

The Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club



Vol. 14, No. 1 June 2008

President's Message...

The year 2008 is just whizzing by and in my home territory of the Southeast the spring hunt test season has almost finished. Our Northern friends are just getting their times cranked off after a very long winter. Each of us has one mind singularly set on training our canine companions and friends to the utmost level of competition. Our hunt test events are more challenging than ever – preparedness with talent, perseverance and courage increase our odds at bringing home the coveted ribbon that signifies our team met the standard.

Last year the Master National event was held in Remington, Virginia and hosted by the Rappahannock Retriever Club on private grounds owned by Neil Selby of Shady Grove Kennels and public grounds overseen by the Virginia Department of Natural Resources. The 327 contestants, judges and the Master National Board of Directors and especially the 118 qualifiers thank all for the wonderful weather, challenging tests and the Virginia hospitality shown to the Master National.

For 2008, the Master National event will be hosted by the Minnesota Iron Range Retriever Club (MIRRC) on club and private property in and around Virginia, Minnesota. Having been to tests on these grounds I can personally attest to challenges that may be presented. The National Amateur Retriever Club has hosted their stake on these grounds twice in recent years. All handlers should be aware that these grounds will present our group with ample opportunity to find out just how good our training has been.

The judge's panel selected by the delegates at the 2007 annual meeting includes: Auggie Argabright of Region 1, Ed Sullivan of Region 2, Tim Buck of Region 3, and Ron Sauls of Region 4. These men will come together the week prior and with the help of many volunteers the tests will be ready to begin on September 21, and will conclude on or before September 28, 2008. Our annual banquet will be on Friday evening September 19 and the merchandise sales and the annual meeting will be on September 20. The details are still being worked out for each level of the event but please mark your calendars to join us in Virginia, Minnesota for the 2008 Master National.

This is the first complete season for the new qualifying procedures put in place by the member club delegates at the 2006 annual meeting. As of May 20 we have 193 dogs qualified for the 2008 event in Minnesota. In early June the dogs that are qualified will be listed on the website and that list will be updated monthly. Also the qualified teams will be listed in **Retriever News** in the month of June and then again

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MNRC News

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Immediate Past President's Message

I sincerely hope that everyone arrived home safely for our 2007 Master National Hunt Test in Remington, VA. And I especially hope that you are all planning to attend the 20087 Master National in Hibbing, MN, September 19-28. Thank you for your participation and your volunteered help last year in Region 1. Yes, we did have unexpected workers for our event. However, the fact is that many of you answered our call for help and came to the event committed to work. And with that being said, I will again encourage you to sign up for work shifts. Not matter how experienced a host club might be, we still need to offer our help.

Again, I thank you, our handlers and volunteers, our four judges, the members of the Rappahannock River Retriever Club and the Virginia Department of Game and Fisheries.

Take care of yourselves and please continue to give your time and talents to the training programs that produce those wonderful dogs we love to watch. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Mary C. Williams
2007 MNRC President

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.

MANY THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



New Board Members

REGION 2-VICE PRESIDENT



JOHN BLACKBIRD

First, would like to thank my peers for allowing me to represent Region 2 as your Vice President. I appreciate your vote and your confidence in my leadership abilities. I am a retired auto worker, dedicating 30 years to Ford Motor Co. My hobby, pastime, and waking hours consist of something to do with retrievers.

My wife Karen and I belong to four retriever clubs, and have been active in them since 1988. Working for these clubs during their events is extremely important to us. I have served as an officer and board member, and for the last three years dedicated my time as Hunt Test Chairman for Central Minnesota Retriever Club. We both judge hunt tests, and I have judged in the field trial game. I also run and work many informal trials. It was a great honor to judge the 2006 Master National in California, fulfilling a longtime goal. I have received multiple Master Hunter titles, qualified for the Master Nationals five times, competed in four events, and qualified in 2004 with my current big dog, who is also QAA.

Nineteen years ago while I was holding my first lab pup in my arms, I had absolutely no idea that my life, as I had known it, would be changed forever. I retired my rifle, and my quest for big game, picked up a shotgun, loaded up the dog, and headed to the field and wetlands in pursuit of birds. Between our home in Mora MN (five labs), and our two sons, their wives, and three grandsons in the Twin Cities, we have eight labs that we can rotate in and out during the hunting season. I have enjoyed endless discussions of training techniques, test strategies, and ideas on how to improve bird numbers through land and water conservation. I have great respect for the retriever breed that performs unconditionally as our companion, competitor, and hunter.

