

2018 Upcoming Events



1. May 12, 2018: ETRC Spring Club Trial, Saturday, signups begin at 8 AM, at Darryl Miller's Farm, Sweetwater, TN. More information & directions on page 2 below.
2. ORGANIZED TRAINING , May 12, 2018, following completion of the Club Trial. Details on p. 2
3. May 26-27, 2018, Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee Refuge. Finalized; opening May 1 & 2. More info on p. 3.
4. June ??? 2018: Youth Handler Seminar. Plans pending.
5. August ???, summer picnic/business meeting/seminar
6. September or October, Fall club trial, dates & location pending.
7. October 20-21, 2018: Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch. Pending.

President's Message

Hello everyone! Hope everyone is doing well and is enjoying the weather finally warming up! I hope everyone has had the opportunity to get some training in. Don't forget our club trial at the Miller Farm in Sweetwater May 12th. We will also be having a training session after the club test so please don't miss this opportunity to get some good work in with your dogs.

Our spring hunt test is right around the corner — see the details in the article on page 3. There are still a few rooms available at the official motel, the Best Western in Dayton. And, of course we could always use some extra hands to help out. We particularly need GUNNERS so if you are reasonably good with a shotgun and want one or two days of shooting live ducks, please contact Mike Evans ASAP at 865-824-8638. We need lots of other help too, so please if there is anything you are willing to do that weekend don't hesitate to contact me or one of the board members. We have workers codes for Master entries available as well — so contact us, volunteer to work, and be assured entry into the Master Stake. Stay safe everyone, and Good Luck training!

Photo: Our Fearless President at Busch Gardens, where he was judging the Senior Hunter test at the Poodle National Specialty in April 2018. Is he channeling his inner Duck Dynasty, or showing people how to do Force Fetch? Ask him the next time you see him...



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Spring Club Trial, May 12, 2018 Darryl and Sharon Miller Farm

We're trying again! After rainy weather forced cancellation of our first two attempts, ETRC will host a spring Club Trial on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at Darryl and Sharon Miller's Farm, 5249 Holt Road, Sweetwater, TN, Exit 62, I-75 South (see directions below). 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.

STAKES: 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, successful completions in Master, Senior, Junior, and puppy stakes count towards those awards.

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. 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 expected to be monsoon-raining, heavy electrical storms or snowing in Sweetwater, we will not run. Also, 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 hopefully be available, 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: The Miller Farm is located next to the Holt Farm in Sweetwater, TN. The Millers have a right-of-way across the Holt farm to access their land. Please do not stop on the Holt Farm but continue through to the back ponds and the barn.

Take I-75 South to Sweetwater Exit 62. Turn right on Hwy 322. Go west for 1.7 miles to County Road 200 and turn right. Go 1/2 mile past the Holt Tractor Sales Building to 5249 Holt Road. Turn right into the driveway and go 3/4 mile to the barn headquarters.

ORGANIZED TRAINING AFTERWARDS: After the Trial is over, we will be able to use the grounds for training. If you would like to participate, bring along your training equipment and break it out after lunch. This will be a good chance to work on issues that you identified during the club trial.

Update on the Spring Hunt Test

ETRC's spring hunt test is almost upon us! The test will be held over the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 26 and Sunday May 27, 2018. The test will be a double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master (limit 120 dogs), and will be back at the Hiwassee Refuge near Brentwood / Dayton Tennessee. We have an approved judges panel, birdkids, judges motel reservations made and letters out to the judges confirming their appointment. Committee chairmen are continuing to work on all the other things that have to happen — lunches, judges /workers dinner, judges' gifts, lining up gunners for the live fliers, ordering the ducks, etc.

Entries for the public open Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Central time, and close Monday, May 14, 2018 just before midnight Central time. Please note that our test is set up as two separate tests on Entry Express, and for Junior and Senior you will have to click on and enter both. The Master Stake is associated with the Saturday, May 26 test.

