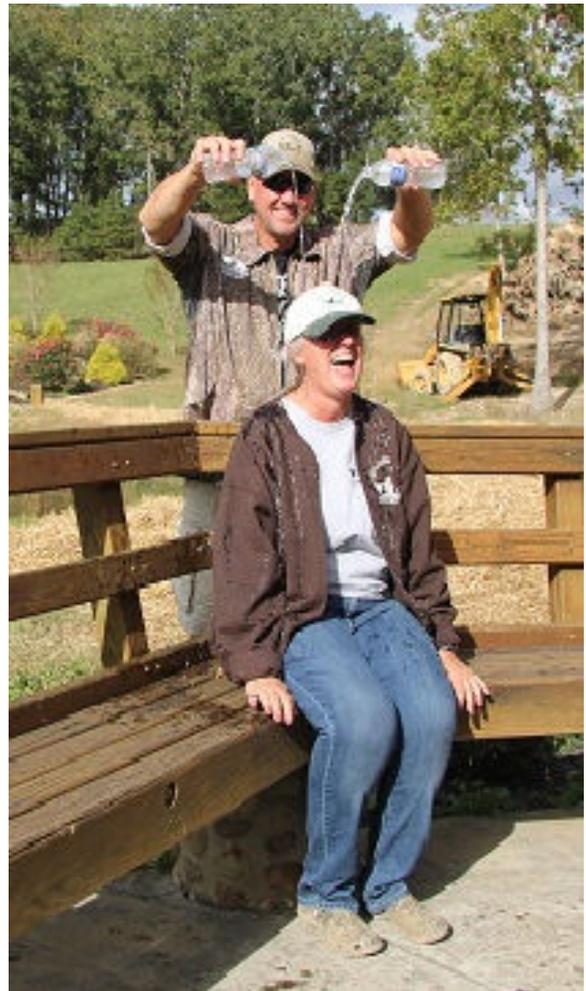
1st place, Fern Hill Sunday At The Zoo (Zoey), Jim Pearce & Karen Edwards

2nd place: Fern Hill Rowan at the Crossroads, Chris Miller (new member)

Congratulations, everybody! Also congratulations to members successfully handling other people's dogs: Sherie Catledge (pro), and new members Scott Chaney (pro) and Danny Lawson (amateur).



For those of you who have earned a title at one of our hunt tests, you know that Lois loves to anoint the owner with a small dousing. Unfortunately, at the ribbon ceremony no one was around for payback — but we caught up with Lois later after she had the official pictures celebrating her new title, and Michael Evans did the honors! Above — that is new JH Polly, with Lois's son Matthew and trainer Sherie Catledge. On the right — needs no explanation!



**Hunt Test Report 10/21-22, 2017, Con't**



Ribbon winners, Saturday Junior Hunter Stake 10/21/17

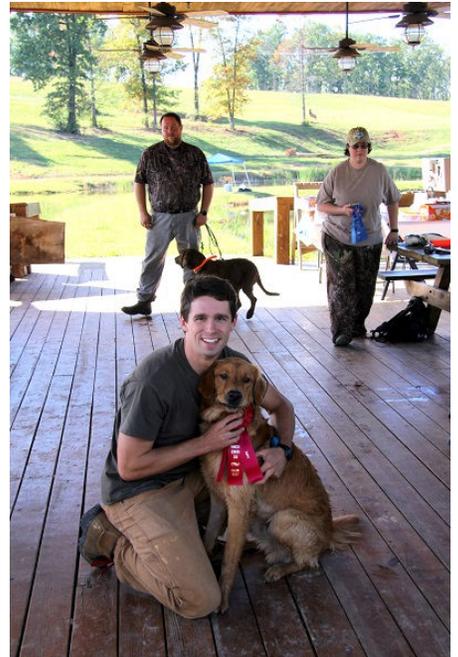


Tom Gibson with 5-month old Ches-sie puppy Ammo, 1st place Jr. Puppy

**Winners, Puppy Stakes**



Jim Pearce with 10 month old Zoey, win-ner of the Sr. Puppy Stake



Chris Miller with 10 month old Rowan, 2nd place Sr. Puppy

## ETRC Club Trial at Lucky 7, October 7, 2017

### Thanks to:

- Ken Campbell for use of his farm, which keeps getting better every time
- Judges: Singles Classic – Michael Evans & Alan Bruhin; Master, Senior, Advanced Junior and Junior: Wayne Rasbury and Luke McCoy
- Jim Pearce for bringing the club's new smaller trailer over.
- Roberta Williams and Karen Edwards, who ran the table.
- Chris Miller and Danny Lawson, new members who helped as birdboys much of the day, and everyone else who pitched in as well.
- Everyone who came and enjoyed a perfect day.

