

# 2019 Upcoming Events

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC's UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. **August Seminar / Picnic / Jody Ware training seminar:** Saturday, August 17, Retriever Retreat, Clarkrange, TN. Details to follow, save the date.
2. **Fall Club Trial:** Date and location pending
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



Meet the newest office worker during our recent hunt test — Hunt Test Secretary Michele Fletcher's puppy **Calamity Jane's Special Brew**, better known as Chai. The dam is Michele's Callie (officially, MACH RPO's Calamity Jane UD SH MXG MJS MFB T2B3 CGCA WC ADHF) and the sire is Heads Up Just Do It QA2 \*\*\*. Who else but a puppy could keep our hunt test chairman, Luke McCoy, smiling during a stressful weekend?

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EAST TENNESSEE RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. WWW.ETRCCLUB.ORG

ETRC Newsletter

## Spring 2019 Hunt Test — a Big Success!



ETRC's spring hunt test was held Saturday May 25 and Sunday May 26, 2019, at the Hiwassee Refuge near Birchwood & Dayton, Tennessee. This test was in honor of charter club member Roberta Williams, who served as Hunt Test Secretary for 33 years. Roberta died last August, and this was a fitting way to honor her memory. Many people outside the club shared stories about Roberta during the weekend, and all expressed their condolences to Roberta's surviving daughter, Melody, who cared for her in her final illness.

The test was a double Junior, double Senior, and two flights of Master (limit 120 dogs). The Master stake reached the limit of 120 before scratches brought the number down a bit.

The weekend went well and there were no major problems other than extreme heat. Highs both days reached into the low 90s, and although we bought extra pop-ups and used other pop-ups and shade umbrellas supplied by volunteers, it was still nearly unbearable even in the shade. We really appreciate the bird techs from the Meigs County FFA and cheerleading squad and their parents, who were out in the worst of it; luckily, although we had a couple of dogs and a few kids that showed some signs of heat stress, nobody human or dog got too sick. A big thanks to all the club members and a few non-club members who helped with up-front planning, running errands, setting up and tearing down the test, marshalling, making lunches, working in the office, selling tee shirts, etc. Thanks also to the judges who donate their time to make our hunt tests possible. And of course, thanks to everyone who came and ran your dogs!

Here are some results from the test:

**Puppy Stake** — Three puppies entered. Alan Bruhin and Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball won the Senior Puppy stake.

**Master A: Judges Terri Dietrich and Lin Gelbmann**  
60 entries, 4 scratches, 56 started, and 28 passed. Congratulations to member Alan Bruhin with Grady's Tennessee Moonshine (Shine) who qualified.

**Master B: Judges Jane Doolittle and Josh Moorman**  
60 entries, 9 scratches, 51 dogs started and 43 passed. Congratulations to the following members who qualified at this stake: J. Michael Evans with Hilltop's Fowl Mouth Delta Queen (Ivy), and Luke McCoy with McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name (Echo). Both of these teams also qualified for the Master National with these passes. Also kudos to pro members Jody Ware and Brian Caldwell who handled numerous other dogs to passes.

**Senior (Saturday) : Judges Melissa and Ray Shanks**  
41 entries, 37 started, 18 passed. Congratulations to qualifying members Danny Lawson with Morningside's Ransomed Gypsy and Lawson's Landing Creek Johnson; Donna Smith and Buck's Beau of Stoneridge; and Jeff McNutt with Hooked Us A Gem. Brian Caldwell also handled a client dog to a



Master B Judges Jane Doolittle & Josh Moorman

**Spring 2019 Hunt Test, Con't.**



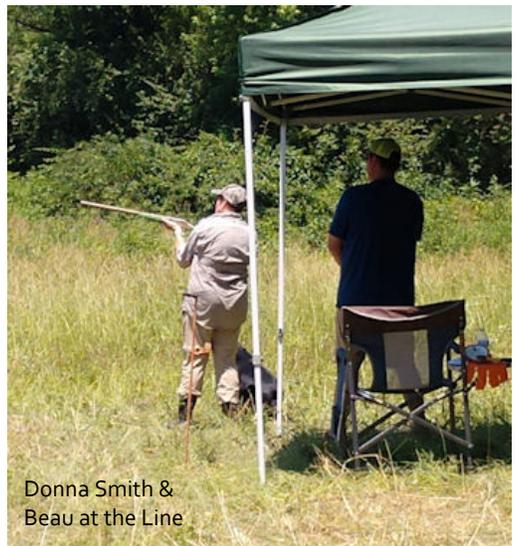
Luke Introduces  
Melissa & Ray  
Shanks at the ribbon  
ceremony

pass in this series. Finally, BIG THANKS to Ray Shanks who stepped up and judged for us at the last minute when the scheduled judge bailed out.

