

2019 Upcoming Events

Volume IX, Issue 8

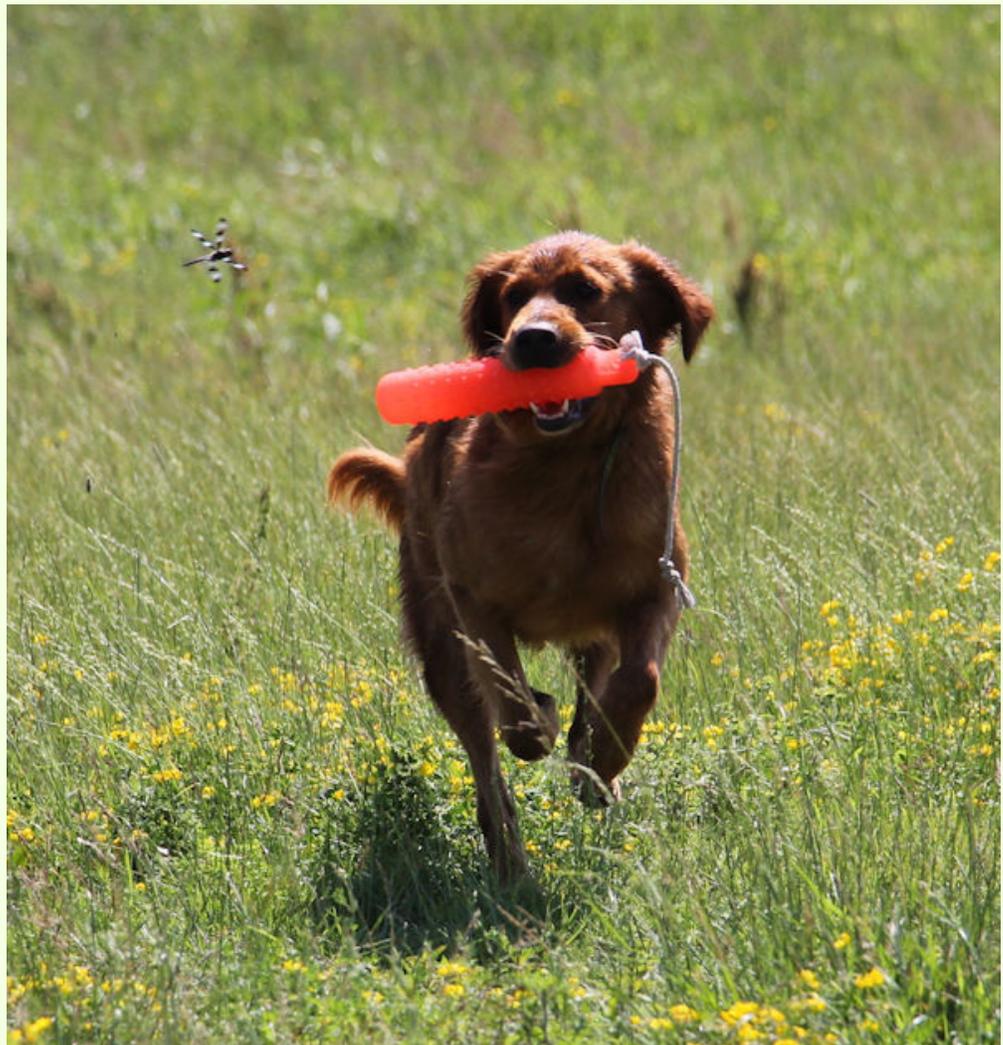
August 2019



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. August Seminar / Picnic / Jody Ware training seminar: Saturday, August 17, Retriever Retreat, Clarkrange, TN. 8:00 a.m. CENTRAL, see article inside for details.
2. Fall Club Trial: Saturday, November 16, 2019, Lucky 7 Ranch (Tentative) . Details to follow; save the date.
3. Saturday / Sunday September 28-29, 2019: ETRC Fall Hunt Test, Lucky 7 Ranch, Sweetwater, TN, judges pending. **NOTE DATE CHANGE to avoid conflict with Master National!**

Photo of the Month



Zoey marks a diversion dragonfly....

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2019 Summer General Business Meeting, Seminar and Picnic

DATE: Saturday, August 17, 2019, 8:00 a.m. CENTRAL (9:00 a.m. Eastern)

PLACE: The Retriever Retreat, 3058 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN

DOOR PRIZES: A private handling lesson from Sherie Catledge & a free night's lodging at the Retriever Retreat; 2 club Tee shirts; 1 fancy ETRC Camo hat.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:00—12:00 Handler's Seminar with pro trainer Jody Ware — dogs of all levels welcome. Contact Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com) to register your dog (free). We will need dog's name, handler's name, dog's age and general training level.

