



# 2017 Upcoming Events

1. October 7, 2017, Saturday, 8 a.m.. EST Fall Club Trial, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater.
2. October 21-22, 2017, Saturday & Sunday: ETRC Fall Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater. Entries open September 21, 2017, 7 p.m. (or a day earlier for volunteers with codes; contact Roberta Williams to volunteer and get your code).
3. February ???, 2018: Awards Banquet & Business meeting, dates pending
4. March / April 2018: Spring Club Trials, dates pending
5. May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Pending.

## President's Message

Well, August was certainly an eventful month ... it started with our Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic, an excellent seminar provided by Jody Ware, and lots of good food and fellowship. Thanks to Jody for the great info, and to Rick Fyfe and the Fletchers for the use of their beautiful properties. We appointed a nominating committee to work on recruiting for next year's board of directors, decided on some direction for equipment and generally had a good time.

August ended with the worst hurricane to hit the U.S. in years, leaving much of the east coast of Texas devastated. Many of us know folks from the retriever world that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey and the associated flooding. Many people and many, many animals are suffering because of this once-in-1,000 year storm. AKC is collecting donations to assist with recovery from the crisis and has dispatched Reunite Trailers to provide shelter and care to pets in need. If you are thinking of donating to help with the recovery, this may be a good option. There are more details elsewhere in the newsletter, and on the AKC website [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org).

Of course, we are getting ready for the fall Hunt Test, which will again be held at Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 Farm. The weather has already turned cool, and the first day of Dove Season was temperate enough that you didn't have to worry about dogs overheating! Hopefully, the weather will cooperate in October! If you want to help with a specific task at the hunt test, let me know. Believe it or not, it's actually fun to work the test! The Club Trial leading up the fall AKC test will be held on Saturday, October 7, it's another great opportunity to "tune up" for main event! We hope to see you there!

In the meantime,

Happy Training!

### CONTENTS

Upcoming ETRC Events	1
President's Message	1
AKC Press Release: Hurricane Relief	2
Jody Ware Seminar, picnic, meeting	3-8
Training corner: Seminar Notes	9-12
Young Handler's Program	12
2017 ETRC Membership	12
Upcoming Hunt Tests & Seminars	13
Newsletter Info	13

One of Chad Suttles' dogs learning swimby at the Seminar





## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** August 30, 2017

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### ***AKC REUNITE ANNOUNCES CHALLENGE GRANT TO HELP HURRICANE HARVEY VICTIMS***

**New York, NY —** AKC Reunite is pleased to announce a Challenge Grant from Barbara and Bob Amen (Delegate, Greater St. Louis Training Club), which will match donations to AKC Reunite's Pet Disaster Relief Fund up to \$10,000 to support efforts for the families and pets in Texas and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"We have many friends in the area and our first two Australian Shepherds came from Texas breeders, so we feel a special connection to the region," said Bob Amen. "We cannot believe the destruction and havoc that Hurricane Harvey has already caused and more is on the way."

"We are extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Amen for their generosity during such a trying time," said Tom Sharp, AKC Reunite President and CEO. "The American Kennel Club and AKC Reunite are committed to helping those affected by this natural disaster, and this Challenge Grant will aid our efforts substantially."

Two AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailers have been deployed in Dallas and Ft Worth, Texas to help evacuees from the storm, and AKC Reunite will continue to help shelters caring for pets displaced by the storm. Through the generous support of Barbara and Bob Amen, any donations received between Tuesday evening, August 29, and Wednesday, September 20, 2017, will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 total. To donate securely online, go to [www.akcreunite.org/donate](http://www.akcreunite.org/donate).

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**AKC Reunite**  
**The way home for lost pets.**

AKC Reunite, an affiliate of the American Kennel Club®, is the largest non-profit pet identification and recovery service provider in the United States. Since 1995 AKC Reunite has helped pet owners reunite with their lost animals via identification and 24/7 pet recovery specialists, enrolling over 6 million companion animals and recovering more than 475,000 lost pets. AKC Reunite microchips are a popular choice of pet professionals throughout the country for permanent pet identification.

The AKC Reunite Canine Support and Relief Fund has donated more than \$6 million since 2001 for disaster preparedness and relief causes that impact our nation's pets. AKC Reunite also provides free recovery service enrollment for all active service, military, and law enforcement K-9 dogs. For more information visit [www.akcreunite.org](http://www.akcreunite.org) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/akcreunite](https://www.facebook.com/akcreunite)).

