



2018 Upcoming Events

1. **March 10, 2018: ETRC Spring Club Trial #1, Saturday, signups begin at 8 AM, at Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm, Hwy 338, Exit 407, Hwy 338, Sevierville, TN. More information & directions on page 7 below.**
2. **ORGANIZED TRAINING , March 10, 2018, following completion of the Club Trial. Details on page 6 & 7**
3. **April ???, 2018: 2nd Spring club Trial, Darryl Miller Farm, Sweetwater, TN.**
4. **May ??, 2018: 1st Youth Handler Seminar. More details soon.**
5. **May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Judges Pending.**
6. **August ???, summer picnic/business meeting/seminar**
7. **October 20-21, 2018: Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch. Pending.**

President's Message

Let me start by saying thank you to all the members who attended our annual banquet. It was exciting to see such a great turnout. I want to thank Lois for donating her time and serving two terms as president, and also thanks to Rick Fyfe for serving as a board member for the last several years. Congratulations to everyone who received an award — we had four Junior Hunters, a Senior Hunter, a Master Hunter, and a Master National Qualifier this past year. Congratulations to Brian Caldwell who was our club's 2017 AKC member of the year, and well deserved. Finally, I especially want to send a huge thank you to Roberta Williams for her many years as hunt test secretary. It's hard to imagine an ETRC event without her present. She will be severely missed in managing all our events. Roberta was named as the Member of the Year for 2017 and also received a special award for her many, many years of service. We appreciate Carol McCorkle for stepping in as hunt test secretary this coming year and know we are still in good hands.

I'm looking forward to a successful year for the East Tennessee Retriever Club. We have a lot of important dates coming up for the club, so please mark them down on your calendar and come on out. Remember we are trying to incorporate training sessions into our club trial events, which will be held in the afternoons immediately following the various stakes. So bring your lunch along, and if there is any help you need with your dogs, please take advantage of these days. If there is anything you need please feel free to contact me or any of our directors — a list of names and email addresses is elsewhere in this Newsletter. Enjoy this unseasonably warm weather we have had and get back to training everyone! I hope to see you all soon!

ETRC 2017 Member of the Year, Roberta Williams



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Minutes for Banquet and General Membership Meeting, Saturday, February 17, 2018 Calhoun's Bearden Hill Restaurant, Knoxville, TN

Present from the 2017 Board: Lois Luthenauer, Donna Smith, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Roberta Williams, Tom Gibson, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, John Broucek

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

Members present: Mitzi Evans, Mike Smith, Sherie Catledge, Carol McCorkle, Chambers family (5), Chris Miller, Brandon Lawson, Liz Gibson, Cory Smith family (3), Jeff and Cheryl McNutt

Guests Present: Chris Miller's guest Samantha Lawton, Luke McCoy's guest, Trevor Tucker (John Broucek's guest), Jake Greenwell (John Broucek's guest), John B.'s guest #3

A quorum is 20% of the voting membership. 17 individuals/families were represented, and the end-of-year 2017 membership stands at 61 families. Therefore, a quorum (12.2 voting members) was exceeded.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

Officer's Reports

Greetings, Introduction of Guests, and President's Report: Lois Luthenauer thanked everyone for the opportunity and privilege to serve as President over the last two years. She highlighted the events the club put on last year – two spring club trials, a very successful spring hunt test, a summer seminar and picnic with Jody Ware, a smaller but still successful fall hunt test at Lucky 7 ranch, and a fall club trial. During the year we continued to upgrade our equipment – new dokkens for use in training and club trials, new camp chairs for birdkids instead of buckets, 10 new holding blinds among other items. The Luthenauer Youth Program completed its second year, and a new set of rules and application form have been approved to make the program easier to understand and to apply for. In addition, the board has completed a revision of the rules for Gun Dog and Puppy of the Year awards, plus established some new awards for next year.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards. The last meeting was on January 14, 2018. Minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board and have been posted on the club website since January 20. Michael Evans moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes as posted on the website; Luke McCoy seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Karen reported that as of the end of 2017, ETRC had 61 members, and that renewals are now due.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards reported that the current balance in the club bank account is \$23,307.56. Last year, our income exceeded expenses by \$7,464.88. She passed around a detailed report of expenses/income during 2017, and year-to-date in 2018.

