

# The 33rd Annual HWA Airedale Field Nationals

September 7-9, 2018



In the history of HWA Nationals, we've had years with big entries and perfect weather. This was not one of those years.

Yet in spite of some weather challenges, our Airedales carried on as if nothing mattered but raccoons and birds. This year we saw some young Airedales move up to earn their first qualifying test scores, while our Hunting Instinct Test and Beginners' Retriever workshop identified some very promising pups.

We first gathered at our headquarters hotel for Thursday evening's **Hospitality Suite**. This is our chance to reconnect with old friends and welcome a newcomer or two before things get really busy. This year's

Hospitality sponsorship was a shared effort, thanks to the generous five-way support of Mary and Stuart Eavenson, Sherri and John Glass, Chris and Tom Halvorson, John Noland and Mary Wright. We were looking forward to another memorable Nationals, and that it turned out to be.

## Friday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>

This summer's unseasonably hot weather continued, but an early start to Friday's **ATCA Fur Test** as well as overcast skies got the four Junior dogs off to a good start. The 100 yard raccoon-scented Junior track went into and through the woods, calling for some attentive nose work as well as some barking when the raccoon was located hidden high in a tree. Reevea, a young Airedale owned/handled by Michael Sites, was the only Junior dog to qualify, though others put in a good effort. The Senior Test had two dogs running a more complicated 200 yard track. Sassy, owned/handled by Linda Potter, qualified on the strength of her strong work at the tree with the raccoon. Sassy obviously thought biting the raccoon tree was the next best thing to getting the caged raccoon. That tree will be scarred for life.

As the Fur Test was underway in the woods, the **Beginners' Retriever Workshop** started up. The workshop was presented by Patricia Rose, who would also be the HWA Retriever Test judge later in the weekend. Pat Rose has trained two Standard Poodles to the OTCH (obedience champion) and Master Hunter levels, a rare dual accomplishment for any breed, but most especially for a non-traditional breed in the retriever world. For the half-dozen young Airedales gathered for the workshop, the focus would be on foundational skills such as "hold" and "fetch." The weekend's three workshop sessions over the course of the weekend gave participants a good plan for future practice. Participants received a folder Pat had prepared for Hunting Working Airedales with a written plan to follow as retriever training progressed. And so, they were off to a good start.



Sassy at the Fur Tree



Diggs, a 6 month old pup owned/handled by Stuart Eavenson, practices “fetch” in the Retriever Workshop.

After lunch the **Hunting Instinct Test** gathered five pups and young dogs as well as a good group of spectators on a shady lawn. Longtime Airedale breeder Sherri Glass and assistant Michael Sites evaluated the pups’ reactions through a series of exercises, such as chasing a lure for prey drive, retrieving a bumper or toy, finding a caged live bird and a caged live raccoon. Testing the dogs’ reaction to gunfire was done with a blank shot from a pistol, and then on to the pond to see if the pup would enter the water. It was a hot afternoon by this time, so most pups were all in for the cool water finale. A list of those pups who qualified by scoring 70 or more points out of 100 is at the end of this article.

A second Beginners’ Workshop session followed, just to be sure all the participants were good and tired by the evening. Friday’s official activities concluded with the Annual meeting, which was moved from Holly Hills to the headquarters hotel to take advantage of the



Sadie, a pup owned/handled by K.D. Van Drie, carries her bird in the Hunting Instinct Test.

The action for all picked up when we took a pre-lunch break for the **Barkathon**. The Barkathon is a just-for-fun contest in which individual Airedales have one minute to jump and bark at a caged raccoon, while spectators, including other barking Airedales, cheer him or her on. We saw a lot of fancy or frenzied leaping and yelping, but this is also good training for working the raccoon in future tests. This year’s winner of the division for the dogs without Fur Test titles went to Kate Ostrowski’s Sunshine, who barked 62 barks in one minute. The winner for the division for dogs with Fur Test titles went to Filson, also owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, for barking an amazing 96 barks in one minute. We’re guessing Kate won’t be in a rush to brag about these honors to her neighbors.



Elliott, owned/handled by Kim Zaborniak, is an enthusiastic Barkathon participant.

Saturday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.

Predicted rain –some said remnants of Tropical Storm Gordon -- moved into southern Ohio on Saturday morning, just in time for the start of the land series of HWA's **Upland Test**. Our AKC-licensed judges were John Dudash and Rick Abolt . The Upland Test involves the dogs finding, flushing and retrieving chukar, which are game birds similar to quail. In rainy or wet conditions, chukar are notoriously reluctant to fly. While humans tested how effective their rain gear was, our entry of five Junior dogs, one Senior dog, and four Master dogs found and brought in their birds as if the weather didn't faze them.



Sunshine, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, retrieves her bird in the pouring rain in the Junior Upland Test.