## **Jody Ware Training Seminar / Picnic / Summer Business Meeting**

On Saturday, August 5, 2017, ETRC held its third annual seminar, picnic and business meeting at Rick Fyfe and Michele / Richard Fletcher's adjoining farms in Pikeville, TN. The festivities started shortly after 7 a.m. central time, and continued until nearly 4 p.m.

About 27 people (including kids and spouses) and 18 dogs participated in the seminar, which was conducted by ETRC's own pro trainer Jody Ware, assisted by his son Nick. For the advanced dogs (7 of them), Jody set up a series of three difficult water blinds. On the first one, the dog was supposed to get out of the water on a point of land, then get back in the water and out to the blind partway up the hill on the other side. If the dog didn't come out right on the end of the point, it was very easy to get sucked up the hill in the wrong direction. The second blind involved a sharp angle entry, swimming close to the shore and then out and up the hill. On the third one, the dog was supposed to skirt one spit of land closely and then hop out and run up the hill. Jody critiqued each handler and helped identify and recommend solutions for problems encountered in the runs.

Next, he worked on starting blinds for a group of about 10 dogs. Using the same setup for blind #1, he had the handler start with the dog out on the spit of land, and Nick showed them where the bumpers were located. The dog was then sent using blind signals (Dead Bird, Back), while the handler then ran around to the pond to stand on the far bank and called the dog back across the point of water. Jody showed us how to add or decrease difficulty using this setup, with each dog getting one or two tries with differing levels of difficulty. Next he worked with several young dogs demonstrating some of the obedience / yard work exercises that he does to get them ready for more advanced work. We then moved to the swim-by pond and he worked with several more dogs there.

It was great to see several junior handlers out there working their dogs – Ivan and Cade Chambers with their Chessies, and Nick helping Jody. Jody has the wonderful talent of 'speaking dog' and can instantly identify issues and offer suggestions to fix them, and although he is quite direct about handler errors, he always manages to get the information across positively and tactfully.

Huge thanks to Jody and Nick for the wonderful morning. Also thanks to the Fletchers and Rick Fyfe for the use of their adjoining farms. Most amazingly, the weather even cooperated – it was almost chilly when we started and even at the end of the session, it was still quite reasonably cool in the shade. The only slight issue was the unbelievable traffic on the main route to the farm – this was the weekend of the Highway 127 Yard Sale, and for people arriving a little late, it took nearly an hour to crawl from Crossville to Pikeville.

Detailed notes from the seminar are below, in the Training Corner section.

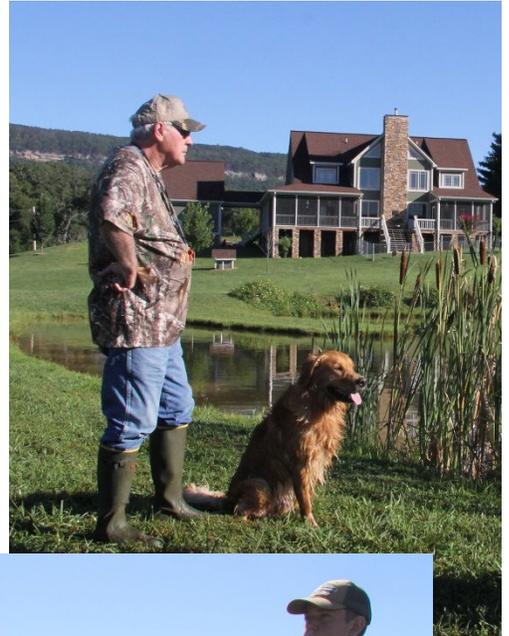
### **Picnic, 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.**

The large open pole barn was perfect for the picnic and meeting. Also thanks to Lois Luthenauer who coordinated the fantastic feast, and to all the members who brought such great food along as their entry fee to the seminar. It was nice to have some time to visit, meet new members, and 'talk dogs'. Unfortunately, at least 10 members who came to the seminar were unable to stay for the picnic and meeting – but we were glad to have you for the morning anyway!