Election of New members: Lois Luthenauer reported that we have 7 new provisional members who are coming before the membership tonight for final approval. All sponsors recommended approval. She read out the following information on each new member, and those that were present were asked to stand up so people will know who they are. The names of those present are bolded.

1. Bryson Bayles, college student, Evensville, TN. Has a young black lab. Sponsors: Luke McCoy, John Broucek
2. Scott & Libby Chaney, pro dog trainer, McMinnville, TN. Sponsors: Lois Luthenauer, John Broucek.
3. **Brandon Lawson**, Customer Service, Church Hill, TN. Sponsors: Lois Luthenauer, Tom Gibson.
4. **Sherie Catledge**, pro dog trainer, Bethpage, TN. Sponsors: Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer.
5. Larry Moody, TDOT, Morristown, TN. 2 Chessies. Sponsors: Tom Gibson, Lois Luthenauer.
6. **Chris Miller**, EMT, Knoxville, TN. Young Golden Retriever. Sponsors: Karen Edwards & Jim Pearce.
7. Danny & Robin Lawson, retired. Georgetown, TN. Labradors; also member of Chattanooga RC. Sponsors: Tom Gibson, Wayne Rasbury.

Carol McCorkle moved that these people be accepted into the club as final members. Cory Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Welcome all!

Old Business

Spring & Fall Hunt Test 2018 updates: Lois Luthenauer announced the dates for these two events (May 26-

Banquet Minutes, Continued

27 at Hiwassee, and October 19-20 at Lucky 7). Planning for the spring test is coming along well and we are currently pursuing judges and hope to have that finalized soon.

Club Trial and Training Updates: The first spring club trial will be on March 10, location still to be determined – it will be announced in the next newsletter. There will be a training session in the afternoon following to give participants a chance to work on things they identified during the morning runs. We are hoping to have a trial in April as well, but a location and date has not yet been finalized.

Kevin Luthenauer Youth Fund: Lois Luthenauer announced that the program is fully funded for next year thanks to the generosity of Ken Campbell of Lucky 7 Ranch. Karen passed out the new rules and application forms to people at the banquet who have kids who might be interested in participating; these are also up on the website. Lois is working with Sherie Catledge to have a junior handlers seminar, possible the first weekend in May; more details to follow.

New Business:

Awards Presentations (Lois Luthenauer & Luke McCoy) — See separate article on page 4

Special Recognition of our Pros: Lois Luthenauer recognized the service of our club pros, and the help they provide during the year to other members through advice, seminars, assistance at club events, hosting training days, etc. We appreciate all of you! Current ETRC pro members include Jody Ware, Brian Caldwell, Sherie Catledge, and Scott Chaney.

In Memoriam: Lois Luthenauer – Several years ago we had a roll call and pictures, but it was such a tear jerker that we decided not to do that again. However, we do have an in memoriam page on the website, and welcome pictures and tributes to any member dogs who pass on during the year. Please send the info and photos to Karen Edwards for inclusion in the newsletter and the website. And if anyone wants to stand up and tell us now about a dog of yours who died during the year, we would be glad to have you make that tribute now.

Election of Officers/Board: See listing of officers/board members on page 6. The slate was presented to the membership and additional nominations from the floor were open during the month of December; none were offered so nominations were closed. Jim Pearce moved that instead of a secret ballot that we approve the slate of candidates by voice vote. Mike Evans seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Karen moved that we elect the slate as presented. Luke seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Statement by New President: New president Luke McCoy thanked the members for giving him the opportunity to serve and promised to keep things short. He briefly outlined our proposed activities during the year, and asked everyone to step up and volunteer their time for the sake of the club.

First Reading of New Members: Luke McCoy. Need vote for provisional membership and sponsors assigned.

- ◆ Micheal & Robin Jones, Lenoir City, TN. Golf course superintendant, have a 10-month old Black Lab, previous member of Atlanta RC and Old South RC, interested in AKC hunt tests, field trials, and dog training. Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Sponsors: Jim Pearce, John Broucek.
- ◆ Victor & Jo Ann Burk, Chuckey, TN. Vic is a teacher of HS math, Jo Ann works in a restaurant. Have 3 goldens with many obedience titles. Interested in AKC hunt tests, dog training, obedience training, and are members of Ducks Unlimited and Rocky Mountain EK foundation. Will volunteer for whatever is needed. Sponsors: Cory Smith, Mike Smith.

