



HWA Update

June, 2021

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Feel free to read it, save it, share it or (sigh) delete it.*

HWA Nationals Are Back

HWA's 35th Airedale Field Nationals will take place September 10-12th at Holly Hills Game Preserve, near Chillicothe, OH. We had to take last year off due to the pandemic, but we look forward to being back to normal by September. Most hunting events this year have had booming entries since folks can't wait to get back outdoor group activities. We hope you'll be joining us!

If you'd be a first-time attendee at the HWA Nationals, this is a great place to see what Airedale field work is all about and to find out if you like it. If you have a puppy or dog not trained for field work, our Hunting Instinct Test will evaluate your dog's hunting instincts and enjoyment. See page 5 for more details. If you love to try field work, but don't know how, this year's Beginners' Workshop will get you started in the skills needed for upland hunting (as in finding and flushing pheasants, quail or grouse) or upland hunt tests. This year pro trainer Duane Menges joins us as workshop presenter. More details on page 4.

Just want to have some fun with your Airedale? Our Barkathon on Friday and Pocket Quail contest on Sunday are two fun contests that invite Airedales to use their voice and their noses - no training required. Holly Hills has spacious grounds to walk your dogs and socialize even if you're not into hunting.

Maybe you've never seen an Airedale hunt? The HWA Upland and Retriever tests have a spectators' gallery, so you can watch dogs in the junior to master level HWA tests.

If your Airedale has had some training, the ATCA Fur Test will again be offered on Junior, Senior and Master levels on Friday. Since 2018 the titles you earn in this test can be registered with the AKC so that they appear as parent club titles in your dog's pedigree and title certificates. Several of our members have taken advantage of that opportunity. Check out the article "How to

(Continued on page 2, left column)

In This Newsletter:

HWA Nationals Are Back	1-2
"Time Sensitive" Alert.....	1
Deer Creek Lodge Headquarters	2
Nominating Committee (Time Sensitive).....	3
Gunners' Award (Time Sensitive)	3
Nationals Judges Introduced.....	4
Duane Menges' Beginner Workshop	4
Hunting Instinct Test	5
Banquet Coordinator Needed	6
Nationals Entries Begin in July	6
Too Hot to Train?	6
Nationals Sponsorships	7
Nationals Catalog	7
Limited Raffle Teaser	7
Airedale Initiative	8
Hunting Airedale Honor Roll	9-10
Fun in the Field Photo Page	11



"Time Sensitive" Means "Attention!"

Heads up! If you're just giving this newsletter a glance and planning to come back to it when you have more time, we don't want you to miss two important "time sensitive" items inside.

- 1) If you'd like to **sponsor** the newly-designed **Gunners' Choice Trophy**, you must offer to do so with **48 hours** of receiving this newsletter. See page 3 for details;
- 2) If you'd like to self-nominate or nominate someone else for the Treasurer's Board position, you have until **June 15** to submit the nomination. See page 3 for details.

(Nationals, cont'd from page 1)

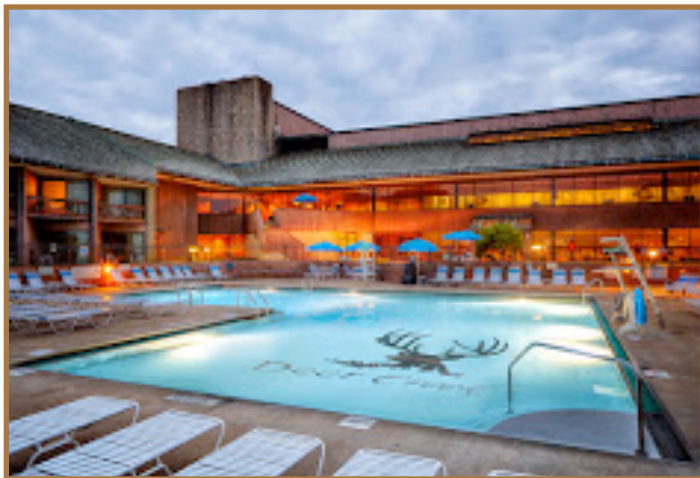
Train for a Fur Test” on our website in the Links/Resources section: <https://www.huntingairedales.org/How%20To%20Train%20For%20Fur%20Test.pdf> Use these months before the Nationals to give your dog the advantage of some practice tracks.

