

# The Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club



## MNRC NEWS

Produced by Janet Peters and Edited by Janet Wood and Sheri Walker



### *And Another Point (A Message from the President)...*

What could be more fitting than sitting at a hunt test writing the MNRC newsletter? Did I mention it is pouring down rain? Brings back visions of Texas. Here on the West Coast, we are having the reverse issue from Texas last year—we are doing the STOP RAINING dance! But we need the water and there should be plenty of it to keep

the ponds full this year. Planning for the event is in full swing and there is a To Do List that is about a mile long. If I haven't said "Thank You" to the past Presidents and Board member of the MNRC yet, then I will say it now! "THANK YOU" This is a big job and there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the week to get everything done. The Team behind me is working hard and I am very proud of all their accomplishments to date. I will bring you up to speed.

This last February we held our Winter Board meeting in Corning - the site of this years Master National. We toured the Clear Creek Sport Club and I think everyone was pleased with what they saw. Meeting minutes from this meeting and other Board meeting held by conference calls will be published soon on our new website. (And the draft meeting minutes from our Annual meeting in Texas start on page 4 and will be reviewed at the 2010 meeting).

In addition to our big meeting, all the committee folks have been hard at work. As I think most of you know, we are running the 2010 event in 3 flights of dogs and as such, have added 2 additional judges—Bill Blochowiak and Clarence Klaus—both former MNHT judges. We are currently planning on running all the future events using 3 flights and think this will improve quality and caliber of the event (i.e., less time constraints, the ability to set up tests to the highest of the standards, being able to get in the elements of 2 weekend hunt tests, less down time between series, and having a bit more fun). Of course there are lots of things to worry about like the extra chair people, additional workers, and additional cost but we are confident that we can work it all out.

Continued on Page 7

#### **Inside this issue:**

President's Message	1
Meet the Judges, Part 1	2
Annual Meeting Minutes	4
Progress California	7
Looking for a Few Volunteers	11

### *Check it Out:*

*The MNRC is on Facebook! Join us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)—search MNRC*

*We have updated our website—  
Check it out at:*

[www.masternational.com](http://www.masternational.com)

# Meet the Judges Part 1

This is a first article of a two part series presenting the biographies of our 2010 judges. The bios will also be placed on our website. We know that these fine judges will have a challenging and fun test in store for us and we look forward to working with them.

## Mary Williams: Region 1—North Carolina

My first professional career was teaching and coaching athletics. My second was property manager in the family's Century 21 Office. My third and most enjoyable career was training Gun Dogs and running Hunt Tests. I have been retired for 10 years and I live in Hampstead, NC with my husband, Sidney and our five Chessies. We are active members in the Lumber River Retriever Club and enjoy running and judging AKC Hunt Tests. Needless to say, I am honored to be on this year's Master National Judges' Panel. And I wish to thank those clubs in Region I for giving me this wonderful opportunity.



In 1981 we purchased our first Chessie and began running Field Trials. At that time we belonged to the Tar Heel Retriever Club and became active board members. When the AKC introduced its Hunt Test Program, we initiated and ran that program for Tar Heel. When the Master National Retriever Club was being organized, we became charter members.

I qualified to attend my first MN in 1993 and continued the next eleven years qualifying our dogs to attend. During that time I entered and handled eight MN events and passed 6. I also volunteered to work and believe I have held all jobs. In 2005 I was appointed to the Board of Directors, served as President in 2007 and was Ex Officio ( Traffic Chair) in 2008.

Over the years I have judged frequently at all levels and I feel that dogs qualifying for the MN should be exceptional in all areas of work. The dogs and handlers should work together as a well tuned team. The dogs must mark the falls and stay in the area of the fall as they hunt. When a whistle blows, the dogs

Continued on Page 3

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## Officers and Board of Directors

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### President

#### **Janet Peters**

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### Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Frank Barton**

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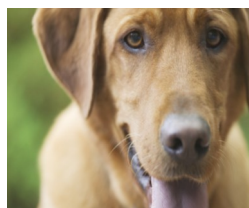
### Region I

#### **John Marchica, VP**

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### Sam Ferguson, Director

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### Region II

#### **John Blackbird, VP**

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### Ray Muth, Director

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# Meet the Judges (Continued from Page 2)

should respond immediately, preferably at the first command. Dogs should show enthusiasm but also be steady to shot and on the honor. They should enter the water without hesitation and challenge any and all obstacles presented in marks and blinds. And when the birds are delivered to hand, the release should be smooth and polite. And finally, when the dog has finished it's work, I ask myself, "Do I want to hunt with this team?"