Motion to accept: Jim Pearce moved that we accept these people as provisional members. Mike Evans seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Any other new business? There being no other new business, Jim Pearce moved that we adjourn. Lois Luthenauer seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Banquet Photos



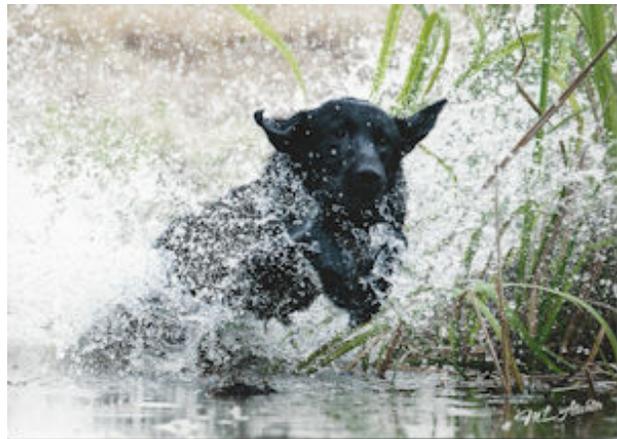
JH & SH Title award: Brandon Lawson & Zeke



Alan Bruhin & Gun Dog for 2017, Shine



Michael Evans with Ivy , Puppy of the Year, and all her many ribbons and trophies from 2017



Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH MNH. Owned by David Knott — Master National Qualifier 3 times!

End of the Year Awards 2017

At the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, February 17, the following End-of-the-Year Awards were passed out. Congratulations everyone!

Title Awards: ETRC awards a brass plaque with the dog's name, owner's name, new title, & date the title was earned, for all member dogs who have been reported as earning an AKC hunting title during the year. Award recipients for 2017 are:

Junior Hunter:

- ◆ Dead River's Rascally Reed JH, Cade Chambers (Junior Handler, Luthenauer program member)
- ◆ Zeke Lawson JH, Brandon Lawson owner/handler
- ◆ HR Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen JH (Ivy), owned & handled by J. Michael Evans
- ◆ Coon Creek's Polly Wanna Quacker JH, Lois Luthenauer owner, handled by Lois & Sherie Catledge

Senior Hunter:

- ◆ Zeke Lawson SH, owned & handled by Brandon Lawson

Master Hunter:

- ◆ Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH (Shine) and Alan Bruhin, owner/handler



Qualifying at the Master National: Congratulations and a picture plaque were presented to:

- ◆ Luther's High Grade Black Coal MH, "Coal," owner David Knott, handler Brian Caldwell. This was Coal's 3rd completion, so he also earned the title MNH as well!

Qualifying for the Master National but did not go or did not qualify: no award, but kudos to:

- ◆ Crosspointe's Steady Teddy Noah Lott MH, owned by Rhey Houston & handled by Jody Ware. He made it through all the way to the last series — tough luck, congratulations for the achievement!

Master Amateur Qualifiers/ Completers: If any members qualified and/or attended this new event in 2017, we didn't hear about it. Let us know and we'd like to honor your achievements!

Qualifying MN Member Handlers: Kudos to the following ETRC members who successfully handled dogs at the 2017 Master National:

- ◆ Jody Ware, with several non-member dogs qualifying
- ◆ Brian Caldwell, with member David Knott's qualifier Luther's High Grade Black Coal MNH MH

Austin-Williams Puppy of the Year: HR Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen JH (Ivy), owned & handled by J. Michael Evans

Holcomb Award for Gun Dog of the Year: Grady's Tennessee Moonshine MH, Labrador owned and handled by Alan Bruhin. Third year in a row!

AKC Outstanding Sportsman for 2017: Awarded to Brian Caldwell. Brian has hosted a number of training sessions for ETRC members during the year & has helped out at all the hunt tests. His advice & assistance, as well as his talent in training and handling dogs, make him a deserving recipient of the Outstanding Sportsman award.

ETRC Member of the Year: Awarded to charter member Roberta Williams, who has since the club's beginnings been one of those people you could always count on to be there and work hard, and who has been involved in club management for 31 years.

Special Award for Roberta Williams, retiring HT secretary after decades of service: Roberta was awarded a special recognition plaque for her tireless and uninterrupted service, and also was given a special jacket with her name embroidered on the front and an ETRC logo on the back.