The Master test is limited to 120 dogs; people who volunteer to work some at the test can sign up and get a code from test Secretary Carol McCorkle (schwartzpudel@hughes.net) that will enable them to enter early — starting Tuesday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. Central time.



Hiwassee Refuge



Workers are needed for test setup beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 25; for gunners, stewards and assistants and equipment moving/maintenance on Saturday and Sunday; for cleanup on Sunday, and for many more tasks. If you would like to work inside, we are looking for helpers who will sell tee shirts and assist with preparing lunches for workers and judges on Saturday and Sunday. Four-wheelers or small utility vehicles are also needed for the weekend to help get workers and equipment from one test site to another quickly. All workers will be treated to a free dinner Friday night, lunches both days, and all the snacks you can stomach. To volunteer, contact Carol (email above), test chairman Luke McCoy (fonemn3@bellsouth.net), assistant chair J. Michael Evans (Fowl_Mouth_K9@aol.com), Chief Steward Lois Luthenauer (mountainLO717@gmail.com) or Secretary Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) to sign up for some hard work and good fun.

Judges are:

Master A: Chris Bodine and Rick Vaughan

Master B: Richard Hammond and William Skeels

Junior Sat / Senior Sun: James and Jan Burnett

Senior Sat / Junior Sun: Catherine Hammond and Don Hatfield

The official motel is the Best Western Inn, 7835 Rhea County Highway (US 27 North), Dayton, TN. A total of 12 rooms have been blocked out with the hotel and will be held until the Wednesday before the test. If you want to stay at this Inn, contact the Best Western directly and tell them that you are coming for the ETRC Hunt test in order to get the special rate. The phone number is (423) 775-6560. Hope to see you there, as a competitor or worker or both!



Best Western, Dayton, TN

Youth Program

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is starting 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 2016.

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. If you haven't rejoined by the end of this month, this will be your last newsletter.

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-

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.



Member Brags

Meet Py — AFC HRCH Topbrass Hawk's Red Wing MH CCA ("Red") x Fern Hill Pandemonium MH WCX ("Panda"), born 1/24/18. Proudly bred and owned by Karen Edwards and Jim Pearce of Fern Hill Golden Retrievers.



Family photo: Panda, Py, and daddy Red.

Training Corner

Training Your Dog to be Steady

by Jim & Phyllis Dobbs and Alice Woodyard

A steady dog is a pleasure to hunt over, and an unsteady dog can mess up a day's hunt. Also a steady dog is essential if you plan to run field trials or the higher levels of hunt tests.

We've found that using a four-inch high platform is the best way to introduce the "steady" concept to all dogs, whether they're going to be hunting companions, family pets, or "event dogs." A raised surface makes the rules clear to the dog right from the start, because stepping off it "turns on the collar." Because this method eliminates the need for severe approaches to steadying, the dog's mind stays clear, and his marking doesn't go downhill during the steadying process. Later you can transfer what your dog knows about staying in place on the platform to a small piece of carpet or anything else he can visually identify as a "place."

Start with a piece of plywood raised up on 2 x 4's for the dog's "place board." It makes it easy for the dog to identify where to stay until released. Use low-level, **continuous** stimulation for these lessons.

Begin by placing a dog crate 12 inches or so back from the front edge of the board, and tie the crate door open. Run a rope through the back of the crate so a helper can guide the dog. If you don't have a helper, you can run the rope around a post and back to you.



Have the dog enter the crate a few times so he's familiar with it. Then leave him in it, and tell him "Stay." Back away from the door of the crate, so he can leave if he wants.

As soon as the dog steps off the board, press the button and give him the command you use that means "Get in your crate" (such as "Kennel" or "Place"). Use the rope if needed to guide him back onto the board.

Release the button as his **front feet touch the board**. The edge of the platform becomes his guide.

Let him relax a minute, and lead him off the board. Just before you lead him off, give him a command such as "Here" so he knows that he's now released from the "Stay" command.

