



# HWA Update

January, 2017

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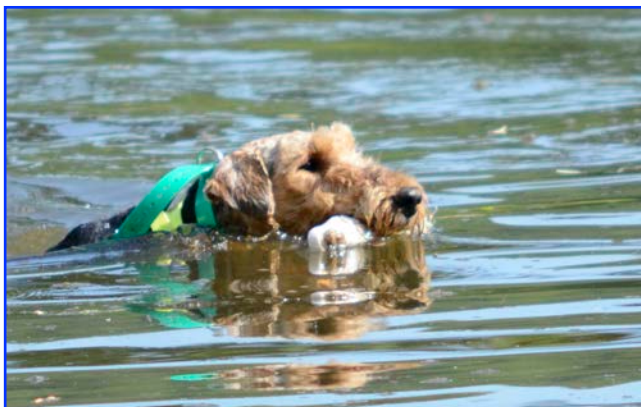


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## Happy New Year!

If you're an Airedale person who loves to see our breed in action in the field, then we hope you'll make it a priority to mark your calendar for the three HWA events on tap in 2017. We know dog people plan their vacation days around their dog activities, so this newsletter just might help you plan ahead. These are events worth a road trip.... if you're an Airedale person.



### Fun in the Field Opening Event

HWA's annual spring **Fun in the Field** weekend kicks off our season on **April 9-10<sup>th</sup>**. We'll again gather at Holly Hills Game Preserve, near Chillicothe, OH, to introduce or re-acquaint our Airedales with both fur (as in raccoons) and feather (as in pheasants). While doing that, we'll have time to enjoy being with Airedale friends both old and new.

Our Fun in the Field weekend is designed to be a no-pressure, no-stress (no tests!) weekend, but we do give it some structure to make it worth your while. For those interested, we'll devote a morning to training with a raccoon. We'll show you how to lay a scent trail and encourage your dog to do the three things required to pass a Fur Test: 1) Follow a track; 2) Look UP at the tree to find the caged raccoon; 3) BARK! Sounds easy? Well, a little practice goes a long way for dogs who have no experience in this.

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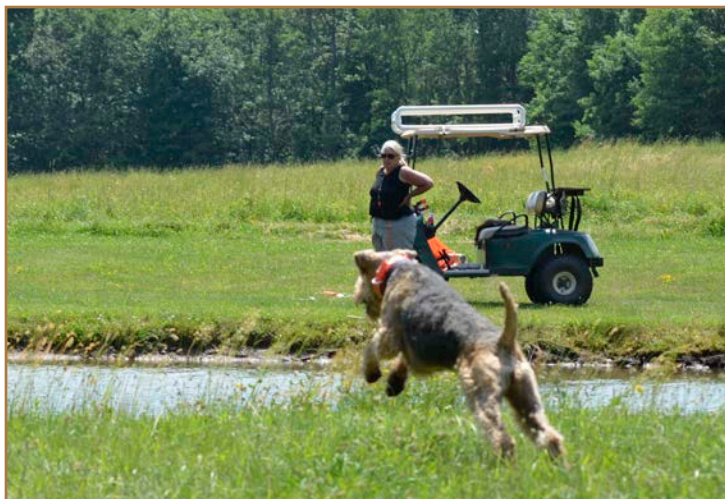
## **Bridget Bodine's All-Airedale Retrieving Seminar**

Building on the success of last year's event, HWA is pleased to again sponsor an **All-Airedale Retrieving Seminar** presented by professional gundog trainer Bridget Bodine. This seminar will take place on **June 9-11, 2017** at Bridget's homebase, DeCoverly Kennels in southeastern Pennsylvania (see [www.decoverlykennels.com](http://www.decoverlykennels.com) ).

Participants for this training weekend will be limited to 10 Airedales, though more auditors without dogs will be okay. The limit of 10 dogs allows for Bridget to give significant individual coaching time to each dog/handler team. Bridget will use our Airedales to demonstrate how to use an e-collar to train and prompt behaviors from basic obedience to complicated blind retrieves. The sophisticated use of the e-collar, not just as punishment for non-compliant behavior, but rather as a prompt to fast and correct responses is something you could see in a video or read about in a book, but having Bridget walk you through it with your dog has practical results. Dogs will work on land and water with bumpers, chukar and ducks.

Whether you're starting a puppy or have an older dog who's reached a training plateau, this is a seminar for those who are serious about training with finesse to produce a successful hunting companion and hunt test dog. One requirement: bring your sense of humor, since training with Airedales always brings outbreaks of spontaneous laughter. Bridget has our terriers' number and knows how to play it.