ETRC Officers / Board Members for 2018

Here is the list of officers, board members, and other important club positions for 2018, as voted in at the banquet on February 17. Email addresses are provided for everyone; phone numbers are available on the membership listing which is in the “Members Only” section of the website www/etrclub.org. If you have suggestions or comments on any matter about the club, please contact one of the people below:

President: Luke McCoy (fonemn3@bellsouth.net)

Vice President: Alan Bruhin (wabruhin@utk.edu)

Secretary / Treasurer: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com)

Hunt Test Secretary: Carol McCorkle

Past President: Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com)

Board member 2016-2019: Donna Smith (donnasmith1@gmail.com)

Board member 2017-2019: John Broucek (filling remainder of A. Bruhin’s term) (rtrvrblvr@aol.com)

Board member 2018-2020: J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com) (filling remainder of L. McCoy’s term)

Board member 2017-2020: Jim Pearce (jwp@pegasustech.com)

Board member 2018-2021: Tom Gibson (tinytomgib@yahoo.com)

Board member 2018-2021: Cory Smith (lrrs223@gmail.com)

AKC Representative since October 2016: Michele Fletcher (michelemfletcher@yahoo.com)

Head Marshal for 2018: Lois Luthenauer (see above)

A big thanks to Lois Luthenauer for serving as President for the last two years. Lois donated her \$100 honorarium to the Luthenauer Youth Fund, saying it was an honor and pleasure to serve.

Winter Training Days

Our February training day was canceled due to heavy rains and we were unable to reschedule. Our next training day is Saturday, March 10, 2018 following the Club Trial #1 (see article on page 7).

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.



Training at Brian Caldwell’s in January — Thanks, Brian, for the use of your facilities and for your advice and assistance!

Spring Club Trial #1, March 10, 2018 Training Session Following Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm

ETRC will host its first spring Club Trial on Saturday, April 8, 2017, at Chuck Atchley's Revilo Farm, Exit 407, Hwy 338, Sevierville, TN. Signups begin at 8 am and we hope to have the first stake up and running by 9 a.m. Judges will be club members and we will need people to pitch in and trade off on operating wingers, planting blinds, and setting up and taking down the equipment.

EVENTS: Singles Classic, Master, Senior, Junior, Puppy Stakes (Junior puppy & Senior Puppy, under 1 yr). Entry Fee: \$10.00 each stake per dog (dokkens), Puppy Stakes (bumpers) \$5.00 (1 PM). Completion ribbons will be awarded for hunt-test stakes and Advanced Junior stakes; placement 1-4 and JAM ribbons will be awarded for Singles Classic and the two puppy stakes. If you are interested in consideration for our end-of-the-year awards for Gun Dog and Puppy, these stakes weigh heavily in completion points.

TRAINING: We will have organized training following the Trial. E-collars are fine for this part of the event, and will have activities appropriate for all training levels and ages.

MEMBERS ONLY. If you haven't yet renewed for 2018 or want to join for the first time, forms and people to take your membership fee (\$25 for the year) will be available before you sign up.

WHAT TO BRING: No E-collars allowed during the club trial events. All dogs must be on leash when out of vehicle unless running tests. Bring your retriever, a chair(s), your lunch, and water for you and your dog, plus appropriate clothing for the weather. NO WHITE SHIRTS please, wear something neutral or dark. If you are bringing a puppy, you may bring your own retrieval items if you wish.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY: We will send out an email on Friday night if the weather is such that we are going to have to cancel. We will not cancel just for chilly conditions or light rain, but if it is monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or snowing in Sweetwater, we will not run. If there is too much rain in the days before the test, the fields and roads may be too soft to use. So be sure to check your email Friday night! If you don't hear anything, come on out.

NEW TEE SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND HATS will be available for purchase, including some of the great performance camo tees that are so popular. Bring cash or a checkbook and stock up on some great items to advertise your club.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-40 to Exit 407, Sevierville, TN. Go south on Hwy 66 towards Sevierville. Go approximately three miles across the French Broad River bridge to Hwy 338 (Boyd's Creek Hwy). Turn right and stay on Boyd's Creek for 2.5 miles to Revilo Farm on the right. Turn right at large Revilo Farm sign. Headquarters at picnic area at back of property.





Banquet Pics

L — Michael Evans with trophies for Pup-py of the year.