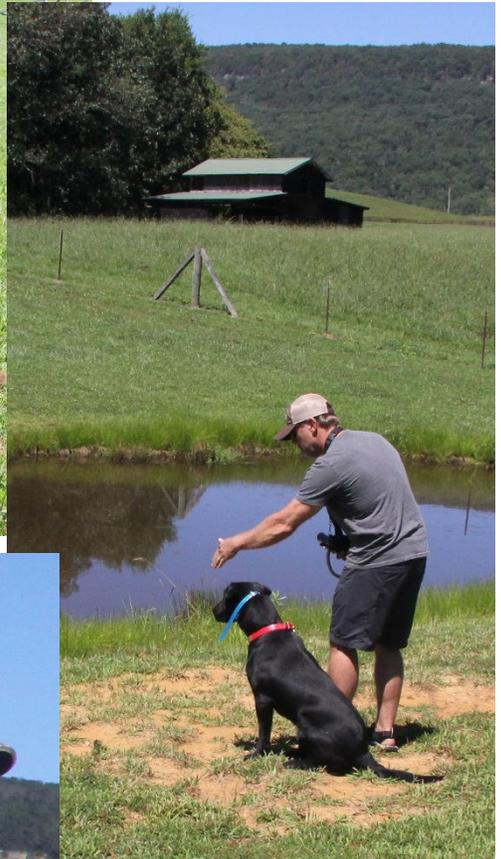
### **Business Meeting, 1:20 – 3:45 p.m.**

This is one of the two general membership meetings that we hold every year, where all members are invited to attend and participate in decisions affecting the club. Minutes of the meeting begin on page 4. Thanks to everyone who attended and brought along some great ideas!

## Seminar / Picnic Pictures



# More Seminar / Picnic Pictures



Jody with Zoey Edwards; picnic scenes; Cory Smith with Bauer; Chad Suttles with one of his two Labs; new member Charles Lockwood and friend; Nick Ware assisting.

## General Business Meeting, 8/5/17

**Present from the Board:** Lois Luthenauer, Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Donna Smith, Tom Gibson, Rick Fyfe, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher

**Absent:** John Broucek

**Other Members present:** Liz Gibson, Ashley Goddard, Charles and Connie Lockwood, Mike Smith, Cory Smith, Chad Suttles, Jody and Nick Ware, and Beth White.

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. A quorum of the membership is 20% of the voting members. 16 members/ families were represented, and the current membership stands at 52 individuals/families. Therefore, a quorum was present (20% is 11 families). Meeting called to order at 1:20 p.m. following completion of the seminar and picnic.

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

**President's Report:** President Lois Luthenauer thanked the Fletchers and Rick Fyfe for hosting us, and Jody and Nick Ware for the wonderful seminar. She also thanked everyone for coming and braving the traffic, including those who were unable to stay for the picnic and meeting. Beth White is moving shortly; Lois thanked her for all the help and support she has given the club over the last several years and wished her and her husband well in their new home over near Raleigh, NC where they are moving to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards. Last meeting was 6/13/17; 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. Mike Evans Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- ◆ **Website changes made & pending:** Routine. Password changed, membership notified.
- ◆ **Membership:** Current membership is 52 including 5 new members pending final vote this afternoon.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 8/3/17 is \$25,742.59 with bills not yet received from Patti Gibson for spring test dinner, lunches, and judges gifts (\$1,000+); and payback to Lois and Michele for picnic expenses. Paid MNRC membership bill late, on 8/3/17; the invoices are now being sent only via email and neither Mike Evans nor Roberta Williams received them this year. Karen will set up a bill-paying reminder in Quicken for this in future years so we can contact them if we don't receive an invoice. Mike Evans moved we accept the treasurer's report (hard copy handed out showing all expenses for the year); this was seconded by Luke McCoy and unanimously approved.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher reported there are several changes that are coming up for a vote by AKC in August. These include a provision that a club may hold a Master-only test if they also hold another test during the year that has Junior and Senior categories; a provision change the distance for a walkup from "35-45 yards" to "a maximum of 45 yards"; and language prohibiting subsequent series in a test from being run on the exact same land. More details will be provided in September, but none of these seem to be terribly controversial.

### Voting in of New Members

We have five new members who are to receive final approval today. All sponsors have recommended their approval:

Daniel	Blevins	2136 Blankenship R.	Maryville	TN	37803	M.Evans, T. Gibson
Jim	Harrison	105 Maple Drive	Smyrna	TN	37167	M.Evans, L.McCoy
Konrad / Tricia	Heider	1020 Reunion Drive	Chattanooga	TN	37421	H.O'Neal, A.Bruhin
Lorrie / Joe	Johnson	10639 Forest Crest Rd.	Knoxville	TN	37922	K.Edwards, A.Bruhin
Charles / Connie	Lockwood	1143 Tellico St. South	Madisonville	TN	37354	M.Evans, B.Caldwell

Luke moved that all five be approved as full members of the club; Mike Evans seconded, and they were unanimously approved. Charlies and Connie Lockwood were at the meeting, and everyone wished them welcome to the club.

