



MNRC News

Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club

OFFICERS and BOARD

Bill Blochowiak, President

Rt 1 Box 100H
Meeker, OK 74855
405-279-1288

Frank Barton, Secretary

116 Alta Vista Dr.
Marion, AR 72364
870-739-3912

Michael Bunting, Treasurer

25 Buttonwood Dr.
Huntington Station, NY 11746
631-499-7235

Vice Presidents and Directors

Region 1

Mary Williams, VP

214 Beckys Creek Rd
Hampstead, NC 28443
910-329-1770

Molly Moxley, Director

698 Woodstock Ln.
Camden, SC 29020
803-713-9483

Region 2

David Bornhofen, VP

14561 340th St
Mongomery, MN 56069
612-743-5227

Cindy Read, Director

2173 S 34 St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-383-1096

Region 3

Bill Teague, VP

2515 Gramercy
Houston, TX 77030
713-432-0238

David Christianson, Director

1360 FM 529
Bellville, TX 77418
979-865-1002

Region 4

Julie Cairns, VP

131 Riverview Lane
McKinleyville, CA 95519
707-496-3342

George Tookey, Director

1033 Rafael Ave N
Keizer, OR 97303
503-390-2823

President's Message...

Greetings Master National Enthusiasts:

The 15th Master National Hunt Test (MNHT) is nearly upon us. We are excited about this event. This year there are 305 entries (before scratches), our third largest event to date. The Master National Board of Directors will arrive the week prior to the start of the event. Some, along with the judges, will arrive on Sunday, while others will arrive on Tuesday.

The four judges, as a group, will begin setting up tests on Tuesday. Each will be diagramed, timed, and sketched. This will continue until we are satisfied that we have enough to meet our goals. Later in the week, the Chief Marshal and President with advice from the MNHT Committee, will pair the judges.

On Saturday during our meetings, a public draw will be conducted to place each pair of judges in either the "A" or "B" split. At this time, the Chief Marshal will announce which setup will be assigned to each split as the first series. The Chief Marshal and the Hunt Test Committee, with advice from the judges, will determine the setups selected for the remainder of the event. We hope to meet the equivalent of "two-weekend" tests and timing will be of the utmost importance in the selection process.

Now back to the current issues at hand. Please welcome Theresa Stevens Esq., our new Corporate Sponsor Liaison. She will make a fine addition to our team. Welcome aboard Theresa.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, a "Legal Concerns" committee was appointed and the members did a splendid job. I appreciate their hard work. The members were Molly Moxley, George Tookey and Bill Teague (Chairman), and myself. The mission was to determine/categorize all of our legal concerns. The committee's recommendation was to hire an attorney to determine our legal status on the many issues identified. These will be presented at the annual meeting.

Also appointed was a "Future" committee chaired by Julie Cairns. Members of the committee from the Master National Board were Mary Williams, David Bornhofen, Bill Teague, Frank Barton and myself. Members from the public-at-large were Tom Quarles, Dr Gene Byrd Jr., Dr. Fred Neusbickle, and Terry Thomas. This committee performed admirably and I appreciate their efforts. Julie organized the committee into

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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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Meet The 2005 Master National Judges



Sidney Williams

From Region 1 - *Sidney Williams*

I am honored to have been selected to judge the 2005 Master National 2005. I have been a resident of Topsail Island, North Carolina since the age of 9. I have been an avid waterfowl hunter for the past 40 years and have been fortunate to be able to pursue my sport in many states and Canada over the years. I now hunt waterfowl 40 to 50 days each year. I have also been fortunate to have hunted with many great gun dogs over the last 25 years and will not go hunting without a trained dog.

My wife, Mary, and I have been very active in the AKC Hunt Test Program since the early 1980's. I am a Charter Member of the MNRC and Mary and I have attended and worked at many past Master Nationals. I have been judging at the Master level since the early 1980's and have averaged 3 to 4 assignments each year.

I consider myself a fairly tough judge and I try not to set up tests with "tricks" or "traps". Anyone can trick up a dog and that is not what the hunt test program is all about. I try to set up tests so that they are clear and the handler has no question in his/her mind as to what is expected.

