



MNRC News

Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club

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President's Message...

Greetings;

Two months ago we sent out a letter to our member club contacts and delegates with a proposal for a regional system of qualification for the Master National event. Our regional vice presidents and directors followed up this letter by contacting clubs and asking for their opinions about the regional concept. We still have clubs that want to see separate professional and amateur events, those that want to see handlers limited to a restricted number of dogs, and those that feel that the regional system would not be selecting for the best dogs; just the lucky ones. The fact is that there will never be a system that pleases everyone. In the course of the past two years we have looked seriously at every idea that is out there. Any system CAN WORK if the effort is made. The hard part is getting support for a system to give it a chance to succeed. The majority of clubs responding were favorable to the regional concept. The primary concerns of those opposing the regional test plan was that it would be too expensive and discourage the amateur handler. In answer to these concerns we have placed a provision that up to two regional tests may be held in a region per year and have also removed the domiciled clause. These changes should allow for all qualified dogs and handlers to have a regional qualifying test that is within their normal test-driving distance. It should also provide all dogs and handlers an equal opportunity to participate. Another perceived problem was the requirement that at least one judge be a previous Master National judge. In answer to this we have removed that requirement. Such details as host club selection, cost, parties and awards are subject to variability and change, and they are not placed in the Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws are posted on the website for you to view along with a series of questions and answers.

There were numerous requests that we hold a vote by mail as opposed to a Special Called Meeting. The ability to vote by mail (Vote By Consent) is allowed by Delaware Law (the

VISION STATEMENT

The Master National Retriever Club, Inc., is committed to the hunting tradition, and devoted to the promotion, breeding, training and best interests of retrievers. In order to carry out our commitment, Master Hunters will be tested annually in a non-competitive manner at the Master National Stake to the maximum of the standard set out by the American Kennel Club. We firmly believe in supporting the hunting test program and that all participants should conduct themselves as good sportsmen. To obtain the maximum of the standard there shall be such utilization of terrain, bird placement, and natural conditions so as to provide significant challenge to the abilities of the master hunting dog.

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President's Message continued...

state in which the MNRC is incorporated) and as it is not prohibited in our Constitution and By-laws we are able to proceed with business in this manner. There are specific procedures and time lines that must be followed. Once the first completed consent form is received there is a 60-day period in which consents will be accepted. Based on the date the first consent form was received the period of acceptance will end August 20. Consent forms may be returned by U.S.P.S. certified or registered mail or received electronically (email). Electronic versions of the consent form can only be obtained by contacting the MNRC Secretary.

This is not a survey or a straw vote. If passed by two thirds of ALL MNRC member clubs this would result in changes to the club's Constitution and Bylaws. As mentioned earlier we have made several changes to the original proposal that was previously sent which we believe will make a significant impact on the costs and availability of regional tests to participants. Additionally, if the regional test system is approved it would not go into effect until 2008, giving everyone an equal opportunity to qualify for a regional test.

One qualifying system out there that has considerable interest is the idea of a qualifying round held at or near the site of the Master National just prior to the Master National event itself. Those that favor this plan over regional tests feel it would be more accessible to the amateur, less expensive and require fewer days. This could be done, but there are some stipulations. 1) The qualifying test would be a separate event from the Master National. The MNRC can only hold one test per year (see Chapter 6, Regulations and Guidelines for Hunting Tests for Retrievers) hence that test would have to be put on by some other club or clubs than the MNRC. 2) The Master National event could not start until at least three days after the conclusion of the qualifying event. *"Entries for an AKC -licensed or member club Hunting Test ...shall not close later than the third day preceding the start of the Hunting Test"*. Chapter 1, Section 16 Regulations and Guidelines for Hunting Tests for Retrievers. This is what that picture would look like: two events, two (or more) clubs, two sets of entries and fees. A person could spend 14 days at the "event" between the qualifying test, three days wait, and the Master National Hunting Test. This

would not include travel time or pre-national training. Yes, it could be done. But is it any less expensive or time consuming than the regional tests idea? Probably not.