I believe strongly in Part I of the AKC Hunt Test Rule Book which states: "Never set up tests that are designed to trick a dog". And, "elimination is not the point of testing". Consequently, I like open marks that are challenging and varied in distance and cover. Bird placement is important. Dogs and handlers should have to challenge obstacles and cover, especially on blind retrieves. I expect a well trained team to come to the line. It's ok for a dog to show excitement but it needs to be under control to and from the line.

I am looking forward to working with my five co-judges, the MN Bd of Directors and our Host Club. This will be a historic event as it is the first Master National to run three flights. (Golly, I have been around a long time. I remember when we ran one flight with three judges. I remember when we first ran two flights, each flight with two judges and now we are going to three! Wow! This is exciting!)

I have always felt that achieving the necessary passes to get to a MN is a very big accomplishment. It takes tremendous dedication. And you can't even add up your time and expense. You have to love the dogs, the sport and the people in the game. So no matter what takes place this year, you need to feel proud of the sacrifices and accomplishments you have made to attend this 2010 Master National Retriever Hunt Tests. I wish each team the very *best of luck*. See you soon.

## Clarence Klaus: Region 1—Pennsylvania

I am really honored to be asked to judge my second Master National event (I previously judged in 2000). I want every retriever and their handler to have fun and I will try to have all tests simulate real hunting situations.

I am now retired from a wonderful full-time career as an architect. I consider myself lucky having countless friends and family – many of whom helped me train, and handle my Labradors.

During my life I've had many different breeds of dogs – Fox Terrier, Border Collie, a Boxer (named Ludwig after my favorite architect - Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe), Dalmatian, English Setter, two Golden Retrievers and last, and certainly not least, nine Black Labradors. I had never heard of AKC Hunt Tests until I attended a 'fun training day'

Continued on Page 6

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## Officers and Board of Directors (Cont.)

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### Region III

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# Annual Meeting Minutes

## Master National Annual Delegates Meeting

October 24, 2009

American Legion Hall, Giddings, TX

The Annual Meeting of the MNRC delegates was called to order by President Bill Teague at 2:50 pm. . Bill introduced AKC representatives Doug Ljungren (AVP Performance Events) & Jerry Mann (Field Director, Sporting Events), Retriever Hunt Test Advisory Committee members Vicki Christianson & Steve Elliott and Waterloo Retriever Club president Rick Greer.

Dave Kress, Corporate Sponsor Liaison, introduced the representatives of our corporate sponsors and thanked them for their support. Bill introduced the MNRC board members and reviewed the handouts for the meeting.

Secretary Frank Barton conducted a roll call of member club. 97 clubs were present. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2008 Annual Meeting minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

In reports from MNRC officers, the following was presented:

Bill reviewed highlights of 2009 with the delegates.

- the first 'online' entry system wherein MN absorbed the cost of processing the entry and the credit card fees
- a reduction of the entry fee from \$300 to \$275;
- implemented online purchase capability of MNRC merchandise
- developed a new 'qualifier pin' for dogs that earned the right to enter the event
- meetings with MNRC reps and AKC reps to develop a more productive relationship between the two organizations
- discussions with the National Master Event reps in Canada
- updated the Women's Challenge Trophy
- establishment of a 'History Committee

**These minutes are Draft and  
will be reviewed and revised  
as appropriate at the 2010  
Annual Meeting**

(Continued Next Page)

## Many Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors





# Meeting Minutes (continued from previous page)

- completed the audit/finance review required by the Policies and Procedures (P & Ps)
- completed revision of the P&Ps

Secretary/Treasurer Frank Barton reviewed the handout for financial results and summarized it by saying we had cash in the amount of \$96,300 plus \$17,000 other assets for a total of about \$104,000. Last year's MNRHT netted approximately \$20,000. Frank pointed out that all cash was held in an interest bearing cash account. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Janet Peters reviewed the site selection for 2010 and introduced event chairman, Jay Phelps. The location is the Rolling Hills Casino/Clear Creek Sports Club in Corning, CA and is scheduled to start on October 10, 2010.

Bill introduced the chairman and members of the Special Committees and described the results of the committee's works this year.