### Old Business

**Fall Club Trial:** October 7, Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 Ranch. Everyone is encouraged to come; this is a good warm up

## **Minutes 8/5/17 Continued**

for our fall hunt test at the same site just two weekends later, and a great opportunity for people to become familiar with the grounds.

**Kevin's Fund:** Rules: Karen and Lois will be reviewing and will have revised rules proposal to the Board for this fall, for next year. Balance remaining as of today: \$2,175.

### **Spring Hunt Test Report:**

Financial information: Very successful test, profit of almost \$10,000. Final figures pending receipt of bills from P.Gibson for meals, food, judges gifts.

Complaints: 2 minor complaints about the test/judging, both on the Junior test, and both resolved informally. One was about a Boykin that the handler said could not see the mark over the high grass, and the other one was from a dog that brought back a bird, spit it out at the line and wouldn't pick it back up. One concern about a guy who purchased pictures from a photographer (not the one that was authorized beforehand) and hadn't yet received them. Another member had the same problem and had called him, to find out that he had a heart attack. He had told that member that he would definitely get the pictures out but needed some recovery time. The person with the original complaint said he had tried calling and the man was accepting his calls. We discussed that people should be cautious about writing checks for photographs to people, especially unauthorized photographers. The other photographer has a website and you can buy pictures through the website.

**Equipment purchases:** Some purchases need to be made before our fall test; others can wait a while longer.

2 more pairs of radios: with this big a test and another stake, we didn't have enough radios. The board authorized Jim Pearce to buy two more sets; these have been purchased and are on hand.

More duck driers: issue of buying some or making some. Luke and Michael recommended that we make some out of 2x4s with rebar feet, that can hopefully be knocked down easily and stored in the duck gassing box. These can be made inexpensively. There are still some concerns about space available in the trailer; the final consensus was that Mike and Luke are authorized to make 3 for the fall test and we'll see how they work. The aluminum duck driers are quite expensive.

More holding blinds: the club is in desperate need of 10-12 new blinds; ours are in sorry shape and we don't have enough anyway. Alan B has done research and has suggested that we get half 4-pole blinds and half 3-pole blinds, from Gun Dog Supply, half in Marsh Grass and half in Bush Buck colors. Also, we need to add spikes to drive holes into dry ground and put these in the tool kits. Alan moved that we buy these up to a cost of \$1,500; Mike Evans seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Alan will purchase the blinds.

More /better seating for bird kids. We have plenty of buckets, but they tend to melt together in the heat of the trailer and become very difficult to separate; plus, they take up a lot of room. They are very cheap though. Mike Evans has been researching various ideas (folding chairs with hoods, canvas folding stools, etc.). He reported that we can buy the folding camp stools for about \$14-\$17, and these can be strung up on a cable that runs up at the top of the trailer from side to side, taking up very little room. Michael also discussed possible chairs for \$6, but several people commented that chairs at that price point do not hold up at all. Karen moved we buy 25 of the folding stools, Michele seconded, and Michael Evans will take care of buying them. The motion passed.

Coolers: Lois threw out the ones that had broken handles. New ones in the 48 qt size (which is a good size) cost about \$16 at Walmart. We are not sure how many we have after the spring purge; Lois thought we only had two left; Michael and Alan thought it was more like 6-7. We decided to delay action until the fall hunt test where we can see exactly how many we need. We think that 6 would be a good number – one for each stake, one for a possible extra stake, and one for the clubhouse.

Popups: We needed 3 more to bring us up to a total of 10; Tom G. just bought 3 more blue ones so we are good there.

We need more ponchos before the next hunt test. These are inexpensive. Cory Smith offered to buy about 20 of these that we can keep on hand; this number should last us for a couple of years.

First Aid Kit: at the spring test, nurse Patti Gibson and paramedic Jeff McNutt went over our two first aid kits with an eye to throwing out stuff that was out of date and making a list of new things we needed. Karen needs to contact them to see if we can get a list so that we can restock the kits before the test.