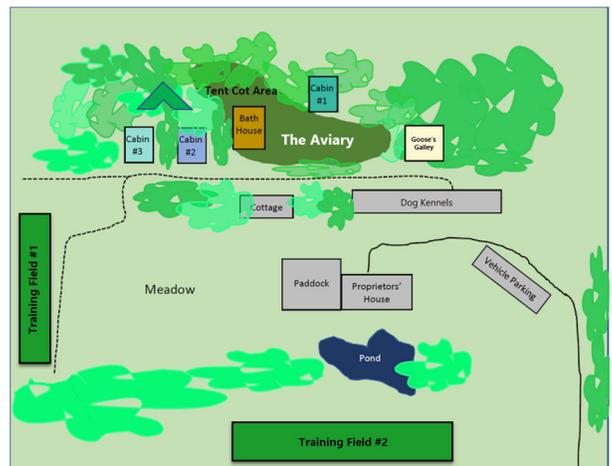
12:00—1:00 Picnic. This will be held in The Goose's Galley — a covered kitchen/dining area under the trees at the back of the property (see map). Lois Luthenauer will provide meats and a grill, and the club will provide paper plates, plastic cutlery, napkins, and drink glasses. Please bring a dish to share — we will need salads, desserts, tomatoes for slicing, lettuce, vegetable dishes, etc. Call or email Lois to coordinate what you bring — (865) 803-1187 or mountainlo717@gmail.com.

1:00—2:00 Business Meeting. **This is an important meeting, and we need to have a quorum** so that we can finalize membership of the people who have joined this year. Also, we will be discussing many important things, like changing the date of the spring hunt test, staying with the earlier dates for the fall test, purchasing more equipment, and more. We need your input!

RSVP to Karen or Lois — email addresses above.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MEMBERS ONLY. If you haven't joined yet for 2019, you can join at the event.

LODGING FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS IS AVAILABLE if you want to come the evening before and spend the night. Contact Lois for more information and reservations.



The Retriever Retreat Legend		Cottage	The Canvasback
Cabin #1	The Mallard	Cabin #3	The Merganser
Cabin #2	The Teal	Tent Cot Area	

Below — The Goose's Galley, fully equipped outdoor kitchen and picnic area



New Trailer

Ta Da! Here it is, our 20' new trailer. You can stand up inside it unless you play pro basketball — 6'7" of headroom inside. The back door opens and lays flat, making it much easier to load, and the side door makes it possible to get in and retrieve items stored up in the nose. It is aluminum and



lightweight, handles well in traffic, has BRAKES and lights, and should make our life much easier. And, it only cost \$7,100 which is a very good deal for a trailer of this quality.

A group of people are working to design the interior with closed shelving and other storage units , with a center walkway, and it looks like we can get everything we have now inside and neatly stored with maybe some room left over if we are clever about how we design it. If you want to help, holler at J. Michael Evans (865-824-8638) or Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com). The work will be done at 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, where there is an air-conditioned workshop right by the trailer.

The old trailer is still for sale if you might be interested. \$1,200 , 16' long, lots of storage. Contact Mike for more details, or look up last month's newsletter (on the website if you lost your copy).

Member News and Announcements

Does your dog have a new title? A litter of puppies coming or here? A new dog? A recently deceased and deeply missed dog? A dog-related item for sale? Are you a newly minted judge? Send me an email with the information and I'll put it up!

Training Corner

Steadying the Retriever

Steadiness is fundamental to the success of training

By Mike Stewart of Wildrose Kennels – Home of Drake the DU Dog

Editor's Note: there are few things more frustrating when you have a wonderful working dog who can't earn titles or be a reliable hunting companion because he continues to break. Over the next several months, this section will include various articles about how to deal with this situation. The final article in the series will be tips from readers — What do YOU do that has worked for helping a breaking dog to become steady? Please send your comments and write-ups to me at edwardskc@gmail.com.

Among the most important attributes of a quality retriever is steadiness to shot and fall of game. Little else can spoil an otherwise promising wing shoot quicker than an uncontrollable, disruptive, untrained dog who associates gunfire with immediately breaking for a retrieve. An unsteady dog cannot be considered properly trained since it is disregarding the sit command.

Many individuals simply do not give equal billing and attention to conditioning steadiness in their training process compared to other skills such as marking, water work or handling. Yet, the fact is, steadiness is a fundamental element to the success of other gundog skills such as marking, honoring, flushing and sitting quietly in the blind while birds work.

Steadiness is being under control at all times despite distractions, diversions or temptations.

Steadying a dog is not achieved through a few quick lessons drilled in an enthusiastic dog as a secondary consideration. Steadiness conditioning should be interwoven into the ongoing training process beginning quite early and progressing throughout the dog's life. It is unwise to just one day decide to steady up our prospect.