Being a serious duck hunter for about 40 years, I do the best that I can to simulate actual hunting conditions using decoys, etc. I enjoy giving a hunting scenario, setting up tests within the philosophy, standards, and intent of the AKC Hunt Test Program. I always meet and usually go to the top of the standard.

I am always willing to answer questions by the handlers. I also ask the handler if he/she saw the beginning of the test and if they understand the test or have questions. I want the handlers to feel as comfortable as possible when they run the test.

I am a judge who pulls for the dog as it does its' work and I will usually give the dog the benefit of the doubt. Especially if I see promise in it's work, confusion, or in some cases, handler error.

I also look at the dog's attitude towards its' work as well as towards the handler. I want to see a "tail up" attitude. Attitude does not equate to speed. The "want to work" and "find the bird" for the handler is what I like to see. It has a lot to do with how well a dog perseveres, takes cover and works with its' handler.

To me, marking is of utmost importance. A dog that takes a good line to the marks and indicates that he knows that there is a bird there but goes close upwind and has to be handled, will get some credit on marking from me. I prefer to see a quick handle rather than the dog finally stumbling on the bird after a long hunt. And I also want the dog to be handled to the bird if it is necessary to handle on a mark. I will score that handling as I would a blind.

I really do enjoy judging and seeing the teamwork between dog and handler. I am looking forward to seeing great teamwork this year in Texas. I wish all teams the very best of luck!

From Region 2 - *Wilfred McAnespy*



Wilfred McAnespy

My name is Wilfred McAnespy, one of the judges selected for the 2005 Master National Hunt Test. I am honored and privileged to accept this task and am looking forward to judging the best retriever/handler teams in the country.

Meet The 2005 Master National Judges

I am a retired Army Sergeant Major and live in New Orleans with my wife, Ruth and two black Labradors. Our seven children, 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild are scattered around the area.

My first hunting experience was hunting rabbits with Beagles. For many years I kept a pack of at least three Beagles year 'round. In the off-season I would turn them loose in the woods and enjoy watching them chase as much as during the hunting season.

My first duck hunt was about 40 years ago and after one season I decided to get a retriever. I trained her myself, mostly by throwing a stick in water and watching her go. I was very proud of how she would be in the fall area before the duck hit the water. I soon found out a better way of retriever work (more control). Since then, I've had 10 black Labs, trained them myself and have run them in minor stakes at field trials and hunting tests.

I have judged both major and minor field trial stakes, but my true love is with hunting tests where I have judged many and titled a few Master Hunters. I feel that all retriever abilities should be evaluated: marking, style, courage and trainability. But there should be more emphasis on the fieldwork and less on the line. Attention getters should be used for marking and birds should be seen all the way to the ground if possible. I enjoy the feeling of qualifying at a test, and I wish every handler could go away with that feeling.

From Region 4
Janet Peters



Janet Peters

I currently live in Novato, California (30 minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge) with my husband Ron Sauls, two busy teenage daughters – Natalie and Mallory, a handful of Labrador Retrievers and one German Shorthair Pointer. I grew up in Illinois and we always had at least a couple of Labradors around the house. I did not start hunting or running hunt tests until I moved to California, when a group of great people convinced me to join the Marin Retriever Club and compete with one of my Labradors. Well that was 1987 and I have been running hunt tests since then. I have had the privileged to work with many fine professional trainers over the past 18 or so years and to have the support of a wonderful training group.

The dogs really got me into hunting and also introduced me to my husband. Ron and I spend as much time as we can either in a duck blind or walking behind our dogs in the field looking for pheasants, quail or some other upland birds! Watching these dogs do what they are bred to do and love so completely is truly the best part about hunting over a retriever.

In addition to hunt tests and hunting, I also have shown a few dogs in the show ring and have finished a bench champion or two! I have the pleasure of having both field dogs and bench dogs in my kennel, and enjoy the virtues of both and the challenges of running a "dual-purpose" breeding program.

I am proud to be a part of the 2005 Master National. The Master National is the ultimate showcase for Master dogs in the nation and has provided competitors a mechanism to stay involved in the Master program. The Master program provides a venue for serious enthusiasts to continue to train and compete with their dog(s) in an atmosphere that is supportive, challenging, satisfying, and let's not forget a huge component, FUN! So one of my goals as a Master National judge will be to help everyone relax and have fun – have fun running your dogs, watching the dog work, helping out, and meeting new people from around the country who enjoy the same things.