Our entry information will be available at Fun in the Field and sent out afterwards to our email list and website.



Leap into Bridget's seminar!

*(Fun in the Field, Cont'd from page 1)*

And we'll also introduce you and your dog to pheasant hunting. Dogs with no prior exposure to birds or gunfire will start slow with the help of our volunteers. Going to the field to find and chase pheasants is very exciting even for dogs who've never tried it before. We want to light the sparks that get that hunting fire burning in dogs and their owners.



Roxy, owned/handled by Chris Cullen, was an enthusiastic pheasant learner at Fun in the Field.

More experienced dogs also will have their chance to refine their pheasant hunting skills. We provide the gunners, bird planters and fields. Your Airedale provides the excitement. If you'd prefer to hunt on your own with your dog, that can be also arranged.

Entry information to be sent to our email list and posted on our website in February. Its something to look forward to!

### **Did You Know?**

2017 **Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic**, an annual convention for hunters and conservationists sponsored by Pheasants Forever, takes place on **February 17-19<sup>th</sup>** at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Once again, the ATCA Hunting and Field committee will have a booth showcasing Airedales as a hunting breed, always a standout among the more traditional sporting breed booths. If you're in the area, stop in to meet them!

## HWA's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nationals

This year's **HWA Airedale Field Nationals** takes place on **September 8-10<sup>th</sup>** at Holly Hills Game Preserve, near Chillicothe, OH. We're returning to our favorite place and the hospitality of Holly Hills owners Dean and Marsha Hatfield to bring you another three-day event full of Airedale activities for newcomers and experienced dogs.

If you've never been to an HWA Nationals, there's plenty for your pups and inexperienced Airedales to do, including a Hunting Instinct Test, Barkathon and Pocket Quail Fun Contest. Dawn Schuster, an AKC Upland judge who will also be judging our HWA Upland Test, will again present her popular entry-level training seminar for dogs and owners who aren't ready for hunt tests.



Dawn Schuster's Beginners' Seminar at last year's Nationals had many eager students, including Moe, owned/handled by Larry Zook.

For dogs with some training, we'll continue our tradition of ATCA/HWA Fur Tests offered on Junior, Senior and Master levels, as well as HWA Upland and Retriever Tests. Our goal has always been to encourage Airedales to earn their HWA Versatile titles by qualifying in all three tests.

And for a break in the field action, Corally Burmaster and Pat Reed are already making plans for our annual Banquet and Auction. The HWA Nationals have always been one of those rare events where the people we meet and the friends we make are as important as the dogs that bring us together.

We hope you're planning to join us!

## HWA's 2017 Board of Directors

### *President*

Patricia Nemeth

### *Vice-President*

Kate Ostrowski

### *Treasurer*

Michael Sites

### *Secretary*

Pat Bell

### *Board Members*

John Bell

Diane Cullen

Stuart Eavenson

George Gordon

## ATCA's Cooley Memorial Hunt Test

The Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA] Hunting and Field Committee has announced the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Randall Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend** will take place on **May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2017** at Rock River Kennels in Beaver Dam, WI. This event starts with an ATCA Fur Test on Friday and proceeds to two days of AKC Upland Tests, open to Airedales as well as flushing breeds recognized by the AKC. Though the weekend is popular with Mid-Westerners, many HWA members support the club by bringing their dogs to participate in this Airedale-oriented weekend.

This year the ATCA Hunting/Field team will be holding an **Airedale Retrieving Olympics** on Friday afternoon (May 19<sup>th</sup>). This is a fun competition of retrieving skills, such as speed bumper drills and fastest land and water retrieves, offering Gold, Silver and Bronze prizes. In addition, they'll have some tests and activities for pups and non-trained dogs. Sounds like crazy fun!

For more information and to be on their entry list, contact Scott Lichty at [lichsmi@msn.com](mailto:lichsmi@msn.com). Entry forms will go out in March.

## 2017 Membership Drive Continues

HWA's annual Membership Drive continues to the end of February. If you've already renewed or started your membership, Thank You very much!

If you haven't gotten around to sending in your membership, we hope that you'll take a moment to download, fill out and send in the Membership form that you can find at our website via this link: <http://huntingworkingairedales.com/media/HWA2017Membershipformsm.pdf>

Why bother? First of all, HWA survives and thrives through the financial and moral support of its members. We need our members to help fund our programs, to take a turn serving on our Board of Directors, and to volunteer at our events. Even if you're not able to actively participate in the club, if you agree that HWA's mission of promoting and preserving the Airedale as a versatile hunting companion dog is important, you *should* be a member.