The Singles Classic was run first and was comprised of two long water/land marks. The first was an angle entry across a pond and the up the hill; the second one was an in and out across two pieces of water and then up the hill. The Master/Senior/ Junior stakes were run on one set-up on the other side of the property, and involved both land and water work and blinds as appropriate for the level of the stake. The puppy stake included two rather difficult water marks with one bumper right on the opposite shore under the lip of the bank, not in the water, and the other one involving a pretty lengthy swim.

Signups and setups began at 8:30 a.m., and the action was underway by 9:30 a.m. The weather was partly sunny with mild temps, and a moderate breeze. After the ribbon ceremony, there was a brief board meeting.

### Results:

*Singles Classic:* 11 dogs entered, 6 passed.

- First place: Wood and Lois Luthenauer
  - Second place: Eva and Jake Greenwell
  - Third place: Shine and Alan Bruhin
  - Fourth place: Okie with Jake Greenwell
- JAMs: Callie with Jim Pearce, Panda with Jim Pearce.

*Master Test:* 6 dogs entered and all passed. Passing were: Callie and Jim Pearce; Ivy and Michael Evans; Shine with Alan Bruhin; Panda and Jim Pearce, Ace with Lisa Styles (welcome back, Lisa!) and Woody with Lois Luthenauer.

*Senior Test:* 8 entered and all passed – Congratulations to Creek and Danny Lawson; Shug and Danny Lawson; Ivy with Michael Evans, Charlie and Tom Gibson; Gypsy and Danny Lawson; Cooper with Wayne Rasbury, and Echo and Luke McCoy.

*Advanced Junior Test:* No entries.

*Junior Test:* 1 entered and passed. Congratulations to John Broucek and Percy, a 6-month old puppy.

*Puppies:* Three entered. Junior puppy was won by Ammo with Tom Gibson. Senior puppy first place went to Zoey with Jim Pearce; second place Senior puppy was Percy and John Broucek.

### Financial Information:

	Memberships/	Entries /	Sales /	Donation	Total
Checks	\$0	\$45	\$45	\$0	\$60
cash	\$0	\$255	\$60	\$0	\$215
Totals	<b>\$00</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$105</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$405</b>

There were no expenses.

## **Club Trial 10/7/17, Con't**

### **Final Thoughts:**

It was great to meet some new members, and see some past members back again. We hope to see you all at more events soon. We have had unbelievable luck this year with weather for our Club Trials and it is too bad that more people haven't taken advantage of the opportunity. Attendance was way down as we are competing with kids' sporting events, UT football games, hunting weekends, other hunt tests, agility and obedience matches, field trials, judging assignments, etc. We will be seriously considering our club trial program and whether it is worth continuing. It may be more productive to have organized training sessions instead. We will be asking the membership about this at the February banquet / business meeting.



**Scenes from the 10/7/17 club Trial at Lucky 7 Ranch**



## Member Brags

Congratulations to John Broucek and his 2-1/2 year old bitch Indi's L7 Nellie QAA ("Nellie"). This pair won the Qualifying Stake at the Middle Tennessee Amateur Retriever Club Field Trial on September 30, 2017 at Lavergne, TN. There were 36 dogs entered — Excellent job, John and Nellie!

In other Broucek-related news, congratulations to John for breeding Wolf River's Dirty Max, by Abby's Physician of Antioch (Luke) out of Troublesome Nicole. This dog was a qualifier to enter the 2017 National Derby competition and was one of the finalists.



Nellie QAA



Coal MH  
MNH

Congratulations to David Knott and his Master National Qualifier Coal (Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH MNH) who qualified for the third time at the 2017 Master National, with Brian Caldwell handling. Coal earned his MNH with this success — The MNH, which stands for Master National Hunter, is a title given to any dog that successfully completes three Master Nationals. This is equivalent to the Master National Retriever Clubs' (MNRC's) Hall of Fame designation. Way to go, Coal, David, and Brian!

## New Members

Say hello to the following new members who have joined ETRC since the August picnic:

- ◆ Sherie Catledge, pro retriever trainer, Bethpage, TN.
- ◆ Scott & Libby Chaney, pro retriever trainer, McMinnville, TN
- ◆ Brandon Lawson, Church Hill, TN. Brandon works in customer service & has a young yellow lab, Zeke JH.
- ◆ Danny & Robin Lawson, retired, Georgetown, TN. The Lawson's are running two young labs at the Senior level.
- ◆ Larry Moody, TDOT employee, Morristown, TN. Larry owns two Chessies.
- ◆ Christopher Miller, Emergency Room Technician, Knoxville, TN. Chris has a 10-month Golden Retriever puppy.