The HWA Upland and Retriever Tests have experienced judges who want you to succeed. In 2019 our HWA Hunt Test rules were revised and updated to be more in line with AKC Upland (Spaniel) Test and Retriever Test Rules, so we encourage you to check the rules posted in the Links/Resources section of our website so that you know the trained requirements that are expected of you and your Airedale: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/links-resources>

HWA’s full-color Nationals catalog is a keepsake that’s made even better by the advertising pages you send us. More on the how and why of this on page 7.

Deer Creek Lodge will be a new headquarters hotel for us this year. Find out some things you should know about our new location on page 2.

HWA’s Banquet will take place on Saturday evening, as is traditional. This year we will not have our Silent Auction of donated items for diners to bid on. We’re seeking a volunteer who will help with banquet coordination. See page 6 for more details.



Deer Creek Lodge, our Nationals headquarters hotel

Deer Creek Lodge, a Headquarters with Amenities

This year we’re daring to try something different for our Nationals headquarters. Instead of an ordinary hotel, our headquarters will be a resort lodge within an Ohio state park. Guests at the Deer Creek Lodge will enjoy its Great Room with fireplace and its two restaurants, including Rafters for full meals and a sports bar with more casual food. HWA will have a Hospitality space on Thursday event (Sept. 9) with complimentary pizza, and our Saturday evening Banquet will most likely be a buffet offering menu choices.

Because its located in a state park, this is a most enjoyable place to bring your dog. You can walk your Airedale on hiking trails that border a lake. There’s lots of space and nature, and little traffic. Though the outdoor swimming pool will likely be closed, there is a golf course for those who plan on spending an extra day or two there. The park also has a campground you could use as an alternative to staying in the lodge.

Other dog clubs have used Deer Creek Lodge as their event headquarters with good reports, but there are a few things to keep in mind as we see how it will affect attendees at our Nationals. The lodge is located in Mount Sterling, OH, which is more than an hour’s drive from Holly Hills Game Preserve, the site of our event. This is probably this biggest drawback since it means you’ll have to get up extra early to get to Holly Hills for our early morning starting times. Fortunately most of the drive will be on well-established highways rather than country back roads, but still, you won’t be sleeping in on test days. Also, since the lodge normally caters to vacationers rather than early-rising business people, there is no complimentary breakfast buffet that some hotels offer. We suggest you plan ahead to bring some breakfast food to your room, or else plan a bit extra time to get some breakfast at a fast-food restaurant en route to Holly Hills.

The Nationals’ Premium (entry /reservation form) which will be emailed to you in July will have complete information on how to book your room with HWA’s room block rates. You’ll note the room rates are a bit higher than our past hotel, and there is a \$30 room cleaning fee for all rooms that have guests with dogs. We hope you’ll find the amenities worth the expense. Just as a reminder, bring a crate for your room if your planning on leaving your dog there while you’re out eating or socializing. We’re looking forward to Deer Creek, and we want to be good guests.

Time Sensitive- June 15th deadline

Nominating Committee Named for 2022 Elections

The HWA Nominating Committee for the 2022 Board elections has been named, as follows:

Chris Halvorson, Chair
Kim Zaborniak
Corally Burmaster

The Nominating Committee will be looking for candidates to fill one important Board position, namely Treasurer.