Plus, HWA membership has some benefits for you. While anyone may enjoy looking through our website, as a member, you'll have access to the password-protected Members section of the website. The Members' section has more "insider" information on your club, including summaries of Board Meeting Minutes, financial reports and a roster of contact information of our members. Want to learn more about Airedales? You *should* be a member.

HWA offers a selection of shirts, hats and occasional Airedale-related gear bearing the HWA logo, emblem or name. Sure, anyone can buy the clothes and wear them, but to be really authentic about it, you *should* be a member.

If you're an Airedale breeder who includes performance or hunting abilities as goals in your breeding program, your HWA membership entitles you to be included on our website's Breeder Referral page. Contact us at [HWAINformation@gmail.com](mailto:HWAINformation@gmail.com) to put that in motion when you send in your membership. If you want your pups to find homes with folks who plan to do something with them, you *should* be a member.

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## Spreading the Word

Word of Mouth, they say, is the best advertising. We hope that when Airedales come up in your conversations, you might steer the talk to the breed's hunting heritage and present-day abilities.

We have some aids available to help you spread the word.

For instance, if someone asks you, "Why would anyone want to hunt with an Airedale Terrier?," you could hand them one of our **"Versatile Airedale 3-in-1 Gundog" brochures**. This brochure points out the Airedale hunting advantages, such as good nose, athleticism, strength and courage. Combined with the breed's defining humor, guard dog spirit and intelligence, all that makes for a multi-faceted dog that's more than the average hunting dog. You can preview the brochure on our website at <http://www.hwamember.com/AiredaleGundogBrochure.pdf>

We'll be happy to send you professionally-printed copies of this handout if you request some by contacting us with your name and snail mail address.



And still available to Airedale breeders, our **Puppy Brochure**, made to include with your puppy packets for new owners, will suggest the pup's new family might want to channel some of that puppy energy and talent into the field. Over the past few years Airedale breeders have passed out hundreds of these brochures to new owners.

*(Continued on page 5, right column)*

*(Membership Drive, Cont'd from page 4)*

HWA is a club that offers camaraderie without cutthroat competitiveness. Even if you have little time, interest or capability for field work, our club brings together an assortment of people who share the bond of loving Airedales. We value the bonds of lasting friendships made over the years through HWA. If you like to talk Airedale talk and hang out with Airedale people, you *should* be a member.

All that, and we haven't raised our dues for years. You *should* be a member!



*If you do not wish to stay connected through our HWA email mailing list, please contact [HWAinformation@gmail.com](mailto:HWAinformation@gmail.com) to ask to be removed.*

*(Spreading the Word, cont'd from page 4)*

We're thrilled when some of their pups show up at our events. Preview the Puppy Brochure at <http://www.hwamember.com/Puppy%20Owner%20Brochure.pdf>, then contact us at [HWAinformation@gmail.com](mailto:HWAinformation@gmail.com) to order some copies for your upcoming litters. No charge, of course.

Here's what goes on at HWA events...

If your new puppy....

- Loves to chase anything that moves
- Is crazy for catching bouncing balls
- Loves to bring back things you toss
- Is not intimidated by loud noises (even if that's you scolding him)
- Uses his nose to find treats
- Uses his mouth to grab and secure things
- Would rather look out a window for squirrels than nap on a couch
- Likes water play, frolics or swims
- Is ready to explore the world, with or without you

Then you have a hunting Airedale!

Congratulations on your new Airedale puppy!

As you enjoy his or her **ENDLESS ENERGY** and **INTO-EVERYTHING ANTICS** we hope you'll consider participating in Hunting Working Airedale events.

You don't have to be a hunter to enjoy Hunting Working Airedales.

For more information 716-625-9420 or [www.huntingworkingairedales.com](http://www.huntingworkingairedales.com)

### Did You Know?

HWA's **Facebook** site now has 1,969 "likes," with followers from around the world and the US. Can we make it 2000 soon?

Help us build the field Airedale community by sharing our posts and adding your photos and comments. Find us by searching FB for "Hunting Working Airedales, Inc."

### New Year's Resolutions!

- 1) Mark your calendar now to attend at least one HWA event this year.
- 2) If you've been talking about doing some field training, lay the groundwork now by lining up a trainer to work with and develop your plan for this year.
- 3) Wag more, bark less.

## Fur vs. Feather

Recently we had an interesting discussion on HWA's Facebook site. One of our FB commenters noted that our HWA site mostly features Airedales as bird dogs. He pointed out that from the early 1900s to about the mid 1980s, Airedales were best known for handling varmints and big game. Why are we pushing Airedales as bird dogs, he wondered?

In reply, we posted a number of photos of Airedales working raccoons on the ground and in tree training in this year's events. It's clear from the photos that Airedales still have an interest in fur tackling.