REGION 1-DIRECTOR



SAM FERGUSON

It is an honor to be elected Director of Region 1. While I have only been actively involved with AKC Hunt Test since 1995, I have always been associated with dogs and hunting. Having been fortunate enough to grow up in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, my association with hunting dogs started at a very young age. I can never remember my family and friends not having dogs around. My father raised and trained Beagles and other relatives had everything from Bear dogs to Bird dogs. Some of my fondest memories are of the all night coon hunts and some day I might do a book on the "Lighter Side" of my coon hunting experience as a child.

My first Lab was a gift from my grandfather who referred to that small yellow lovely creature as .."your 'GYP' dog that will require a great deal of training and care". To this day I tell everyone she trained and took good care of me for several wonderful years. Neither of us knew anything about force fetch or handling but with her innate abilities, we did very well in the field. She never won any competition nor is she listed in any publications of great dogs but she did teach me what a good dog should be able to do. Thus, those few of you that know me, know I judge the dog and not always the person that brings a dog to the line.

My wife Jeannie and I are very fortunate to live in North Florida and South Georgia where some of the most beautiful training grounds in America are located. I had the distinct honor and pleasure to be President of the Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club during the 2003 Master National. I truly believe that the Master National is a great experience and I look forward to serving on the Board.

HANDLERS MEETING & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

HOLIDAY INN SELECT-FREDERICKSBURG, VA

October 13, 2007

10:00 AM

The handlers meeting was called to order by Chief Marshal Bill Teague. Bill Teague thanked the RRRC for being so helpful as the Host Club. Bill recognized AKC representatives Doug Lungren and Jerry Mann.

The starting number was determined by Frank Barton and his dog Niki. Niki chose 142 as the starting number. The lucky handlers were given special caps denoting their accomplishment.

Bill introduced the 2007 judges: Region I, Sam Ferguson, Region II, Rich Pyka, Region III, Lynn Morrison, Region IV Kevin Bunnell. Bill announced that the pairing would be Sam and Rich; Lynn and Kevin. A blind drawing was held and Sam and Rich drew Flight A and Lynn and Kevin will judge flight B. Another blind drawing was held and Flight A drew test #1 and Flight B will start with test 2.

Questions from the handlers were answered. The Handlers Meeting adjourned at 10:30

2007 Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Master National Retriever Club was called to order at 2pm by President Mary Williams. Mary appointed Bill Teague as parliamentarian. Mary introduced the Doug Lungren and Jerry Mann from AKC that were in attendance. Mary then introduced the MNRC Board Members in attendance: Mike Bunting, Treasurer; Frank Barton, Secretary; VP Region I; John Marchica Director, Region I Gene Byrd, Dave Kress, VP Region II, Ray Muth, Director Region II, Bill Teague, V.P. Region III; Gloria Mundell, Director Region III, Janet Peters, V.P. Region IV; Jim Huston Director Region IV

A roll call of member clubs by MNRC Secretary, Frank Barton was taken. 94 clubs answered present and a quorum was announced. Bill Teague made a motion, seconded by Mike Bunting, to accept the 2006 annual minutes as published. All voted in favor of the motion.

Mike Bunting gave the financial report. Although the organization had a financial loss last year (reduced number of dogs resulting in reduced revenue and higher expenses for a California test, etc.), it is in strong financial shape. Frank Barton made a motion seconded by Bill Teague to approve the financial report.

Dave Kress gave a report about the 2008 Event which will be in Hibbing, MN September 19-28. Host club is the Minnesota Iron Range Mountain Retriever Club.

Mary Williams announced that the MNRC Board of Directors had accepted a bid from the Waterloo Amateur Retriever Club to host the 2009 Event to be held in Paige, TX (about 40 miles from the Texas capital, Austin), October 23- November 1, 2009

Judges elections for the 2008 event were held and the following were elected : Region 1: Auggie Argabright; Region 2: Ed Sullivan; Region 3: Tim Buck; Region 4: Ron Sauls

Mary Williams announced Board members completing their terms were recognized and presented traditional service pins for their efforts. Those recognized were: Frank Barton, secretary; Gene Byrd, Region 1 Director; Gloria Mundell, Director, Region 3; Julie Cairns, Immediate Past President; Mike Bunting, Treasurer; and Mary Williams, President. Mary was presented w/the traditional MNRC jacket.

Elections to the board was the next order of business and the following were elected: Frank Barton; secretary/ treasurer, John Blackbird Vice President, Region 2; Sam Ferguson, Director, Region 1; Gloria Mundell,

HANDLERS MEETING & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Director, Region 3

Frank Barton gave a report from the Bylaws committee regarding the proposed Bylaws.

Amendment 1 was presented for consideration:

ARTICLE III

INITIATION FEES AND DUES

SECTION 1. The amount of the initiation fee and annual dues may be changed at any annual meeting. If no action is taken at any such meeting, they shall continue in the amounts as last previously established. Notice and demand for payment of such dues shall be given by the treasurer to each member club on ~~January~~ June 1 of the year to which the dues are applicable, and payable forthwith upon receipt of such notice. Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the member clubs at the annual meeting, by majority vote of the delegates and proxies present, from according to the Board of Directors the authority to fix the initiation fee or dues within specified limits. The Membership Year will correspond with the event qualification period.

