



HWA Update

Winter, 2022

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

SAVE THE DATES!

HWA Fun in the Field
April 9 - 10, 2022

HWA Airedale Field Nationals*
Sept. 9 - 11, 2022

NEW LOCATION FOR BOTH EVENTS!
Elk Ridge Hunt Club
Bucyrus, OH

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Happy New Year!

Changes Underway for HWA

2022 brings some exciting changes for Hunting Working Airedales as a club. You may have already noticed from the Save the Dates announcement above that we'll be holding our HWA events in a new location -- Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, OH. We were fortunate to enjoy nine years of HWA events at Holly Hills Game Preserve, and now timing is right for our move to a new location. We wish Holly Hills owner Dean Hatfield a happy retirement as he turns over the running of Holly Hills to family members.

Our new location, **Elk Ridge Hunt Club**, is well-known to upland hunters and hunt test participants. Dennis and Terri Courtad, owners of Elk Ridge, offer us well-maintained fields, clubhouse and ponds for our events. They're experienced in working with dog clubs, and we look forward to a long tenure with them.

Plans are already underway for our **2022 Fun in the Fun, April 9 and 10th, 2022**. As in the past, this Saturday and Sunday weekend will be devoted to training experiences for beginners with puppies or inexperienced dogs on up to those with intermediate and advanced hunting skills. Fun in the Field entry/reservation forms will be sent out in February, so watch for more details to come.

HWA's Airedale Field Nationals* have an asterisk in the Save the Date announcement to let you know that this year's Nationals will depart from the traditional pattern our club has followed since the establishment of HWA Hunt Tests in 1993.

This year's Nationals, to be held September 9-11, 2022, will be a three-day event that
(continued on page 2)

Change Underway, cont'd

continues the training workshops and experiences that proved so popular at our Fun in the Field weekends. **We will not have HWA Upland and HWA Retriever hunt tests at the Nationals this year.** We do plan to incorporate some elements of the former Nationals, for instance, an ATCA Fur Test, our Hunting Instinct Test for puppies and untrained dogs, a Banquet on Saturday night, and of course, our Annual Meeting.

These changes have been made following considerable discussion among our volunteers in recent months. When our club started as the Hunting/Working Committee of the Airedale Terrier Club of America in 1985, the main goal of the founding members was to get Airedale Terriers recognized as a legitimate hunting breed through participation in AKC Upland and Retriever Hunt Tests, and to have the Airedale Fur Test recognized by the American Kennel Club with titles on AKC pedigrees. Thanks to many years of hard work by Airedalers, most especially in recent years by the ATCA's Hunting and Field Committee, we can now say "**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.**"

Once Airedales were allowed to run in AKC Upland and Retriever Tests, we've noticed that participation in our HWA Nationals' hunt tests has decreased. Going to any hunt test involves travel and food expenses, entry fees, and time allotted for that activity. While some of our usual attendees



Wren, a puppy bred/owned/handled by Sherri Glass, found and retrieved a pheasant in the Hunting Instinct Test at the 2021 HWA Nationals.

continued to enter HWA hunt tests while they were also running AKC hunt tests, we noticed that other former supporters "graduated" to AKC hunt tests and left HWA behind. That's an understandable choice and probably what our club's founders intended to happen. But it does make it more difficult to hold HWA tests with small entries expected.

On the other hand, Hunting Working Airedales is the only Airedale club that actively cultivates bringing in newcomers who want to get started in field work. HWA is also a club for Airedale owners to just come for fun and to see if their dog has any aptitude or inclination for hunting. Our workshops for beginners start with Introductions to Game Birds and Intro to Raccoon Tracking, and then may introduce concepts such as force breaking, e-collar conditioning, and whistle training. Practice bumper drills, intro to live gunfire, practice bird hunts --- all done with people who understand our breed --- are all stepping stones bringing Airedalers into the sporting dog world. Our stress-free hunting sessions for dogs with some training are excellent prep for AKC Hunt Tests. This is definitely a continuing mission for HWA.

2022 will be an interesting year for HWA. Will our participants like the new pattern for our Nationals? Will we bring back HWA Hunt Tests by popular demand? HWA will be as strong as those who participate make it. The future is in your hands.

Tell Us What YOU Think

HWA Events Planning Committee and Board of Directors try to make the best decisions to for the club, but to do that, feedback from our members is always welcome. So you're invited to contact any Board member you might know (find their contact information in the Members Roster in the Members' section of our website) or contact HWA President Chris Halvorson at HWAINformation@gmail.com. Your comments and suggestions will be well considered by our Events Committee planners.

Fun in the Field Forecast

HWA's annual Fun in the Field weekend takes place on April 9-10, 2022 at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, OH. This is a weekend for training with fur-tracking and game birds. Its intended for dogs and owners who may have never tried it before, on up to those who come to increase their skills through the practice opportunities we offer. Along the way we have the chance to enjoy the company of many Airedales and their owners.