As for my judging philosophy, I believe that Master dogs must have truly mastered their profession, and that they must demonstrate that mastery at the Mater National. These dogs are complete and polished hunting companions, and they need to show the judges exactly that. When it comes to testing, the tests must be challenging yet fair, clean, and free of trickery. These events are what we do for fun, and the conduct of the event should reflect that.

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OUTLINE AND GENERAL REVIEW OF THE FUTURE OF THE MASTER NATIONAL COMMITTEE

This committee was appointed by President Bill Blochowiak to look at the changes that would need to be made for the Master National to continue whether it were to leave AKC or remain.

This committee consisted of:

Chair: Julie Cairns

Members: Frank Barton, Bill Blochowiak, Dave Bornhoeffen, Eugene Byrd, Fred Nusbickel, Tom Quarles, Bill Teague, Terry Thomas, Mary Williams

Following an initial meeting the committee was split into three sub-committees.

Leave AKC Committee- chair: Bill Teague members: Gene Byrd & Mary Williams

Constitution & by-laws committee- chair: Julie Cairns members: Fred Nusbickel & Tom Quarles

Stay with AKC committee: chair: Frank Barton members: Dave Bornhoeffen & Terry Thomas

The outline of the topics discussed is included and at the Annual Meeting we will review the results of these findings in detail.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAVING AKC

The sub-committee's findings are divided into two areas, "General" & "Specific Issues". In "Specific Issues", the individual issues were too numerous to list, but representative samples are provided, and all issues would be identified in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution & By Laws as well as Policies & Procedures of the new entity.

General Issues:

Dissolution of the MNRC & allocation of assets:

Decide if new entity would be incorporated or not incorporated:

Articles of Incorporation (if incorporation is desired), Constitution & By Laws and

Policies and Procedures for the new entity would have to

be developed:

Specific Issues: (This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but provides some examples.)

Define a name for the organization.

Define the governance of the organization.

Define requirements of the hunting tests, including criteria for awards.

Define criteria for judges & handlers.

Define authority of various entities w/in the organization.

Define eligibility for dog and handler to enter test.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS SUB COMMITTEE

The constitution and bylaws sub committee has come up with ideas to amend the voting system and judging qualifications. They also looked at recommendations for changes that would need to be made to specific sections of the constitution and bylaws if the organization were to leave AKC and run within the AKC framework.

Article II Sections 1 & 2 Club Membership

Article VII Section 8 Amateur status

Article VIII Section 6 Selection of Judges

Article VIII Section 5 Powers of the Hunt Test Committee

Article IX Section 3 c Eligibility to Run

Article IX Section 4 Test rules and regulations

SUB-COMMITTEE "TO STAY WITH AKC"

The purpose of this sub-committee was to develop a workable plan for staying with AKC and revising the current system to qualify for the event. The sub-committee reviewed all of the ideas that generated from the first conference call of the full committee as well as several ideas that were generated during the process. The following ideas were discussed at length:

Must have MH title before passes start to qualify

5 passes in 7 or 8 attempts

Higher score needed at weekend hunt test

Clubs allowed to put on a higher standard test, one specifically for the MN event

Separate club for a owner/handler "maybe amateur" event

Two events or divisions, one pro, one amateur (or owner/handler) run concurrently. Separate tests and judges, with same social venues.

Increase # of qualifications, i.e. more than 5

Eliminate the 2 passes for qualifying in prior year MN.

Maybe not count prior year MN pass at all

Regional Qualifiers

2005 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MASTER NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB

The Annual Meeting of the Master National Retriever Club will be held at the Express Inn, Palestine, TX on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 12:30 PM. There will be a report presented from: The Future of the Master National Committee.

Enclosed is the list of judges candidates for the 2006 event. Delegates and Proxies will vote on these candidates at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Region 1

Bill Clark (Maine)

Ted Finley (Delaware)

Tim Summers (Georgia)

Region 2

John Blackbird (Minnesota)

Bob May (Iowa)

Rich Pyka (Wisconsin)

Region 3

Rick Greer (Texas)

Lynn Morrison (Utah)

Jeff Schoonover (Colorado)

Region 4

Bill Largent (Oregon)

Rick Schulke (California)

John Tate (Oregon)

Additionally the positions for Director for Regions 1 and 3 will be voted on as well as the position for Vice President of Region 4.