As we head into the final qualifying weeks for this year's event we find ourselves taking care of our present with an eye to the future. As of this writing 107 dogs from Region 4 have qualified for the 2006 event with four weekends remaining to qualify. There are nine dogs that have earned eight or more qualifying scores to date, one of those has passed 11 Master tests! Stepping down to seven passes there are another nine dogs. If we go to dogs earning six qualifying scores there are 28 dogs. Surely one would think, these dogs with passes above the required five are professionally handled. This isn't the case however. Of these 46 dogs with passes over five, 27 are amateur handled. In fact, six of the dogs with eight or more passes are amateur run dogs. What's the point you ask? These are just statistics and they don't mean anything. Statistics are no different than perceived ideas, they mean nothing. These are perceived ideas: regionals will be too expensive and too time consuming, regionals will favor the professional, regionals will be the death of the amateur. The reality is that we don't know what will happen unless we take a bold move forward and try something new.

This is the second issue of the electronic version of the MNRC News. Prior to the posting of the April issue we sent out postcards to everyone on our mailing list. On that post card we stated that anyone wishing to receive a hard copy of the MNRC News could do so and continue getting it as a hard copy. We received only seven requests for hard copies of the Newsletter. Welcome to the electronic age!

At this time we want to thank David Christianson for his work as Director of Region 3. David resigned from this position in late May. He was instrumental in the success of the 2005 event. We wish him the best of luck in the future. The Board is currently interviewing prospective replacements. In this issue of the MNRC News we have more information on this year's event in Morgan Hill. Additional and final information will be in the September issue.

Julie Cairns
President, MNRC

**2006 MASTER NATIONAL
OCTOBER 1-8
MEAD RANCH, MORGAN HILL, CA**

WORKER COMMITTEES

Part of the Master National experience is working at the event. Just like any other hunt test the Master National needs people to make it happen, and this means we need YOU!! As a worker your first obligation is to attend the workers and handlers meeting on Saturday the day prior to the start of the test. At that meeting you will meet your committee chair, be briefed on your duties and sign up for a shift. If you are not a handler you will receive your worker's bag and hat. Those of you that are also handlers will receive the same items in your handler's bag. Worker shifts are usually about 4 hours long. At the conclusion of your first shift you will receive a worker's pin and a ticket which can be turned in for a free lunch from our food concessionaire. The worker's pin is your admittance to the Tuesday night Worker's Party. You will receive a lunch ticket at the conclusion of every shift you work. Sign-up forms are included in the event premium and will be returned to the Hunt Test Secretary. If you wish to volunteer for a committee and are not attending as a handler or with a handler, a worker sign-up sheet will be found in the future on this website.

MARSHALS

The marshal's job is to make certain that dogs and handlers get to the line promptly so that there are no delays. The line marshal calls the dogs/handler team to the line, relays all messages to and from the judges and gives directions to the workers in the field. Holding blind marshals make certain blinds are filled and handlers move into position. The check-in marshal keeps track of the running order board; check-ins and making certain handlers are informed of the order and lined up.

- Implements Chief Marshal's directives from judges
- Makes sure judges have chairs
- Coordinate equipment placement in field
- Arranges for all equipment needs with Steward and Equipment Chair
- Sets up/tears down holding blinds from parking area to line
- Locates and directs handlers from parking area to line
- Coordinates next test needs and set up

GUNNERS

Live gunners shoot birds. Due to California Fish and Game Regulations anyone shooting live birds must have a California hunting license. The gunners are also responsible for firing popper guns if persons on the throwers committee are not able to do this.

- Shoots all live birds
- Pops for all dead birds
- Handles all ammo and popper distribution

THROWERS

The committee's job is to throw both dead and live birds. Almost all dead birds are launched from Tangelo Tossers. Live birds almost always originate out of the Day's End manual launchers. Bird throwers may be required to use bird calls.

- Operates tossers on all dead birds
- Operates manual wingers on live birds

STEWARDS

The steward's responsibility is the care and management of the birds. They may be asked to assist our chief bird steward with live birds. Their primary job consists of taking birds from the judge on the line, drying, hanging sorting and bagging birds for reuse. During the night the dead birds are stored in a cooler unit. Part of the bird stewarding job includes placing the birds in storage and retrieving them for use in the morning. Bird stewards may also be responsible for planting birds on blind retrieves.