- Audit/Finance.....John Marchica
- Policy & Procedure Revision.....John Marchica, Janet Peters & Dave Kress
- Strategic Planning.....Dave Kress
- History.....Ray Muth
- Women's Challenge Trophy...Jill Volsch
- Electronic Entry....Frank Barton & Dave Kress
- Nominating....Ray Muth
- 2010 Judges Selection.....Janet Peters

Bill announced there was no old business from the 2008 annual meeting.

Ray Muth, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the nominating committee report which resulted in the following nominations;

- Director, Region 1.....Sam Ferguson for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- Director, Region 3.....Larry Kimble
- Vice president, Region 4....Janet Wood

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to elect the candidates by acclamation was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

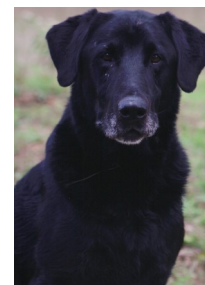
Janet Peters reviewed the nominees for judges for 2010 previously distributed to the delegates & contacts member clubs:

## Region 1

Mary Williams (North Carolina)  
Bob Swift (Florida)

## Region 2

Chuck Beckman (Minnesota)  
Duwayne Bickle, (Wisconsin)  
Keith Kiesow (Wisconsin)



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## Meet the Judge (Continued from Page 3)



sponsored by The Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club with my six month old black female Lab, Ida. Experiencing shackled ducks and pigeon flyers, she was hooked and so was I. Including Ida I've had six master hunters with three qualifying multiple times at the Master National. I currently have two six-year old Labs, and a two-year old Lab who has lots of promise!

As for expectation as a judge, I want to see the retriever and handler act as a team – working together and enjoying each other. I would also like to see the retriever have a “want to” attitude. My experience for over twenty years is that the retrievers make fewer mistakes than the handlers.

I believe you can't judge the retriever if you can't see them, and we should set up tests accordingly. We can't predict wind direction for a

day, much less a week so we should do our best to set up marks and blinds that are effected as little as possible by wind changes.

Marking and memory are most important part of testing as far as I'm concerned. I note if the retriever is alert, and watches the fall(s). If he/she goes to area of fall and has quick, enthusiastic, hunt before locating bird, I usually give relatively high score. Marks and blinds should include changes in cover and terrain.

On blind retrieves, like to see handler and retriever challenge the blind, try to keep straight line.

Reasonable control on walk-ups and honors are important – I don't want to lose retrievers on either. I like to have the honoring retriever remote from 'apparent line' to the 'go bird' as I don't want the working retriever to run past the 'nose' of the honoring retriever.

Looking forward to watching your retrievers in California, seeing old friends and making new friends!

### Bill Blochowiak: Region 3—Oklahoma

First, I would like to say I am much honored to be selected as an “expansion” Master National Judge. I thank those that selected me. I have been blessed with many great and wonderful judging assignments. On the national level, the first was the opportunity to judge the Open stake at the 1994 Golden National. Following that was the 1995 Master National in Vermont. In 2000 I was selected by the MN Board of Directors to fill in for a comrade who be came ill.

My judging opportunities have extended from Vermont to California to Alaska and from South Dakota to south Texas. I have probably 40 plus Master points and approximately 20 all-age points plus numerous minor, senior and junior stake points. Further, I have judged eighth Working Certificate/Working Certificate Excellent stakes for the Central Oklahoma Golden Retriever Club and twice judged at Flat Coat specialties. I have judged with many wonderful people and have been to many great places. Weather would be the only culprit in a less than enjoyable assignment.

Continued on Page 7

***... "Marking and memory are most important... I note if the retriever is alert and watches the fall(s)!" ...***

## Meet the Judges (Continued From Page 6)

What I take away from the judging assignments and I would like everyone else to take away, is that all had an enjoyable time and that they were treated fairly.

When setting up tests, I feel it is very necessary to see the grounds and set up a test that fits the territory- not force something to work because of a preconceived notion. I feel it is always best to test where you would hunt. However, on a rare occasion, weather, grounds, mechanics and time may dictate otherwise.

I have a wonderful wife, Brenda, who has supported my game most of our married life. I actually met her on a blind date to go dog training and we attended the 1980 National Open on our honeymoon. We have a daughter, Mikel, who just birthed a grandson. We have a son, Billy, who many of you know was the motivation behind the suggestion in the late 90's for the junior handler rules. I have two step sons and two super grand sons from Brenda's first marriage.

I have been fortunate to qualify dogs for the 1991, 1993, 1998, 1999 and 2001 master nationals. Two



dogs qualified at the 1998 MN. I have also served on the board for many years culminating as chairman for the 2001 MN and president in 2005.

