



HWA Update

Winter, 2019

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

Happy New Year!

Once the holidays are over, active Airedales can give in to winter doldrums just as their owners might. These months until spring go better if you keep active and keep learning. Pull on your winter outdoors clothes, and you can still do some yard work with your dog. Whistle training is one "intermediate" skill you can work on to get you ready for success in hunting and hunt tests. See page 7 for more tips on that.

And be sure to mark your calendars for HWA's two main events, noted below.

Save the Dates!

HWA Fun in the Field, April 6-7, 2019

HWA 34th Annual Airedale Field Nationals,
Sept. 20-22, 2019

Both events at Holly Hills Game Preserve

<https://www.hollyhillspreserve.com>

Fun in the Field Gets Us Going

HWA's annual **Fun in the Field** weekend takes place on **April 6-7, 2019** at Holly Hills Game Preserve, near Chillicothe, OH. This is a weekend for training with both raccoons and pheasants, intended for dogs and owners who may have never tried it before, on up to those who come to increase their skills through the training 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.

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Gunners' Certification Seminar Being Considered

Do you hunt over your dog? Do you own a break-open shotgun (12 gauge preferred) that you're very fond of using? Are you a good shot?

HWA is considering offering a **Gunners Training Certification program** in order to increase the number of participants at our events who are qualified to serve as gunners at our events. As gunning safety and skill are major considerations for any club holding a test with live ammo, a qualification in this Gunners Certification program should serve as good credentials for someone who might enjoy gunning for our club or other clubs.

(continued on page 2, right column)

(Fun in Field, cont'd from page 1)

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) 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 work on teaching dogs "treeing skills," such as knowing to look up to find the raccoon and BARKING at the raccoon. Don't laugh – its surprising how some normally vocal Airedales need some encouragement to sound off at the raccoon tree. All this is helpful training if you intend to run an Fur Test at the ATCA's Cooley hunt test weekend in May (see page 6) or at our Nationals in September. Even if not, it's a lot of fun for dogs and owners to try it out.

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.

New this year, we're planning a **hunt test demonstration** featuring an Airedale going through a typical Junior Hunt Test run, while an HWA mentor/volunteer will narrate for interested spectators exactly what the dog and handler are doing and why they are doing it. We'll let you know what the judges are looking for and how they score a test. So when you try your first hunt test with your dog, you might be a novice, but you won't be clueless.

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

(Gunners, cont'd from page 1)

This would be an 8-hour one-day seminar based on a Gunners Training program that has been AKC-approved for use since 2009 by the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (ESSFTA). The day would include group instruction/discussion, followed by individuals gunning over a dog for evaluation purposes. Dave Bardo, ESSFTA Seminar leader, would present the program.

Tentative date is April 5th, the Friday prior to Fun in the Field, at Holly Hills Game Preserve.

If you'd be interested in participating in this seminar, please send an email to hwainformation@gmail.com Let us know asap since participation will be limited.



Did You Know?

HWA's Facebook site was started in 2010 as a way to share information. Since then we've grown steadily. For instance, in January, 2017 we reported 1600 "likes" for our site. In January, 2018 we reported 2, 212 likes. This January, 2019, we've reached **2,500+** "likes." Yeah!

Are we topping out? Or can we reach 3000 likes by 2020? If you have friends who might enjoy following HWA's site, please recommend it to them

HWA Board of Directors for 2019

President

Chris Halvorson

Vice-President

Kate Ostrowski

Secretary

Elizabeth Morrill

Treasurer

John Noland

Board Members

John Bell

Diane Cullen

Stuart Eavenson

Mary Wright

This year Chris Halvorson returns to serve as President, and we welcome Mary Wright as a new Board member. Our appreciation to our former President Patricia Nemeth and Board member George Gordon, both of whom have completed two consecutive Board terms, and will now rotate off the Board due to term limits. Thank you for all your hard work!



2019 Pheasant Fest A Showcase for Hunting Airedales

The 2019 **Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic** takes place on **February 22-24** at the Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg, Illinois. As in past years, the Airedale Terrier Club of America's Hunting and Field Committee will be present with their Airedales to take part in this national celebration of upland hunting.

This huge three-day event organized by Pheasants Forever draws thousands of spectators interested in wildlife conservation, upland game bird hunting (pheasant and quail), dog training, and wildlife habitat management and restoration. In addition, Pheasants Forever will hold seminars on habitat improvement, pheasant hunting, shooting sports, wild game cooking, dog training, and conservation, and lots more.