- Handles all bird care; feeding, watering, placement and disposal if necessary
- Bags and organizes birds at the line
- Plants birds on blind retrieves
- Sets up/tears down holding blinds used at blind stations

HOSPITALITY

The hostess committee makes sure that the judges and paid workers have food and beverages. They also make certain the coolers are filled with water and sodas for the rest of the workers. Their duties include maintaining those ice and drink supplies. Hostesses may also be asked to help prepare the worker and handler bags prior to the start of the event or help at the concession stand.

- Organizes registration packets for handlers and workers
- Drinks for workers in the field
- Drinks, snacks, lunches for judges

TRAFFIC

This committee's job is to direct traffic on the grounds and manage parking areas. It will also include checking permits tags at the entrances to the grounds.

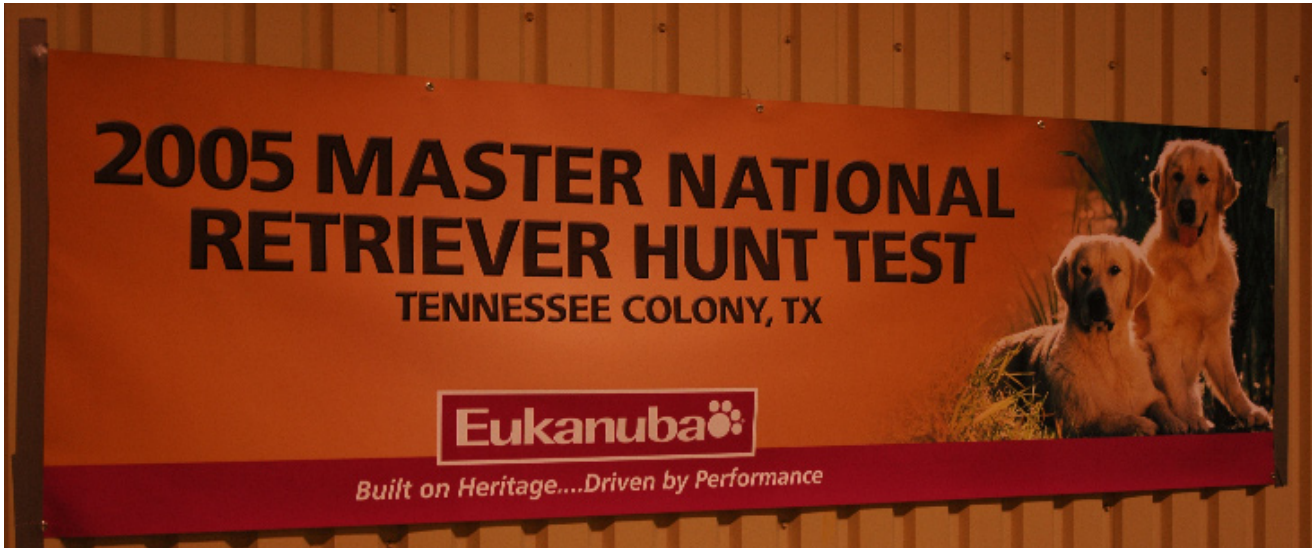
- Pre-National and National signing
- Directs vehicles into parking areas
- Ropes off and signs parking areas
- Set-up crew for next test
- First on the grounds every morning

Photos from the 2005 Master National

Welcome Dinner and Handler's Meeting & Opening Ceremony

Tennessee Colony & Palestine, Texas

All Photos by Vision Photography, Lisa & Judd Street





**2006 MASTER NATIONAL
OCTOBER 1-8
MEAD RANCH, MORGAN HILL, CA**
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WORKERS COMMITTEES continued

EQUIPMENT/GROUNDS

People in this group will be responsible for setting up, taking down and moving equipment from test to test and the equipment trailer. If areas need to be groomed for tests or blinds brushed up this falls under the duties of this committee.