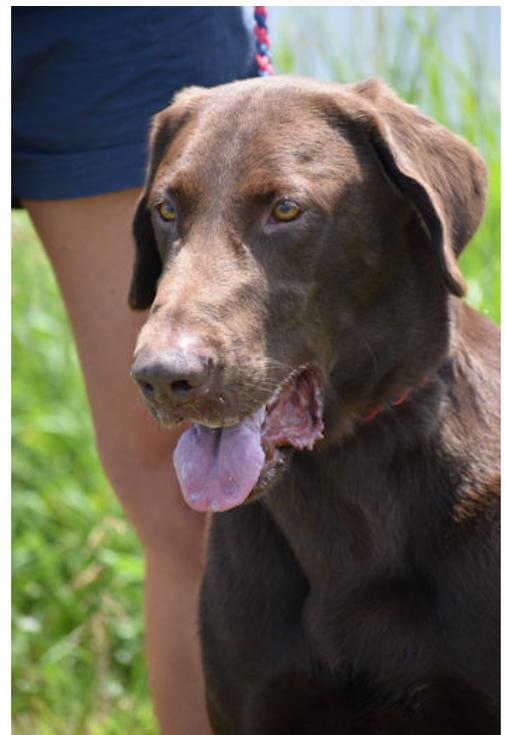
**Senior (Sunday) : Judges Jack Gravely / Daniel Overstreet with Apprentice Judge Lisa Styles** 34 entries, 30 started, 17 passed. Passing members and their dogs were Konrad Heider with RoddyDogs Little Brown Nash, Donna Smith with Buck's Beau of Stoneridge; and Jeff McNutt with Hooked Us A Gem. Pro members Haley O'Neal and Brian Caldwell showed several client dogs to passes as well.

**Junior (Saturday): Judges Jack Gravely / Daniel Overstreet** 31 entries, 29 started, 21 passed. Congratulations to members Peter Torok and Fern Hill Kepes Arany Sugar, and Alan Bruhin with Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball for your passes, and to pro member Hayley O'neal, who handled a client dog to passes.

**Junior (Sunday): Judges Scott Chaney and Melissa Shanks** 32 entries, 28 started, 23 passed. Congratulations to the same group of members, handlers, and dogs listed above for Saturday, who came back and did it a second time on Sunday.



Donna Smith &  
Beau at the Line



## Spring 2019 Hunt Test, Con't.

### FROM THE FIELD

by J. Michael Evans, Assistant Hunt Test Chairman

Whew! Where to start? Anyone who got out of their air conditioned vehicle during this hunt test knew the heat was going to be a huge challenge, both for the dogs AND workers! All of my work at our test is concentrated in the field, everything from ducks to dirt, so let me start by saying thank you to anyone who worked out in the field this weekend. Whether you delivered a box of lunches or sat up an entire flight, the work you did was very much appreciated!

However, there are a few folks I want to give special praise to. These people spent the majority of the weekend in the dust-choking, bug-ridden, scorching heat all to better the club, the dogs and the handlers. Mike Smith, Jim Pearce, Jeff and Cheryl McNutt, Cory and Hunter Smith, Thomas Art Gibson, Denise and Cade Chambers, Alan Bruhin and Luke McCoy (the Politician of the bunch) are the folks in the field that truly kept this test running as smoothly as it did. *[Editor's Note: Also Michael Evans, who is being too modest to mention his own contributions.]* These folks paid with hard work, dirt and sweat, which was evident if you saw (or smelled) any of them at the end of any day. They were everywhere doing anything that was needed in the sweltering heat from Friday at set up until Sunday at breakdown. They delivered ducks, sat up tests, broke down tests, fixed equipment on the fly, delivered lunches, shuttled people to and from the bathroom, the clubhouse and to other stakes. They delivered baby pools full of ice and water where needed, picked up trash and even took the place of bird techs when they got too hot or had to leave. The club owes them a huge debt of gratitude for their hard work.

I also want to thank Donna Smith, Katy Cundiff, Tammy Pierce, Alan Bruhin, Beth White, Velma Barrett, Gale Frana, Peter Torok and Ashley Goddard for stepping up at the individual stakes and doing everything from Marshaling to duck clean-up. Their work was noticed not only by the judges but by all of the handlers as well.

A task that usually goes unnoticed is gunning. Travis Vaughn, Mike Lett Jr, Denise Chambers, Jeff McNutt, Hunter Smith, Art Gibson and Justin Bell were in the heat shooting ducks for us while most people sat in the shade watching the dogs run (or complaining because one wasn't shot quick enough or landed in a bad place or Heaven forbid, was missed)! It's not as easy as some make it out to be, but these folks stepped up huge and I appreciate all of their hard work and (most times) precision shooting.

TWRA Rep Jason Jackson met us Friday before the judges arrived and took time from his busy schedule to bush hog strips and openings for the test, test set up and parking in the fields. He is always close by if something extra is needed and offers his assistance in the event something needs to be done on the grounds.