Starting with Friday's Sporting Dog Parade -- led by Airedales thanks to alphabetical order -- the ATCA group, led by Scott Lichty, will have their Airedales on display, as well as versatile Airedale brochures and photos. If you're in the area, be sure to be among the thousands of visitors who stop by their booth. For more information, see <https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Pheasant-Fest.aspx>



Kate Ostrowski, our first AKC judge

Congratulations and much appreciation to HWA Vice-President Kate Ostrowski (pictured above), who recently became the first Airedale person to become an AKC-licensed Upland (spaniel) Hunt Test judge. Kate took Filson, the first Airedale she field trained, all the way to the AKC Master Hunter level. Along the way she and Filson were great ambassadors for our breed.

We look forward to seeing Kate at her future judging assignments!

2019 HWA Membership Drive Underway

HWA's membership drive started at last year's Nationals, but picks up intensity now through February. Our membership year runs from January through December, so if someone joins in the middle or end of the year, he or she still pays full dues for a partial year. You can download the 2019 Membership form for renewals or new memberships on our website via this link:

<https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/Membership%20form%202019.pdf>

Though Airedales aren't very popular, numerically, in the dog world, our breed has a devoted following. We understand that there are many things you could do with your Airedale, all sorts of classes and activities, as well as just enjoying the dog as a best-friend and companion.

But HWA is a special interest club for a sub-set of Airedalers. If you love an Airedale's fire, drive and abilities, and you enjoy doing outdoorsy things with a dog that keeps the hunter's heart that made this breed famous, then this club is for you. And if you enjoy getting together with like-minded Airedale owners, then HWA is for you. Sure, you can participate without being a dues-paying member, but a paid membership is a sign of commitment to an ideal that goes beyond every-owner-for-himself. That's what a club is, and members make a club.

HWA also welcomes members who aren't interested or able to attend our events, train with their dogs, or walk about in hunting fields. After all, there are things like jobs, children, shortages of time, funds or physical limitations that might keep you otherwise-occupied. HWA is the club for all those who believe it's important (as our Mission Statement says) to preserve and promote our breed's heritage as a versatile hunting and working companion dog. We appreciate your membership support!

The Members section on our website, www.huntingworkingairedales.com, is an added benefit for members. By checking into this password-protected Members' section, members can review HWA's financial reports, summaries of Board meetings, and check a membership roster to find out who else is a member of your club. Updates on this section of the website will be coming soon.

Is HWA a Social Club or Training Club?

HWA was founded more than 30 years ago to bring Airedales back to being a recognized hunting dog. Training was a goal, if not a means to an end. This was an up-hill battle that often required some creative "marketing." Owners who had no prior interest in hunting were encouraged to come to the HWA events "just to give it a try." Those who casually hunted with their Airedales entered tests with the idea that their dogs' instincts would be enough to pass the tests. In those early days, before the AKC had developed the myriad of performance options for dogs, the Hunting Working Nationals gave Airedales and their owners a singular chance to get together for a fun weekend, complete with a big Banquet and Auction.



A dip into HWA's historical records finds that one of the first Hunting Working Nationals in 1986 had an entry of 36 Airedales, increasing annually to a high of 70 Airedales entered in the 1998 Nationals. From that group of 70 Airedales at the 1998 Nationals, only 6 HWA titles were awarded. Clearly the majority of the dogs entered came for the fun of it and to support the club, even while our workshop presenters and judges repeatedly stressed: "YOU HAVE TO TRAIN YOUR DOGS!"

Over time, HWA evolved. In 2009 the AKC admitted Airedales to AKC Upland (Spaniel) Tests, giving Airedale handlers more mingling with long-time field dog handlers and trainers.

HWA Breeders' Referral List, a Popular Website Stop

Whenever we get the question, "Where can I find a good hunting Airedale?" our first suggestion is to start with the breeders listed on the Breeders' Referral listing on our website at <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/breeder-referral>

All breeders listed there are HWA members who use performance/hunting abilities as an important part of breeding stock selection.

If you're an Airedale breeder who would like to be included in on website's Breeder Referral section, please contact us at hwainformation@gmail.com for more details.

If you're a breeder already listed on the HWA Breeders' Referral Page, be sure to renew your 2019 membership so that you'll continue to be on our list.

We'd also like to encourage Airedale breeders to include our HWA Puppy Brochure in the puppy packets sent home with new owners. That brochure is a colorful tri-fold that encourages new owners to consider HWA events as something to try with their new Airedale. You can preview that brochure in the Links/Resources section of our website at <http://www.huntingairedales.org/Puppy%20Owner%20Brochure.pdf> For professionally printed copies for your litter, please contact hwainformation@gmail.com We're happy to send you some at no cost to you.