R — Roberta, Luke, and Roberta's trophy jacket with embroidered ETRC logo (If you want one, talk to J. Michael!)



Youth Program Update

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is up and running in its third year and we already have a couple of enrollees. Kids who are interested in working with dogs in field work are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm . There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. A perpetual trophy is being designed and ordered along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program. The awards will be retroactive to 2017.

The picture to the right shows Cade Chambers receiving his JH title award that he earned in 2017 with his Ches-sie, Dead River's Rascally Reed JH.



Membership Renewals Due NOW

Your 2017 memberships expired the last day of February. You will stay 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 while you are thinking about it? 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 plus the opportunity to make friendships with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain!

Master Amateur Renewals Due

The qualifying year for the 2019 Master Amateur Invitational (in Butte, MT) begins on March 1. If you're an annual member, be sure to renew soon to have your master passes count during the qualification period, you can't go back and retroactively count passes. Renew here: <https://www.masteramateur.com/membership-options.html> Please note that ETRC's lifetime membership in MARC does not mean individual members have the same status.

ETRC Board Meeting, 2/26/18 Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Donna Smith, Jim Pearce, Tom Gibson, Cory Smith,

Absent, excused: Carol McCorkle, John Broucek, J. Michael Evans, Michele Fletcher (AKC delegate)

Members present: Mike Smith

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: Luke announced that we are only one judge short on the spring hunt test; details to follow when we talk about planning status on the test later.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- ◆ **Minutes:** Last meeting was 2/17/18; minutes approved 2/22/18 and sent to the club website 2/24/18. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Lois Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- ◆ **Correspondence:** letter from AKC requesting new officers and membership list. Still need to do. Email from AKC about AKC sportsman's award asking for club contact for that award; replied that Michele, our member rep, is the contact.
- ◆ **Membership:** Current 2018 membership is 30, including 2 that had first reading on 2/17. End of year 2017 membership was 61, with 7 new voted in February. 15 members from 2016 did not renew in 2017, total 2016 membership was 59.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 2/25/18 is \$23,702.56, with bills outstanding to Michael for the awards, to Equifax for the insurance, and one invoice from Patti Gibson for spring food (she has gotten a copy and has tried to email it to me but it isn't coming through). Also for ribbons and duck bands to refund credit card purchases (~\$1400)

Old Business

Club Trial#1: scheduled for March 10; OK to use Chuck Atchley's place per J. Michael. There was some discussion about the limitations of the property and the fact that the fields might be too soggy to use. Many of the board members will not be able to attend because of judging assignments, out of town trips, etc. Lois as Chief Marshal will try to identify some people who can do setups and judge events but will not be able to attend herself. She will try to get tee shirts to either Karen or Cory Smith before the event. Tee shirts need to be there for sale.

Club Trial #2: Need to schedule a date in April. Darryl Miller farm probably available depending on date selected, per Michael who has contacted him. After some discussion, the best dates seemed to be April 7 or 21. Again, many board members have judging assignments, hunt tests, or other commitments every weekend in April.

Training dates: dates scheduled for December and January canceled due to bad weather; makeup in January happened at Caldwell's place – thanks! Cory sent Karen some pictures for use in the newsletter. Session scheduled for Feb 10 canceled because of rain. Next scheduled is March 10 after the club trial. Karen will notify everyone the night before whether the club trial and training are a go or not because of the weather.

Kevin's Fund:

- ◆ Youth Handler's seminar: Lois and Sherie had tentatively discussed May 5, in the hopes of getting this done before the Middle TN and East TN hunt tests. However, this weekend, like all others, is fraught with conflicts with judging, other hunt tests, etc., and the consensus was that an early June date might have more people available to help put on the event. They are hoping to have some trained member dogs available for kids to use, for those kids who don't have their own dogs or whose dogs are rank beginners..
- ◆ Have two 2018 membership applications for review and approval (Ivan and Cade Chambers). Their sister Erin also got an application form at the banquet but didn't send it in yet. Alan moved that we accept Ivan and Cade into the program for 2018; Lois seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.
- ◆ Award trophy: found a suitable one at Hodges Badge Co. for ~\$150. Lois is trying to figure out who would have won it for 2016 and 2017, and as soon as she has gotten this information we will order the perpetual trophy, award plaques, and participation awards from Hodges Badge company and hand them out at the next time we see the various participants.