There were many, many folks who worked this event and no way could we have pulled it off without them! But these members and non-members who volunteered and worked so hard in the field, in the tremendous heat, making sure all of the stakes had what they needed to be successful, deserve all of the praise we can heap on them. If it weren't for these non-stop-energy people, our tests would grind to a halt. Thank You All So Very Much!



Water series, Senior stake

## Spring 2019 Hunt Test, Con't.

### FROM THE HUNT TEST OFFICE

by Secretary/Treasurer Karen Edwards

Along the theme of “it takes a village” to put on a hunt test, we office dwellers want to also mention some things. Michael’s article on the previous page is such a nice acknowledgement of the people who worked out in the field, I thought I’d try to call out some of the people who worked in the office this past weekend.

In the office, we don’t have to face the stifling heat, but we have almost as much dirt (and more cobwebs) as out in the field, at least on Friday! Set-up day office work starts with cleaning the HQ building, then goes on with organizing the Judges’ books, cleaning and re-supplying the marshal boxes to make sure they have enough supplies for the test, fixing up the judges’ books, and setting out the teeshirts, hats, and other items that the club offers for sale. Michele Fletcher did yeoman’s work doing most of the cleaning this year. Her puppy Chai helped by eating dead bugs off the floor....During the test itself, office staff check in competitors, point them in the direction of the right stake, relay messages from one stake or person to another when the radios don’t quite work for direct communications, run errands for supplies, help find people, answer questions, fix 70 lunches a day, sell lunches, sell tee shirts, and wrangle the ribbons for the ribbon ceremonies.

This year, we were short on office staff, since our stalwart Patti Gibson, who usually works non-stop all weekend, brought in supplies but then had to leave to take care of her sick dog (get well soon, Luke!). Lois Luthenauer, as chief marshal and tee shirt guru, also usually helps with the office work, lunch making, and handles most of the tee-shirt sales, but for some reason she decided to go to the Master Amateur instead this year with her dog Woodie (good luck, guys!). She had a significant role in up-front planning, but was sorely missed during the actual test. Michele and I really appreciated Katie Cundiff jumping in to help with preparing sandwiches and selling tee shirts and hats on Saturday. Sunday got a little crazy, and Jim Pearce and Mike Evans helped fix lunches while Michele had to work with the Master B judges who finished just before lunch time, and I had to hop off to get the ribbons ready for delivery & the judges’ gifts ready to hand out.



Michele in her second time as Hunt Test Secretary did an incredible job and all the paperwork flowed smoothly all weekend — and there is a lot of it! Her work wasn’t done when the test was over either — she had to go home and spend hours on the computer entering the results into Entry Express, filling out forms for AKC, and mailing catalogs so people get credit for their tests.. My treasurer duties mostly involved writing lots of checks, for ducks, motel rooms, the Judges’ dinner, supplies, judges incidental expenses, gunner gas, and so on. Keeping track of the money from entries and the various sales is also part of my job, as is getting ribbons mailed, bookkeeping done and the deposits made after the test is over. We don’t have final figures yet — still have some invoices out for supplies, porta potties, gas, and the wonderfully useful dumpster — but it looks like we made around \$5,000 on the test. We plan on using some of this for further upgrades to the club’s equipment. Maybe we should invest in some more pop-ups or shade umbrellas!



## Board Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2019

Pegasus Technologies Bldg, Lenoir City, TN

**Present from the Board:** All present: Luke McCoy, Alan Bruhin, Lois Luthenauer, Karen Edwards, Jim Pearce, Michele Fletcher, Tom Gibson, Mike Smith, Cory Smith, J. Michael Evans, Jeff McNutt

**Other Members and Special Guests:** Hunter Smith (Cory's son), and Chai Fletcher, Michele's 9-week old Golden puppy, who was happy to be passed from person to person during the meeting and share puppy breath. Thanks to Hunter for taking her outside several times to potty and play!

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

### Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

**Secretary's Report.** Karen Edwards.

**Minutes:** Last meeting was 4/8/19; minutes approved and sent to the club website. Alan moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval of minutes. Michael Evans Seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Email from MNRC that there is a new address for us to send marked HT catalogs. Forwarded to Michele.

**Membership:** Current 2019 membership is 43 as of 5/8/19. 20 members have not renewed yet from 2018; EOY membership was 61. Sent out final membership reminder to people who haven't rejoined on 5/9/19. Will purge the membership rolls and the email list on 6/1/19, issue a current membership list to replace the one dated 12/31/19 on the website, and change the password on the website as of 6/1/19.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen Edwards. Current balance in ORNL FCU as of 5/13/19 is \$19,016.13. Bills in hand and not paid: Shutterfly (Karen) \$15.16, Staples (Karen) \$76 for notebooks /plastic file boxes for history stuff.

