



2019 Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's EVENTS!

1. Sunday, January 6, 2019: Directed training session for all levels, focusing on problem solving. Lisa Styles will direct. 12:30 for setup, 1:00 seminar begins. 108 Pawkook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Weather dependent. Please RSVP to Karen at edwardskc@gmail.com
2. January 14: Deadline for nominating dogs and people for awards — see article inside on p. 3
3. Saturday, February 23, 2019 — (tentative) Annual Awards Banquet & election, 6:00 p.m., Calhoun's Bearden Hill, Knoxville — more details on p.2
4. Tuesday-Wednesday, March 26-27, possible Master-only Hunt Test, Tentative, details to follow.
5. April (TBD) — club trial
6. May 25-26, 2019: ETRC Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee

Photo of the Month



Happy New Year 2019!!

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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 14, 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. You may provide the information in an email or letter. Winning dog and puppy will receive an engraved plaque to keep and a silver perpetual trophy to display for a year. NOTE: New rules approved last year will apply for the first time for these awards.

4. **Title awards:** If your dog has earned **any AKC field titles** during 2018, 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/ Master Amateur Dogs:** If your dog was a **finalist** at the 2018 Master National or the 2018 Master Amateur, 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 2018 Master National or Master Amateur and received an invitation from the MNRC/MARC 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 at the same time, 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 7 years:



Year	Member of the Year	AKC Sportsman of the Year
2017	Roberta Williams	Brian Caldwell
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

Training Day: Solving Problems 01/06/18

Come join us on a Sunday afternoon (1:00 –4:00) for a directed training day at Roane Regional training grounds behind the Pegasus Technologies building at 108 Pawnook Farm Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771. ETRC member Lisa Styles, who is a successful Field Trial and Hunt Test Competitor, will be leading the session and will be helping members problem solve specific problems using setups that will match the level of your dog. Setup will start at 12:30 p.m.

Bring your dog, a chair, appropriate clothing for the weather, water for your dog, your personal training equipment for your dog, and bumpers if you would prefer using them instead of club-owned Dokkens. The club will provide all other equipment needed. Indoor toilets are available inside the building.

Please RSVP if you plan to come. We are hoping to offer one more of these directed training days during February and hope that the weather cooperates. RSVP to Karen Edwards, edwardskc@gmail.com.

If the weather doesn't cooperate (rain, snow, or temperatures that are truly dreadful), we will cancel. If the forecast is iffy, I will send out an email on Saturday night with a go/no go decision. Rain date will be January 13, same time and location, same conditions for weather and RSVPs. The first two of these sessions have been extremely useful — come take advantage of some of our members' expertise that they are kindly willing to share with us!

Hope to see you there!

Youth Program



The Luthenauer Young Handler program will soon enter 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. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees, and ETRC Club Trials are free for enrollees.

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. A young handler's seminar is also in the works, and details will be announced when plans are finalized.

Training Corner

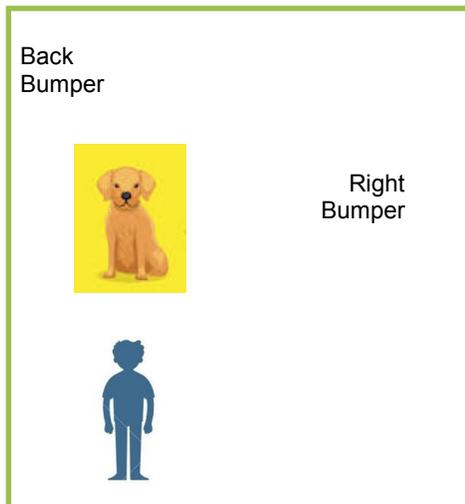
Beginner Dogs — Notes from an ETRC Mini-Seminar With John Broucek & Lisa Styles

by Lorrie Johnson

The East Tennessee Retriever Club held a working seminar on December 16, 2018 at the training grounds on Pawnook Farm Road in Lenoir City, TN. Led by John Broucek, and assisted by Lisa Styles, the seminar focused on tips for starting young and beginner dogs, with an emphasis for handlers new to retriever/field work.

John began the session by reviewing the concepts of “force-fetch” and demonstrated the process of getting a young puppy to begin accepting a wooden dowel or dumbbell in its mouth. John uses the “Fetch” command, followed by a “Drop” command for the release, and generally begins the training for a pup on a table. Older/larger pups can be started in a corner or secured to the table with a pole (the dog should not be able to get away). Handlers were shown how to apply pressure, and John detailed the step by step procedure for accepting the dumbbell, reaching for the dumbbell, moving the dumbbell down towards the ground, placing the dumbbell on the ground, and lastly, transitioning the “fetch” to the electronic collar.

Once the force-fetch is done, John then focuses on teaching the dog to cast. He begins with 3-handed casting (right, left, and back), using a placeboard and short line/leash. He begins with either right or left and the opposite back position (see diagram):



Send the dog to each bumper, then reverse the setup with the bumper on the left side and the back bumper slightly to the right. The dog should turn in the direction of your hand; i.e., if you are sending the dog “back” in the diagram, your left hand should go up above your head, and the dog should turn in the direction of your hand. If the dog makes a mistake, use the short line/leash to stop him and re-send. The handler can step in closer or lean over to help the dog discern which direction to go. Once the dog is reliable with 3 handed casting, more complex casting (up to the 8 handed version) can be taught.

The basics of “walking fetch” and “force to pile” were also covered. Walking fetch is started by placing 3 bumpers on the ground and giving the fetch command as the dog and handler approach each bumper while heeling. The heeling stick is introduced as a distraction to proof the fetch command. With the force to pile work, shopping the pile is an issue for most beginning dogs, and can be remedied by putting the 5 bumpers about 1 foot apart and using a long line on the dog. As soon as the dog puts his mouth on the first bumper, give the recall command and pull on the line to encourage a quick return to the handler. If the dog misses the bumper, a correction to the pile can be given.

The remainder of the session focused on special problems with individual dogs, such as Heeling nicely to the line, Staying/Honoring until sent, and reinforcement of general obedience. Handlers also had the opportunity to ask specific questions about any of the topics covered during the session, and many took advantage of John’s expertise on force fetch, in particular. All dogs and handlers learned a lot, and came away with training skills to continue working on. Thanks again to John and Lisa!

Around the Region — Seminars, Tests, & Trials

Upcoming AKC Retriever Hunting Tests

Wiregrass HRC of Georgia (120)	Meigs, GA	03/02/19
Carolina Retriever Assoc.	Cheraw, SC	03/16/19
Tallahassee HRC (120)	Thomasville, GA	03/16/18

Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs

Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Labrador RC	Americus, GA	02/22/19
SW Georgia RC	Americus, GA	03/01/19
Mid Atlantic HRC, O/H Qual	Emporia, VA	03/22/19

Membership 2019

The membership year runs from March 1—February 28. Membership is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Renewal and new member forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — 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 including those classified as members-only, and consideration for end of the year awards. Best of all, membership provides the opportunity to make friendships with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. It's a bargain! Members joining in November and December are covered for the following year, so start sending in your renewals now!

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, death notices, 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).