If you haven't previously attended a Fun in the Field, 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 also offer an introduction to game birds for pups and dogs who have never seen or smelled a live bird. You'll be surprised how the "light bulb" 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 lessons will be informal and stress-free.

For those who are ready to hunt, we'll have chukar hunting sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. Spectators will see 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.

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

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

HWA Board of Directors for 2022

President
Chris Halvorson

Vice-President
Susan Hogsette

Secretary
Kim Zaborniak

Treasurer
Kate Ostrowski

Board Members
Angela Dobbins
Cindy Green
Linda Potter
Mary Wright

This year we welcome Kate Ostrowski back to our Board to serve as our Treasurer. Our appreciation to our former Treasurer, John Noland, who rotates off the Board after stellar service through two consecutive two-year terms as Treasurer.



Lucy, owned/handled by Katherine White, works the raccoon tree at the 2021 Fun in the Field.

2022 Membership Drive Ongoing

HWA's membership drive starts at the Nationals, but picks up importance 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 2022 Membership form for renewals or new memberships by clicking the Join Us button on our website's homepage : www.huntingworkingairedales.com or via this direct link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.org/HWA%20Membership%20form%202022.pdf>

Why become an HWA member?

If you love an Airedale's fire, drive and abilities, and you enjoy hunting or even just 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 to have some fun with our dogs, 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 idea the goes beyond every-owner-for-himself. That's what a club is, and members make a club.

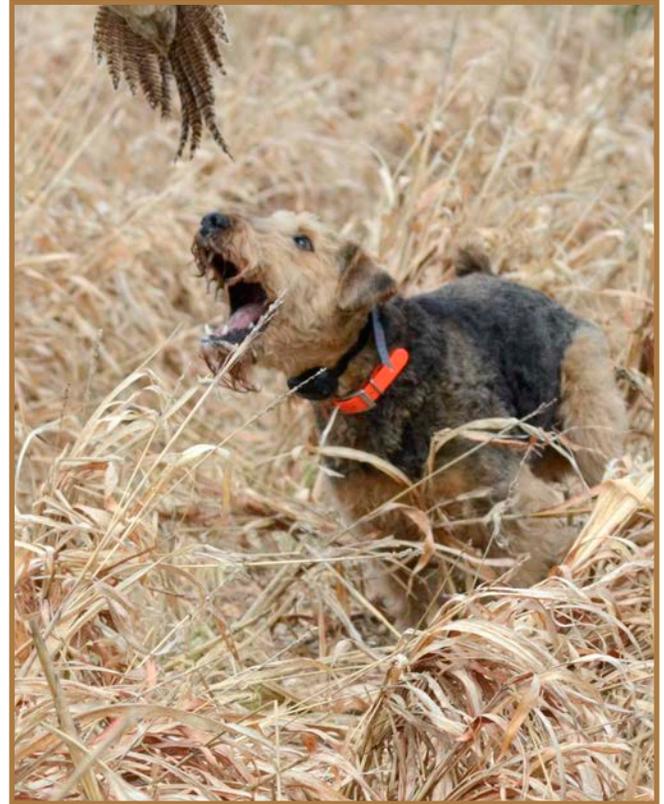
HWA also welcomes members who aren't interested or able to attend our events, train with their dogs, or walk about in hunting fields. After all, there are things like jobs, children, shortages of time, funds or physical limitations that might keep you otherwise-occupied. But HWA is also a club for those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

The Members section on our website is an added benefit. 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.

HWA membership also qualifies you to take a turn serving on our Board of Directors, vote in contested elections, be considered for the Breeders' Referral listing, and organize a regional event. While you may not have the time or inclination to be deeply involved in our club right now, keep in mind that the continuation of HWA rests in its membership.

Talk About Drive!

← And we are, at left
This photo just to get your attention.



ATCA 20th Annual Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend

The 20th annual **Randy Cooley Memorial Hunt Test** weekend takes place **May 20-22nd, 2022** at Rock River Kennels, Beaver Dam, WI. This weekend of Airedale activities is hosted by the Hunting and Field Committee of the Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA]. The weekend offers tests that showcase Airedale's abilities as a three-in-one gundog.

The weekend begins with an ATCA Fur Test on Friday morning, May 20, followed by an ATCA Retriever Test on Friday afternoon. Saturday and Sunday, May 21-22, will have two full days AKC Upland Hunt Tests. Check in with Scott Lichty at airedalescott@gmail.com for entry information well before the event, as their AKC hunt tests fill up fast.