**AKC Representative's Report:** Michele Fletcher: Nothing to report, AKC website is down.

### Old Business

**Club Trial 4/13/19: Roane Regional:** Very small, mostly newbies. We had a good time, but need to seriously rethink our club trial program. It is now mostly a training session for newer members; most of the experienced members are off testing or judging. This makes it difficult to have judges who are experienced enough to set up good tests and do the judging. Michael suggested moving the dates to the off-season (which means February or early March and August in the summertime) plus have one the week before the AKC test. However, the weekend before the spring test is MTARC's test weekend so that won't work, and in the fall, we are dealing with UT football. Discussion tabled until after the spring hunt test.

**Spring Hunt Test:** Status update:

- ◆ Letters to judges confirming arrangements are done and out. Rooms are arranged.
- ◆ Marshals are nearly finalized; Lois will get the list to Karen on or before Thursday of this week for preparation of the Communications Plan and so we all know where people are supposed to be. Michele will be acting as Chief Marshal during the actual test in Lois's absence.
- ◆ Marshal Boxes: Karen & Michele will fix these up on Friday afternoon. Karen will buy toilet paper and paper towels beforehand since we know we are out; Michele has a couple of extra clipboards she will donate to the club to replace those missing.
- ◆ Judges sheets: Alan will run off another ream of these. We have some waterproof ones and hopefully won't need them.
- ◆ Safety concerns with live flyers in Junior: the location where we will be having the junior tests makes safety an issue – would have to post bird boys to stop cars in two places. Decided to request judges not to use live flyers for the junior tests for this reason.
- ◆ Ducks – J. Michael will be ordering ducks from Kiley and making the arrangements for delivery.
- ◆ Big trailer: it is currently at Lucky 7. Someone needs to go get it and have it there by 1:00 p.m.. Cory Smith volunteered his son Hunter to transport it up to Hiwassee. It will be staying at Hiwassee following the test.
- ◆ Equipment needed: Jim suggested we buy 13 more MAP gas canisters to make sure we have enough. We discussed putting labels on them – when purchased, when opened – so we have some idea of their status. Michael is ordering ammo and will get the gas for the ducks.

## Minutes 5/13/19, Con't.

- ◆ Porta potties: we decided to get 3 plus the dumpster. J. Michael will take care of ordering them.
- ◆ Birdboys: Karen has agreement from the Meigs county FFA to provide 25 bird kids. She will contact them in the next couple of days to remind them of the dates and make sure plans are still on track.
- ◆ Judges Dinner: dinner will be at Carabell's off Hwy 27 in Dayton. We will pay the entire tab for the judges including drinks; everyone else will be responsible for their own bill. We will have a choice of three entrees. After reviewing the menus, we decided on the Jambalaya shrimp pasta, the blackened chicken, and the steak. Sides will be potatoes, salad, mac'n'cheese, and steamed broccoli.
- ◆ Lunches: Patti Gibson has agreed to handle lunch purchases and preparation. Karen will help. We have some leftover chips from March that Karen will bring along. Anyone who wants to provide desserts and other food for the workers in the office is encouraged to do so. Karen will bring her standard carrot cake. We will need someone to make coffee in the office every morning for workers and judges. Usually Lois does this.
- ◆ Tom will be responsible for buying ice and water, and getting the coolers to the various stations, along with the duck deliveries.
- ◆ Lisa Styles will be an apprentice judge at Senior on Sunday. She will be there for set up on Friday, which is a requirement of the apprentice program. We need to remind anyone who wants to apprentice judge that they need to provide us with that info if possible BEFORE the test opens, as we are required to put their name in the premium and online. If someone now tells us they wish to scratch because the apprentice judge's name wasn't available at the time of entry, we have to refund their full entry fee. Also, in the future, it will be the prospective apprentice's responsibility to contact the judges to get their agreement, rather than us having to contact them.
- ◆ Judges' gifts: Karen will withdraw the money for the judges from the account, and also \$100 in \$1 bills for change – lunches, tee shirts, etc.
- ◆ Lois brought all the tee shirts and hats, but forgot to bring the papers with the prices on them. She will drop those by the PTI office in the next couple of days.

**Luthenauer Youth Handler Program:** Lois Luthenauer – anything to report? Nothing new.

### **Equipment:**

- ◆ Poppers: Status of new purchase? Lois had forgotten that she had agreed to purchase these. However, Michele sent her the link again at the meeting, and before the meeting was over, Lois had ordered 4 new heavy-duty poppers to be delivered to the Pegasus Technologies building by the 21<sup>st</sup>, and Karen had written a check reimbursing her for the cost (\$679.96).
- ◆ Anything else we need before hunt test? No one could think of anything.