**Location of big trailer at Hiwassee:** has become a problem now that we can't get into Hiwassee without calling ahead and only on limited days of the week. We discussed moving the trailer elsewhere for ease in getting material in and out. However, Michael has talked with Hiwassee manager Jason who says the hours are 8 a.m. to dusk, Monday through Saturday. We decided this was probably OK. However, there is still an issue of the brakes for the trailer needing to be fixed. Chad Suttles says he is willing to call a truck and trailer repair shop in Chattanooga and can haul it down for repair since he lives close. The biggest issue is whether or not it has to be unloaded first, as there is no place to put all the stuff. Either Mike

## **Minutes 8/5/17 Continued**

Smith or Chad Suttles might be willing to move the trailer to Sweetwater, to be determined later.

**Raffle:** Is anyone willing to take over as the raffle coordinator for fall? We have two sponsors (Purina, Midwest) and one of our photographers has offered some pics to be used as raffle items. Do we want to buy something to raffle? Costs last spring exceeded income; we need people to get out to the test site and sell raffle tickets. After some discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a raffle, Karen moved that we not have a general raffle this fall. If there is any donated material, we can use this for a workers' raffle. Beth seconded the motion which then passed.

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

Application has been submitted to AKC, judges are approved. Will be double Junior, double Senior, single Master flight with 60-dog limit.

Junior/Senior Judges are:

- ◆ Kim Bridgewater [bridgewaterkim@live.com](mailto:bridgewaterkim@live.com)
- ◆ Judy Merians [mikemerians@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemerians@yahoo.com)
- ◆ Lisa Neel [doctor.spock@yahoo.com](mailto:doctor.spock@yahoo.com)
- ◆ Robert Wolfe 901-755-9294

Master Judges:

- ◆ Bill Skeels [skeels@fairpoint.net](mailto:skeels@fairpoint.net)
- ◆ Joel Hardy [turkeychr@bellsouth.net](mailto:turkeychr@bellsouth.net)

Need volunteers to help with all kinds of stuff – contact any of the Board members. We are looking into a new way of dividing up work at each stake for the fall. In addition to the Marshal, one person would be assigned to each stake as the designated runner. This person would be responsible for coordinating with HQ on site needs (lunches, ammo, more ducks) and will be the one who goes to wherever to get the needed stuff. We would still have a crew of 4-5 people to help with setup and teardown. It might work best to have two additional people plus the Marshal at the Master tests.

We are now required to have live flyers at Junior tests. This means we will need more gunners. For Fall, we will need 6 gunners on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. If anyone knows a gunner who would be interested, please provide contact info to Michael Evans.

**Committee to look at Dog/Puppy of the Year rules:** Karen, Michael Evans, Mike Smith – Have agreed on proposed changes and this is to go before the Board at the next meeting before being referred to the membership.

### **New Business:**

**MNRC delegate:** Jody Ware is willing to be our delegate this year, if our late dues submission doesn't preclude us from being represented. Karen will contact MNRC to see if we are now entitled to have a rep, and if so will get a proxy set up for Jody.

**Input from the membership:** ideas and suggestions for things you would like the club to do, instead of or in addition to what we talked about already. Suggestions for improvements, ways to get more people working so we don't burn people out so bad, etc. There were no suggestions at this time.

**Nominating Committee:** We usually set up the nominating committee at this time to give everyone plenty of opportunity to do the work before the required report has to be submitted to Karen as Secretary in the fall. Lois called for volunteers – we need two non-board members and one board member to serve. Luke McCoy volunteered to be the member from the Board, and Cory Smith and Chad Suttles agreed to serve from the membership. Karen will send out an email to all of them with the information on bylaws requirements, a copy of the most recent membership list, and a list of the positions that have to be filled.

### **Any other new business?**

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. Donna Smith seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

## Training Corner

### Notes from the Jody Ware Training Seminar August 5, 2017; Fyfe and Fletcher Farms, Pikeville, TN

The seminar began at approximately 7:30 a.m. Central time. Dogs and handlers participating included Alan Bruhin & Shine; Michele Fletcher & Callie; Wayne Rasbury & Cooper, Jim Pearce with Callie & Panda; Rick Fyfe with Mo and Mac; Donna Smith & Beau; Tom Gibson & Charlie; Cory Smith & Bauer; Haley O'Neal & Gunner; Konrad Heider with two dogs; Ivan Chambers with his Chessie; Beth White with Nina; and Chad Suttles with two dogs.