A Short History of AKC Hunt Tests, With Airedales Barking in the Background

- The first AKC Retriever hunt tests were held in 1985.
- The first AKC Spaniel hunt tests followed in 1988.
- The Airedale Terrier Club of America's Hunting/Working Committee was formed in 1985. One of the Committee's first steps was to officially ask the AKC to open its retriever and spaniel hunt tests to Airedales. That request was denied.
- However, with that refusal came the AKC's suggestion that the ATCA develop its own hunt test program, and that if Airedales proved themselves in those tests, then the AKC would reconsider the Airedale's admission to AKC hunt tests.
- The Hunting/Working Committee began their annual Hunting/Working Weekends (alternately called "The Nationals") intended to bring together Airedales and owners to explore the Airedale's traditional versatility in hunting upland game, waterfowl and fur (raccoon).
- In 1993 the Hunting/Working Committee instituted official HWA hunt tests, with the approval of the AKC.
- During the 1990s, the ATCA's Hunting/Working Committee representatives courted the AKC Performance Division officials. Correspondence and written reports were submitted to them, and AKC officials and observers were invited to the Nationals.
- In spring of 1999, the Hunting Working Committee submitted a 167-page "Proposal for the Admission of Airedale Terriers to AKC Hunt Tests" to the AKC. The Proposal was summarily rejected.
- The Hunting Working Committee continued its hunt test program through its annual Nationals and some regional hunt tests. In 2007 the then-directors of the H/W Committee formed Hunting Working Airedales, Inc. (HWA), our current club, which was incorporated separately from the ATCA. Subsequently, the ATCA's Hunting and Field committee formed to continue working with and through the parent club. In recent years,

HWA and the ATCA's Hunting and Field committee have worked cooperatively towards shared goals, but the ATCA's Hunting and Field Committee had the connection through the parent club to continue to petition the AKC to allow Airedales into AKC hunt tests.

- In 2009, the AKC opened their AKC Spaniel (Upland) hunt tests to Airedales.
- In 2018, the AKC has allowed ATCA Fur Test titles to be recorded on AKC pedigrees and certificates.
- In 2019, the AKC allowed Airedales to run in AKC Retriever Tests.
- Since 2009 over two dozen Airedales have earned AKC hunt-test titles, including several Master Hunters. Several Airedales have qualified in AKC retriever hunts and earned Junior Retriever titles. The vast majority of Airedale entrants in AKC tests got their start and/or participated in HWA events. HWA events are both a training ground and a launch pad for continuing field work.



Airedale Hunt Test Title Database Updated for Your Review

Every January HWA updates its listing of all Airedales who (to the best of our knowledge) have earned hunt test titles since the start of our program. If a dog has at least one hunt test title, we want to include that dog in this 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 that show the dog's versatility. This database is an important documentation for our breed's history.

"Hunt test titles" means titles earned in AKC, HWA, ATCA [Airedale Terrier Club of America], HRC, or GLSDA [Great Lakes Sporting Dog Association]. Performance titles include all titles offered by an organized program or club, including agility titles and IPO titles.

In addition, HWA's website has a photo showcase of 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. In 2021 we had one new AKC Junior Hunter (Upland) Airedale added to our showcase, but several other Airedales earned legs in Upland and Retriever tests that will no doubt lead to more new title holders in 2022.

You can find our Hunt Test Title Holder listing and our photo showcase on our website under the About tab on our website, www.huntingworkingairedales.com or by this direct link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.org/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.

If we have inadvertently missed your Airedale who has a hunt test title, please let us know by contacting hwainformation@gmail.com

Hunt Tests in Perspective

Airedale owners who have no interest in entering a hunt test may well feel some of us over-emphasize the importance of such tests and titles. Do they really matter that much?

For an interesting look at one Airedale experience, check out "Redemption for Major" on pages 7-8 of this newsletter.



Elliott, owned/handled by Kim Zaborniak, was the only new addition to HWA's Showcase of AKC Hunt-Titled Airedales last year.

Also known as Ch., UKC-Ch. Donaldmac's Easy On the Eyes JH, CD, BN, RE, MFT, NAP, DCAT, ACT2, JFT, CGC, TKE, RATO, URO1, Elliott added an AKC Junior Hunter upland title and an ATCA Master Fur Tracker title to his resumé.

Redemption for Major

By Christine Thomas

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"I have my bird dog and my shotgun in the truck," I said as Stan headed out. "I'll see you at the little cabin."

Stan went to pick up some pheasants at the Lake Elaine Game Farm near Nelsonville, not far from the cabin. I had invited our friend, and fellow member of the Ducks Unlimited board, Bob Spoerl, to join us for some dog work and pheasant shooting. Bob was bringing a Wheelhouse pizza for lunch. I cut up some fresh fruit and veggies for "go-withs."