**Club History Items:** Karen picked up 5 large bankers boxes and two totes of miscellaneous items from Melody Williams and has been sorting through it. Much of it is throwaway (multiple copies of the same newsletter etc), and there is a lot of stuff missing from earlier years. Karen has sorted and organized as follows:

- ◆ **Annual by year**, with newsletters, meeting minutes, treasurer reports, membership lists, event info, and correspondence. This work is complete. The notebooks are stored in the PTI offices and are available for anyone who wants to take a look.
- ◆ **Corporate stuff**, including tax returns, annual reports, and corporate info. This is all sorted into a large pile, but not gone through and organized yet. It will be put in a notebook and stored at PTI.
- ◆ **Membership forms** – AKC requires that we keep them for 4 years. Even if older than 4 years, we need to keep most recent copy of current members. These are sorted and are now filed in a large file box which is stored at the PTI building.
- ◆ **Old receipts**: tax rules say we should keep these for 7 years. We only have receipts back to 2015. Sorted and stored in the same file box as the membership lists.
- ◆ **Old hunt test premiums and marked catalogs**: These are stored in a file storage box at the PTI building.
- ◆ **Extra stuff/supplies for putting on hunt tests**: turning over to Michelle. Lots of small judge's sheets, a binder of advice from AKC on putting on hunt tests, rule books, etc.
- ◆ **Other stuff**: there were a number of award plaques not given out, crumpled up ribbons, etc. We divided up the awards plaques of current members, Michele offered to go through and iron a few of the ribbons if they were salvageable and toss out the rest, and Michael took the other award plaques to see if we can get a discount by reusing the backings at the next awards cycle. If not, they can go in the trash.

## Minutes 5/13/19, Con't.

### **New Business:**

**New Members:** None.

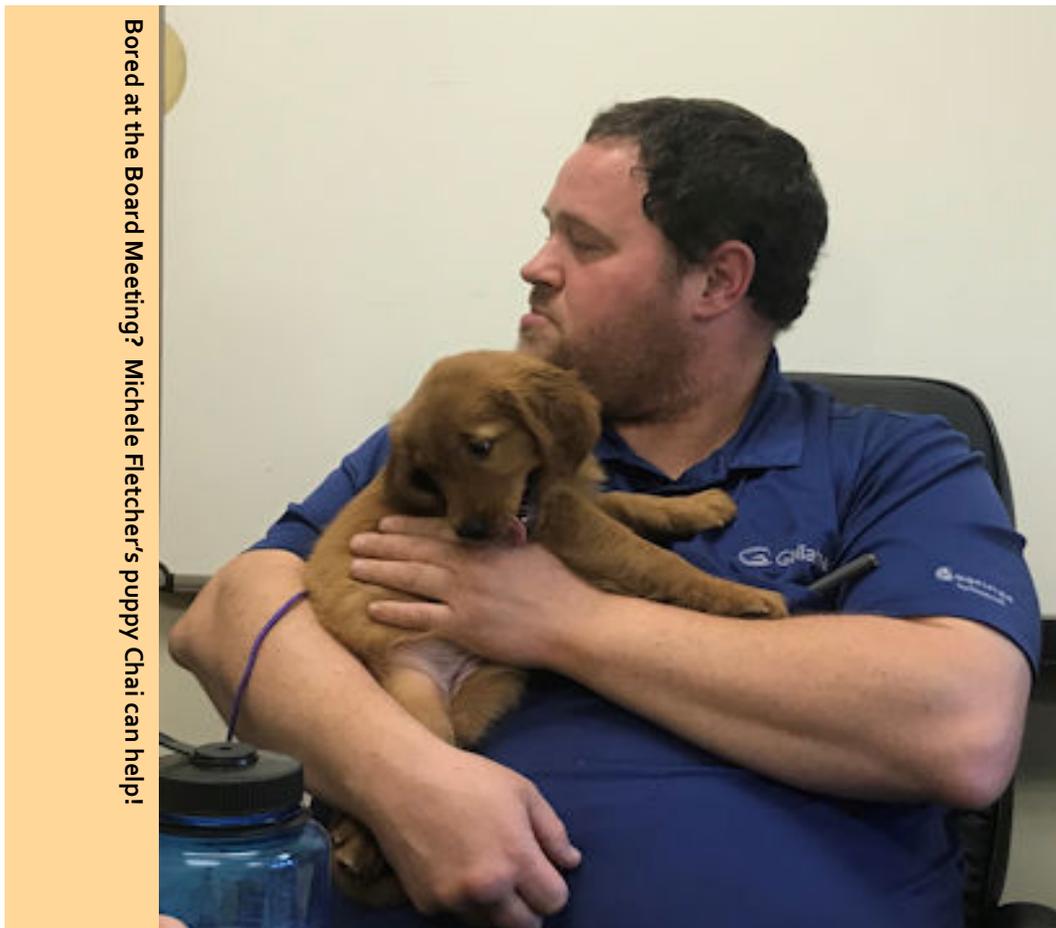
**Summer picnic:** Date is set (August 17), Jody is OK with date and with the location at Lois's new place.

