



2018 Upcoming Events

1. **January 10:** Deadline to nominate dogs and people for awards
2. **January 13, 2018, Saturday , 9 a.m.** Organized Training: Brian Caldwell's place, weather dependent, see p. 4
3. **February 10, 2018, Saturday, 10 a.m..** Organized Training: weather dependent, see p. 4
4. **February 17, 2018, Saturday:** Awards Banquet & Business meeting, at Calhoun's Bearden Hill. 6 p.m.; details inside; RSVP now before February 11.
5. **March 10, 2018:** Spring Club Trial #1, location pending. **ORGANIZED TRAINING** following in the afternoon, Alan Bruhin leading.
6. **April ???, 2018:** 2nd Spring club Trial, TBD.
7. **May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge.** Pending.

President's Message

My goodness, how did it get to be 2018 already! Yes, that is exactly how I started the January message last year, only the date changed, but the sentiment remains true. How time does fly! As I looked over last year's message, it is obvious that many things have changed, but many remain the same. One of the things that is changing is that this is my next-to-the-last message to the membership as President.

I want to take this month, and next, to reflect on what acting as President of ETRC has meant to me. I was asked to take on this responsibility shortly after Kevin died. Yes, the nominating committee that year caught me in a weak moment! I certainly had no ambitions toward leading, although I have always enjoyed working with the board. I think that in some small way, thee committee that year hoped to keep me in the club, knowing that I might just disappear ... and they were so right! I am grateful for the opportunity to have served, and to have stayed connected to the Hunt Test community as a whole. It has been good for me. I hope I have also been good for the Club.

At the annual meeting next month, we will elect new leaders for the coming year, a new President, some board members will retire and others will step in, and one of our longest serving members, Roberta Williams, will officially pass the "Hunt Test Secretary" baton to a new person. Please make plans to attend, to honor Roberta, and take part in the life of the club by voting. It is a good time, with good food, and memories to be made and shared. In the meantime, stay warm in this frigid cold we are experiencing, and dream of training when the weather warms. Happy New Year!

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End of the Year Awards – Second Call for Nominations

There is still time to get your nominations in for our end-of-the-year Awards Banquet in February, but you need to hop on it right away as the deadline is JANUARY 10. 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 but the old rules will apply for this award year. CHECK THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEW RULES.

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

Winter Training Days

ETRC will sponsor organized training sessions on the following Saturdays:

- ◆ January 13, 2018 at 10 a.m., at **pro trainer Brian Caldwell's place**, 1810 Hwy 58 S, Georgetown, TN. There is a double gate; entrance is the left gate, please close it after you enter. Thanks Brian, for offering to share your knowledge with us!
- ◆ 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 training policies, 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 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: to Roane Regional:

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.

From Points South: Come up I75 and get off at the Lenoir City exit. Go towards Oak Ridge on Hwy 321/95. You will stay on 321 through a couple of stop lights and will then pass under I40. Take the next left after the underpass 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 by the road.



The Trained Retrieve - Part III

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.



Wrap the end of the cord around the transmitter so that you can pull the cord while applying low-level stimulation.

After several sessions of reinforcing "Hold" on the table, your dog will begin to open its mouth as you bring the bumper up in front of its muzzle. Once the dog begins opening its mouth on its own to accept the bumper, it is ready to progress from the "Hold" to the "Fetch" command.

Introduce the new command "Fetch" by putting the dog back on the short lead at the end of the table. For one session, use mild pressure on the dog's ear as you command "Fetch" and present a bumper right in front of its mouth. Apply the pressure until the dog takes the bumper. Remember, once the dog is reaching for the bumper, the command is "Fetch," not "Hold," and you should no longer put the bumper into the dog's mouth. From now on, the dog must learn to reach and take the bumper on its own.

Ear pressure is familiar to the dog from its previous training on "Hold." Therefore, we use it for the first session when we ask the dog to reach for a bumper held close to its mouth. But once a dog is required to move forward and reach down to fetch an object, it is better to use a toe hitch because it elicits a forward and down motion from the dog.

To make a toe hitch, use a two-foot long piece of cord tied to a strip of Velcro. The Velcro lets you easily fasten the cord to the dog's front leg. Pass the cord around the two middle toes in a half hitch. Leave the free end trailing so that you can pull on it to apply pressure.

Now with the dog still on the short lead at the end of the table, place the bumper between the dog's foot and muzzle as you pull the cord and command "Fetch." Stop pulling the cord when the dog takes the object. After a few repetitions of using the toe hitch and low-level electrical stimulation simultaneously, remove the cord from the dog's toes but leave the Velcro strip attached to the dog's leg. Now try using electrical stimulation as you say "Fetch" and pull the cord. If the dog will reach for the bumper without toe pressure, remove the cord from its leg and just use the Tri-Tronics collar when you need to reinforce your "Fetch" command.

