



# HWA Update

January, 2021

[www.huntingworkingairedales.com](http://www.huntingworkingairedales.com)

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## Save the Dates!

### HWA Fun in the Field

April 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

HWA 35th Annual Airedale Field Nationals,  
Date to be Announced,  
Most likely the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September, 2021

Both at Holly Hills Game Preserve,  
near Chillicothe, OH

### Fun in the Field –

Something to Look Forward To

**HWA's annual Fun in the Field weekend takes place on April 10-11, 2021** at Holly Hills Game Preserve, near Chillicothe, OH. This is a weekend for training with both raccoons and pheasants. Its



intended for dogs and owners who may have never tried it before, on up to those who come to increase their skills through the practice opportunities we offer. Along the way we have the chance to enjoy the company of many Airedales and their owners in the very pleasant setting of Holly Hills Game Preserve.

If you haven't previously attended a Fun in the Fields, there will be plenty for your dog to do. We hope to have a live raccoon (safely caged)

*(Cont'd pg 2, left column)*

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*Happy New Year!*

### Nationals News – Stay Tuned

After last year's Covid-prompted cancellation, we're looking forward to having our Nationals this year. Plans remain as usual for holding an ATCA Fur Test and HWA Upland and Retriever tests, as well as workshops for beginners at Holly Hills Game Preserve. Our host hotel will be Deer Creek Lodge, as was planned for last year.

The date of the Nationals will be the second or third weekend in September. Finalizing that date depends on coordinating it was another important event Holly Hills owner Dean Hatfield has pending on his calendar. We know many of you need to make your plans well in advance, so we'll let you know our Nationals date as soon as possible.

*(Fun in the Field, cont'd from pg 1, left column)*

ready to meet your Airedale up close. We'll be laying a raccoon-scented track for to give your dog some tracking practice, leading up to finding the caged raccoon high in a tree.

We also offer an introduction to game birds for pups and dogs who have never seen or smelled a live bird. You might be surprised how the "lightbulb" turns on for many dogs when they have a chance to do some bird chasing. Your coaches will be HWA members who want to help you get started, so all lessons will be informal and stress-free.



For those who are ready to hunt, we'll have pheasant hunting sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. Spectators will see some some exciting bird finding by Airedales with a range of experience, from some who may be trying it for the first time, on up to Master level dogs working on honing their skills. HWA provides the gunners, just be sure to wear a blaze orange vest or jacket, as required even for spectators in the upland field.

Entry /reservation forms for Fun in the Field will be sent out to our email mailing list and posted on our website in February. You'll have several weeks to sign up, and we hope you do.

## HWA's Board of Directors for 2021

*President*

Chris Halvorson

*Vice-President*

Susan Hogsette

*Secretary*

Kim Zaborniak

*Treasurer*

John Noland

### Board Members

Cindy Green

Linda Potter

Mary Wright

Angela Dobbins

This year we welcome new Board member Angela Dobbins. Angela takes over the Board position vacated by Diane Maxwell, who rotated off the Board after serving the maximum of two consecutive terms. Many thanks to Diane for four years of Board service. And continuing Thanks to all our Board members for all your hard work!

### Quiz Answers\*

1-E, 2-G, 3-C, 4-H, 5-J, 6-B,  
7-K, 8-A, 9-L, 10-M, 11-F, 12-D, 13-I

\* See page 8

## Don't Make Us Beg You

It's HWA Membership Renewal Time.... If you're a past member who hasn't renewed so far this year, the next step will be for our membership volunteer to mail you an individual letter asking for your renewal. This isn't done automatically by a machine. Rather, it takes up considerable time and effort for our volunteer. So, please, renew now and don't make us send you a special invitation. See page 3 for the details.

## 2021 HWA Membership - WHY?

HWA's membership drive started last September, but picks up intensity now through February. Our membership year runs from January through December, so if you join in the middle or end of the year, you still pay full dues for a partial year. You can download the 2021 Membership form for renewals or new memberships on our website in the Contact Us section or via this link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/HWA%20Membership%20Form%202021.pdf>

When this announcement was posted on HWA's Facebook page earlier this year, someone asked: "What does an HWA membership mean?"