**Fall club trial:** We had a brief discussion on when to schedule this. Possibly on September 14 at Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 ranch – this would be two weeks before our hunt test, and would give people an opportunity to train on the same grounds. No final decisions were made, and this will need to be discussed again at the meeting following the spring hunt test.

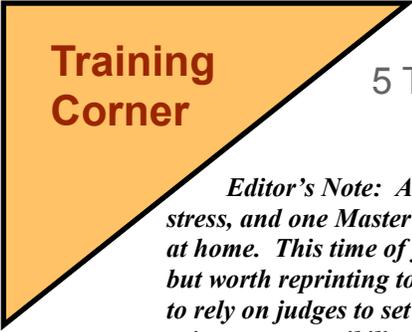
**Fall Hunt Test: 9/28-29/19.** Ken Campbell is good with these dates. He did tell Michael that he is hosting a Ronald McDonald house event on Friday, which is set-up day. This will be up on the hill above the pond so probably not an issue in terms of where we can set up. With the new land he has recently purchased, and the new technical pond under construction which should be available by fall, we may have enough land to run a two-flight master. Need to discuss and solidify format, and get started on locating judges. The Master National is from October 17<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>, so we will be a nice stop-off and last practice for people heading towards Cheraw.

### **Any other new business?**

**Adjourn:** There being no other new business, Karen moved that we adjourn. Cory seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Bored at the Board Meeting? Michele Fletcher's puppy Chai can help!



## Training Corner

### 5 TRAINING TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT by SportDOG Staff

*Editor's Note: At our hunt test last weekend, we had several dogs who showed some signs of heat stress, and one Master dog who had to be scratched before the test because of heat stroke while training at home. This time of year is very tough on dogs working outside. This is not new information below, but worth reprinting to keep in mind when you are outside training or testing. At Hunt Tests, you have to rely on judges to set up reasonable scenarios and keep the test short, but the handler is the one with primary responsibility for recognizing when your dog is feeling the heat, and get them treatment accordingly.*

Keeping a hunting dog in shape during the off season will give it the best chance to perform at peak levels once the hunting season opens in the fall. The continued workouts will maintain tough paw pads, loose joints, proper weight, and preserve endurance and stamina.

To achieve this, training must continue throughout the year, which means months of hot-weather training. SportDOG® ProStaff members and professional trainers Lynne Frady, of Super Dog Obedience & Gun Dog Training, and Billy Mosley, of Avery Creek Retrievers, offer their best tips for dog owners to keep hunting dogs safe and cool during hot summer workouts.

#### **Train Early and Late**

One of the simplest ways to beat the heat is to train early mornings or late evenings when the sun and temperatures are at their lowest points. "Don't train in the middle of the day. Another way is to try and do as much water work as possible. It's a little easier on them swimming than doing long land retrieves," said Mosley.

#### **Utilize Water Drills**

Frady agrees with using water work but does caution dog owners who think water will always cool their dogs.

"You have to be as careful in water as you do on land when it's hot," said Frady. "If you're working a dog in a pond, they can easily overheat just like they would on land. Unless it's a deep and vast body of water, the water won't be that much cooler than the air."

Mosley echoed this sentiment and says the key is to get them in and out of the water frequently. "You don't want to do 300-yard swims across a stagnant pond," said Mosley. "Throw retrieves 80 to 90 yards, up on the other bank, so they get about a 50- to 60-yard swim and are getting out of the water and swim back. You shouldn't do marathon sessions of just swimming."

#### **Increase Water Intake**

High summer temperatures will create the need for more frequent watering. This is easy to achieve during water work, but owners will need to provide much more water for dogs training in the field. "Dogs can get really dehydrated," said Frady. "Take plenty of water with you. I'll even take some Gatorade with me to get their electrolytes back up."

#### **Keep It Short and Shaded**

Both SportDOG pros suggest training in shorter sessions and to keep the dogs in the shade as much as possible. "Try to keep them in the shade when you are working them," said Frady. "Keep them in the shade and let them cool back down and go back and do something else. You don't have to go out and run them for 30 minutes. Do a 5-minute section and let them rest or, as I call it, 'let their tongue roll back up.'"

#### **Go Indoors**

Most people think of hunting dog training as outside work – marking, scent work, retrieving, and long runs. But, much of what is learned in the fields begins with basic obedience. These elementary lessons can be learned or sharpened while indoors.

"Any kind of work you can do indoors, such as obedience and whistle work, try to do as much of that indoors as possible," said Frady. "I do a whole lot of my training in my living room. You can teach just about all the concepts of retrieving training indoors."

## Training Corner, Con't.

Monitoring a dog for signs of overheating is critical to maintaining a dog's health and safety.

