

Leash and Whistle

the newsletter of the

Ohio Valley Retriever Club

March 2009

Upcoming Club Event Information

April 5, Sunday:

Club Training Day at Tri-Valley Wildlife Area ([map](#)), meet at 8:30 at McDonalds on Route 60, south of Route 16 (head to Woodbury Wildlife Area on 16, but go SOUTH instead of north), and club members will caravan to this new location.

April 8, Wednesday:

Board Meeting at Old Summit Town Restaurant, 14163 Broad St Sw, Pataskala, OH 43062 ([map](#)). Meeting begins at 7 pm.

Spring AKC Hunt Test CLOSES at 11:59:59 central time on www.entryexpress.net.

April 18-19, Saturday and Sunday:

Spring AKC Hunt Test, Woodbury Wildlife Area, Coshocton, Ohio. ([map and info](#)). Master stake begins promptly at 8 am Saturday; Senior, 9 am Saturday and Sunday; Junior, 9:30 am Saturday and Sunday.

Dinner and raffle will begin at approximately 6 pm (master testing for the day will conclude by 6 pm, so that all participants may attend).

April 28, Tuesday:

Registration deadline, OVRC-sponsored AKC Hunt Test Judges Seminar. See registration details following.

May 9, Saturday:

OVRC-sponsored AKC Hunt Test Judges Seminar, 8:30 am, St. Francis DeSales HS. See registration details following.

May 31, Sunday:

Club Training Day at Johnstown Sportsmen's Club, 7357 Sportsman Club Road, Johnstown, OH 43032 ([map and info](#)). The focus of this training day is "Welcome, New Handlers." Please come to introduce yourself, meet new people, and discuss the relevance and fun of participating in AKC retriever events. The focus is on new handlers and their dogs; you may bring a dog, if you would like it to be considered for demonstration purposes, but this will not be a typical training day.

For additional club dates, please see the attached calendar.

Your 2009 OVRC Board

As approved by the membership in attendance at the Annual Banquet on January 10, 2009:

Marty Bell, President
Leslie Phillips, Vice-President
Donald Smith, Secretary
Ed Schillig, Treasurer
Gary Gardner
Al Jameson
Patricia McCabe
Greta Ode
Tim Price
Janet Wasson
Frank Weisbeck

Contact information for board members is on the web site at
<http://ohiovalleyretrieverclub.com/ohiovalleyofficers.html>

Summary of Board Activity, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Fall 2008 Hunt Test:

The fall 2008 AKC Hunt Test ran smoothly and successfully, with Gary Gardner serving as Chair and Frank Weisbeck as Co-Chair. There were 117 total entries. There was some discussion of the late conclusion of master events on Saturday, which interfered with the dinner and raffle. (This has been addressed by the board; the spring judges will be asked by the chairs to conclude activity by 6 pm on Saturday.) All stakes ran as expected. Costs were within range compared to previous years; profits were negligible, and essentially the event broke even. (Contact Treasurer Ed Schillig for details.) The raffle was a significant factor in the event's acceptable profit and loss—the board has acknowledged Janet Wasson's hard work chairing this event.

Annual Banquet and Meeting:

The slate of nominees for the 2009 Board were approved by the membership present (approximately fifteen voting members). New to the board for 2009 is Al Jameson. Elected board members retired to elect officers (see above). Approved during the business portion of the board meeting were a number of spring hunt test related issues. Of note, it was approved to have staggered start times for Master, Senior, and Junior stakes for the spring AKC Hunt Test; to request that judges conclude Master stake activities by 6 pm so that the dinner and raffle can begin in a timely fashion and all may attend; and to rotate the running order of Master in each series, beginning with dog number 1 in the first series. All other hunt test related issues were reported to be on schedule, including judges finalized.

Spring 2009 Hunt Test:

The judging panel for the spring 2009 AKC Hunt Test was invited by Chair Ed Schillig and Co-chair Greta Ode, with Board knowledge and approval. The Chair and Co-chair also report that hunt test details are coming together on schedule, including lunches, port-o-johns, and equipment. There will be an apprentice at the Master level. Gary Gardner secured the Sportsmen's Club for the Friday judges dinner and Saturday participants dinner and raffle. The dinner on Saturday will be a pig roast, under Gary's expert direction.

(Board Summary, cont.)

Secretary Don Smith reports that the AKC has approved the event and judges, all permits are in hand, judges' affirmation letters have been sent and returned, and the event has been "live" on Entry Express since AKC approval. The premium was updated to reflect the rotation in Master, new start times for Senior and Junior, and the intention to conclude activity at the Master stake at 6 pm to aid in dinner and raffle attendance.

