



# MNRC News

Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club

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## President's Message...

Greetings To All,

Congratulations to the many teams that have qualified for the 2007 Master National. Just like me, there are those who will have an opportunity at another time. No matter where your present qualifying status happens to be, I send to each of you, appreciation and sincere gratitude, for supporting the requirements to qualify at this event.

Before you arrive in VA for this year's event, there are a few things I wish to bring to your attention. Not unlike other Regions across the country, Region I is suffering with a drought. If you have good water at home, please do your water work before you arrive. There is a shortage of training grounds with wet ponds. Many ponds are bone dry. Please be aware of this before you arrive.

Secondly, our sponsors want to throw a great party for the workers. But they want to give this party for those who really do work at the numerous stations required. Consequently, we have a new system for admittance to the Workers' Party. Following each shift, workers will receive a "ticket" which will include:

1. A lunch voucher
  2. A raffle stub
  3. One half of the invitation to attend the party
- Workers will need to work two shifts and earn two tickets to attend the party. If you work more than two shifts, you can share your tickets with others. Non-workers can attend the party for \$25.00. When workers arrive at the party, they will receive their workers bag which will contain, among other goodies, the beautiful 2007 Virginia state workers' pin and the 2007 hat. Our sponsors want a party that is going to celebrate and acknowledge those who work at this event. It is a THANK YOU for your commitment to your MNRC.

And to follow the same theme, I must remind you that even though we are securing hired help, the number of workers we request is not always met. And there are jobs that only experienced dog people know how to do and should do. Please look over the areas listed and sign up. The

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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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## 2007 Master National WMA Camping

Primitive Camping will be allowed at the C. F. Phelps WMA for the 2007 Master National. This camping will be for self-contained units, there will be no electricity available and the one potable water tap will be a "community" tap. The camping area will be in the location known as the Field Trial Barn and there will be room for about two dozen units. Region 2 Master National VP Dave Kress has volunteered to coordinate this camping effort as he and Marty will be utilizing the site. Dave may be contacted at 314-520-6713 or via email at [dkress@alberici.com](mailto:dkress@alberici.com). Camping will be on a first come basis.

A complete list of the WMA regulations may be found at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/wmarules.pdf> and potential campers are encouraged to become familiar with these regulations. It is important to note there will be zero bathroom facilities at this site however there will no charge for the use of the area.

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## MANY THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



**Welcome our new sponsor, Dogs Afield**

## *President's Message cont'd...*

RRRC is limited in membership and your help is really needed.

Now I would like to remind the club delegates of their responsibility at the Annual Business Meeting. As always you be selecting judges for next year. You will also be nominating and electing a MNRC Treasurer, a MNRC Secretary, a Region 2 Vice President and Directors for Regions 1 and 3. There are also several constitutional amendments to be visited.

Finally, please be safe in this heat. Take care of yourselves and your dogs. I am looking forward to joining you in Virginia, working at least two shifts and cheering for each team entered.

My best to all,  
*Mary Williams*

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## 2008 Nominated Judges Slate

Below are the slate of judges' nominated for the 2008 Master National to be held in Virginia, MN.

I would like to thank the nominating committees work and that group is comprised of Gene Byrd, Ray Muth, Gloria Mundell and Jim Huston. This group of nominated judges will give the voting constituents choices and allow the Master National to continue in a style of dedicated judges that will put on a quality event.

### Region 1

William S. Argabright, Jr., Robert Tosadori, Sarah Wonnell

### Region 2

Ed Sullivan, Cindy Read, Randall Ayers

### Region 3

Tim Buck, Mary Beth Blair, Joe O'Brien

### Region 4

Ron Sauls, Wendy Pennington.

Respectfully,  
Dave Kress  
Chairman 2008 MN Judges Nominating Committee

## 2007 MASTER NATIONAL OCTOBER 14-21 Shady Grove Kennel Hunting Preserve, Remington, VA

### 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. Worker shifts are usually about 4 hours long. At the conclusion of your first shift you will receive a lunch ticket which can be turned in for a free lunch from our food concessionaire, a raffle stub and half of an invitation to the worker's party. You will receive the same after your second shift. You will receive a lunch ticket at the conclusion of each subsequent shift you work. At the Worker's Party you will receive your worker's bag, state pin and hat. Sign-up forms are included in the event premium and will be returned to the Hunt Test Secretary.

### 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. 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.

- 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

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## Meet Your 2007 Master National Judges

### KEVIN BUNNELL



Before I say anything, I want to say a sincere thank you to my peers for selecting me as Area 4's Master National Judge. It is truly an honor and I hope I can live up to the challenge.

I live in  
R o s e b u r g ,

Oregon with my wife and number one cheerleader Pam. We have two sons, five granddaughters, and three black Labradors. My occupation as a self employed contractor has given me the freedom to devote a lot of time to this sport.

It all started in 1991 when I bought my son, Jason, his first dog, an AKC registered black Labrador, Maggie Bea. Through diligence and the book "Water Dogs", Jason proceeded, trying to train his dog. One cold November morning, Jason, Maggie Bea and I, went for a duck hunt. After dropping a mallard on an island in an ice covered pond, I knew we needed more help with training our dog. Maggie Bea was not inclined to jump into that icy water to retrieve a dead duck. No amount of coaxing, throwing rocks and shot gun shells were working. So, being the good father that I am, I said "Jason, you'll have to show her how". With much persuasion, Jason stripped down to his underwear and about the time he got to the island, Maggie Bea decided that she could certainly fetch a duck. After that chilling experience, we sought professional help – for the dog!! With a huge investment of time and a greater investment of money, too much to keep track of, my family thought I needed professional help. I admit it; I am a Hunt Test Junkie!!