Also, please greet the following old members from years past who have recently renewed:

- ◆ Brian Caldwell, pro retriever trainer, Ooltewah, TN (and congratulations to your fine showing at the Master National, handling both dogs to qualifications!)
- ◆ Neil and Jodi Martin, retired, Milton, GA. The Martins have a number of Labs.

## ETRC Board Meeting, 10/7/17

Present from the Board: Lois Luthenauer, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, John Broucek

Absent, excused: Alan Bruhin, Donna Smith, Rick Fyfe, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present.  
Meeting called to order at 3:15 p.m. following completion of the ribbon ceremony for the Club Trial.

### Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

**President's Report:** None, in the interests of a quick meeting.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. Last meeting was 9/12/17; minutes were approved within a week via email and sent to the club website. Michael moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Luke Seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- Correspondence: Karen returned the MNRC ballot to Elaine Goodner.
- Website changes made & pending: Routine. Minutes etc. posted.
- Membership: End of year 2016 membership was 59. Current membership is 54 including 1 new member pending first reading today. 17 members from 2016 have not renewed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 10/6/17 is \$20,984.25 with bills due for Patti Gibson for dinner, lunches, and judges gifts (~ \$800-\$1,000). Still no invoice from Patti. Paid Michael for the purchase of the camp chairs (\$550.62). Lois has donated the food she purchased for the picnic. Thanks!

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher. Tabled in Michele's absence.

### Old Business

1. **Club Trials:** October 7: Today. See attached report. Attendance was poor again; we need to seriously consider whether to keep having these events. On the plus side, they are low cost.
2. **Fall Hunt Test:** October 21-22, 2017, Lucky Seven Ranch, Sweetwater. We went over the assignment sheet to make sure we are on track. Status:
  - The test is closing Monday, 10/9, at 11:59 pm CDT.
  - Ken Campbell: Insurance certificate has been sent. Someone needs to talk to him about the fee and whether he is planning to donate it back to us for the youth program again.
  - Tom, Marshals: Tom is still looking for a pair of Marshals for one stake on Sunday. Hopefully we will have people there we can rope into the job.
  - Birdkids: FFA, insurance cert & contract have been provided. We asked for up to 25 kids, with 20 being the requested minimum. This will be more than enough for the smaller test.
  - Workers Friday – Sunday: looks like we will have enough to help out.
  - Roberta has purchased 700 more sheets of waterproof paper for the judges' books. Alan will print off another 1000 on plain paper. If there are 200 dogs, we need 400 sheets a day so 800 total.
  - Lois – Ducks: Kiley Buettner is on standby for Friday delivery. Lois will call him on Tuesday 10/10/17 with the number (estimating 1.5 ducks per dog entered). We need phone # of truck driver, info on cost per duck
  - Chad Suttles, who lives near Hiwassee, is willing to bring down the trailer and the empty duck crates on Friday and will help with test setup. Lois will call Karen with the number of crates we are ordering and how many empty crates we will need to return; Karen will contact Chad.
  - Dumpster and Porta Potties: Michael has called and ordered 2 toilets and a dumpster for delivery on Friday. Ken Campbell has asked for them to be delivered to the front parking lot, and his farm Manager Brandon Camp will move them where needed.
  - Test HQ will be set up in the clubhouse this time and not in the barn. Michael will bring 10 orange cones and crime scene tape, and Tom will bring some electric fence poles to help string the tape up, to block off the lawn and the driveway down to the Clubhouse. We will likely set up in the pavilion unless the weather is bad, in which case we will move into the game room side of the clubhouse.
  - Gunners: Michael has identified enough gunners but needs some fill-ins for breaks. He asked people who are good gunners to bring along their shotgun so they can fill in as needed. He has purchased ammo and has receipts; Karen will cut him a check.

## **Meeting Minutes 9/12/17, Con't**

- Michele will bring her large nails and donate them to the club for use in making holes for the blinds. We will make sure to put some of these in each equipment bag that is supposed to go to each site. Last spring, the bags stayed in the trailer & never made it to the sites.
- Michele, Rick, Michael, and Tom all agreed to bring their ATVs. It would be good to have a couple of others as well for running errands.
- We will meet at noon-1:00 on Friday for a work session to check equipment and do any repairs.
- Patti Gibson has agreed to do the judges dinner again and help with lunches. Karen will work on lunch making. Patti has worked out the menu and is assuming a total of 25 people at the dinner.
- Judges gifts: will be a crisp \$100 bill inside a thank you card. Karen will get these fixed up.