"If they get long in the tongue, you need to slow down or stop," said Frady. "Make sure they have plenty of water and bring lots of water along if you aren't doing water work."

"When they start to lose color in the gums, that's pretty dangerous," said Mosley. "That is a sign of heat stroke. They will get wobbly-legged and disorientated. Everybody that trains dogs should keep a thermometer handy to check the dog's temperature too."

If your dog does overheat, both Frady and Mosley say to douse the dog's entire underside with rubbing alcohol, as it evaporates quickly and helps dissipate the heat. "Lay them on their side and pour it on their chest and belly so it will come in contact with their skin," said Frady. "It will pull their body temperature down quickly. I've seen many dogs' lives saved with this. A couple of bottles of rubbing alcohol aren't hard to carry."

### Symptoms Of Heatstroke — Excerpt from PetMD

On especially hot days, you should look out for any unusual behaviors from your dog. The symptoms of heatstroke include:

- Heavy panting
- Dehydration
- Excessive drooling
- Increased body temperature – above 103 degrees F
- Reddened gums, or even worse, whitened gums
- Production of only small amounts of urine or no urine
- Rapid heart rate
- Irregular heartbeat
- Sudden breathing distress
- Vomiting blood
- Passing blood in the stool
- Black, tarry stools
- Small, pinpoint areas of bleeding
- Changes in mental status
- Seizures
- Muscle tremors
- Wobbly, incoordinated or drunken gait or movement
- Unconsciousness in which the dog cannot be stimulated to be awakened

### What To Do If Your Dog Shows Signs Of Heatstroke

If you notice signs of heatstroke, you need to act quickly to cool your dog down. There are several ways of doing this, but first of all make sure your dog is in a cool, shaded area. Then you can either spray them with cool water, submerge their whole body (excluding their head) in cool water, wrap them in cool wet towels, douse the dog's belly with rubbing alcohol which evaporates quickly and provides cooling, or use fans/air conditioned spaces to cool them down.

It's important that you **use cool water, not cold or iced water**. This might sound counter-intuitive, but very cold water can restrict the blood vessels, making cooling more difficult. Cooling your dog too quickly could also be damaging in other ways.

Once your dog's temperature comes down to 103 degrees F (you should have a thermometer as part of your doggy first-aid kit, but if you don't, go out and get one now), stop the cooling measures. Cooling your dog's body temperature too low could be dangerous, so you don't want to do that.

## Snake Bites in Dogs

**Editor's Note:** Carol McCorkle was at the vet's the other day, and he suggested that she should make sure to have Benadryl on hand for snake bites. She hadn't heard of that before (neither had I!) so looked it up and found the following post by Dr. Larry Helm on the United Waterfowlers Forum. Snake bites can be a real problem — two of the puppies that we have sold have been bitten by Copperheads during their field training, and although both of them survived the bite it was a tough go. I'm heading off to Walmart to stock up on some Benadryl!

First, let me say that I have been a vet for 23 years in North Florida. We treat probably an average of 15 snake bites a year. That would translate to over 300 snake bite cases I have treated, or been involved in. So my opinions are not based on what happened to one dog, or my neighbor's dog or even the 2 dogs that have been bitten that I personally owned. So not only have I treated a lot, but since I do treat so many, I stay current with current treatment options and what works best (based on data, not stories). So, here goes with some absolutes about snakes. The things that follow are facts that I have either observed or read or both.

- There is no magic time for how long until treatment. Get them there as soon as you safely can. I have saved dogs that were bitten 24 hours prior and had patients die that I saw within 30 minutes. The exception is if there is a bite to the tongue or inside of mouth that may cause breathing issues. I have never seen a bite to the nose cause life threatening breathing issues.
- You do not need to make any effort whatsoever to "get the snake" to take it to the vet. If it is poisonous and causes swelling, we know what to do. Water Moccasins are the least toxic, Copperheads next (we have tons of them around here) and Rattlesnakes are the worst. Moccasins may have more tissue toxicity, i.e. damage to local tissue and pain —but they are the least toxic of the snakes. However, they can still kill a dog.
- Antivenin is NOT an antidote (meaning it cures). I rarely give it anymore. There are situations where I think it is best to give it, but I have found very little prediction of survival based on antivenin administration. There are some cases that are so bad, you had better use everything you have (e.g., bites to the body of small dogs or cats).
- Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) is NEVER wrong to give and almost always, if not always, will help the patient. The liquid is nearly as fast as an injection.
- Treatment by a veterinarian will ALWAYS result in less disease for the patient, in spite of what some people say. Absolutely, many patients will survive without veterinary treatment. But snake venom is a huge protein and huge proteins are deposited on the basement membrane of the kidneys when filtered. This leads to immune-related injury to the kidneys from snake bites that may not be clinically relevant, but could lead to permanent kidney damage that could affect them later in life. Intravenous fluids reduces this risk as well as keeps the patient well hydrated to get rid of the venom and reduce the toxins built up from necrotic (dead) tissue resulting from snake bites. Simply put, if you want to increase the dog's chances of survival and less long term disease, take them to the vet. If the dog is not worth that much to you, then take your chances; plenty of dogs survive with no treatment. But that means nothing for what will happen with YOUR dog.