Spring Hunt Test:

- ◆ On AKC, with Carol McCorkle listed as HT Secretary replacing Roberta, and Luke Michael (past), Jim (equipment guy), Lois (Chief Marshal) and me (Sec/Treas) making up the rest of the committee.
- ◆ Entry Express: open and closing dates: closes 5/14 according to EE. However, entry fees are wrong, are showing \$80 instead of \$90 on Master, and not showing limited entry of 120 Master dogs. Karen will check AKC online event management to make sure it is correct there, and will contact Carol to make changes on EE.
- ◆ Judges: Only missing one Jr/Sr judges, all others are confirmed. Michael has several calls out to judges and this should be pinned down shortly. Luke expressed his hopes that Michael will handle getting the judges panel up on AKC's website. Judges will be: Master: Rick Vaughn & Chris Bodine; Bill Skeels and Rich Hammond. Jr/Sr: Jan and Jim Burnette; Donald Hatmaker and ????. As soon as the final panel is confirmed, Karen asked that Michael or Luke send her the names and contact info, and she will write them letters confirming.
- ◆ Hiwassee paperwork completed, approved by TWRA. Karen has the paperwork showing approval.
- ◆ Ribbon order: ordered 200 JH ribbons, 100 SH ribbons. Should be received by 4/1/18; cost is \$1,235.78. This should last through 2018 and possible through spring 2019.
- ◆ Duck bands ordered and received. Cost was \$103.00. This should last us through 2019.
- ◆ Karen has contacted the FFA group to see if they will be birdboys again. FFA teacher Brittany is checking and will get back to us. If they decline, Cory may have some contacts. Karen will send him a copy of the contract we use for information and feelers.
- ◆ Judges dinner: Patti does a great job with this. Tom said he thought she would be willing to do it again; he will get in touch with her and find out.
- ◆ Lunches: Cory volunteered his wife to help put lunches together and possibly help with purchasing and transporting lunch supplies. Thanks!
- ◆ Ducks: Lois will contact Michael to see what formula he used last fall, which was the first time we had to have live ducks for Junior. She will call Kiley Buettner, or work with Michael to make sure the call gets made first as a heads-up and second with the actual number. Last spring we used 1.4 ducks per entry; last fall it may have been 1.6. We had plenty both times.
- ◆ Porta Potty and Dumpster: will check with Michael to see if he is willing to make arrangements for these again.

Awards rules:

- ◆ New dog, puppy, and high point title awards rules were finalized, printed in the February newsletter in entirety, as well as posted on website.
- ◆ Committee (Karen, Michael, Mike Evans, John B) will start looking at rules for title awards to get eligibility codified, and also will look to see what we should do about awards re AKC field trials. Aim is to have this ready in time for 2019 awards year. We had an interesting discussion on whether we should have a separate award for field trial dogs, or try somehow to combine both hunt test and field trial dogs into the Holcomb Gun Dog of the Year award. Alan said that, for instance, we could assign Master-level points for each dog that placed 1-4 and maybe Reserve Jam in an all-age stake. This leaves out qualifying stakes and derbies, and it may not be fair to exclude JAMS since they are only awarded to dogs who satisfactorily complete all series; we need to draw on John's expertise to better understand how all this works and whether it makes sense to try to combine or to go for a separate award.

Transition of stuff from Roberta:

- ◆ **Entry Express:** completed
- ◆ **INSURANCE:** Completed changeover: Karen is now the primary contact. I have the first invoice for the Officers and Directors liability policy and will get it filled out and paid in the next several weeks. The Club umbrella liability policy is due in October.
- ◆ **Corporate/Government Stuff:** Changeover completed.
- ◆ **PO Box** PO box was up for renewal; it has now expired. Karen sent a letter to the Sevierville Postmaster on Jan 15 asking them to forward mail to her address, and sent along a copy of the minutes where we decided to do this. No response. She called the PO and talked to the Postmaster who said she never saw the letter and would call back. That was on 2/16; still haven't heard, have called back twice. We can't file an online COA because they won't let you do that for PO Boxes unless you are the original person who signed up for it, and you have to use the same credit card used for the original PO box sign-up, to verify your identity. Karen will keep trying, but if this isn't resolved within a week or so, we may need to ask Alan to go to the Post Office in person to see if he can get this done.
- ◆ **Second Signatory on Checking Account:** Michele and Karen need to get together at an ORNLFCU office to do this.
- ◆ **Supplies, Equipment, etc.** We still need to ask Michael to go over to Roberta's house to pick up all the history stuff and bring it somewhere central so we can sort through things and get it organized. Karen volunteered to keep this in the Pegasus office for a short while, and Lois has also volunteered the use of her basement.