By following a logical progression in training, one can develop a naturally steady dog without interfering with retrieving desire or using unnatural force methods.

First, consider the preliminaries:

- Steadiness is an extension of obedience. Ensure compliance with obedience commands prior to enforcing steadiness.
- Avoid too many meaningless retrieves for pups; they serve only to overexcite the dog. Keep retrieves between 2 to 4 per week in pre-training, 6 to 8 marks per week in early basic training and reduce marking drills to perhaps 1 session in 5 as training progresses. Concentrate on memories, site blinds, diversions, etc. Read more about meaningless retrieves and other training don'ts in *Retriever Training: What Not to Do!*
- Don't expose your retriever prospects to hunting situations until basic training is complete. Ideally, the age for a pup's first hunt should exceed 12 months, allowing greater maturity.
- Too many birds at a young age overexcites pups. Keep bird exposure limited to brief sessions reintroduced periodically throughout basic training. Avoid bird-crazy training sessions unless you have a very low-drive dog needing motivation.
- Involve dogs in group work where the retriever must remain patient, still and quiet while honoring other dogs. The quietest dogs gets the retrieve, thereby making them realize that patience brings about the reward of a retrieve.
- Make the association between gunfire and something to retrieve the best-kept secret between you and your young dog. The connection will be realized quickly enough. Train young dogs to sit at the sound of gunfire.
- Pick up 75 percent of all downed birds yourself the first hunting season, keeping the rookie tied in the blind or at heel to avoid mishaps. We do not want to reward running in with a retrieve, thereby reinforcing negative behaviors.

Training Steadiness

Approach the conditioning of steadiness from three positions. These concepts apply equally to young prospects and to seasoned pro retrievers in need of a bit of a tune up.

Denials

The dog does not get the mark, retrieve or bird. Either you or another dog picks up the fall. A gundog must realize two things: 1. All retrieves are not theirs, and 2. Whining, creeping or movement will not result in a retrieve; only patience results in a retrieve. Denials also apply to hunting situations. A pup normally should pick up only 25 percent of the falls they encounter their entire first season. For the old pro, a couple of denials are equally effective in maintaining steadiness. Use a second dog or pick up the fall yourself.

Delays

Don't send the dog on a retrieve too quickly after a shot or fall. Let time pass, move about, talk, reload and then send. Hone patience. Initially, with a pup, the delay will be brief. Later, the duration between fall and release expands. In training, the young dog may actually be heeled away and re-sent from another position.

Diversions

Effectively ignoring diversions or distractions, whether in the blind or when completing a retrieve, is actually a derivative of steadiness. Steadiness includes quietly honoring other working dogs, ignoring secondary falls on a retrieve without switching, handling flushing birds and not pursuing off game, and remaining undisturbed by other hunters and their gunfire. Steady dogs can manage temptations while remaining focused on their job.

Steadiness conditioning by no means should be entrenched at the peril of retrieving desire. This need not be the case if the dog has natural retrieving instinct, the conditioning occurs progressively with minimal force and the process is begun at the early stages of training.

Remember, control coupled with keenness and natural ability are the desirable qualities of a fine shooting dog. Our training methods must be structured to accomplish this goal.

Steadiness methodology will be discussed next, which covers:

- The Beginner
- Basic Fundamentals and Group Dynamics
- Walkups
- Substitution for Marking
- Distractions: Birds, Balls and Gunfire
- Pre-Season Conditioning Drills

It is important to structure training exercises and drills that do not compromise steadiness. Too many marks, quickly releasing dogs for retrieves and associating gunfire with immediate retrieves all serve to undermine steadying efforts. As often as possible, utilize training methods that protect steadiness integrity.

Next we'll offer proven methods to help produce that rock-steady shooting dog.

The Beginning

Steadiness conditioning must begin early. Young pups should not be riled up with repeated, meaningless retrieves. Keep pups calm and focused with only a few retrieves per week. You can read more about meaningless retrieves and other training don'ts in *Retriever Training: What Not to Do!*

When the time comes to delay the pup's release on a retrieve, don't use forceful restraints. Place the pup between your legs as you kneel down. Place your hands across the pup's chest and cradle him against the legs. Pitch the bumper and release when ready by simply removing your hands. Now we are already in the kneeling position to encourage prompt return. As the pup understands the concept of the delay and becomes calmer, lengthen the delay.

Next, restrain the pup lightly from the side to delay the release. When the pup is patient for short periods prior to release, move out in front of him to toss the bumper. Place yourself between him and the bumper by

tossing the bumper over your shoulder. The pup's path to the bumper is blocked and the sit command can be encouraged. If pup runs in, he can be stopped or you can quickly pick up the bumper yourself.