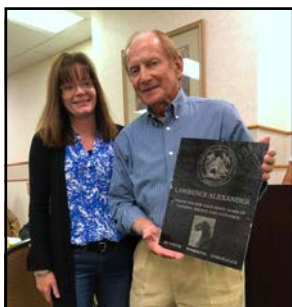


Hershey, owned/handled by Susan Hogsette, launches for her land retrieve in the pouring rain in the Junior Retriever Test.

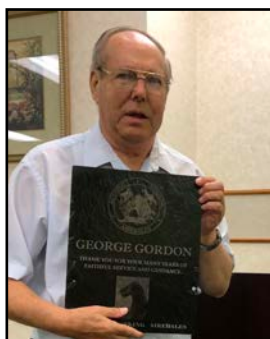
Saturday afternoon was devoted to the land series of the HWA **Retriever Test**. Our AKC-licensed retriever judges Leslie Phillips and Patricia Rose planned a basic course with two single retrieves for their four Junior entries, while a more complicated course for the one Senior entry and four Master dogs involved longer double retrieves, with a third "diversion" retrieve for the Masters. At the end of a rain-soaked afternoon, two Juniors and one Master dog passed their land test and would advance to Sunday's water series.

Saturday evening is the time for HWA's annual **Banquet and Silent Auction**. Thanks to co-chairs Corally Burmaster and Pat Reed, the Silent Auction, along with the Nationals' Limited

Raffle, are the major fundraisers for our club. As we gathered for the evening, it was surprising to see how well the sodden hunt test folks had dried out and cleaned up for the occasion. Besides eating, socializing, and humor from Master of Ceremonies John Glass, our Banquet gives us the chance to gather to honor special people who have an on-going importance to our club. This year Lawrence Alexander and George Gordon, two long-time HWA members and supporters, received HWA's plaques in appreciation of their many years of faithful service and guidance. In addition, we were pleased that Mike Logsdon, the winner of the Limited Raffle quilted wall-hanging made for HWA by Debra Todhunter, was present at the Banquet to claim his prize. Mike reported that he already had a place in mind in his home to hang that artwork.



HWA honored two long-time members for their years of HWA support and participation: Lawrence Alexander (on left), and George Gordon, right photo.



Mike Logsdon (right) was the winner of this year's Limited Raffle, a quilted wall-hanging, created for HWA by Debra Todhunter.



Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>

To our huge relief, weather reports saying that Sunday's rain would be "three times worse than Saturday" turned out to be exaggerations. We did have rain for Sunday's water series of the Upland and Retriever Tests, but it seemed milder without Saturday's wind.

We started Sunday with the water series of the **Upland Test**, with judges John Dudash and Rick Abolt. All of the Upland dogs were invited to try water retrieves, though some dogs and handlers weren't able to stay on to Sunday. Those that stayed had the chance to jump into a rain-splattered pond to bring in a wet bird. Two Junior dogs and all four Master dogs did that successfully. See the end of this report for the listing of qualifiers.



Reeva, owned/handled by Michael Sites, makes the most of her water entry in the Upland Test water series.

Then it was on to Holly Hills' other pond for the water series of the HWA **Retriever Test**. Judges Patricia Rose and Leslie Phillips were determined to make the best of their big ducks in a small pond. Two first time Junior Retriever test entrants, Hershey, owned/handled by Susan Hogsette and Sunshine, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, completed their single water retrieves with style. Both dogs thus qualified for both their Junior Upland and Junior Retriever tests this weekend, a accomplishment that points them towards next year's Senior tests, as well as any AKC tests they may choose to enter. As for the Senior and Master entries, only Filson, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski qualified in the more complicated Master Retriever Test. Kate gave us a masterful demonstration of calm handling as Filson figured out the test scenario and brought in all three of his ducks.

Congratulations to our three duck-carryin' Retriever Test qualifers!



Sunshine



Hershey



Filson

Even though the major tests of the weekend were wrapped up, there was one more just-for-fun contest for those pups and dogs who stayed through to Sunday morning. The **Pocket Quail** test gives untrained young Airedales a chance to use their noses find bird wings hidden in tall grass in a timed hunt. The dog only has to indicate he/she has found the wing, and the handler then picks it up and puts it in a plastic bag (formerly a pocket). The dog that finds the most wings in the given time wins a token prize and hopefully goes on to more sophisticated hunts next year. This year's winner of the Pocket Quail contest was Elliott, owned/handled by Kim Zaborniak.

The **Awards Ceremony** following Sunday's lunch completed the weekend for most participants. In addition to ribbons for the qualifiers and certificates for First -Time participants, HWA was pleased to award several trophies for special achievements. Kira, owned/handled by Michael Sites, received the Brown Bess Memorial Award offered by Lawrence Alexander for Henry Johnson Jr., for the highest scoring Airedale in the Upland Test. Keeping it in the family, Reeva, also owned/handled by Michael Sites, received the Priscilla Cree Memorial Award offered by Lawrence Alexander, for the highest scoring dog in the Fur Test. Filson, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, received the Gunners' Choice Award, offered by John and Pat Bell, awarded to the dog the gunners selected as the one they'd most like to hunt over. In addition, Filson and Kate earned this year's Road Dog Trophy as the team that earned the most AKC hunt test qualifying "legs" since last year's Nationals, which Filson did by completing his AKC Master Hunter title last fall.