A bird steward is still needed; marshal responsibilities need to be finalized; the raffle could use an additional item or two (Gary Gardner will look into this, and Janet Wasson will continue to seek donations); and there is some general concern about the possibility of low entries due to the economy, and therefore the final number of paid workers will not be determined until entries close.

The Board approved the presence of two sets of professional photographers, Dale Churchill and Kerrin Winter-Churchill and club members Al and Pam Jameson. This will ensure all stakes are covered adequately.

OVRC Sponsorship of AKC Hunt Test Judges Seminar

The Board agreed to sponsor an AKC hunt test judges seminar, which will take place on Saturday, May 9, at St. Francis DeSales HS. Greta Ode gathered the relevant information, contacted AKC, and arranged the date. The Board approved a cost of \$45 for the event; the AKC will charge \$25 per participant, with a minimum of 20 participants. To off-set costs, attending OVRC members will be requested to bring a small pot-luck item to share. President Marty Bell expressed the sentiment that it is the club's duty to help new judges into the sport, help judges retain judging status, and help handler's understand the hunt test from a judging standpoint. It is hoped this will help qualify new judges in our area.

Calendar Activity

The Board approved calendar dates for the year 2009 through October. There will be training days monthly through October (see attached calendar). Two training days in particular are of note.

First, at the suggestion of members Joe Dutro, Kevin Bullock, and John Campbell, the Board approved a training day on Sunday, April 5, at Tri-Valley Wildlife Area. Joe, Kevin, and John have inspected and trained at the area, and will chair the day.

Also, at the suggestion of several board members, the training day on May 31 will focus on folks who are interested in or new to AKC hunt tests. The goal for the day is to educate and bring new participants to the club, with a focus on hunters in particular, handlers in other venues (such as agility or obedience), and other retriever owners. Al Jameson and Don Smith have taken the lead in planning the day; Don has secured the date at the Johnstown Sportsmen's Club (which, conveniently, is mostly fenced and has reasonably simple cover).

Treasury Note

Due in large part to the purchase of ribbons and ammunition (both of which were necessary and will last for some time), the treasury is somewhat down compared to other years at approximately this time. The Board is watching expenses carefully, and approved re-instituting the practice of charging for training day participation. The cost will be \$3 per dog to cover poppers, other supplies, and a worker if needed. Additionally, the spring hunt test chair and co-chair will be paying special attention to workers expenses this year, and will be calling for volunteers.

Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

The Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet took place on January 10, 2009, at the home of President Marty Bell and Christine Bell. City Barbecue catered the dinner, with supplementary desserts and beverages. The event was attended by about 20 members and families, despite freezing drizzle and generally dangerous and miserable weather. After socializing and eating, awards were presented.

This year, any dog and handler team that received a qualifying score at an OVRC event in 2008 received a stainless steel dog bowl (a little bit fancy, with little bones embossed around the edge!) filled with Milkbones.

After these awards, dog and handler teams from the 2008 Singles Championship were acknowledged. The event took place on Sunday, October 6, and was judged by Ron Briggs and Dennis Kehoe. Teams earning a Judges Award of Merit received a green and white JAM ribbon and a wooden box with a wood-burned scene of ducks in flight; the winning team, of course, received the coveted "Club Cup" with the dog's name engraved, in addition to a ribbon and box.

JAMs, in no particular order: Marty Bell and "Kip," Marty Bell and "Ice," Marty Bell and "Flip," Greta Ode and "Atticus," Todd Cooper and "Emma," Todd Cooper and "Luke," Ed Schillig and "Cash," Ed Schillig and "Poppy," Mike Phillips and "Nitro," Leslie Phillips and "Torrie," and Joe Dutro and "Dora."

Mike Phillips won the Puppy Stake with his girl "Star."

And the 2008 Singles Championship WINNING TEAM: Ed Schillig and Hunter's Performance, "Gauge."

The final award for the evening was the annual President's Award. The President's Award is given solely at the discretion of the club President, to recognize any club member for whatever reason the President deems worthy.

This year's President's Award, given by Marty Bell, was awarded to Frank Weisbeck for his dedicated service to the club for the past many, many years, including (but not limited to!) service as a Board member Officer, and chairing and co-chairing AKC events including last fall's Hunt Test. Marty thanked Frank for his service and presented him with a gift and a round of applause.

After the awards, Marty reviewed the year's events, thanked the membership for their participation and service, and then offered the slate of Board nominees for club approval. The Board was approved by voice vote, and subsequently retired to elect officers.