The answer is:

"HWA membership means you financially and morale- support HWA's goals of maintaining and promoting the Airedale as a hunting dog. Even if you can't attend our events and even if you don't hunt yourself, if you feel Airedales should be keen to do what they were originally meant to do, then an HWA membership is something you might consider. ( Just as folks are members of clubs like World Wildlife Fund or Pheasants Forever, even if they never interact with wild animals or pheasant). Plus an HWA membership gives you access to the member's section of our website, where you'll get a closer look at the club through its financial reports and summaries of Board meeting minutes. Being an HWA member is more of a state of mind or identity rather than joining a club so that you get freebies like address labels or a shirt in return. It's a self- rewarding thing."

Of course, we hope that many of our HWA members will be able to attend our events, such as Fun in the Field in April and the Nationals in September. These events provide an all-Airedale venue for training, HWA tests, and forming friendships in the Airedale world. Our breed isn't all that numerous or popular, so HWA's function in bringing together Airedalers with a shared interest in Airedales in the field is an important reason for its existence.

HWA membership also qualifies you to take a turn serving on our Board of Directors, be considered for the Breeders' Referral listing, and organize a regional event. While you may not have the time or inclination to be deeply involved in the inner life of the club right now, remember the continuation of HWA rests in its membership.

## How to Find AKC Hunt Tests

After the disappointment of dog event cancellations throughout most of last year, many of us are looking forward to returning to AKC upland (spaniel) and / or retriever hunt tests this year. If you want to find details on hunt tests coming up near you, there's a few places to look for upcoming AKC hunt tests. In recent years, many dog clubs have switched to online entry services to handle the posting of entry information and doing the entry sign-ups.

**Hunt Secretary** ( [www.huntsecretary.com](http://www.huntsecretary.com) ) is one of the popular online entry services used for hunt test entries. **Entry Express** ( [www.entryexpress.net](http://www.entryexpress.net) ) is another. Online entry services list details and take entries for tests held all over the US. These entry services handle AKC hunt tests, which Airedales can enter. They also handle AKC field trials, which Airedales can't enter. They also handle tests and trials for pointing breeds, and HRC tests, which Airedales can't enter. So when you're looking for tests, be sure to search or filter just for the AKC tests Airedales can run.



Another online source of hunt test information is the **American Kennel Club's website's Events section** -- see <https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search> This search venue is unfortunately a bit more complicated to use, since you must search state-by-state and within a time-frame, so it's more tedious to find a wider picture of what's available. However, this will give you information on upcoming tests from dog clubs that choose not to use Hunt Secretary or Entry Express.

*(Continued on page 4, right column)*

## Picking through Pedigrees

Listen to any group of field dog enthusiasts talk about how they picked their next puppy project, you'll never hear them say, "Oh, he was so cute!" or "She just picked me." Instead, they'll talk about the pup's pedigree, pointing out the field trial champions or master hunters in the pup's first few generations of ancestors. They picked the pup who was bred to hunt.

Unlike most hunting breeds, Airedales don't have numerous bloodlines with multiple generations of field-titled dogs. But Airedales do have a small group of HWA member breeders who use hunting or performance ability as a criteria for their breeding choices. You can find a listing of those breeders on HWA's website under the About section, or by this direct link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/breeder-referral>

Airedales also have an increasing number of dogs who have proven their ability by earning hunt test titles. HWA's annual update of our listing of all (to the best of our knowledge) who have earned hunt test titles since the start of our program can be found on our website's About section of by this direct link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/hunt-test-title-holders>

"Hunt test titles" means titles earned in AKC, HRC [Hunting Retriever Club, affiliated with the UKC], HWA, ATCA [Airedale Terrier Club of America], or GLSDA [Great Lakes Sporting Dog Association]. Performance titles include all titles offered by an organized program or club, including agility titles and IPO titles.

In addition, HWA's website has a photo showcase of all Airedales who have earned a hunt test title offered by the AKC or HRC. This recognizes achievements of Airedales and owners who have successfully competed in the wider, established multi-breed sporting dog world, and by so doing have brought favorable attention to our breed.

***We don't do this  
to satisfy the ego of the owner.***

HWA is the only organization that maintains and publishes this record, so it's a historical

*(Continued on page 5, left column)*

*(Hunt Tests, continued from page 3, right column)*

Keep in mind when searching for tests near you that there may not be many or any tests near you. Some states – let's say Wisconsin – seem to have active dog clubs and numerous hunt tests. Other states, such as New York, have very few tests. Those who are hooked on doing hunt tests with their dogs get used to traveling across state lines for test opportunities.