#### Advanced Dogs.

For the 7 advanced dog/handler pairs, Jody set up a series of three difficult water blinds. On the first one, the dog was supposed to get out of the water on a point of land, then get back in the water and out to the blind partway up the hill on the other side. If the dog didn't come out right on the end of the point, it was very easy to get sucked up the hill in the wrong direction. The second blind involved a sharp angle entry, swimming close to the shore and then out and up the hill. On the third blind, the dog was supposed to skirt one spit of land closely and then out and up the hill. Jody critiqued each handler and helped identify and recommend solutions for problems encountered in the runs.

- ◆ **SHEA** – Think about this acronym while lining your dog up for a blind: Spine, Head, Eyes, and Attitude. Of these, attitude is key. The dog should be looking out enthusiastically, and should be looking like he is having fun. If not, you need to back up a bit and do some pattern blinds, or show the dog some of the harder blinds before asking him to run them. See more info under the 'starting blinds' section below.
- ◆ **Cheating on the return:** Returns aren't scored in tests, but it's still a good idea to not let your dog do this. If your dog looks like he is going to run around on the shore, tweet him to a stop immediately – preferably at the blind stake – and call him back in using a verbal "here".
- ◆ **On and off Points:** On this particular blind setup, it was important to keep the dog directly on the edge of the point and use a "back" command to get them back into the water. If the dog started running left towards the main bank, stop them and handle them back to the point. This is tricky as you may pull the dog off into the water on the wrong side. But ideally, get them back to the end of the point, sit them again, and give the direct 'back' cast again. Do not cast an experienced dog sideways off a point. With a more inexperienced dog, you may just have to get them into the water any old way and work from there.
- ◆ **Question: Should you send from the left or the right on Blind #2?** Jody said he used to send from either side but he now just sends from the left – partly because owners get so confused trying to figure out which is best and the truth is, it doesn't really matter all that much. He commented that many people would have thought it was better to send from the right on this tight angle entry, being afraid that the dog would run along the bank instead of going into the water – but he has found that if you put the dog on the right in this situation, he is more likely to go in "fat" and go straight ahead and not stay close enough to the bank to challenge the line.
- ◆ **How to teach angle entries:** Don't correct until your dog knows how to do these; instead, simplify and break it down into smaller pieces. Get closer to the water (the farther away from the water, the harder to get the angle). The keys to all blinds are communication, trust, and destination. Any time you call them back to your side, you have to move forward to simplify the next time. The purpose of bringing them all the way back in is to avoid killing momentum – and if necessary, show the dog the blind and try again. You want success.
- ◆ **How to train going through slots:** If it's a very narrow slot, move up closer to give yourself more control. If it's a wide slot or a staggered slot (closer on one point than the other) you can start farther back. Slots are harder on high rolling dogs. If you have a very fast dog, you better have the whistle in your mouth and your lungs full of air as soon as they leave the line. It might even be necessary in some cases to slow them down a bit with a whistle to be able to get them through the slot.
- ◆ **Quick Tips:**
  - a. Playing with your dog is OK. They can learn to tell the difference and playing on occasion helps keep them fresh and happy.
  - b. If the dog's nose goes down on their way out to a blind they are starting to hunt. Immediately sit the dog and then cast them to get them out of that location.

## Seminar Notes, Cont.

- c. Slow down on casting. Sit the dog, give him a few seconds to focus on you, THEN give the cast.
- d. Don't correct a dog for getting out of the water. Correct it for not going back in instead. Eventually they will learn not to get out.
- e. Verbal casts will drive a dog back the way it is already going – this is good for when your dog is on a long blind and is slowing down or thinking about popping. Also, if you have to stop them on the line, they will be expecting a change of direction, so use a verbal cast “BACK” to get them moving again on the same line.
- f. You need to watch your dog and know which way he is likely to turn. Most of them tend to turn in the same direction all the time, and you can use that to know how strong an angle you need on your casts.
- g. Timing on casts is important: better to stop them before you need a Hail Mary cast – knowing when to blow the whistle & how much cast to give are important to learn & make a big difference in success or failure.
- h. When you are training with points of land on or near the line, it is a good idea sometimes to make a dog get out of the water, and other times make them go around the point. The idea is to get control so the dog will do whichever one you need for any particular blind.
- i. Any time you recall the dog because they are just so far off line that you want to start again, ALWAYS re-throw the bird.
- j. Praise is a powerful tool. Dogs like praise and will understand the lesson better if you give them verbal praise when they have done a good job. Also, if a dog has struggled to learn something and finally gets it, praise them and put them up. End on a good note – it will sink into the dog's brain much better that way.