Before glancing over this as a job for someone else, please consider if **you** could (should) be **HWA's next Treasurer**. We need someone who :

- Will keep track of club finances on an Excel spreadsheet that has already been developed. The Treasurer uses the spreadsheet to present monthly financial reports to our Board. In addition, the Treasurer presents year-to-date financial report to our members at the Annual Meeting, held at our Nationals, and finally, the Annual Financial report is prepared for our website at the end of the year.
- Will do our club banking, that is, be in charge of the club checkbook, and deposit incoming checks, supervise the club PayPal account, and pay club expenses. HWA currently uses PNC Bank, so if the perspective Treasurer has a PNC bank branch in his/her town, setting up the account with a new Treasurer will be even easier.
- Will be able to join monthly teleconference Board meetings, and also should be able to attend most of our two annual events in order to be on hand with the checkbook to pay expenses incurred at the events.
- Will have the option to receive entries for our events along with payments for them, and to receive membership dues forms along with the dues. Our past Treasurers choose to do so, reasoning that receiving the paperwork the came in with monies made it easier to keep track of. However, the work of tabulating event entries and membership could be shared with an Events Secretary or Membership Chair, so this work is technically not part of the Treasurer's duties.

Time-Sensitive Sponsorship Information
48 Hours to Offer!

Gunners' Choice Award Trophy Has New Features This Year

This award is presented annually to the Airedale the official gunners in the Upland Test would most like to hunt over. As such, it is one of the most "good feeling" awards an owner might receive since it shows that experienced hunters have picked your Airedale. The selected dog doesn't have to qualify in the test, but it no doubt showed a hunting style that impressed the gunners.

This year the trophy has a new shape and design. Made of acrylic with a beveled silver edge and wood base, the trophy now includes the date it was awarded, making it even more of an individualized keepsake.

Our tradition is the every year someone "sponsors" this trophy at a cost of \$70. Its often happened that Board or committee members who know about the trophy offered to sponsor it before we have a chance to announce it to the larger group of HWA supporters. This year we decided to devise a more democratic plan for recruiting sponsors.

Starting from the time this newsletter is sent out, a 48 hour period for offering to sponsor the Gunners Choice Trophy will begin.



If you'd like to sponsor the Gunners' Choice Award this year, please contact us at hwainformation@gmail.com within that time. If we receive more than one offer to sponsor it, we'll hold an impartial drawing of one name. We'll notify you if you're the sponsor, and your name will appear with the trophy and list of prior winners in the catalog, as well as being announced at the Banquet.

Nationals Judges Introduced

We pleased to have an excellent roster of judges for our 2021 HWA Nationals hunt tests. Here's a brief introduction:

Mark Geeb, who will serve as one of our HWA Upland Hunt Test judges, got his first English Springer Spaniel in the late 1990's. He got involved in AKC Hunt Tests and Field trials in the mid-2000s. He has titled multiple dogs at all levels of the AKC Hunt Tests and in AKC Field Trials. He has judged AKC Hunt Tests for over 10 years and a little over 5 years for Field trials.

Kate Ostrowski, who will also be an HWA Upland Hunt Test judge at this year's Nationals, is an HWA members who has owned Airedales for 25 years. Nine years ago, Filson became the Airedale who introduced Kate and her husband Joe to the idea of hunting Airedales. Filson has earned his AKC Master Hunter Upland title, HWA Master Retriever, HWA Junior Fur, and the HWA Joan Shea Gordon award. Kate became an AKC Spaniel Upland Hunt test judge in 2018, the first Airedale owner to do so.

Sharon Gingerich-Bush, one of our HWA Retriever Test judges, is on the Board of Directors of the Presque Isle Retriever Club. More information will be available in the Judges' Biographies in our Nationals catalog.

Jim Middaugh, who will judge both the HWA Retriever Test and ATCA Fur Test, participated in HWA events in the early 1990s with his Airedales with an emphasis on the Fur Tests. His Airedale Luke earned a JHV title, his Airedale Jack earned a SHV title, and both dogs went on to HWA's Master Fur titles. In recent years, Jim has owned and trained Labrador Retrievers, but he continues his involvement with Airedales by judging ATCA Fur Tests and ATCA Retriever Tests at the ATCA's Cooley Hunt Tests in Wisconsin.