Group Dynamics

Once your pup understands the concept of steadiness, begin to steady him in groups of other dogs. Pups will pick up on the mannerisms and actions of other dogs in the group. It is quite easy to steady 3 to 4 pups together since one often mimics the actions of the others. This exercise also begins the concept of honoring.

Walkups

Walkup exercises become possible after the pup can promptly respond to sit and heel. A "walkup" is heeling the dog across fields while bumpers are tossed out in front, similar to a bird being flushed. The pup is required to sit on command as the bumper is thrown. This begins the concept of sit to flush. Whether or not the dog will ever be on an upland hunt, this drill will pay dividends. A handler is actually training the pup to sit when the bird/mark is thrown and a shot is fired. The counteraction (sit) is conditioned to minimize the likelihood of the undesirable reaction (run in). Use bumpers, cold game, remote launchers and planted live birds to condition pups to sit on fliers.

Memories

Substitute memories for marks. Excessive marking destabilizes steadiness and promotes independent action on the part of the dog. Memories involve placing bumpers or birds in varied locations and sending dogs back for the retrieve at a later time from a different location. Site, trailing and circle memories enhance steadiness, as will sending dogs away from thrown marks back to previously placed memories. The key is that the dog is not sent straight away for the retrieve.

Distractions

Another important part of steadiness is the ability of the dog to handle distractions in the field, especially on the retrieve. Involve planted birds, thrown bumpers as diversions, flushing birds, gunfire and other dogs working on land or in water as your dog remains focused on making his retrieves. Steadiness also involves sitting quietly without noise or movement in the blind for long periods as other dogs work, calls are blown, guns are fired, and birds are working in the sky—even sitting motionless as birds land directly on the water in front of the dog. Read more about developing a dog with poise, quiet discipline and good posture in Puttin' on the Polish.

Conditioning

Steadiness conditioning must be drilled before each hunting season, even in older dogs. The excitement of the hunt may well destabilize the most experienced dog. Get the dog some birds and shooting exposure prior to opening day. Private game farms and sporting clay shoots offer great preseason training opportunities. Live pigeons, pen-raised quail or domestic ducks can provide a bit of live game exposure to reinforce steadiness. As a final point, don't leave anything to chance in the field with your first-season pup: Tie up young pups on their first hunts to ensure no breaks or creeping.

One of the most important goals to have for a new retriever prospect's first year in the field is to develop steadiness to shot and fall. This skill is considered by most wingshooters the cornerstone of a fine gundog.

Shortchanging the training program for steadiness in early training limits the potential of your hunting companion long term.



ETRC Big Trailer for Sale — Members ONLY

The Board is in the process of buying a new, larger trailer for club equipment, and has decided to offer the old trailer to members only for \$1,200. If there is no interest, it will go on Ebay for \$2,000.

Size: 16' long x 6' wide x 6' tall. Fitted inside for storage of various items. 100% OK mechanically, new tires including spare, axles rebuilt and bearings repacked last year. Contact J. Michael Evans by phone or text at 865-824-8638 (mobile).

Youth Program Update

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is entering its fourth year. 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. An annual youth handler seminar open to any youth who is interested in retriever sports will be held next March (2020) at Sherie's and Lois Luthenauer's new farm, 3508 Martha Washington Road, Clarkrange, TN. Contact Lois (mountainLO717@gmail.com) to get on a list for more information as plans develop.

A perpetual trophy will be awarded annually along with a plaque to keep, and a participation award for everyone in the program. Fees for hunt tests attended and all club events will be free for participating youth program members.



Around the Region – Seminars, Tests, & Trials

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

MTARC Master Only	LaVergne, TN	08/10/19
Tidewater RC Fall Test	Emporia, VA	09/12/19
Greater Pittsburg GRC	Chardon, OH	09/14/19
Ohio Valley RC	Coshocton, OH	09/21/19
Yadkin River RC	Mebane, NC	09/21/19
N. Mississippi ARC	Bruce, MS	09/21/19
Fall Line RC (120)	Lincolnton, GA	09/21/19
Mid Atlantic HRC with OHQ	Providence Force, VA	09/28/19
ETRC Fall Test (60)	Sweetwater, TN	09/28/19
Buckeye RC Fall Test	Chardon, OH	09/28/19

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Centennial RC Summer Trial	Elkton, MD	08/09/19	Centennial RC
Labrador RC Summer Trial	Elkton, MD	08/31/19	
Atlanta RC Fall Trial	Buckhead, GA	09/20/19	
Mobile ARC Fall Trial	Greensboro, AL	09/20/19	
Central Arkansas RC (DD, Q)	McRae, AR	09/27/19	

Upcoming Seminars

ETRC Jody Ware Handler's Seminar Clarkrange, TN 8/17/19
(See article on page 2 for details; Free; for ETRC members only).

ETRC Membership

Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Both 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 \$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!

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).