### Intermediate Dogs.

A number of intermediate pairs used the same setup as Blind #1, with a point on the line that the dog was supposed to get out on. Jody used this setup as a way to demonstrate how he teaches dogs to be able to handle this kind of blind, reinforcing some of the ideas he discussed for the advanced dogs. First, you break the blind down into its components. He had each handler start on the point, had Nick show the dog where the bumpers were (including splashing a bumper into the water for the less experienced dogs), and then sending the dog using the blind commands (Dead Bird, Back). For some dogs, he had the handler call the dog back to the point, sit the dog, run around to the line on the other bank and call them back again. For other dogs, while the dog was retrieving the bumper, the handler ran around the point and came back to the line and then called the dog back across the point. He commented that you work each aspect of the blind and some dogs will learn it faster than others. As long as it's successful, you can keep on making it harder. If it's not successful, simplify. Once the dog had mastered the blind one day, you might try it again the next day by starting with the full blind only showing the dog the bumper, then maybe a quick land mark, then back to the blind again.

- ◆ **Attrition** – When you are beginning, you can't expect and don't want to insist on total perfection. Go for momentum, then through simplification and repetition you can gradually get more precise. Use destination training to help them become more confident. It's harder to run a blind OUTSIDE marks than inside, as they are more comfortable running into an area where they already found a bird rather than to a new, unknown area. You can't correct for every mistake; do more TEACHING than FORCING. At first, let them see where the blind is 4-6 times before asking them to run it cold. Look for good initial lines and a good blind attitude. The dog should enjoy the work.
- ◆ **Early Blind Training:** It's OK to use a white bumper at first. Don't blow a whistle when they pop, instead just immediately do a voice BACK. Do this even at a test if your dog is looking like he might pop.
- ◆ **Working on Returns over the water:** one of the dogs grabbed the bumper and immediately started skirting back along the shore. Jody suggested blowing an instantaneous 'sit' whistle as soon as the dog picked up the bumper, and then call him back to you – the dog is more likely to come straight back over the water that way. In hard core cases, have a helper who can stop or discourage the dog from running along the bank. Even get another bumper and throw it into the water to give the dog the idea.
- ◆ **Working on good water entries:** Start close to the water and don't start backing away from the shore for your starting line until they are going in reliably from close in. If necessary, splash the marks into the water instead of putting them up on the bank. The dog is a lot more attracted to going into the water that way. Be very careful about using the collar to force a dog into the water; it is likely they will never learn to enjoy it if you do too much with the collar in teaching them water work.

## Seminar Notes, Cont.

### Beginner Dogs.

Jody demonstrated the type of yard work he does on obedience with Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce's puppy Zoey. He does a lot of heeling, many changes of direction, lots of sits and heres with leash pops to get them to respond quickly. He doesn't do Down in the early phases.

- ◆ **Dogs that are wild, creep and break**: you have to work on this when the dog is young. Usually it's a pretty good dog with a lot of drive but if you don't get it under control early, it becomes almost impossible to deal with later. Here's what you do with a young dog that is just wild to get to the line: take them out of the blind, walk to the line, do 15 minutes of obedience and heeling work with them, then put them up. No birds, no bumpers. Dogs like this are so willing to put up with strong corrections that if you let them go after the mark you are teaching them that all they have to do is put up with a couple of whacks or nicks and then they get a bird, and they can live with that. It is worth it to get to the mark. If you put them up without a mark, then they think about it and the lesson sinks in better. You only give them the mark when they behave!
- ◆ **Forcing to the Pile**: Jody calls it REINFORCING to the pile. You don't add any collar until the dog is already enthusiastic about running to the back pile to bring back bumpers. He works on the pile for at least a week before adding any reinforcing to get a faster response. First you have to create the desire and momentum.
- ◆ **Collar Conditioning**: Before introducing the collar, he makes sure the dog has a solid 'sit' and 'here' command and knows what those commands mean. Only then can you get a rapid response with a nick and not just confusion and dismay on the part of the dog. On the first day that you add the collar, only do it on the Sit command. Then when that is solid, do it only on the Here command. Don't combine the two with collar corrections for quite some time. Most dogs work best on a '3' setting but if your dog is one of the rare ones that barely notices, go stronger to avoid nagging them with it – you are conditioning the dog to ignore the correction that way. Use the momentary pulse, not continuous, and make sure to put the collar right up below the ears and pull the skin down afterwards so there is a smooth fit and good contact. Don't get one of the collars with very short contacts, they are useless. If you don't have the time to train right, you certainly don't have the time to correct bad habits!
- ◆ **Cast Refusals and the Ecollar**: Don't nick on the first refusal. On the second refusal, use indirect pressure: tweet for sit, then nick, then tweet for sit (or do a verbal "SIT"), then do a new cast. In a test, if you have trained like this, you can do two hard 'sit' tweets in a row (the second one while the dog is sitting waiting for a signal) and the dog will think it was nicked in between and will pay more attention to the signal when it comes.
- ◆ **Casting in water**: don't be so fast to give a signal or the dog may not pick it up – may still be turning around to look at you. Let them tread water for a second or two and THEN cast. Slow down on your signals! This is also true for casting on land.