Mary Williams called for the vote and announced the amendment passed

Amendment 2 was presented consideration:

ARTICLE V

NON-PAYMENT OF FEES AND DUES

SECTION 1. ~~Any member club whose dues remain unpaid on March~~ August 1 of the current year shall be notified by the Secretary by mail addressed to each of the club's secretary and delegate to their last known addresses. ~~If such dues remain unpaid for thirty (30) days after mailing of such notice, such member club shall be dropped from the roll of this Club. Any such club may apply for reinstatement by June 1 of that year, with payment of all dues in arrears plus a reinstatement fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).~~

Any member club whose dues remain unpaid on August 1 of the current year shall be notified by the secretary by mail to the clubs secretary and delegate, of record at the time of notification, that their club's dues are unpaid and the club's membership in the MNRC will terminate effective immediately. Any unpaid club may then apply for reinstatement by November 1 of that year, with payment of dues plus reinstatement fee of \$100.00.

Mary Williams called for the vote and announced the amendment passed.

Amendment 3 was presented consideration:

ARTICLE VII GOVERNMENT

(f) The Secretary and the Treasurer, both of which offices may be held by the same individual, and who may be elected irrespective of residency. ~~The term of the secretary and treasurer shall~~

HANDLERS MEETING & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING con't

correspond to the term of the Vice President of Region 2. If the offices are held by the same person the term of the secretary and treasurer shall correspond to the term of the Vice President of Region 2. If the positions are held by different individuals, the term of the Secretary shall correspond to the term of the Vice President of Region 2 and the term of the Treasurer shall correspond to the term of the Vice President of Region 4.

Mary Williams called for the vote and announced the amendment passed.

Amendment 4 was presented consideration:

ARTICLE VIII **MEETINGS**

SECTION 6.

Judges for the Master National Hunting Retriever Test shall be amateurs, thoroughly experienced in handling and training of retrievers and in the requirements of retriever work. It is strongly recommended that each judge have judged at least eight Master tests in AKC licensed events. However, the Board of Directors, in any year, may adopt a minimum number of events judged less than eight. All judges for the Master National shall have handled a dog at a previous Master National or have previously judged the Master National. No member of the Board of Directors of the Master National Retriever Club may be nominated, elected to, or serve as a judge for the annual event, even if they resign, during their respective term of office.

The judges as may be necessary for conduct of the Master National Hunting Retriever Test will be selected, by the delegates from each separate region. The nomination of a slate of qualified judges by the Board of Directors will be on advisement from the judges' selection committee made up of the First Vice President and four regional directors upon their receiving names from the member clubs. The Board of Directors shall formulate procedures to obtain potential qualified judges. The slate of judges nominated for the next year's Master National Hunting Retriever Test shall be presented to the delegates at the current year's annual meeting, and notice of the nominated slate shall be given with the notice of the annual meeting. Voting shall be done by ballot. No nominations will be accepted from the floor.

In the event that the event is run in a single flight and 4 judges have been elected, the judge from the region hosting the event will be excused and may serve as that regions Judge the following year.

In the event that any of the persons selected as judges is not able to serve, or resigns, the Board of Directors shall have power to make further appointments from persons meeting the aforementioned qualifications.

Mary Williams called for the vote and announced the amendment passed.

Mary Williams called for any new business:

Several Delegates requested that the MNRC Board of Directors look at possible TV coverage of the event. During the discussion several delegates were in favor of it if the tests were not interrupted and we could continue to use live flyers and other birds in lieu of rubber ducks and pheasants.

Frank Prendergast made a motion, that was seconded, that the MNRC reimburse volunteers for expenses associated with their volunteer work at the MNRC event using the example of the out of state hunting licenses situation for flyers that occurred at the 2006 event in California. After lengthy discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank Barton
Secretary

Coming Soon!-2009 MNRC Event

It's not too early to make plans for the 2009 Master National Retriever Hunting Test and we hope you will be there. The dates are Friday, October 23 (welcome party), October 24 (annual meeting) and October 25 (test begins and runs thru November 1). Our host club is the Waterloo Amateur Retriever Club, a highly respected, active and successful club based in Austin, Texas. They are planning a great event. Rick Greer, the chair of the local arrangements committee judged the 2006 MNRHT in California and several club members have run dogs in MN events. Under Rick's leadership, the local group has an excellent understanding of the event and the necessary planning .