My personal training has taken a back a seat lately while building my "heaven on earth." We have 160 acres and are building a house overlooking a 7 acre lake. When finished later this fall, I plan on a new puppy and will go wherever it takes me. Brenda said I could stay as long as I like once the house is finished. I conduct monthly training sessions for the Sooner Retriever club (lifetime member) primarily for

new or neo-new members.

I retired from civil service and the Air Force Reserve several years ago; serve on several non-profit boards for the low-income disabled and elderly; and, just really enjoy life. I look forward to this year's assignment and the thought of seeing and working with many old and new friends is very exciting.

Thank you so much!

**Stay Tuned for the Part 2 featuring Mynra Zumwalt, Bill Cummins, and Keith Kiesow.**

## 2010 Event—Progress in California

Plans for California are progressing full stream ahead. After a long wet winter, construction on the technical ponds finally started last week—that really had us worried but mother nature is not a force you can reckon with. The chicks have hatched. All ribbons, plates, band and pins have been ordered. Dinner

menu items selected. Most importantly, we are hearing stories of dogs qualifying every weekend. Congratulations to all! Weather that time of year should be good but we will keep you posted.

See ya soon—Jay, Kevin and the Janets  
[www.masternational101010.com](http://www.masternational101010.com)



# Meeting Minutes (continued from page 7)

## Region 3

Ed Arnett (Texas)  
Bill Cummins (Oklahoma)  
David Christianson (Texas)

## Region 4

Myrna Zumwalt (Nevada)  
David Illias (Oregon)

Prior to the vote, Janet announced Bob Swift had written the MNRC advising he had withdrawn his name from the slate in support for Mary Williams. Ballots were collected and Bill announced that Mary Williams, Keith Kiesow, Bill Cummins & Myrna Zumwalt had been elected.

Bill announced that the next order of business was the consideration of the amendments to the Constitution.

## **Proposal # 1 Submitted by: Empire Retriever Club, Talbot Retriever Club, Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Club, and Pinelands Retriever Club of New Jersey**

### CURRENT BYLAW

#### **SECTION 3.** Number of Contestants, Eligibility and Entry Fees

**(a)** Contestants shall be limited to the following:

Qualifying dogs of the previous year's Master National Hunting Retriever Test shall receive credit for two qualifying scores.

All contestants shall be required to obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of five Master tests in seven attempts conducted by member clubs, plus possessing an AKC Master Hunter title, subject to (1) above or earn a total of eight Master passes. A dog qualifying at the Master National in the previous year will be credited with two passes in two attempts.

**(b)** In order to be counted towards the qualifying requirements, hunting tests at which qualifying scores are awarded must have a beginning date falling between August 1 of the year preceding the current National Master Hunting Retriever Test and July 31 of the year of the National Master Hunting Retriever Test.

**(c)** Each entrant must pay an entry fee, to be determined by the Board of Directors.

#### **Proposed change:**

**Strike all that is underlined and replace with the following.**

**(a)** All contestants shall be required to obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of six (6) Master Hunting tests conducted by member clubs and one shall be by the dog's owner.

**(b)** The qualifying time period is: August 1 to July 31 of the year preceding the current Master National Hunting Retriever Test.

**(c)** Remains as written

A motion was made and seconded to amend the proposal by striking the words: **and one shall be by the dog's owner.** After lengthy debate, Bill called for the vote and announced that the motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded, to strike the revised section **(b)** and leave the old wording intact. After discussion Bill called for the vote and announced that the

Continued on Page 9



# Meeting Minutes (continued from page 8)

motion passed.

Bill then asked that the Proposal 1 be considered as amended. After lengthy debate Bill called for a vote on Proposal. A request for vote by roll call was made. After roll call, Bill announced that the motion passed with 72 Yes, 24 No, 1 Abstention.

Bill then directed attention to Proposal 2

## **Proposal # 2 Submitted by: Fairbanks Retriever Club, Alaska Working Retriever Club, and Retriever Club of Alaska.**

### CURRENT BYLAW

#### **SECTION 3.** Number of Contestants, Eligibility and Entry Fees

- (a) Contestants shall be limited to the following:

Qualifying dogs of the previous year's Master National Hunting Retriever Test shall receive credit for two qualifying scores.