New Business: None. There being no other new business, Jim moved that we adjourn. Tom seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Training Corner

Ten Pitfalls In Retriever Training

Top pitfalls trainers face and how to correct them

By Mike Stewart, Wildrose Kennels

Editor's Note: pitfalls 1-4 are presented this month; we'll do more in April & May.

Many of the problems that owner-trainers experience when training retrievers could be minimized easily if addressed early in training. It is much better to not condition in a problem that you must later train out. Here are some of the top pitfalls trainers face.

1. Long Training Sessions. Too much enthusiasm from the trainer often proves detrimental to young pups. As a result of lengthy, repetitive training sessions, the pup simply loses focus, becomes distracted and finally burns out. Pups under six months have very short attention spans. Sessions should not exceed 5 minutes and should include only a few repetitions - any more than that and they will lose focus. It is not essential to train every day. A few minutes twice a day is more effective than an hour every day. Often a break of a few days in training produces surprising results.

Pups between six and 12 months must maintain a positive attitude toward training. Pups this age will benefit most from sessions no longer than 20 minutes. Never continue to the point of boredom. If things are going well and the session is complete, there is no need to push pups past two or three repetitions. Always stop on a positive, successful exercise or response. A good duck dog can be trained with the investment of 10 minutes a day, three to four times per week, if one adheres to an effective training plan. Keeping training sessions short is especially important during the hot summer months.

2. Premature Hunting: Nothing can be gained by exposing pups to hunting situations under the age of 10 months, whether it's upland game or waterfowl shooting. Taking a 4- to 5-month-old pup on a dove or duck shoot for "experience" is similar to taking a first-grade child to high school for "experience." Place more emphasis in the early stages of training on steadiness and memory development rather than marks.

3. Waiting to Steady: People are fearful that if they attempt to steady their pups early in basic gundog training, the dog will lose enthusiasm and drive. Not true if properly accomplished with gentle methods. Steadiness to shot and fall is one of the most important lessons a young dog will learn. Any properly bred retriever can mark and retrieve with very little formal training; it's knowing when not to retrieve that takes the conditioning. Start denying pup retrieves early. Pick up 50% of all bumpers and later 50-60% of all the downed birds on your pup's first few hunts. Condition patience from the beginning.

4. Too Many Meaningless Marks: After a pup is enthusiastic about early retrieves (no more than two to three per session), there is little point in continuing meaningless, repetitive, hand-thrown retrieves in elementary sessions. Once the pup dashes out, picks the mark and returns to the handler, nothing more is necessary. Marks now must teach something—falls in long grass, in water, over water onto land or in high crops.

Marks can be used to teach doubles, lengthen the dog's retrieving distance, or to exercise watching the sky. Excessive marking can be counterproductive by unsteading the pup and promoting independence rather than interdependent relationships. Additionally, marking to improve memory is actually the poorest of methods. Place more emphasis in the early stages of training on steadiness and memory development rather than marks.

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
Black Warrior RC	Greensboro, AL	3/10/18
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
Tidewater RC	Remington, VA	3/30/18
Rappahannock River RC (double J/S/M)	Remington, VA	4/13/18
Yadkin River RC (double J/S/M)	Cedar Grove, NC	4/14/18
Poodle Club Natl.Spec	St. Charles, MO	4/14/18
Neuse River RC	Kinston, NC	4/21/18
Atlanta RC	Buckhead, GA	4/21/18
Labrador RC of Piedmont	Patrick, SC	5/5/18
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

Palmetto RC	Cheraw, SC	2/23/18
Labrador RC	Smithville, GA	2/23/18
Tall Pines RC	Leesburg, GA	2/23/18
Snowbird RC of S.GA.	Boston, GA	3/2/18
SW GA RC	Americus, GA	3/2/18
Tar Heel RC	Snow Hill, NC	3/9/18
N. FL RC	Thomasville, GA	3/9/18
Talloaks RC	Pavo, GA	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
Snowbird RC	Cairo, GA	3/29/18
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) .