The location is outside Manheim, Texas, about 30 minutes from Austin, the Texas Capitol. The KC Beefmaster's Bluff Creek Ranch, a fully functional cattle ranch owned and operated by Roger and Kaye Fuller, is the location for the test. There will be ample training grounds available in the area. The ranch includes four tracts of land consisting of 655 acres. The terrain has elevation changes, excellent water, cover and trees. Much of this spectacular property was developed by the landowners specifically for training retrievers and includes several technical ponds. Roger judged the 2004 event in Wisconsin. He and his wife, Kaye, know good dog grounds and are pleased to have the MNRC use the grounds. Road improvements are underway, so we should have good access to the property. The property has everything a judge could desire for testing the skills of retrievers.

The headquarters motel will be in Giddings, Texas, about 20 minutes from the test grounds. All MNRC meetings will be held in the Giddings area and the local Chamber of Commerce is excited about the event being in their area. Good luck with your dog(s), and we look forward to having you in the Lone Star State in 2009!

President's Message *con't from page 1*

The Master National Club now has 148 member clubs as we welcome four new clubs to the fold. These new member clubs are Sand & Sage Retriever Club, Dallas-Fort Worth Retriever Club, Carolinas Retriever Association and the Professional Retriever Training Association. Each Club has one delegate that may vote at the annual meeting and no delegate may represent more than two other clubs.

The Minnesota Iron Range Club has a webpage that may be visited in order to discover more about the area and for the latest news about their preparedness for the 2008 event. The web address is www.MIRRC.com. Jace Tramontin and Ellis Wojciehowski will Co- Chair the event for the local club. The club website will include event information shared with the Master National website. The plans include a booklet map of the training grounds available via ordering before your travels, accommodations and camping facilities will be posted as will tourist type information of where to go and what to see during your visit to Northern Minnesota. It would be prudent to expect fall weather with normally mild days and cool nights. However, last year there was snow during the week our event is scheduled to run. Good luck with your qualifications and we will see you in September at the Master National. It will be a blast.

Dave Kress
President of the Master National Club 2008

New MNRC Hall of Fame Members

THREE QUALIFICATIONS

AXLE ROSE'S DEUCES ARE WILD MH
Richard & Pamela Wise

BORDERLINE'S SPITTING IMAGE MH
Sallie P. Sullivan

DAKOTA'S REBEL BUCKSHOT MH
Brian Mihelich

DUCKS RUN PUMBA MH
P. Odom & Pyllis Garner

EMBERAIN AUGUSTUS OF TRIEVER MH
Roy Fray

FR JIM'S REBEL YELL MH
Fr Jim Strange

GOD'S SPEED THUNDER STRUCK MH
Gregory Joy

HIGH TIMES GLDNLCH SOUL SHAKER MH
Nancy & John Miner

LAB'S UNLIMITED LIVE WIRE MH
Bill Cox

NICK'S CHOCOLATE ROSE MH
Jim Mackey

ROBBINS RED RUBY MH
Chris Robbins

TOMMY TESS MH
Thomas Stuedeman

WATERMARK'S MAXIMUM ROI MH
Lyle Steinman

WIZARD'S LITTLE GUENIVERE MH
Jackie Working

WOLF CREEK'S TEXAS TWISTER MH
Darrell Layman

NEW MASTER NATIONAL HUNTERS (MNH)

BAILEY'S CREAM OF PAUMANOK MH
Michael Bunting

BECKY LOU'S BAYOU BEAMER MH
Louis DeJohn

BJ HUNTER MH
William Barten

DOC'S PERFECT STORM MH
Dr Steve Anderson

DUST DEVIL'S JOLTIN JOE MH
Wes Magee

EXALLO'S SPLISH SPLASH MH
Hillary Allen

H & H'S GABE'S BABE MH
Harold & Hanna Buckley

IKE'S DIXIE SUN MH
Randall Ayers

IRONWEEDS HI-BIRD SHOOTER MH
Paul & Karen Brown

JJ'S THE FULL MONTY, MH
Tim Mueller

LAB'S UNLIMITED SCRAPPY MH
Bill Cox

PINE ACRE'S WEBFOOT WINGER MH
Mark Parman

PIN-MARK'S CREOLE PEPPER QUEEN MH
Ida & Bob Richards

QUEENSWAY MADDY MH
Constance Milner

REBEL'S BEST SON MH
Glenn Coterrill

RIPPIN GOOD NATIONAL EXPRESS MH
Shawn Jefferson

SIR WOLFGANG JACK MAVERICK MH
Dean Grand

SUSQUEHANNA QUICKSILVER MH
Frank Durham

SWEET DESIRE LITTLE MISCHIEF MH
Kim Johnson

TOO TERRIBLE TILLIE MH
Mike Collson

WELLER'S JUDGEMENT DAY MH
John Weller

WINDIGO FLIP N' FLY MH
Janet Peters & Ron Sauls