Once the dog understands how to turn off stimulation by reaching and taking the bumper, you can start giving it repetitions of "Fetch" as you walk it up and down the length of the table. Present the bumper lower with each repetition, until the dog will reach down and pick it up off the table to turn off stimulation.

Remember, the picture changes for the dog when the bumper is placed on the table because your hand is no longer touching it. Many dogs have difficulty with this transition. So be sure to do several repetitions as you gradually move your hand farther from the bumper and out of the picture. When you start placing the bumper on the table, return to the dog before you give the "Fetch" command. Then as you give the command, step forward toward the bumper. Your motion forward will make it easier for the dog to be successful.



If the dog will leave your side to "Fetch" on command, it is ready to retrieve off the

ground. When you see the dog becoming quick at moving forward to fetch the bumper, you can stop using stimulation with each command. Instead, press the button only if you must give a second "Fetch" command. The dog will soon learn it can avoid stimulation by fetching quickly on the first command. With each repetition, place the bumper farther away from the dog until it is moving forward at least half the length of the table. Now try commanding "Fetch" without walking forward. If the dog will move forward on its own, it is ready to begin retrieving off the ground.

Training Corner, Con't

"Fetch" off the Ground

Place three bumpers about 20 feet apart on the ground. Walk up and down the row of bumpers with the dog on leash, teaching it to ignore the bumpers unless you command it to retrieve. If the dog tries to grab a bumper, command "Heel" and use a leash correction to prevent it from picking up the bumper. Keep walking, and don't use the Tri-Tronics collar to reinforce "Heel" at this time, just use the leash.

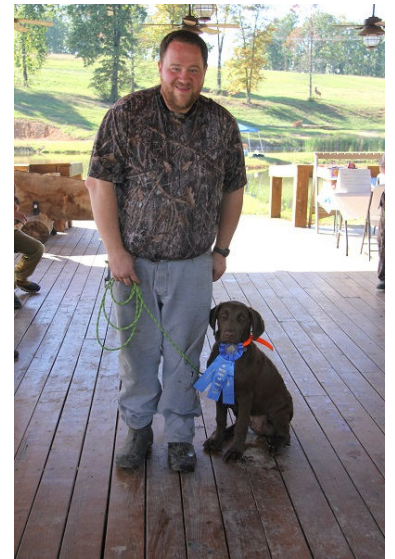
Once the dog understands that it must not initiate retrieving on its own, randomly command "Fetch" as you walk down the row. Give the command when you are about ten feet from a bumper, and apply low-level stimulation. Release the button as the dog picks up the bumper. Have the dog carry as you circle back to where it picked up that bumper. Stop and take the bumper from the dog. Drop it behind you as you walk toward the next bumper with the dog at heel.

After the dog has responded quickly for a few repetitions, begin giving the command without using the collar. Only use it if you must give a second command.

Once the dog is good at waiting for the command and responding quickly, repeat the drill, but instead of bumpers use frozen birds. If possible, use the type of gamebirds you will be hunting.

Next, repeat the drill with freshly killed birds, and finally shackled ones. When the dog has been thoroughly taught to handle live birds using this "three-in-a-row" drill, it will be ready to retrieve wounded game in the field without problems.

It is extremely important to introduce live birds to dogs in a controlled situation. Many hard mouth problems are created by not preparing a retriever for its job, and putting it into a situation over its head. A common example is allowing the young dog to try to retrieve a wounded cock pheasant in the field, causing the dog to be flapped in the face, clawed and spurred by a large struggling bird. The dog quickly learns that it can stop these unpleasant actions by crushing the rooster. After a few such encounters, the dog may start to enjoy crushing birds, even dead ones. Remember, hardmouth problems are much easier to prevent than cure.



Wayne Rasbury at training; the Chambers at the Hunt Test; Tom Gibson at the Fall Club Trial

Member News and Brags

Litter Announcement

AFC Topbrass Hawk's Red Wing
("Red") x Fern Hill Pandemonium MH
WCX ("Panda")

Panda is due for her last litter on January 24,
2018. All pups have been sold; we are
keeping another girl puppy & are excited!

Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce



Membership Renewals Coming Due

Memberships for 2018 are coming due, and your membership will run out if not renewed by March 1, 2018. We will keep you on the email notification list until June 1, at which time we purge the rolls and change the passwords on the website.

So why not renew now at the start of the new year? Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). The renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just click the link, print it off, and send it to Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Cost is still just \$25 which includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. It's a bargain!

The Luthenauer Young Handler's Program

Students, do you know about the ETRC 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!

Around the Region

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

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	5/26/18

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

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