The evening concluded with further socializing, and safe trips home for all through the late-winter ice and snow.

Fall 2008 Hunt Test Summary

Gary Gardner, Chair, and Frank Weisbeck, Co-chair, planned, organized and managed a successful Fall 2008 AKC Hunt Test, which took place on Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21.

There were 117 total entries

The Master stake was judged by Jeff Bryson and Jim Green. There were 41 entries, with 31 starts (10 scratched), and 11 Qualifying scores. Congratulations to club members Marty Bell with "Tank" (title) and "Blaze" (title), Todd Cooper with "Emma," Tim Price with "Lola," Ed Schillig with "Gauge," and Greta Ode with "Atticus."

(Fall Hunt Test, cont.)

The Saturday Senior stake was judged by Betsy Kaiser-Bernock and Joe Smithberger. There were 19 entries with 17 starts (2 scratched), and 12 Qualifying scores. Congratulations to Lance Lawyer with "Blue," and Gary Gardner handling "Hagen" and "Zip."

The Sunday Senior stake was judged by Peggy Bauman and Phillip Bollenbacher. There were 23 entries, with 20 starts (3 scratched), and 12 Qualifying scores. Congratulations to club members Lance Lawyer with "Blue," John Campbell with "Drake," and Gary Gardner handling "Hagen" and "Zip."

The Saturday Junior stake was judged by Peggy Bauman and Phillip Bollenbacher. There were 17 entries with 15 starts (2 scratched), and 10 Qualifying scores. Congratulations to club members Susan Adkinson with "Josi," and John Smith with "Hoss."

The Sunday Junior stake was judged by Betsy Kaiser-Bernock and Joe Smithberger. There were 17 entries (4 scratched), and 10 Qualifying scores. Congratulations to club member Susan Adkinson with "Josi."

Upcoming Spring 2009 Hunt Test Information

Ed Schillig is the spring AKC hunt test Chair and Greta Ode is the Co-chair. The event closes on Wednesday, April 8 at 11:59:59 central time on www.entryexpress.net ; the test will take place on April 18-19 at Woodbury Wildlife Area in Coshocton.

The Master stake will begin at 8 am on Saturday with dog number one, and a rotation will be instituted for the remaining series. The stake will be judged by John Marchica and Steven Bernock. Saturday's Master activity will conclude by 6 pm to facilitate dinner and raffle activities.

The Senior stakes will be judged by Sherie Catledge and James Price on Saturday and Linda Marchica and Aaron Tervo on Sunday. Senior stakes will begin at 9 am.

The Junior stakes will be judged by Linda Marchica and Aaron Tervo on Saturday and Sherie Catledge and James Price on Sunday. The Junior stakes will begin at 9:30 am.

There will be two photographers present at the event: Dale Churchill and Kerrin Winter-Churchill, who have photographed OVRC tests in the past (dogphoto.com), and members Al and Pam Jameson, who have also photographed OVRC tests and training days (gundogphotos.com).

The dinner will begin at approximately 6 pm at the Coshocton Sportsmen's Club on Rt. 541 in Coshocton. Chef Gardner will be preparing a pig roast for participants' enjoyment, with appropriate sides. Pop and keg beer are available for purchase, or you may BYO if you'd like. During and following dinner there will be a raffle of training and retriever-related items, and Junior and Senior qualifying results will be announced and ribbons awarded.

If you are entering the test, please note that Entry Express has changed its fee structure. The standard \$3 fee applies for entries prior to 48 hours of closing; the fee will be \$4 for entries within 48 hours of closing, and \$4.50 within 24 hours of closing.

Call for Volunteers

The Spring AKC Hunt Test is in need of volunteers. It is crucial that this event end “in the black,” and one of the few costs that can be controlled is the number of workers. By volunteering your time, you can help the club run a successful event and ensure its ability to continue to put on quality training days for its members and AKC events for everyone.

You don't have to be a great shot to volunteer, and you don't have to give the entire weekend. If you can take a few hours early in the day to help tote equipment and set the test, or a few hours in the middle of the day to plant a blind, pop a popper gun, throw, take birds, or give a marshal a break, you will make a difference in the success of the event.

And not only will you be helping the club—you may be helping yourself and your dog. The opportunity to see multiple dogs from directly behind the line where the judges sit is well worth a little bit of time taking birds (and you can always wear gloves!). You will see many different handlers and many different dogs, and may very well recognize something to apply to your own training. The same goes for a little time watching multiple handlers work their dogs on blinds from a position near the blind, or watching multiple dogs hunt for a particular mark. Volunteering can be a valuable training experience.