Pre-National Training Birds

Will be available daily at the Bird Pens located within 5 miles (**map will be posted at the headquarters**) of The Big Woods. Live Birds will be available 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM October 3-8, 2005. The cost per bird is \$8.50 for Mallard Drakes and Rooster Pheasants \$10.00. Hens are also available.

Please contact Larry Buettner at home (712) 838-4890 or Cell (605) 929-6400 to make purchase/delivery arrangements.

President's Message continued

three sub-committees: staying with AKC, leaving AKC, and By-Law Changes. All of these reports will be presented at the Annual meeting

At the Annual Business Meeting, we will cover a great deal of information. We will conduct the election of a Vice President for Region IV and Directors for Regions I and III. We will elect judges for 2006 and the particulars for the 2006 MNHT will be presented as well as the site selected for 2007. The Judges will give their instructions to the handlers. After the required presentations have been made, we will have the "Legal" and "Future" committees present their findings. The exact agenda for the Annual meeting has not been finalized at this time.

Based on the results of the letters sent to the member clubs for voting hold this year's event with AKC licensing, the underlining agreement therein was "changes must be made" for the sake of our future if we remain an AKC club. The results of our discussion will be formulated into proposals to be put to the membership via mail. Prior to voting, each delegate/contact of each member club will receive a personal call from their regions respective Vice President or Director. Because of the seriousness of the issues, please appoint delegates/contacts that will work for the future of our sport and vote your clubs wishes.

I wish all participants the best of luck and the greatest of success. I hope you all have an enjoyable time and leave feeling that you and your dog were adequately and fairly tested. I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past years. I would also like to thank the Master National Board of Directors for their supporting me and their diligence to you.

See you in October!

Bill Blochowiak

AUCTION DONATIONS

If you would like to donate items for the annual auction or funds for the Worker's Party, please contact the Auction Chairman:

Nancy Neipert, 1301 Deepwood Dr.

Round Rock, TX 78681 phone (512) 218-9295

email: neiperts@austin.rr.com

Meet The 2005 Master National Judges-continued



Russ Reavis

Born in south central Oklahoma and growing up in northeastern Texas, my first exposure to hunting dogs began with Pointers hunting quail in and around various parts of both states. My dad was a wildlife biologist with the state of Texas so hunting was a way of life as I grew up. After graduating from high school along came Viet Nam and I spent 1968 through 1970 in that country and the surrounding countries while serving in the U.S. Air Force. In 1976, I decided to leave the Air Force and began a life in Sacramento, California, finished college and began working for a space vehicle and missile propulsion company.

In the early 80's I resumed hunting the plentiful waterfowl and upland birds in north central California. It quickly became obvious to me that a retriever would be necessary for this endeavor. So, being a young engineer I started a systematic search for a good hunting dog in the surrounding area. The first person I actually talked to was a gruff man named Rex Carr. I really had no idea at the time who he was but the literature told me he was near Sacramento and knowledgeable. After hearing my quest for a good hunting dog he suggested something called a "field trial wash out", which sounded bad to me. He sent me to Barbara Ornbaun in Susuin, California who was extremely helpful and ended up selling me an 8-month old black lab that just "didn't have what it would take" for trials. Long story short, MHR Super Yukon Jack MH was my first Retriever. He ran field trials, hunting tests, hunted everything, even went fishing with me and retrieved them too. September 1991 Jack and I participated in the very first Master National in Delaware being one of only two dogs from the west coast (the other was Riptide Tule MH from Washington state). Neither of us

made it all the way through but we sure learned a great deal that year. I lost Jack that year while duck hunting to a heart valve defect, he was almost five years old.