### Swim-by: Transitioning Dogs from Junior to Senior

Since we had a little bit of time left over, we moved down to the swim-by pond for a lesson in water handling drills. Before you ever start trying to handle a dog in the water and teach the swim-by, the dog has to be able to go across and back, and stop in the middle on a 'sit' whistle in the water. Also, you should finish training on the double T before doing this, because if the dog can't do it on land, they sure won't be able to do it in the water. Jody noted that the place where almost all senior dogs fail is in water blinds; they simply are not well enough prepared. The exercise he showed is a good way to vastly improve water handling.

The exercise was this:

- ◆ Set up a number of bumpers on the opposite bank of your swim-by area. The pond we were using was rectangular and 30' across and 70' long, which is ideal as you can get lots of reps before your dog is exhausted.
- ◆ Send your dog across for a bumper and have them bring it back to you. This is the functional equivalent of sending them to the pile only incorporating water.
- ◆ Once they can do this with no problems, add a 'sit' whistle just as they come out of the water, and then direct them "BACK" over to the other side of the water again. Once they get there, they are supposed to hold the bumper in their mouth and then you call them back in again. No bumper shopping or switching. Dogs aren't used to sitting at the edge of the pond, rather they are used to coming all the way back to you, so this is something new and it may take a while for them to figure it out.

## Seminar Notes, Cont.

- ◆ Once they can be re-sent back to the pile while holding the bumper reliably, stop them with a “Sit” whistle in the middle of the pond, and then toss a bumper over to the right (or left) side of the pond. They should then take the cast and swim over to the side, through the middle of the pond. Direct them back to the middle again, then bring them in.

Eventually you will be able to do this without extra bumpers tossed onto the sides of the pond, and can work them from side to side, front to back reliably.

### The 2017 Luthenauer Young Handler’s Program

Calling all kids! It is now time to sign up for the 2017 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.”

### 2017 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!

## Around the Region

### Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Labrador Club Potomac	9/9/17	Brandywine, MD
Atlanta RC	9/10/17	Buckhead, GA
Tidewater RC	9/15/17	Emporia, VA
Golden Retriever Club	9/16/17	St. Louis/St. Chas, MO
Golden Retrievers of America	9/22/17	Greenwood, DE
Yadkin River RC	9/23/17	Cedar Grove, NC
Mid-South RC	9/23/17	Bruce, MS
Mid-Atlantic RC	9/29/17	Providence, VA
Dardenne RC	9/29/17	Weldon Spring, TN
Buckeye RC	9/30/17	Chardon, OH
American Chesapeake Club	10/7/17	Chardon, OH
Talbot RC	10/7/17	Vienna, MD
<b>Master National RC</b>	<b>10/12 to 10/22</b>	<b>Tennessee Colony, TX</b>
Middle TN ARC	10/14/17	LaVergne, TN
East TN RC (Saturday)	10/21/17	Sweetwater, TN
Bootheel RC	10/21/17	Millersville, MO
Rappahannock RC	10/21/17	Remington, VA
East TN RC (Sunday)	10/22/17	Sweetwater, TN
Neuse River RC	10/28/17	Kinston, NC
Central Kentucky RC	10/28/17	Kevil, KY
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
Carolina Retriever Assn.	11/11/17	Patrick, SC
Tallahassee RC	11/11/17	Thomasville, GA
N. Alabama RC	11/18/17	Greensboro, AL
Mid-Florida Golden Retr.	12/8/17	Monteverde, FL

Some Texas tests may be canceled due to Hurricane Harvey. Be sure to check for news on Entry Express. Tennessee Colony, where the Master National is scheduled to be run, is in an area that is heavily impacted by the flooding.

## 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 ([sharphlw@usit.net](mailto:sharphlw@usit.net)).