To volunteer, simply respond to the newsletter (gretaohiovalleyretrievers@hotmail.com) or click the “sign up to help at this event” link when you enter your dog at Entry Express (www.entryexpress.net).

Call for Raffle Items

While there are enough raffle items for a fine event on Saturday at the participants' dinner, Janet Wasson feels that a few more items would make the event even more stellar. The raffle at recent events has made the difference between ending in the red or the black—with the unpredictability of the economy and our early test date, every opportunity to help the club financially is important.

If you have a retriever training item for which you have no use, a retriever-related gift or novelty item that is lovely but just not your style, or any outdoor item or vehicle item that may be useful to a retriever trainer, please consider donating the item to the raffle.

To donate a raffle item, simply respond to the newsletter (gretaohiovalleyretrievers@hotmail.com) and Janet will get in touch with you.

Judges Seminar May 9, 2009

Ohio Valley Retriever Club will host an AKC Hunt Test Judges and Handlers Seminar on May 9, 2009 in Columbus. The seminar will take place at St. Francis DeSales High School, on the near north end convenient to I-71.

The seminar is appropriate for anyone who will want to become a hunt test judge, for judges who need a seminar to retain their judging status, and for handlers who would like to learn more about hunt tests and their rules and regulations from a judge's perspective.

Seminars have become somewhat few and far between in recent years. If you think you will want to judge sometime in the next few years, this is an excellent opportunity to complete the seminar portion of the judging requirement.

(Judges Seminar, cont.)

Additionally, if you have already attended a seminar within the past three years and have three judges points, you will need a second seminar to retain your status (see the AKC Hunt Test [Regulations and Guidelines](#) for details).

The cost of the seminar is \$45. Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 28. Please see attached flyer for details and registration.

April Club Training Day Will Try a New Venue

Thanks to the scouting efforts and suggestion of members Kevin Bullock, Joe Dutro, and John Campbell, the Board has decided that the Sunday, April 5 Club Training Day will take place at Tri-Valley Wildlife Area in Zanesville ([map](#)). This state property is being developed for bird dog trials to replace training and trial grounds lost at Kildeer Plains.

To facilitate finding the property, club members will meet at 8:30 at the McDonald's on route 60 (between Frazeysburg and Coshocton) just south of 16. From there, it is only a 15 minute drive. Kevin, Joe, and John are chairing the training day.

The board voted recently to re-institute the practice of charging a small fee to cover training day expenses. Please be ready with \$3 per dog.

Come tune your dog up for the spring hunt test and check out some new grounds!

May Club Training Day to Focus on New Handlers, Membership

The Club Training Day on Sunday, May 31, will be devoted to new handlers, new members, and potential members. Club members are encouraged to invite fellow hunters, participants in other competitive venues (obedience, agility, etc.), or anyone who has a retriever and who may be curious about hunt test competition.

Al Jameson and Don Smith are coordinating the event, which will be held at the Johnstown Sportsmen's Club ([map and info](#)). We will meet at 8:30 to begin at 9.

The day will focus on motivation, exposure to birds and bumpers, exposure to gunners in the field, hunt test manners, and demonstration of the skills needed to participate in hunt tests. While members may bring a dog to be considered as a demo dog for various activities, this will not be a typical training day; the focus of the day is new handlers and new dogs.

Picnic food will be provided, and experienced members are needed to put a friendly face on the game and to provide expert help at the line and at gun stations. Attendance of members is vital to the success of this day! Everyone was a "newbie" once, and everyone knows how difficult it can be to find the right training partners and club.

So, come be somebody's Dog Training Hero! Or, at least put a friendly face to this rather eccentric hobby. Everyone will certainly have fun with excited young dogs and fresh faces.

The Web Site Has Been Updated!

Web editor Tim Price has been working hard to update the look and function of the club web site.

While any web site is a work in progress, it's looking pretty good! Check it out at ohiovalleyretrieverclub.com .

If you have a recent photo or a suggestion for the site, please contact Tim at tprice1@insight.rr.com , or let the newsletter know and your message will be forwarded to Tim.

Call for Dues

Annual dues are \$20 per member family. If you have not done so already, please send your 2009 dues to the Treasurer:

Ed Schillig
1391 Prospect-Mt. Vernon Rd. E.
Waldo, OH 43356

Send Your Photos and Brags!

When you experience that qualifying score, title, great day hunting, or other accomplishment, why not send a note and a photo to the newsletter? You know how hard you and your dog work for your achievements—share them with others through the Leash and Whistle and on the web site!

Attachments sent simultaneously with this newsletter:

AKC Judges Seminar registration information
OVRC Calendar of Events