I was worried about Major. The reason for this worry was the experience I had with him the last time we saw birds in the field. That event was the Randy Cooley Memorial hunt test at Rock River Kennels in Beaver Dam, WI. Each year, Airedale owners from around the country gather in May to run their dogs in hunt tests, ranging from raccoon tracking and trailing to upland and waterfowl skills. Major has hunted with me since he was a puppy. However, he did not get much formal training until he was about three years old. We were too busy with showing him in conformation. My friend, Janice Wavra, successfully took him to Grand Champion with very limited showing. Still, the grooming and showing schedule put the hunt training in second seat.

When I turned Major over to Justin VanDeHey, at Cooperstown Kennels, early in the spring, three years ago, the goal was to get him ready to compete in Junior Hunter at the Cooley. Justin let me visit him over the course of several weeks, however, would not let me take him home. Major was at boot camp. He would not let me transport Major to the event. He would not let Major stay with me at night. He had Major trained to the senior level, and he did not want anything to break the focus. Major had already passed his Junior Fur Tracker test the year before, however, had not been tested in upland or waterfowl hunting. I was already hanging the pretty ribbons up before the day started.

The weekend was a complete disaster. Poor Justin! He has bred, trained, and campaigned legions of Labrador retrievers to Master Hunter. His kennel walls and even the kennels themselves are totally covered in the aforementioned ribbons. He likely only took Major on because we

worked together. Still, he did take on my stubborn terrier. He had him doing work at a level well beyond the test we entered. You would not have known it on that Saturday morning. It was EMBARRASSING.

In the upland part of the test, they put out three birds. In this case, it was chukars. Your dog must find, flush, and retrieve successfully. Those elements need to be demonstrated over the course of the three tries, but not necessarily all at once. If that happens you get to go onto water retrieves. We had this. I thought.

Justin sent Major for his first bird. Major found it immediately. Instead of flushing it, he tried to PEE on it. I covered my face. Justin sent him for the second bird. He found it right away, ranging across the field like the spaniels that Airedales hunt test with. Instead of flushing it, he tried to POOP on it. I groaned.

"He pretty much has to nail this one," the judge said helpfully.

Major went right to bird number three and the flush was perfect. The bird flew and flew and flew.

"Just shoot the #\$@&! @\$%&! bird," I urged the shooters, not too loudly.

(Continued on page 8)



Major at the Cooley

(Major, cont'd from page 7)

Finally, one of the gentlemen shot. The bird sailed into what seemed like the next county. Major promptly brought it back and delivered it professionally to Justin's hand. So, we advanced to water retrieves, where Major refused to go into the water.

"But, he is such a great hunter," I lamented to Justin.

"Some dogs are great hunting companions, but do not test well," he replied.

I spent the whole summer working Major in the water. I went every Saturday and Sunday morning to 3-4 different boat landings each day. He retrieved loads of bumpers. He also contracted giardia.

That fall, we took him to Tom and Debbie Lewis's ranch in Montana to hunt pheasants. He was a star.

The Cooley did not happen in 2020 due to Covid. Still, I hunted Major that fall. He was great. So, I was pretty fired up to take him to the 2021 Cooley. We entered both the Senior Fur Tracker test and the bird hunting junior tests. He flopped at all of them. If I go into the details, I won't have enough words left for the redemption part. Let's just say that GCH Coldstream Major Mischief – Second to None JFT CGC TKI, winner of an Airedale Terrier Club of America Gold Versatility award, who is nearly always way up on my "love muffin" list, plummeted to the bottom and stayed there for at least a couple of weeks. This was an unprecedented amount of time in the doghouse. I do not think he noticed.

So, I was worried that he would display total disregard for his training and embarrass me in front of Bob. It did not happen. I was very proud of my beautiful boy. The day was overcast, which kept the temperatures in the low '60's. We put out 10 birds. Major found and flushed 9 of them. We shot six. He stayed close. He responded to voice and whistle commands. He delivered every bird to hand. That great Justin VanDeHey training kicked in. I was able to get great photos.

The penultimate moment was when he flushed a "surprise" bird. One that strayed from the spot where Bob and Stan planted it. Stan swung on the bird and shot. It sailed out of sight beyond a rise in the field. Major went after it. Stan could not be sure if he hit it or not. Should I give the "no bird" signal or let Major decide? I let him go. A few minutes later, he came trotting back with the rooster in tow.

"That was a great retrieve," Bob complimented.

It is a real "high" when your bird dog provides a great day in the field for your friends. Major sailed right up to the top of the "love muffin" list. He is likely to stay there a long time.

Sunday night, I fixed a new recipe, Grilled Pheasant Breast with Tarragon Sauce. You can catch it on my website www.christinethomasoutdoors.com. There is just nothing like a great meal prepared from the bounty of a good day in the field. Major sat next to me as we ate dinner. I shared a bite from my plate with him from time to time. He really likes pheasant.



Major Redeemed