Dale Burrier, ATCA Fur Test Judge, has owned Airedales since 1982 and has competed in obedience trials since 1986. His accomplishments include putting 24 obedience, rally and hunt test titles on 10 Airedales, as well as grooming and showing 4 champion and 2 grand champion Airedales since 2013.

(Continued on page 5, left column)

Duane Menges' Beginners' Workshop

This year pro-trainer Duane Menges comes to our Nationals to present a workshop designed to help you and your dog get started in upland (flushing) field work. The workshop will include six hours of instruction and participation with dogs, divided into sessions on Friday morning (Sept. 20) and sessions on Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon (Sept. 21). If you're also planning to enter your dog in the ATCA Fur Test, which will be taking place on Friday morning, you'll be able to take a short "leave" from the workshop to run your dog in the Fur Test, so the two activities are not mutually exclusive. You'll also be done with the Friday morning workshop session in time to enter the Hunting Instinct test on Friday afternoon.

Duane has the depth of experience to give participants in the Beginner's Workshop a pro-level start. He became involved in dog training in 1992 when he bought his first English Springer Spaniel off a professional trainer by the name of John Isaac. Duane is a member of the Ravenna Field Trial Club.

Duane started running Hunter's Trials and AKC Field Trials with the Springer Spaniels in 1994. He has also Hunting Retrieval Trials (HRC trials) with Labs and currently has 2 Labs with their started titles.

In 2007, Duane began his career as a professional all breed gun dog trainer. He has trained for Thomas Vale, former owner of the Cleveland Plain Dealer and member of the Bird Dog Hall of Fame. Currently, Duane works with Russ Smith, another Bird Dog Hall of Fame member, in training and running field trials all over the U.S.



Airedales meet a game bird in a Beginner's Workshop

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

(Judges, cont'd from page 4)

From 1990 to 2007, Dale has been involved with ATCA Hunting/Working activities, and had served on the ATCA H/W committee between 1994 and 2007.

Sherri Glass, our principle judge for the Hunting Instinct Test, grew up on a family farm and has been around animals all her life. When her husband John, who was a police officer, got a drug dog, my life changed – she found Airedales. With her husband's ties to law enforcement, Sherri trained Airedales for Drug Detection and Search and Rescue, along with some Obedience, Rally and Coon Tracking. Her first working dog, Bo, was picked using the puppy test, Sherri believes in and loves doing puppy test and instinct evaluations. She has used the Puppy Aptitude test for over 25 years, testing Airedale litters as well as numerous other breeds.

Currently, Sherri owns her own grooming boutique and is a licensed grooming instructor for the State of Ohio. She is a well-known breeder of Airedales under the Stillwater kennel prefix.



Evaluating Airedales' inclination to enter water in a Hunting Instinct Test.

The Hunting Instinct Test, Fun with a Purpose

If you're bringing a puppy or new dog to the Nationals for the first time, be sure to enter the Hunting Instinct Test to give him or her the first taste of field experience. This test is designed to evaluate the hunting instincts of pups around 6 months of age and up (that is, they've finished teething and have adult dentition). Older dogs may also be entered in the test if they haven't had prior field training.

In this informal evaluation, pups will be assessed on such things as their natural prey drive and retrieving instincts, on their reaction to encountering live caged game, and their inclination to follow a scent track, and on their willingness to go into the water. Pups are scored on each "exercise," and those who score at least 70 out of 100 possible points "qualify" and receive a certificate. Sherri Glass, a longtime Airedale breeder who has puppy-tested hundreds of pups, is well qualified work with her assistants to make this a fun and stress-free experience.

Airedale pups often surprise their owners with their enthusiasm, and more than one future "superstar" pup has pulled its owners into further field efforts. Spectators also enjoy watching the pups go through their paces, especially if they're taking note of what kennels or bloodlines are producing pups that do well.

The timing of the Hunting Instinct Test on Friday afternoon allows owners to participate in the Beginners' Workshop, as sessions don't overlap.



Elliott, owned/handled by Kim Zaborniak, on his way to an ATCA Junior Fur Test qualification at the 2019 Nationals.