Repeat this sequence several times until you see the dog start to step off the board, and then change his mind. When you see this happen, you know that your dog is beginning to understand to stay on the board to keep the collar turned off.

Now you should teach him how to **go and get on the board** on command to turn off mild stimulation. He needs this understanding, because, if he breaks when the distraction level increases, you'll need to send him back to the board. Also, being able to send the dog to wait in a "place" remote from you can be very useful when hunting waterfowl.

With the dog still on the rope, walk him toward the place board. When he is about four feet from the platform, press the button and command him to get on the platform. Release the button when his front feet step onto the platform. Use the rope to guide him away from you and onto the platform if necessary.

Training Corner, Cont.

When you see that the dog understands how to get on the platform on command and stay on it, you can remove the rope since you will no longer need it to guide the dog.



Now your dog is ready to stay on the board without the aid of the dog crate. Have your dog practice staying on it the board different situations. Take a platform to different areas where you train, and gradually introduce distractions that will tempt the dog to leave the board before you release him.

For example, at first have him honor the work of another dog from a distance, and when he shows you he can remain steady, gradually move the place board closer to the "action." Then begin throwing bumpers for your dog to retrieve, but he must wait on the board until you release him.

As the dog progresses, you can flight and shoot birds while he watches from the board. When he shows you that he can remain steady for this excitement, you can begin releasing him to retrieve.

You may find that when your dog is excited by your distractions, he no longer "feels" the low level intensity you used in calm situations. If so, you will need to change the variable intensity plug or contact point in your collar to a higher level.

Any time the dog gets off the board without being released, press the button of your transmitter, and command him to get back on the board. If he continues to go anyway, call him back with "Here" and release the button as soon as he turns back.

If he doesn't turn back, you will have to release the button, but realize the distraction was too much too soon, and the intensity level is probably too low for the situation. Increase the level of intensity, and do repetitions with easier distractions until the dog shows you he can handle them, and stops trying to get off the board. Then increase the distraction level again.

After the dog is thoroughly trained to stay on a place board, you can substitute another identifiable "place" for the board, such as a towel, or a piece of burlap or astro turf. Whatever you choose, practice with it on the platform so that the dog associates it with his "place."

When you require a dog to stay on a carpet or towel, don't correct him for just having his feet off it. Instead, correct him only if he takes off and leaves. Then correct the same way you would if he got off his place board.

When the dog is good at staying on a carpet, he will have a high understanding of remaining steady. Now he can make the transition to staying in place without the aid of a carpet.

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Around the Region

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Labrador RC of Piedmont	Patrick, SC	5/05/18
Mid South RC	Bruce, MS	5/05/18
Cooper River RC	Cheraw, SC	5/11/18
Middle TN RC	LaVergne, TN	5/18/18
Master Amateur National Invit.	Sedalia, MO	5/20/18
ETRC Spring Test (120)	Hiwassee, TN	5/26/18
Cuyahoga Valley GRC	Chardon, OH	6/09/18
Blue Ridge RC	Goldvein, VA	6/23/18

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Blue Ridge RC D/Q	Farmville, VA	4/06/18
Mid-Atlantic RC double D/Q	Farmville, VA	4/06/18
Lincoln Trail RC	Grahamville, KY	5/04/18
Tall Pines RC	Leesburg, GA	5/04/18
Blue Ridge RC	Farmville, VA	5/18/18
Back Bay RC double D/Q	Goldvein, VA	6/16/18

Transition Seminar with Jim Engren Ohio Buckeye Retriever Club

Date: Saturday & Sunday, August 25 and 26, 2018

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hambden Nursery, 9130 Kile Road, Hambden, Ohio 44024

Cost: \$325 with your dog, \$125 to audit without dog

Entries close June 1

Jim has over 36 years of experience in training young dogs.

For Questions, more detailed brochure, and application forms, contact:

- ◆ Sally Koepke: 440-564-9702, email: skoepke@momsgourmet.net
- ◆ Pat Daly: 330-212-2471, email: patrickdaly072@gmail.com

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: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).