Also, dog clubs usually post their test dates and details as soon as their judging panel is approved by the AKC. This might be months ahead of the test date, so this gives plenty of time to plan to enter. However, entries are usually limited, so if you wait too long, your entry might go on a waiting list or just not get in. There is a certain amount of competition to get entries in to popular annual tests, so keep an eye on the activity on the entry services.

The good news is that once you've established your account with an entry service, entering a test takes just a few keystrokes and a charge on your credit card. And away you'll go.



Pet or sport dog?  
Have a look at the pedigree.

(Pedigrees, cont'd from page 4, left column)

record for our breed. Along with the dog's hunt test title, we list that dog's other performance and/or conformation titles that show the dog's versatility.

This listing is a research tool for people looking to get a puppy from proven working lines. Taking note of which owners or kennel names produce successful dogs is a starting point. The photo showcase of AKC title-holders gives more information of each dog's accomplishments, appearance, pedigree and breeder.

While it still holds true that most Airedales from all backgrounds have some hunting instinct, if you're serious about the sport, why not maximize your chances of finding a good one based on planned genetics rather than just good fortune?



Shoulda used Cowboy Magic.  
(See "Sno Sports, S'No Fun", next page.)

## Educating the Public

**"Why would anyone want to hunt with an Airedale?"** Have you heard that? Or at least realize it was what some others were thinking when you showed up on hunt grounds with your Airedale? Well, we have a tool for you. HWA's Versatile 3-in-1 Gundog tri-fold brochure explains the advantages of a hunting dog that's full of personality and talents beyond a specialist breed. Help us educate the skeptics by having some on hand to pass out to friends not familiar with hunting Airedales.

You can see and this brochure from the Links/Resources section of our website or via this link: <http://www.huntingairedales.org/AiredaleGundogBrochure.pdf>

And if you're an Airedale breeder, we'd love it if you include one of HWA's New Puppy brochures in the information packets for your puppy buyers. The colorful tri-fold brochure adds some pep to your puppy packet, and may give new owners who haven't thought of field work for their pup an idea of something new to try. You can preview that brochure on: <https://www.huntingairedales.org/Puppy%20Owner%20Brochure.pdf>

We'd be happy to mail you some brochures professionally printed on glossy paper at no charge if you email your request to [hwainformation@gmail.com](mailto:hwainformation@gmail.com)



## A New Ball Bird Game

While many Airedales have participated in HWA's hunt tests since they started in 1994, the permission for Airedales to enter American Kennel Club (AKC) Hunt Tests was a long time coming. Airedales have been allowed to run in AKC Upland (Spaniel) tests since 2009. Since then, more than 25 Airedales have earned AKC Upland titles. It took till August, 2019 for Airedales to be allowed to run in AKC Retriever Tests. So far three Airedales have earned AKC Retriever hunt test titles. With AKC Retriever Tests as a new game for Airedale sport, the challenge is out there to learn more about retriever training.



Libby, owned/handled by John Bell, retrieves her duck in an ATCA Retriever Test.

Training for upland hunting (meaning flushing game birds such as pheasant, chukar, or grouse) and retriever hunting (meaning waterfowl) shares many basic starting points. Both types of training start with obedience basics of come, sit, stay, heel. Field dogs are all introduced to swimming, gunfire, and beginning retrieves with bumpers. Most field dogs are force-fetched (taught that picking up and holding birds is not optional) and conditioned to e-collars so dogs can be coached at a distance during training.

Once the basics are done, branching off to retriever training has some advantages over upland training. You can work on retriever training all year long by using dummies and dead-fowl trainers (such as Dokkens), You don't need as many live birds, gunners or shooting  
*(Continued on page 7, left column)*

## Snow Sports, S'no Fun?

However enjoyable winter hunting with your Airedale is -- as are winter hikes or just playing in the yard -- dealing with those clumps of wet snow that cling to your dog's legs and beard is no fun. Here's a few ways to cope gathered from friends and Facebook.

Spraying or rubbing your Airedale's legs and beard with **Cowboy Magic** before you head out helps prevent snow clumps taking hold. These products (Show Sheen and Mane and Tail are similar) were developed as detanglers for horses' manes and tails, but they also provide a slippery coating to your dog's longer hair that slides the snowballs off. These products also work well in autumn to help pricklers and sticky weeds taking hold in your dog's coat.

**Mushers' Secret** is a vasoline-like product that you can spread on your dog's feet to protect from icy, uneven terrain. This product also helps protect canine feet from salt on streets and sidewalks.