HWA Banquet Seeking a Volunteer Coordinator

We're looking for one or two volunteers who will serve as our club's **Banquet Coordinator** at the Nationals. For many years, Corally Burmaster and Pat Reed were the behind-the-scenes volunteers who worked with the headquarters hotel staff to make sure that the Banquet room was set up as planned. They also prepared name tags and place-cards, arranged table centerpieces, and set out our give-away items by each place setting. Now that Corally and Pat have retired from this service, we're looking for someone who is able to spend at least Saturday afternoon at the host hotel instead of at the game club in order to see to the Banquet room set up.

Corally Burmaster and Pat Reed were also in charge of the Silent Auction, a big display of donated items that Banquet attendees could bid on. This year we decided NOT to have a silent auction since its hardly fair to hand that big job to new volunteers. We will, however, have a Limited Raffle with tickets pre-sold before the event, thanks to Corally who will be helping us on this.

If you'd like to volunteer to work on our Banquet niceties, please contact us a hwainformation@gmail.com . Perhaps you have a friend who'd like to team up with you? If a volunteer doesn't surface, we'll still have the Banquet, of course, but perhaps without some of the features we're accustomed to, such as nametags and little gifts at each place setting. We'll carry on, but we'll miss the little things that can mean a lot.

Too Hot to Train?

Add the outdoor temperature and the humidity percentage.

If the total is over **140**, its too hot to train.

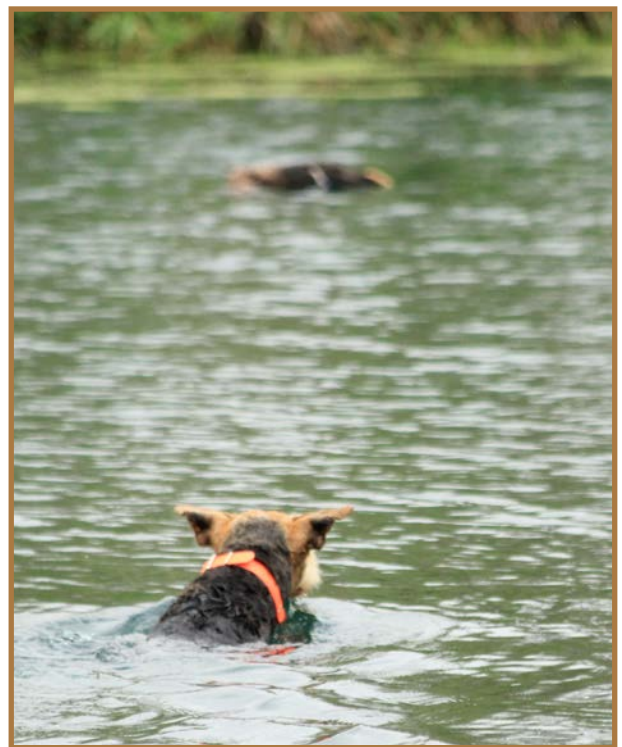
This according to an excellent article in on "Beating the Heat" in the summer 2021 issue of Gun Dog Magazine.

HWA Nationals Entry Begins in July

The HWA Nationals Premium (that is, the entry/reservation forms) will be emailed to you and posted on our website in mid-July. These will include the registration forms that you use to enter our HWA Upland and Retriever Tests. Or, if your untrained dog or pup is just starting out, you can enter our Hunting Instinct Test and our Beginners' Workshop. The Premium will also have information on making your reservations at our headquarters hotel, plus meal order forms for our Banquet and lunches. If you choose to make an additional Test Sponsorship donation, you may do so on this form.

As was done the past few years, the Premium (entry form) for the ATCA Fur Test will be emailed to you at the same time as a separate document. If you're entering the ATCA Fur Test, you'll be sending in your completed entry for that test, along with the entry fees, to the ATCA's designated Fur Test Secretary.

Information on taking out an ad page in our HWA Nationals catalog will follow the Premium in a separate mailing.