(Social/Training Club, cont'd from page 4)

The idea that Airedales have to be trained just as other sporting breeds are trained took hold and was brought to a greater prominence in our HWA events. HWA introduced its Hunting Instinct Test, modeled on tests given by other sporting dog clubs, to help identify and encourage hunting aptitude in pups and untrained dogs. HWA's Nationals workshops were developed with multiple sessions to give a better introductory training experience to beginning dogs and owners. HWA's spring Fun in the Fields came to include fur and bird "how to" sessions for newcomers to provide a worthwhile training opportunity instead of just hanging out.

For all those HWA participants who have taken these training opportunities to heart and did their homework and continued their training efforts with their local pro trainers or bird dog clubs, HWA is an invaluable training club. Many Airedale handlers have used HWA's workshops and tests as a stepping stone to earning AKC Upland Hunt Test ribbons.

And yet, it's *still* an uphill battle to find owners who are interested in field training their Airedales. In a time when hunting per se is on a decline and many bird dog clubs are struggling to keep their members and hold their events, its even more difficult to bring together scarce Airedale owners for the specific purpose of field training. So the marketing hooks of "come for the fun of it" and "come to just try it out" are still a time-tested way to attract new attendees to our events. In some cases, new attendees enjoy the weekend, but decide it isn't for them. In other cases, the Airedales and their owners have so much fun that they become regular attendees. Some owners build on the lessons learned at the HWA events and return the next year to run their dogs in the tests. In other cases, the owners may not have the inclination, time, or resources to continue training, but they still enjoy HWA's events, Airedales, and people enough to return every year for the social aspect of it.

HWA is not to be dismissed as "just a social club," but neither is it a hard-core dog training club. We're a club that's big enough for serious training as well as for the more casual appreciation of having an Airedale just enjoy following his nose. For sure it's a club of like-minded people together in appreciation for our breed.

Hunt Title Updates Underway

We're in the process of checking in with all Airedalers who have earned hunt test titles with their dogs during the last year. As you may know, HWA maintains a listing of all Airedales (to the best of our knowledge) who have earned hunt test titles since the start of our program. If a dog has at least one hunt test title, we want that dog in our database. HWA is the only organization that maintains and publishes this record. Along with the dog's hunt test title, we list that dog's other performance and/or conformation titles to show the dog's versatility.

"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 non-AKC 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.

You can find our Hunt Test Title Holder listing and our photo showcase on our website under the About section, or by this direct link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/hunt-test-title-holders>

We show the listing of hunt test title holders two ways: sorted alphabetically by owners' names and sorted alphabetically by dogs' names. Those of us who take note of which owners or kennel names produce successful dogs should find these listings to be useful research tools, as well as a historical record.

The photo showcase gives more information of each dog's accomplishments, appearance, pedigree and breeder. Again, a useful research tool.

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

We Remember Henry S. Johnson, Jr.

HWA received word last August of the passing Henry S. Johnson on July 30th, at the age of 92. Henry was a longtime HWA member, but moreover, a widely-known writer for FULL CRY magazine whose column on hunting terriers brought together a lot of the old-time Airedale hunting community. Henry's Sandhill Airedale line carries on to this day in through the dogs of some of our members. Henry will always be remembered as a true dog person, full of knowledge and old-time good sense about Airedales.



Henry and Rowdy in their younger days

ATCA 17th Annual Cooley Memorial Hunt Test Weekend

The **2019 Randy Cooley Hunt Test Memorial** weekend takes **May 17-19th** at Rock River Kennels, Beaver Dam, WI. This weekend of Airedale activities is hosted by the Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA] and is held in memory of Randy Cooley, an ATCA/HWA member who made Airedale history with his Airedale Winston, who was both an AKC conformation champion and among the first Airedales to earn HWA's Master Hunter Versatile status. Sandi Cooley, Randy's wife, continues to be instrumental in running the Cooley Memorial Hunt Test.

The weekend includes an **ATCA Fur Test** on Friday morning, May 17, typically followed by their **Airedale Retriever Olympics** on Friday afternoon. Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, will have **AKC Upland Hunt Tests**. Check in with Scott Lichty at lichsmitt@msn.com for entry information well before the event, as their AKC hunt tests fill up fast.

(Hunt titles, cont'd from page 6)

If your Airedale has earned a new hunt test title during 2018, please let us know by contacting hwainformation@gmail.com. If your dog is already listed, and has earned additional titles, whether performance or conformation in 2018, please let us know so your dog's listing will be up to date in our records.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this listing by working with their dogs!