I contemplated getting out of the dogs but a couple of good friends and excellent dog trainers (Clayton Crawford & Stacy Bell) convinced me to begin again, and I did. With a Lottie son, a Super Tanker daughter and a Golden named Mioak's Montana to Rice (Joey, from my friend Randy Brown) I began all over, the rest is history. The Lottie son washed out, the Tanker female passed away in 2003 at age 12 and Joey who will be 16 in November, still sleeps by our bed. Along the way some things changed my life dramatically. I sold my old yellow Chevy truck and my Golden Retriever (Joey), to Stacy Bell in 1992. I later fell in love with her and we were married at the 1995 Master National in beautiful Vermont with our dog friends all around us. She swears to this day the only reason I married her was to get my truck and Joey back! Clayton died that year in November right after the 1995 Master National while handling a dog in an AKC Hunting Test. It was a tremendous loss to all of us that knew him, as well as the dog world. There have been so many dogs that enriched our lives, MN Hall of Fame member Llano's Tule Buster MNH, Master Hunters- Missy, Spock, Daisy, Bunny, Decoy, Dee, Cruiser, Flash and countless others.

While my career in the missile world grew hectic and Stacy's career training dogs really solidified I never lost sight of the Master National and the AKC hunting tests. I became part of the MN Board in 1993 serving as Director and Vice President for region IV until 1998, I then became President of the MNRC for the event in Seattle. I also served on the AKC Retriever Hunt Test Advisory Committee for several years helping revise the current rulebook for retriever hunting tests. I developed in 1998 what my friends Frank Prendergast and Ray Muth refer to as the "Magna Carta", (almost 400 pages) of policies and procedures for the MN organization. I've been to 12 Master Nationals, in some capacity.

Stacy and I and our kids now reside in Colorado due to my job change in 2002. I still work in the missile world having the responsibility for Missile Defense with Lockheed Martin and the Government. Stacy retired from training dogs right after the 2000 MN and now has gone on to horses.

I love the dogs and their work. I love to see the markers and the hunters. I love a solid, crisply handled blind. I love those enthusiastic young dogs you can barely hold on the line and the old steady Eddies who don't move so well anymore but as Clayton used to say "know where the chickens are". I love to watch both the new comers and the veterans come to the line having watched the test dog and diligently analyze the test,

Meet The 2005 Master National Judges continued

but still ask "which bird is first" and "where do I run from?"

The Master National, to me, should have several experiences for all who attend. One, it's an honor to be there, you and your dog earned it. Two, the friends you make can be for life and you might only see them once a year at this event. Three, it should be a traditional event. These are my memories and they include: Pre-National training with that special group, the long red, white and blue streamers on the test dogs birds, Frank on the gunning crew and his now famous cookout, Ray around the line marshaling, Jerry, Bill and Milton looking over our shoulders as old friends (they've been there), Sally and her Volvo wagon with dogs everywhere, Harold with his cigar and hats, Bob and Judy working all hours but always smiling, my wise test set-up teacher Nelson Sills, Richard McDonald always the professional, Woody and his songs, Rita & Nancy with the MN wares, the auction, the workers party, the opening & closing ceremonies, the straight forward first series, the tough middle series and the final showcase last series with multiple fliers. Each time Stacy and I went to the Master National; these are some of the things we looked forward to, the dogs qualifying was icing on the cake!

I look forward to seeing all of you in October and will do my best along with my co-judges to make it a rewarding and memorable experience.

2005 SOCIAL EVENTS

All parties except Frankie's Bash will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall which is a short distance (walking) from the host motel. Casual attire recommended. There will be some light entertainment Saturday and a dance band on Tuesday. Wednesday is dry so BYOB.

Saturday Oct 8, 2005 Knights of Columbus Hall

6:00 PM Welcome Party Cocktail Hour,
7:00 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Auction

Tuesday October 10th Knights of Columbus Hall Workers Party (workers only)

6:00 PM, CocktailS 7:00 PM Dinner

Wednesday October 11th

6:00 PM Frank's Party at the Big Woods (BYOB)

For Your Information...

LETTER OF APOLOGY

To: The Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club

Sent: August 24, 2005

From: Bill Blochowiak, President MNRC

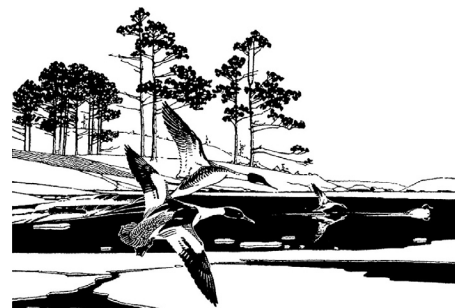
It has come to our attention that we offended the Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club. In a letter we published in the MNRC News to the AKC Board of Directors concerning our attempt to justify a three-way split, we made the statement that the 2003 event was one of our worst events ever. We want to apologize to the members of the Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club who hosted that year's event and to anyone else offended for that statement and hope you will understand the context in which that statement was made.