But we also agreed that in HWA's 30+ years, we've seen a decline in the number of *owners* actively using their Airedales for fur hunting. Perhaps fewer people are living a country life that gives them access and reason to chase varmints. Maybe there's more concern of rabies in game, or perhaps there's fear of disapproval from animal rights people. For whatever reasons, the everyday use of dogs for fur hunting seems to be a diminishing activity in most parts of the country.

However, HWA and our breed's parent club, the ATCA, are committed to preserving the capability of Airedales for tracking and tackling fur. To that end, HWA events, as well as ATCA parent club fur tests, are designed to give Airedales an introduction to raccoon work; teach owners how to lay track; and then we test the

dog's abilities. We do this for the same reason that herding breed clubs hold herding trials, even though a tiny minority of herding dogs actually tend flocks nowadays. Likewise, we see the Newfoundland club holding water life-saving tests for their dogs, even though few Newfs need that skill anymore. HWA and our breed's parent club hold Airedale Fur Tests to keep alive that part of our breed's heritage.

We do this [hold Fur Tests] for the same reason that herding breed clubs hold herding trials, even though a tiny minority of herding dogs actually tend flocks nowadays.

It may seem like HWA is "pushing" Airedales as bird dogs, but then again, there are numerous opportunities for bird hunting. Some Airedalers take advantage of AKC and HRC hunt tests, and others use game preserves or public lands for pheasant hunting. This is an organized sport. From our Facebook discussions, we've heard from owners who still use Airedales on mountain lion, bear, coyotes, trap lines, or wounded deer tracking, but the owners who do this are mostly on their own.

We've seen that many Airedales still have the grit to track and tackle fur, and those same dogs will bring in pheasants and waterfowl. That versatility is a key feature of our breed, and we'll work to promote and preserve it.



## Website Wealth

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HWA's website at [www.huntingworkingairedales.com](http://www.huntingworkingairedales.com) is designed as a **rich reference resource** of information on the Airedale as a hunting and working dog. It takes some browsing around in it to realize just how much you can find out.

For instance, as well as the standard **histories of Airedales and our club**, we post **reports and photos of our events** to take you there (virtually). Dig deeper into the **marked catalog of our Nationals**, and you can find the record of dogs who were entered, how they ran, and note a pattern of breeders and bloodlines.

The **Spotlight On AKC and HRC Title Holders** section of the website is found under the "About HWA and More" section, or via this link: [http://huntingworkingairedales.com/about/hwtitledogs\\_1.html](http://huntingworkingairedales.com/about/hwtitledogs_1.html) These pages are updated annually to showcase the achievements of Airedales in the wider sporting-dog world. We post photos of each dog as well as sire/dam and breeder information so that anyone researching the breed or looking to acquire a pup will have a good starting point.

Dig deeper into that section to find a **listing of all Airedales** (to the best of our knowledge) **with Hunt Test titles** in the US since HWA started its titling program in 1994. Our list now includes 145 Airedales with hunt titles issued by HWA, the AKC, HRC (UKC), ATCA and GLSDA (that last is Great Lakes Sporting Dog Assoc). Here's a link to that list on our website: <http://huntingworkingairedales.com/media/HuntingTitleHoldersSortedbyDog120116.pdf> Students of our breed will note kennel prefixes of breeders who have produced the most dogs, as well as owners who have added many versatile titles to their dogs.

Have a look at the **FAQ section** that offers tips on getting started, or check out the **Breeders' Referral** page if you're looking for a pup. Last but not least, at the risk of being called "cluttered," we've loaded our website with lots of **photos of Airedales in the field**. Our intent is to show that there's 'way more than just a few Airedales in the field, and all of them look like they're having the time of their lives. And we hope that will be the first thing you notice.

### Did You Know?

HWA will again offer a **Limited Spring Raffle**, with the winning ticket drawn at Fun in the Field. What's this year's item? Can't say yet, but here's a few hints: it's intricately hand-crafted; it's a one-of-a-kind work of art that has been months in the making; its creator is someone you may know from HWA events. Stay tuned for news on ticket sales, coming out in March.

### Winter Training Tip

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*Mushers' Secret*, long-used by Husky owners Up North to protect their dogs' feet from ice and snow, is also a good protective product for hunting dogs in deep winter snow. A thick coating of the balm on foot pads prevents snow clots between toes. It also prevents irritation from street salt. Available on Amazon or dog supply stores.



Our thanks and appreciation goes out to our webmaster, **Andrea Shaw** of [callmyagency.com](http://callmyagency.com) for applying her expertise with her devotion to our breed into years of work on our website.