A lot of factors play a role in the odds for the dog surviving a snake bite:

- Location of bite — nose, face, head, legs, trunk of body (best to worst)
- Time of year — fall snakes have been actively feeding and have less stored venom, while spring snakes have more likelihood of having stored venom from less recent feeding

## Snake Bites, Con't.

- amount of injection - a miss or an oblique bite that does not get full injection
- species of snake
- size of snake (more venom = more serious)
- prior history of bites improves patients odds (more immune response to the venom)
- vaccination (just don't know enough to know if this helps or not, not sure anyone can yet answer that question with anything other than a story)
- electroshock— this treatment is worthless or worse and may actually harm tissue. No one is really doing this anymore, but I still get asked this occasionally.



No one, vet or otherwise, can predict which dog will live and which will die by looking at them, or even by running tests. There are just so many variables. I can often tell someone that the odds are bad or that the odds are good, but sometimes I am wrong. I still get surprised. If you have a 99% chance of survival, that means 1 in 100 die of the disease. Those are good odds unless you are the 1.

My opinions are that antivenin is overused. It's easier to defend yourself in court — I gave the dog anti-venin, so I did everything — but it is expensive and we probably grossly under-dose it. A 12 year old human near me treated by "people vets" was given 110 vials of antivenin at around \$3000 per vial. In dogs, a vial costs between \$700-\$1000 each and we typically give just one vial. They probably need many many more. I am NOT saying don't give it, I am just saying it should be decided on a case by case basis. IV fluids are the single most important treatment for helping a snake bite victim recover with the minimal amount of disease, with benadryl being second. Some patients are going to die, no matter if they were in a veterinary University Teaching Hospital at the time of the bite, and there is NOTHING that could have been done to save them. I have had patients die within 30 minutes of the bite (one was a Jack Russell bitten in the side of the chest; the other was an American Bulldog bitten between 5-10 times all over the body).

If you ask me, "What can I do to make the odds the best in my dog's favor so it will not die from a snake bite?", I would say;

a) Get your dog Snake proofed (or better yet, Snake Trained). In this training, a defanged snake is released, the dog is taken near it and an E-collar is used to make him want to stay the H away from snakes. It needs to be done more than once to make sure the dog is a believer. There are plenty of folks around the state that do this; it is relatively inexpensive and is well worth the effort. This training should probably be repeated yearly to every other year.

b) Keep Benadryl in your dog first aid kit — use the Children's Liquid, generic is fine. Give them 1 tsp for every 12.5 pounds of body weight if they are bitten.

c) Get your dog to a vet if they are bitten as soon as reasonably possible. Do not be overdramatic and get in a car accident to get there, but do not stop at the dry cleaners on the way either. Proceed with due haste.

## Member News and Announcements



### **New MH Title and Qualified for the Master National!**

Congratulations to Jeremy Majors and Razors Double J MH. JJ earned his Master Title on April 13, 2019 in Atlanta, and then Qualified for the Master National on April 29/, 2019 at the Middle TN Spring Master Only test. JJ is by FC Seaside's Gorgeous George out of Riley Creek Troublesome Eye Candy MH.

**Congratulations to Luke McCoy and McCoy's Echo Callin' Your Name MH.** Echo earned that MH title at the Middle Tennessee test May 17-19, 2019, and then came back the next weekend to pass again at our ETRC test on May 27 and 28, thereby earning his qualification for the Master National. Echo is bred by Luke's uncle and aunt, Brent and Val McCoy. He is out of their McCoy's Acappella Adirondac Crescendo MH (Ella) and by Real Gold Mccoy's Governor SH (Guv), who is owned by another McCoy family member, Matt McCoy. Notice how they are color coordinated, red dog and red beard — nice!



## 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](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](mailto: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

<b>Master Amateur Invitational</b>	<b>Butte, Montana</b>	<b>06/02/19</b>
North Mississippi ARC	Bruce, MS	06/08/19
Buckeye RC	Chardon, OH	06/15/19
Black Warrior RC Summer Test	Greensboro, AL	06/21/19
Blue Ridge RC (60)	Emporia, VA	06/22/19
Greater Pittsburgh LRC	Chardon, OH	06/22/19
Buckeye RC Master Only	Chardon, OH	07/16/19

*Numbers in parentheses are limits on number of Master dogs*

### Upcoming AKC Field Trials

Back Bay Knotts Island RC—DD, Q    Goldvein, VA    06/14/19



## 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](mailto:edwardskc@gmail.com)).