### **3. *Equipment purchases: status update***

- More duck driers: Luke & Michael will make them before the test.
- Bird kid seating: Michael bought 25 camp chairs and he has been refunded for his costs. Patti has 6 outdoor chairs she is donating for marshal chairs.
- First Aid Kits: Jeff McNutt and Patti are going to buy extra needed items for these and will have them ready by the hunt test.

4. ***Committee to look at Dog/Puppy of the Year rules:*** Karen, Michael Evans, Mike Smith. Status update: Karen has revised the draft rules as discussed at the last meeting and in email correspondence following. Changes reflect that BOTH club trials and AKC Hunt tests will be worth points only for passage not entrance; 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. Possible new awards: Junior high point dog, Senior high point dog, Master high point dog; only tests/trial stakes at that level considered for each level (dog's eligibility for these awards NOT LIMITED to title level, just number of 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 points). There was not time, and not a full attendance by the board, so Luke moved that we table this discussion until after the fall hunt test. Michael seconded, and the vote passed unanimously. We will need to get these rules finalized in time to get the changes out to the membership in the January newsletter. Looking into field trials: committee will start looking at this in January to get decision reached in time for 2019 awards year.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. *First Reading, New members:***

- Chris Miller, Knoxville, TN, has a Golden puppy from Fern Hill, interested in field work. Will volunteer for equipment maintenance, hunt test set up. Karen & Jim are willing to sponsor.

Luke moved that this new member be accepted on first reading. Michael seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The final vote will be scheduled for the February banquet.

#### **2. *Any other new business?* None**

3. ***Adjourn:*** There being no other new business, Michael moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

# The Trained Retrieve - Part I

By Jim & Phyllis Dobbs and Alice Woodyard

Notice that we call this the "trained" retrieve, not the "force" retrieve. There is a world of difference, as Larry Mueller, gundog editor for *Outdoor Life* discovered during his visit to the Tri-Tronics Training Center. In an article about his experience entitled "A Farewell to Force Fetching," he wrote, "Teaching your dog to fetch no longer has to be a painful experience, because the current trend is toward the "trained retrieve." In the trained retrieve, we show the dog how to be successful by first thoroughly teaching it what to do before we begin reinforcing the command "Fetch." We start by teaching the dog to hold an object calmly. "Hold" really tells the retriever, "Keep your mouth calm. In other words, don't drop or chew."

To teach the dog "Hold," we use a sequence that makes it easy for the dog to learn without stress. At first we place an object in the dog's mouth, so the dog can identify what is correct. Then we let it discover that not holding onto the object leads to mild discomfort, which is "turned off" when the object is back in the dog's mouth. Through this comparison the dog can easily identify what is correct.

We feel that there are two commands that are critical for the young retriever to learn early. Those commands are "Here" and "Hold." Only when the dog understands that it *must obey these two commands*, is it ready to begin marking practice in the field, or a season of hunting. When you have control in these two areas, you can begin to develop the young dog's retrieving desire, without it developing mouth problems, delivery problems, or problems identifying who's in charge (not your dog, we hope!).

## Mouth Problems

To help prevent mouth problems, you should become aware of your dog's natural tendencies before you begin training "Hold." In general, excitable dogs are more prone to bite down hard and chew. Sensitive dogs are likely to pick things up by the end and frequently drop them. Many partially trained dogs tend to "claim the prey" and are reluctant to complete the retrieve because they want to keep it rather than delivering to you. For the excitable dog, use hard, large-diameter objects. For the sensitive dog, use retrieving objects that have ends which are uncomfortable so that the dog will hold them in the center. (You can do this by removing the rope from a bumper and wrapping the ends with wire.)

For the dog that doesn't deliver to hand, spend time reinforcing the "Here" command. For those dogs that are reluctant to give up the bird, reinforce "Drop" with your collar. It shouldn't take but a session or two to convince the dog to deliver to hand properly.

You can also help avoid mouth problems if you don't put the dog in a situation that is too challenging before it's ready. The tendency to crush birds is often caused by allowing the dog to retrieve a wounded pheasant before it has been taught to hold properly. A dog that is unaccustomed to holding a struggling bird may discover that crushing it stops the flapping and scratching. Once started, such hardmouth problems are difficult to eliminate, so take the time to prevent them in the first place.

## The Training Table

We start the trained retrieve on a training table, which is 16 feet long and two feet wide. A training table allows you to control the dog and keep it compliant. A table also saves your back if you're working several dogs. When you introduce "Hold" and "Fetch" to the dog, you must be able to concentrate on what the dog is doing with its mouth. The training table limits the dog's motion and leaves your hands free. You can concentrate on teaching the lesson rather than physically struggling with the dog.