All contestants shall be required to obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of five Master tests in seven attempts conducted by member clubs, plus possessing an AKC Master Hunter title, subject to (1) above or earn a total of eight Master passes. A dog qualifying at the Master National in the previous year will be credited with two passes in two attempts.

#### **Proposed change:**

##### **Add the wording in bold**

All contestants shall be required to obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of five Master tests in seven attempts conducted by member clubs, plus possessing an AKC Master Hunter title, subject to (1) above or earn a total of eight Master passes. A dog qualifying at the Master National in the previous year will be credited with two passes in two attempts. **Contestants who enter exclusively in Alaska must obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of four Master tests in six attempts conducted by member clubs.**

As a result of the passage or proposal #1, a motion was made and seconded to amend the proposal #2 by removing the words, **in six attempts**, and adding the words **and have an MH title** following the phrase. *conducted by member clubs*. After debate Bill called for a vote by a show of hands and announced that Proposal 2 passed.

Bill then directed attention to Proposal 3

## **Proposal # 3 Submitted by: Master National Retriever Club Officers and Board of Directors**

### **SECTION 3.** Number of Contestants, Eligibility and Entry Fees

- (a) Contestants shall be limited to the following:

Qualifying dogs of the previous year's Master National Hunting Retriever Test shall receive credit for two qualifying scores.

All contestants shall be required to obtain qualifying scores in a minimum of five Master tests in

Continued on Page 10

# Meeting Minutes (continued from page 9)

seven attempts conducted by member clubs, plus possessing an AKC Master Hunter title, subject to (1) above or earn a total of eight Master passes. A dog qualifying at the Master National in the previous year will be credited with two passes in two attempts.

## **Proposed change:**

### **Add sub-paragraph (3)**

**Dogs, domiciled in Canada, running exclusively in CKC Master Hunt Test events, that passed the most recent CKC Canadian Master National Hunt Test prior to the July 31<sup>st</sup> MNRC qualifying end date.**

Bill asked Dave Kress to explain the background on the proposal. After discussion Bill called for a vote by a show of hands and announced that Proposal 3 passed.

Bill next announced that 2011 event would be held on the Eastern Shore of Maryland hosted by Susquehanna Retriever Club. Tentative dates are late September to the middle of October.

Bill recognized Roger Quaas for his longtime support of the Master National by providing complimentary catalogs for the annual event and volunteering on numerous committees.

Bill made the following director & officer presentations:

- Sam Ferguson was presented his bronze pin for completing his 2 year service as a director for region 1.
- Frank Barton was presented a gold pin for completing his 4 year service as secretary.
- Mary Williams was mailed her president's pin for her service as president in 2007
- Dave Kress was presented his president's pin for his service as president in 2008
- Janet Peters was presented her president's pin to wear during her presidency in 2010.
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Dave Kress thanked Bill for his outstanding service as president this year and presented him with his president's pin and MNRC coat.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

## Presidents Message (continued from Page 1)

But please be patient and help us work through our growing pains—it is a good thing! Other than that, we have launched our FaceBook site thanks to Kristie Wilder and are pleased to be at over 400 fans and growing. Kristie is also revamping our website and we hope to launch it soon. Pam Bunnell has taken over our merchandise program and we are excited about the direction that is going (I know how much you all like to shop!) and we are adding a vendor program on a trial basis so there will be even more shopping. Thanks to Pam and Kristie for your dedication and contributions. We lowered entry fees again by \$20. There is a lot more but I am out of room and time.

I hope your dogs are all running great and you are getting the qualifications you need—I am excited to see you all. It is coming quicker than you know.

Happy Trails and Good Shooting,

JP

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The MNRC is looking for a few good volunteers to help ease our growing pains. We would like to add 2 new non-Board positions similar to the Corporate Sponsor role—Safety and Communications/PR on a trail basis for a year.

The responsibilities for Safety include: being involved at set up week (the week prior to the event—this year October 3-8) and during the event (this year October 10-17), implementing our Event Safety Plan, working with the Board to make sure we have the right equipment and that no people or dogs are injured.

For PR/Communications, we are looking for someone who understands website software and can lead the effort in keeping our website up to date, helping in any social networking platforms (i.e., Facebook), helping implement and use any other mass communication tools, and attending and helping at the annual event.

We understand that this will add some cost to our annual budget but feel that this is necessary to ease



our growing pains and ensure a quality event for all. If possible, we would like to try this at this year's event and see how it goes. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Janet Peters.



## Vision Statement

## Master National Retriever Club

*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.*