Whistle While You Work

If you've ever attended a hunt test or spent some time out hunting the fields and woods, you probably know that a whistle plays an important role in long-distance communicating with a dog. You may be surprised to know that most handlers have trained their dogs to respond a series of distinct whistle commands so that there's no need to shout out things like "Come here!" or "Fetch it up!" or "Go over there!" In fact, once you're past the very early Junior Test level, shouting or talking to your dog in hunt tests is frowned upon. Voice commands are replaced by more sophisticated whistle communications to direct your dog.

Whistle training can be done in your backyard, without birds or helpers, even during these winter months. Once your dog knows basic verbal commands such as Come and Sit, whistle training is a good next step.

There are numerous whistle training videos and write-ups online – just Google "whistle training for gundogs." Methods might vary slightly from trainer to trainer, but the basic idea is to substitute a whistle command for the verbal command by giving both verbal and whistle at the same time at first (you can talk and hold the whistle in your mouth at the same time). Gradually you fade out the talking and just use the whistle.

For this to make sense to the dog, he will learn to associate certain whistle patterns with certain actions. For instance, one long whistle can be associated with Sit. A series of short whistles (three or more) means Come. Two short whistles mean Change Directions, as when your dog is quartering a field or you want him to check out some other part of the field. It doesn't really matter what whistle patterns you use, as long as you use the same whistle pattern for the same command consistently.

If you shop for a hunting dog whistle online at dog supply companies such as Gun Dog Supply -- <https://www.gundogsupply.com> or Lion Country Supply -- <https://www.lcsupply.com> -- you'll see that there's quite a variety of whistles. What to buy?

Traditionally, upland bird hunters who hunt with spaniels favor the thin tube-like "**spaniel whistle**," which is high-pitched and rather quiet.

(Continued on page 8, right column)



HWA 3-in-1 Gundog Brochure

"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 brochure 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>

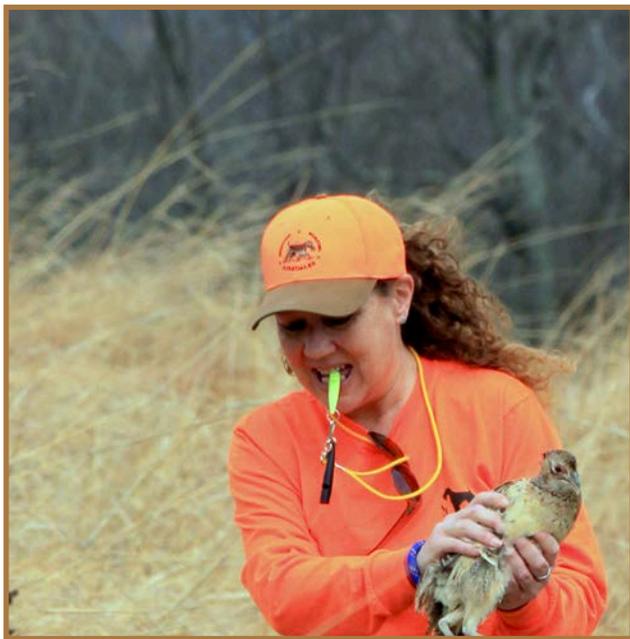
We'd be happy to mail you some brochures professionally printed on glossy paper at no charge if you email your request to hwainformation@gmail.com

(Whistles, cont'd from page 7)

This whistle is subtle and designed to communicate with dogs without scaring off wild birds.

Retriever handlers tend to favor the **“retriever whistles”** that look like a sports coach whistle and are louder and stronger than the spaniel whistles. This louder whistle is handy for long retrieves in which the handler wants to stop the dog mid-way in the retrieve with a whistle, then re-direct the dog to a hidden fallen bird. Retrievers work at much longer distances than spaniels, so this whistle makes sense.

Some handlers use one, all-purpose whistle for their dogs or a combination of two whistles, especially if the dog hunts both upland birds and waterfowl. Whistles are fairly inexpensive, so you might want to try them both. Be sure to get a nice lanyard to keep that whistle handy around your neck. It's a most-useful accessory.



Whistle Notes:

When you start noticing the whistles handlers are wearing, you'll find a variety of shapes, colors and tones.

Diane Maxwell (above) has two spaniel whistles handy when she's working with Roxie in the field. Diane has mastered the habit of keeping a whistle between her teeth for fast communication with Roxie.

John Bell (at right) with Libby has both a spaniel whistle and retriever whistle on his lanyard. As Libby has earned HWA titles in both Upland and Retriever Tests, this makes sense.