If the dog isn't familiar with a training table, have it walk back and forth and get used to being up there. After you see that the dog is comfortable on the table, secure it to a collar attached to the end post. Also, to prevent pawing, we put Velcro hobbles on the dog's front legs. You should remove the hobbles as soon as they are no longer needed.

## Introduction to Holding

With the dog secured on the table so that it cannot move about, push your index finger into the corner of its mouth. As soon as the dog opens its mouth, slip two fingers of your gloved hand behind its canine teeth and

place your thumb lightly under its chin. Typically, when you put your fingers in the dog's mouth, it will try to spit them out. Don't let it succeed, and be sure to remain calm. If you get excited, the dog will too. *Do not* give the command to "Hold" at this stage of training. You will add that shortly.

## The "Drop" Command

Keep two fingers behind the dog's canine teeth until the dog stops chewing. At that moment, say "Drop" and let the dog pull its mouth off your hand. The dog will soon realize that when it stops chewing you will allow it to get rid of your fingers. If the dog won't let go, just wiggle your index finger on the back of its tongue as you say "Drop."

## The "Hold" Command

Now that the dog has learned that holding your fingers calmly will lead to getting them out of its mouth, you can begin teaching it to hold calmly for longer periods of time. To do this, leave your fingers in the dog's mouth after it has stopped chewing. The moment the dog starts to chew again, grab the skin on the back of its neck with your free hand. This technique causes the dog to calm down and stop chewing. The timing makes the dog realize that chewing on your fingers leads to displeasure. Once the dog accepts holding your fingers without resisting, start giving the "Hold" command when you put your fingers into its mouth.

## Holding the Dumbbell

After the dog will calmly hold your fingers for at least a minute, begin using a dumbbell. Open the dog's mouth and place the dumbbell behind the dog's canine teeth. Close its mouth over the dumbbell, and help the dog hold the dumbbell for a few moments by keeping your hand under its chin.

Now get ready to correct the dog for dropping the dumbbell. Take the dog's ear flap and hold it between your thumb and finger. When the dog drops the dumbbell, immediately apply mild pressure by rubbing your thumbnail and fingernail against the dog's ear while you pick up the dumbbell and put it back into the dog's mouth. Stop the pressure as soon as the dumbbell is back in its mouth. Calmly praise the dog. After the dog has held the dumbbell a moment, give the command "Drop."

At this stage, you are not trying to teach the dog to reach for the dumbbell. You are just teaching it to hold. Let the dog make the comparison. When it drops the dumbbell, it causes discomfort to its ear. When the dumbbell is in its mouth, there is no pressure, just calm, soothing praise.

After several repetitions in which you see that the dog accepts holding the dumbbell, begin tapping lightly on the end of the dumbbell. At first, this tapping will cause the dog to drop the dumbbell. Soon, however, the dog will learn that dropping the dumbbell leads to uncomfortable ear pressure and will grip it more firmly.

Sometimes move your hand toward the top of the dog's head or toward its chest without taking the dumbbell. You do not want the dog to think that reaching toward its head is a signal to drop. Show the dog that only when you take hold of the dumbbell and command "Drop" is it supposed to release.

Each time the dog drops the dumbbell before being given the release command, apply pressure on its ear until you get the dumbbell back in its mouth. Be consistent; create mild discomfort when the dog drops the dumbbell, and pleasure when it holds. Soon the dog will want to hold and not drop.

**Next month: moving on to holding other objects, using the E-collar for reinforcement, carrying objects, and more.**

## 2018 ETRC Memberships

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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 paid for the following year.

## Around the Region

### Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Fall Line RC	11/4/17	Lincolnton, GA
Eastern Carolina RC	11/4/17	Rocky Point, NC
Del Bay RC	11/4/17	Elkton, MD
Black Warrior RC	11/10/17	Greensboro, AL
Carolina Retriever Assn.	11/11/17	Patrick, SC
Tallahassee RC	11/11/17	Thomasville, GA
Cooper River RC	11/18/17	Cheraw, SC
Lower Alabama RC	11/18/17	Elberta, AL
N. Alabama RC	11/18/17	Greensboro, AL
Palmetto RC	12/02/17	Cheraw, SC
Mid-Florida Golden Retr.	12/8/17	Monteverde, FL

### 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 4 hours at one of our club events.

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](mailto: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!

### 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](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com)); Lois Luthenauer ([mountainLo717@gmail.com](mailto:mountainLo717@gmail.com)) or Roberta Williams ([sharpnlw@usit.net](mailto:sharpnlw@usit.net)).