Do you have a walk-in shower with a spray-hose in your home? You'll find that even a dog who's reluctant to get a bath won't mind having the snow clumps on his legs quickly melted by a warm water spray. A quick towel dry, and good to go.

Another friend uses a cook's whisk to whisk the snow balls off her Airedale's legs. What will they think of next?

*If you do not wish to stay connected through our HWA email mailing list, please contact HWApres@gmail to ask to be removed.*

*(New Dog Game, cont'd from pg 6)*

ability, or field space with good cover as you do for upland training. You don't need to go to game preserves to practice. If you have an Airedale who tends to point – which is a disqualification in upland tests --- that won't be worry in the retriever tests. If you have a big-running dog who has to be reminded to stay in gun range for upland hunting, that dog may relish the longer-distance retrieves that are part of the retriever skill set.



Filson, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, demonstrates a long-distance retrieve at a retriever seminar.

Those who enjoy upland training or hunting may argue that retriever training requires more obedience and less follow-the-nose hunting than upland hunting. While marking and memory are important in both types of hunting, long-distance retrieves beyond what's usually required in upland tests are the standard for retriever tests. When training, the handler usually needs an assistant who throw bumpers at a distance or invest in an electronic remote bumper launcher. Retriever training puts great emphasis on a dog obedience to handler's signals. Dogs must follow the handler's direction to take a direct line to a hidden bird, and learn to turn in various directions on the handler's commands. Once past junior-level of training, the retriever must heel off-leash and be steady (sit-stay) through distractions of multiple birds launched, shot, and dropped.

Ready to learn more about retriever test skills? See the quiz on the next page to test your knowledge of retriever test terms. Answers to the quiz are on page 3 of this newsletter.

## Thanks to Those Who Came Before

The idea that Airedales could work as retrievers as well as upland bird dogs (not to mention fur-tracking dogs) has been a basic tenet for HWA since its founding in 1985.

Long before the American Kennel Club was willing to admit Airedales to AKC Retriever Tests, HWA's Retriever Tests demonstrated what Airedales can do.

Here's some photos from our archives of some outstanding retrieving Airedales who led the way to wider recognition for our breed.



**Forge,**  
owned/handled  
by Ron Swisher,  
2002 Nationals



**MacDuff,**  
owned/handled by  
Dave Morgan,  
2002 Nationals



**Winston,**  
owned/handled by  
Randy Cooley,  
2000 Nationals



**Darby,**  
owned/handled by  
Dee Lulik, 2000 Nationals

## How Well Do You Know Your Retriever Test Terms?

Match the terms in left column with the correction definitions on the right.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Hard mouth        | A. Birds are thrown with shot fired from a hidden position.   |
| 2. Blind retrieve    | B. Dog gives up after establishing a hunt in the area of the fall of a bird, and then goes to the area of another fall and establishes a hunt; or, dropping the bird being retrieved and going for another. |
| 3. Freezing          | C. Reluctance or refusal by the dog to release a bird from its mouth on delivery.   |
| 4. Under Judgment    | D. Dog that should be proceeding on a line towards a retrieve is unsure where to go, so voluntarily stops and looks back to handler for more directions.  |
| 5. Diversion shot    | E. Badly damaging a bird by biting or mouthing it too hard without justification, so the bird is unfit for human consumption in the opinion of the judges.  |
| 6. Switching         | F. Dog leaves the handler on a tentative yet excited basis short of breaking, for instance, by scooting forward while sitting.  |
| 7. Refusal           | G. Dog retrieves a bird it did not see fall.  |
| 8. Hidden Gun        | H. During a test, the time from when a dog is called to the line until it has left the line after its exercise and is in back of the judges.  |
| 9. Break             | I. Dog leaves to retrieve before being commanded to do so, but is quickly brought back under control by a whistle or verbal command.  |
| 10. Honor            | J. A distraction shot with which no bird is thrown  |
| 11. Creeping         | K. Failure to stop and look at the handler when signaled to do so resulting in a failure to stop and sit at a whistle or move in the direction of the handler's commands.                                   |
| 12. Popping          | L. Deliberate movement by the dog to retrieve without being ordered to do so.   |
| 13. Controlled break | M. In senior and master retriever tests only, a dog must observe at close range, without physical restraint from its handler, as another dog goes through the process of marking and retrieving a bird.     |



(Hints and more terms can be found in the "AKC Retriever Hunt Test Definitions" document in the Links/Resources section of our website: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/AKC-Retriever%20Hunt-Test-Definitions.pdf>)