Start training for the Nationals NOW.

Nationals' Sponsorships

A sponsorship of our events is a way for you to play a role in the success of this weekend, whether or not you're able to attend. Sponsorships help us cover the costs of our event, and hopefully to do a little better than break even so that we have some seed money to plan for the coming year. Since we initiated sponsorships a few years ago, they have been an important part of our financial stability. All our sponsors will be listed and thanked in our Nationals Catalog and announced with appreciation at our Banquet.

Hunt Test Sponsorships

Sponsor a **Junior** Upland or Retriever Test for **\$25**

Sponsor a **Senior** Upland or Retriever Test for **\$50**

Sponsor a **Master** Upland or Retriever Test for **\$100**

You will be find a space to sign up for a hunt test sponsorship on our HWA Nationals Premium when it comes out in July, or contact us separately at HWAINformation@gmail.com

Event Sponsorships

If you'd like to do something more in the way of a "three-figure" monetary gift, we do have some challenging expenses to meet, including:

Workshop Sponsor

Judges' Hospitality

(meals and gifts for our judges)

Judges' Accommodations

(motel rooms for our judges)

Contact us at HWAINformation@gmail.com

if you can help.

Nationals' Catalogs, For Those with a Deep Interest in Dogs

If the word "foodie" means someone addicted to the fine points of cuisine, we wish we had a similar word for the "dog person" addicted to the fine points of every dog. That's the person who pours over a dog show catalog from cover to cover, looking at the sires, dams and breeders of each dog entered in order to learn about bloodlines and resulting performance. That's the person who loves to look at all the advertisements in dog magazines and catalogs, knowing that each ad is a window to someone in our Airedale world. Afterwards, the catalogs stay on a bookshelf as a reference to be returned to when we talk about those special Airedales we remember.

And so we encourage you to consider taking your place with an ad in this year's catalog. You'll get another email on this after the Premium/reservation email comes out in July.

Your ad could include a favorite photo of your dog. Feel free to use any of the photos of your dog taken by our HWA photographers at our events. As for wording, you might have a "Best Wishes for a Successful Event" heading. Or perhaps a "Congratulations to all participants!" statement. Or you could place a memorial ad in for a departed Airedale. Or perhaps an ad that announces a planned breeding, stud dog availability, or a new title.

Cost for a one-page color ad in the catalog is \$50 per page. If you're adept at composing your own ad, you can send that as a .pdf to catalog editor Cindy Green at cgreendr@aol.com

Ad size print area is 7.25" height x 4.25" wide. If you'd like some help composing your ad, contact us at HWAINformation@gmail.com

Thanks to the income from the ads, the Nationals catalogs will be available free to all Nationals participants and to anyone who places an ad in the catalog. In addition, a "marked" version of the catalog showing the qualifiers in all tests ---- and your ads ---will again be posted on our website after the Nationals. You can find last year's Nationals' marked catalog in the Field Nationals Reports section of our website.

Limited Raffle Teaser

Corally Burmaster has something special lined up for this year's Limited Raffle. We can't give too many hints, but we will say its an art piece created by an Airedale breeder well known to "old-timers". We'll send out a flyer revealing this year's Limited Raffle item in late July or early August, and a limited number of raffle tickets will be sold until the Nationals. You don't have to be at the Nationals to win. Watch for it!

The Airedale Initiative

Or, Training on a Lonely Planet

Reprinted from the June, 2019 HWA Update newsletter. Because its worth repeating.

By now you'll have realized this edition of our HWA newsletter is largely about our upcoming HWA Nationals.

So if you can't come to the Nationals (and we realize the Life – jobs, finances, kids, distance, etc. will keep many of you away), does that mean you have to give up all hope of field work with your Airedale? We'd say, no of course not, but whereas the Nationals puts a lot of opportunity in your reach, if you can't join us, you still can take the initiative to give your Airedale the field work he'll love. It just takes more effort on your part.