After the Awards Ceremony, a few handlers and auditors stayed on to participate in the new-for-this-year **Advanced Retriever Seminar** with Patricia Rose. The plan was to focus on more advanced retriever drills and skills, but the small group also gave the chance for more specific problem-solving advice. It was a good wrap-up to a long weekend.

Before final good-byes and "see you next year"s were said, HWA's Events Planning team said a big THANK YOU on behalf of all of us to Marsha and Dean Hatfield, owners of Holly Hills, and to Matt Shoemaker, our go-to staff assistant this weekend.

We'll be returning to Holly Hills next year. We hope you'll save these dates now:

Fun in the Field, April 6-7, 2019  
34<sup>th</sup> Airedale Field National, Sept. 20-22, 2019



Journey, owned and loved by Mary Wright,  
can't wait for his chance to be a big duck-carryin' Airedale next year!

# 2018 HWA Nationals Hunt Test Qualifiers

## **ATCA Fur Test**

### *Junior Fur Test:*

- Stillwaters Reevea Mia, JHF, JFT, owned/handled by Michael Sites, Eureka, MO, bred by Sherri Glass.

### *Senior Fur Test:*

- Sassy VII, SFT, owned/handled by Linda Potter, Georgetown, IL., bred by Debbie Kennedy.

## **HWA Upland Test**

### *Junior Upland Test:*

- Stillwaters Lindsey York Hershey, JHF, JHR, owned/handled by Susan Hogsette, Lexington, OH; bred by Sherri Glass.
- Hilltop's Sunshine Over Butternut, JHF, JHR, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, Dallas, PA; bred by Lawrence Alexander

### *Master Upland Test:*

- Hilltop's Filson of Little Sandy River, MH, JHV, JFT, MHF, MHR, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, Dallas, PA; bred by Lawrence Alexander.
- Coldstream Born in the USA, MH, MHV, MFT, MHF, CD, RA, owned/handled by Chris Halvorson, Lockport, NY; bred by Corally Burmaster and Margo Dupre.
- Aircraft Kira Stella Sites, MH, GD, CGC, MHV, MFT, MHF, owned/handled by Michael Sites; bred by Dale and Kim Burrier and Corally Burmaster
- Coldstream Make My Day, SH, CD, JHV, MHF, MFT, owned/handled by Chris Halvorson, co-owned by Angela Dobbins; bred by Corally Burmaster.

## **HWA Retriever Test**

### *Junior Retriever Test:*

- Stillwaters Lindsey York Hershey, JHF, JHR, owned/handled by Susan Hogsette, Lexington, OH; bred by Sherri Glass.
- Hilltop's Sunshine Over Butternut, JHF, JHR, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, Dallas, PA; bred by Lawrence Alexander

### *Master Retriever Test*

- Hilltop's Filson of Little Sandy River, MH, JHV, JFT, MHF, MHR, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, Dallas, PA; bred by Lawrence Alexander.

## **Hunting Instinct Test**

- Volant Sassy Sadie, owned/handled by K.D. VanDrie, Sewicky, PA; bred by Robyn and Bert Lawrence.
- Donaldmac's Easy On the Eyes, owned/handled by Kimberly Zaborniak, Millersport, OH; bred by Leith MacDonald.
- Smartest of the Bunch Locher Muehle, owned/handled by Sherri Glass, Clyde, OH; bred by Bärbel Friedrich.
- Coldstream Single Shot, owned/handled by Mary Wright, Toledo, OH; bred by Corally Burmaster.

## 2018 Trophy Winners

### Priscilla Cree Memorial Award

for the dog passing the Fur Test with the highest score, offered by Lawrence Alexander:

- Stillwaters Reeva Mia, JHF, JFT, owned/handled by Michael Sites, Eureka, MO, bred by Sherri Glass

### Sandhill Brown Bess Memorial Award

for the dog passing the Upland Test with the highest score, offered by Lawrence Alexander for Henry Johnson, Jr.

- Airecraft Kira Stella Sites, MH, MHV, MFT, MHF, CGC, GD, owned/handled by Michael Sites, Eureka, MO; bred by Kim Burrier and Corally Burmaster

### Road Dog Trophy

for the dog(s) with the most weekends with passing scores at AKC/HRC events since the last HWA Nationals. Offered by HWA .

- Hilltop's Filson of Little Sandy River, MH, JHV, JFT, MHF, MHR, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, Dallas, PA; bred by Lawrence Alexander.

### Gunners' Choice Award

for the dog selected by the Upland gunners as the dog they would most like to hunt over. Offered in 2018 by John and Pat Bell.

- Hilltop's Filson of Little Sandy River, MH, JHV, JFT, MHF, MHR, owned/handled by Kate Ostrowski, Dallas, PA; bred by Lawrence Alexander.