- Prepares grounds: mows, trims, cuts brush
- Moves portable toilets as directed
- Obtains, places and empties trash barrels
- Responsible for site clean-up
- Moves tents as directed
- Holding blind set-up and tear down
- Set-up crew for next test
- Obtains and fills swimming pools at holding blinds

Remember to bring your own chair, sunscreen hat etc. The MNRC does provide bird calls, radios and liquid refreshments. You will be expected to report to your committee chair 15 minutes prior to the start of any shift you are scheduled to work. Anytime a test is completed or needs to be set up, it is the responsibility of everyone working that shift to help out. We will have paid workers, but they will be hired primarily to work the tossers and plant blinds. They will need back-up and relief time. Your help is still needed to make this event work.

MORE INFORMATION...

PRE-NATIONAL TRAINING BIRDS

Ducks and Pheasants will be available from Keith Bennett of Ace High Adventures. He can be reached by phone or email. Keith has asked that birds be pre-paid prior to the pick-up date in order for things to run efficiently and smoothly at time of pick up. The pick-up date and location will be determined later.

Phone: (559) 665-1977

Email: acehighadventures@onemain.com

AUCTION DONATIONS

If you have an item you would like to donate to the Friday night auction or funds for the workers

party contact auction co-chairs Janet Peters or Madeline Hill of the Marine Retriever Club.

Madeline Hill

salonahilllabs@comcast.net

Janet Peters

jpeters@arcadis-us.com

(415) 897-3981

RETIRING DOGS CEREMONY

This year we will be honoring those **entered** dogs that will be retiring from competition in this event after this year at the opening ceremony. Dogs must be at a minimum a MNH (Master National Hunter-qualified at two MNHRT). Send photos of your dog from puppyhood to now that represent it's life and character along with a write-up of your dog's career. Photos can either be sent on CD or as hard copies. Send all photos and information to the address below no later than August 21.

Laura Judd

4704 Daywalt

Sebastopol, CA 95472

MOTELS AND CAMPING

Morgan Hill

Holiday Inn Express (Headquarters)-

(408) 776-7676 or toll free (877) 776-7670

see information on page 8 of the April Newsletter

Be sure to mention you are with the Master National for special rate

Executive Inn Suites - (800) 626-4224

Be sure to mention you are with the Master National for special rate.

Microtel- (408) 782-5000

Camping

UVAS PINES RV PARK

13210 Uvas Road, Morgan Hill

(408) 779-3417

- If you are interested in a position on the MNRC Board and would like more information as to the qualifications and duties contact the President or one of your regional officers.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE MASTER NATIONAL HALL OF FAME

6 MN Qualifications

NORWOOD'S OCOEE JJ, MH
FAY NORWOOD
1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005

BLACKSTAR SMART SMOKE MH
JEFF DEMOTT
2001, 2004, 2005

5 MN Qualifications

CIN-D'S STORM TROOPER, MH
CINDY READ then AUGGIE AUGABRIGHT
1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005

JTM'S ALLI OOP MH
JOE & KRISTIE WILDER
2003, 2004, 2005

INDYANNA RUN FOR THE VET, MH
DENNIS GREER
1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005

KERRYBROOK'S IN HIGH SPIRITS MH
PAUL & KAREN BROWN
2003, 2004, 2005

TOPBRASS SHINING SAMBUCA, MH
MICHAEL BUNTING
1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005

M & S MAINLINE RAILROAD SPIKE MH
SUSIE ARAGON & MEGHANN RICH
2003, 2004, 2005

4 MN Qualifications

CHIP'S MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE MH
BRIAN MIHELICH
2000, 2001, 2004, 2005

MEDICINE MANS FEATHERQUEST MH
BECKY MALPHUS DVM
2003, 2004, 2005

TRIANGLE C'S PURE GOLD MH
PETER BOLINGER
2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

SALLY'S SASSY BIT O'BART MH
EUGENE & LAURA BYRD
1999, 2004, 2005

3 MN Qualifications

BIG TWO HEARTED RIVER II MH
LYLE STEINMAN
2003, 2004, 2005

WILLIES ACE IN THE HOLE MH
BILL & NALANI MATHEWS
2002, 2003, 2005

These results have been compiled to the best of our ability.
If you believe there is an error or omission please contact
the President by email: malcainrps@humboldt1.com