You may live in a area where you've got the only Airedale in sight. Or, if there are others around, none of them are doing much except barking at their neighbors. Feels lonely? Our advice would be to do what other guys with sporting dogs do: use your resources to make connections. Google is your good friend. Use the internet to search for Hunting (or Spaniel or Retriever) Dog Clubs in your area. Also, search for Gun Dog (or Bird Dog) pro trainers in your area. You can't get very far in training a hunting Airedale without a club or a trainer who will mentor you and provide you with the birds, fields, and ponds you'll need for field training.

If you live in the Midwest, be sure to attend the Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA] Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend, held every May in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. This weekend hosted by the ATCA's Hunting and Field Committee is comparable to the HWA Nationals in that its hosted by Airedale people who hunt with their dogs, and they're ready to help you get started. Find out more information on that from the ATCA website at www.airedale.org

You can find AKC Hunt Tests, both Spaniel and Retriever Tests that are open to Airedales by searching two handy entry websites: <https://www.huntsecretary.com> and/or <https://www.entryexpress.net>

Take the time to go to a test as a spectator, smooze with the participants; and after they've run their dog and have time to talk, find out who they train with and how they train.

Meanwhile, while you're making connections in the sporting dog world, you have resources at hand to help you get underway. From puppyhood on, you should be working on basic obedience skills with your Airedale. Sit. Stay. Come. If this is your first dog and you aren't sure how to teach the

basics, most communities have dog obedience schools that exist to teach owners how to teach their dog. Again, do an internet search. Basic obedience is a prerequisite for field training, so don't skip over this while you're dreaming of flushing pheasants this fall.

There are tons of resources to help you train even as you sit in your easy chair doing "research." Subscribe to *Gun Dog* magazine for regular training advice. YouTube is overflowing with dog training videos. As a starting point we recommend Bill Hillmann videos (some available free on YouTube, with a paid subscription giving you more). But again, there are tons of hunting dog training books and videos out there. Pick a few to get started and give you a general idea of what's involved with field training.

You may decide that field training is a lot of time and effort, and its just not for you. BUT you may be surprised to find that you and your Airedale are really enjoying this hobby and the time together outdoors. This will be especially true if your Airedale shows you this is the sport he'd most love to spend his time on. If you start out in training-isolation with your Airedale, you're in the spot that many of us started from. If you take the initiative to make your training connections, you'll have as much of a chance to have a great hunting companion dog as the does any guy starting out with a Lab or a Golden.



Why? Because its worth it....

Hunting Airedale Honor Roll

Just as kids seem anxious to get back to school after the pandemic, AKC hunt tests have resumed with strong entries. We try to keep track of HWA members who have earned new qualifying legs or titles on our HWA Facebook page, but if you've missed the Facebook postings, here's a recap.

Tanner with owner/handler Scott Lichty earned an AKC Junior Hunter (Retriever) title at the Blackhawk Retriever Club Hunt Test in Gilmanton, WI on Sept 8, 2020. Tanner was just 17 months old at the time and is the first Airedale from Minnesota to earn an AKC Retriever hunt test title. We're thinking he's one of the youngest Airedales to earn an AKC Retriever hunt test title, and probably the only Airedale west of the Mississippi to earn one. Showing his versatility, Tanner and Scott qualified for Tanner's first AKC Spaniel (upland) hunt test ribbon on May 17th in at the Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association spring hunt test.



Tanner



Several Airedales owned by HWA members and their Airedales participated in the Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend hosted by the Airedale Terrier Club of America's Hunting and Field Committee. There were more than a half dozen Airedales in the ATCA Fur Test and ATCA Junior Retriever Test on Friday, May 21. Then the Airedales joined many other spaniels and upland hunting dogs in two days of AKC Upland tests on Saturday and Sunday, May 22-23. Everyone did well in this game where training and showing up is the first step to success. The Airedales who earned qualifying ribbons are pictured here.

Sassy, owned and handled by Linda Potter, earned her Master Fur Tracker title in the ATCA Fur Test.