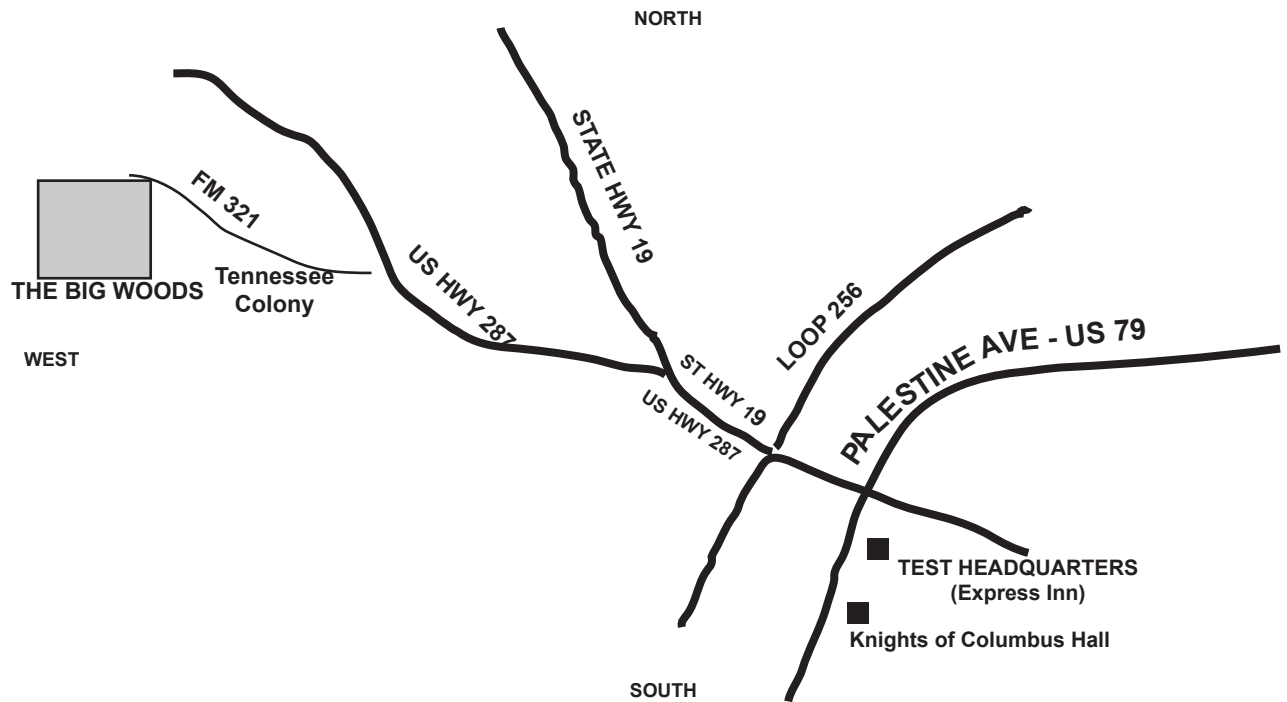
The organization, social events and hospitality of the Tallahassee HRC at 2003 Master National was without a doubt the finest job done by any host club in the history of this event. Your hard work and planning was outstanding and this club will forever be indebted to you.

The context of that statement was aimed solely at the judging disparity aspects of that test, for which I am entirely to blame. We (I) lacked the managerial skills to control the situation and it was due to our (my) failure that we were "brought to the table" by AKC for a poor performance. It had nothing to do with your club or any part of your club's participation of the event.

We will publish this letter in the next MNRC News and sincerely hope that you will accept our deepest apologies.

Sincerely,
Bill Blochowiak





MAP OF GENERAL TEST AREA

(NOT TO SCALE)

MNRC NEWS
116 Alta Vista Dr.
Marion, AR 72364