Qualifiers in the AKC Upland tests held on Saturday and Sunday at the Cooley are pictured below:

Left to right:

Hershey, owned/handled by Susan Hogsette, earned qualifying scores in her first two AKC

Junior Upland tests. **Mike** with owner/handler Chris Halvorson, re-qualified in the Master Fur Test, qualified in the ATCA Junior Retriever Test, and earned two Master legs in the AKC Upland tests; **Elliott**, owned/handled by Kim Zaborniak, qualified in the ATCA Senior Fur Test and also qualified in his first AKC Junior Upland test.

Trouble, owned by Linda and Ben Potter, earned his first AKC Junior Retriever leg on May 16 2021. Pro trainer Scott Cassidy who has worked with

Trouble handled him at the Fox Valley Retriever Club test in Kansasville, WI. This is a great start for a young dog who's not yet even two years old.

Trouble with Linda and Ben Potter





Pal



Pal and owner/handler Dave Morgan scored a huge accomplishment by earning their second AKC Senior Retriever Hunt Test qualification on May 23, which happened to be Pal's 8th birthday. This happened at the Long Island Golden Retriever Club, Otis Pike Preserve, in Manorville NY. Pal needs four qualifications, or "legs," to earn his AKC Senior Hunter Retriever title. Two more to go, then he will be (to the best of our knowledge) the first Airedale to earn an AKC Senior Retriever title.



On Saturday, June 5, 2021, four Airedales entered their first AKC Junior Retriever test at the Presque Isle Retriever Hunt Test. All four dogs qualified! Shown above, left to right, **Mike** with owner/handler Chris Halvorson, **Hershey** with owner/handler Susan Hogsette, and Kate Ostrowski with her two qualifiers, **Sunshine** and **Filson**. In the second test of the Presque Isle weekend on Sunday, Hershey and Mike qualified for their second "leg" towards their AKC Junior Retriever titles.

We tend to make a big deal over Airedales who earn AKC hunt test titles. It took HWA's founders and current members of HWA and the Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA] so long to get the American Kennel Club to recognize Airedale Terriers as valid hunting dogs by including our breed in AKC Hunt Tests. HWA, which originated as the Hunting/Working Committee of the ATCA in 1984, had as one of its earliest goals to convince the AKC to allow Airedales into AKC hunt test. They wanted to validate our breed as a recognized hunting dog.

In 1999, the H/W Committee of the ATCA submitted a formal proposal for admission of Airedales to AKC Hunt Tests, and it was summarily turned down by the AKC. It wasn't until 2009, with a sea-change in leadership and thinking at the AKC, that Airedales were allowed to enter AKC Spaniel (upland) Hunt Tests. With more hard work and petitioning by the ATCA Hunting and Field Committee, the AKC subsequently allowed Airedales to enter AKC Retriever Tests by August, 2019. In addition, the AKC finally recognized the ATCA Fur Test as a parent club test that allows qualifying titles to appear on AKC pedigrees in February, 2018.

Why is all this important? The founders of HWA understood that Airedales were developed as an all-purpose three-in-one hunting dog (fur/ upland game/ waterfowl). They knew that hunting heritage was integral to the breed and could only be preserved if Airedales continued to be used as hunting dogs. Having Airedales compete with traditional sporting dog breeds in hunt tests designed to measure standards of performance proves to the sporting dog world that Airedales still have a place in the field.



We all start out as a pup.

Fun in the Field Photo Page

This year's Fun in the Field weekend took place on April 6-7th at Holly Hills Game Preserve (which is also the site of our Nationals). Fun in the Field is an annual spring field training weekend for Airedales.

This year we had larger-than-ever group of Airedales and owners. Most took a turn or two in practice sessions for raccoon-scent tracking and barking at the raccoon tree. Another activity was a Beginner's Intro to Game Birds conducted by AKC-licensed upland judge John Dudash.

In another field, we had plenty of pheasants for dogs with some prior training in upland flushing and retrieving practice. It was a no-test, no-stress, casual weekend for enjoying our dogs together.