My family and friends know that from March to September, judging and running dogs is my life. I and my wife Pam are on the road "Doggin It". Our social calendar is scheduled around hunt tests, training days, and judging. Hopefully no weddings or funerals are planned around this time – because I probably won't be able to attend!

In 1999, my mentor, Jim Morris, invited me to judge my first hunt test. Little did I know that this would add to my dogging addiction? After 5 Master Hunters and 3 Master National qualifications, I can honestly say I am a trainer and handler first and a judge second.

As a judge, I like to see dogs and handlers work together as a team. When setting up tests, I try to utilize terrain, bird placement and clearly defined areas of the fall that are straight

forward and without trickery. One of my goals is to make handlers feel at ease and have fun when coming to the line so they can relax and enjoy running their dog. If I've done these things and put them into place, I feel that I have set up an honest test.

I've come to realize that attending the MN is like a class reunion of sorts. The friendships, comradery and shared successes and failures are what I cherish most. After all, where else can you go and find a whole field of "Hunt Test Junkies"?

In closing, this Grasshopper would like to give a special thanks to his Master, mentor and friend, Jim Morris, for all of his advice, support and friendship that he has so freely shared over the years.

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### SAM FERGUSON

First, I must say what an honor it is to be chosen to judge the 2007 Master National. 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 'GYF' 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



## Meet Your 2007 Master National Judges

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. Jeannie and I spend every available minute at Boderline using those wonderful training grounds. The THRC Club would welcome you to train with us.

I have a dog, "Ferguson's Full Bull", qualified for this year's Master National and hopefully will have him ready for next year when we can compete.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Master National club delegates in the choosing of three friends and great judges, Kevin Bunnell, Lynn Morrison and Rich Pyka. I would consider it an honor to run a dog under these fine gentlemen anytime. I truly believe that this 2007 Master National will be a great experience for all and I truly look forward to October.

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### LYNN MORRISON



It is an honor to be representing Region 3 as your Master National Judge this year. I was born and raised in Utah. Although I do not have plural-wives, I am somewhat normal. I have the average 1.3 children and 12.7 dogs!

I grew up with a Lab as a best buddy and hunting dog. I prided myself in having the dog that my teenage buddies wanted to have on the hunt to flush and retrieve all our game: muskrats, jackrabbits, twinkies, starlings, and (if they dared near us) upland game and waterfowl.

In 1983-1984 the Great Salt Lake rose to record levels inundating all the marshlands along the Wasatch front. I needed something else to keep my dogs in action and I was introduced to the field trial game in 1984 and immediately fell in love with it. The Great Salt Lake and Northern Utah Retriever Clubs had strong memberships and many hard-working and successful trainers. There was always a half dozen dogs or more with FC and AFC titles running in the local

picnic tests. Being competitive myself, I immersed myself in the sport, striving to compete. After the second year, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn more about the sport from a gentleman named Pine Jorgensen. Pine (rest his soul), was a Rex Carr disciple who spent a great deal of time learning and training with Rex. At that time Pine was a 50+ major stake judge. He was as knowledgeable as they come. He was gruff, demanding, and expected all your homework done to better your work in the field. Through his eyes I learned to see the importance of a well-placed bird and the affect that changes in terrain and cover have on dogs.

By the late 1980's the hunt test game had become popular in our part of the country. I became equally involved in this also. It wasn't uncommon for me to run a qualifying in Utah on a Friday and a hunt test in Montana on Saturday! I have trained and handled eight Master Hunter titled dogs. My paraplegic dog, Bailey was the first Master National finalist, running #5 in 1991. I qualified three out of four tries the first two years. I am a Charter Member of the Master National and was one of the original Board of Directors.

I have judged well over 40 Master tests and still enjoy watching the teamwork of a good handler and dog with desire, natural instincts, and good training work to succeed in the field. I don't like "trick" tests. I am stickler for detail and like to use unique tests whenever possible. It keeps the game alive and the handlers challenged.

One of the highlights of the sport came for me this year when my seven-year old boy, Keaton earned his first Junior title. Before he ran, I was as nervous as I ever was when running a National. He was as cool as a cucumber. On one retrieve he was anxious to receive the bird from the dog. The dog was still doing 10-15 mph when he took it. He calmly got up from flat on his back and handed the bird to the judge for a qualifying score. I didn't know hunt tests were a contact sport!

I have also had six dogs certified as pet therapists. This enables them to go to hospitals and nursing homes and mingle with the patients. As involved as we become with the sport and as much as we expect from our dogs, we often overlook the fact that the average person thinks that the simple fetch of a bumper is an amazing thing. I do volunteer dog demonstrations for civic groups, schools and Job Corps. Many of these have been special -needs groups. The smile that our dogs can bring to these people's faces is as great of a reward as any trophy or ribbon. It makes the many hours of work and training we put into our dogs so very worth it.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

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*Meet Rich Pyka on page 7*

# ***PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MNRC BYLAWS***

*The following four amendments have been presented by the MNRC Bylaws committee for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting October 13, 2007.*

## **Amendment # 1 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.

## **Amendment # 2 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 MNRC secretary by mail to the clubs secretary and delegate on record with the MNRC at the time of notification that their club's dues are unpaid and the club's

membership in the MNRC is 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.

## **Amendment # 3 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 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.

## **Amendment # 4 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

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MNRC BYLAWS**

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 four judges have been elected, the judge from the region hosting the event will be excused and may serve as that region's 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.

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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.

*continued*

## *Meet Your 2007 Master National Judges*

### **RICH PYKA**



My name is Richard Pyka everyone knows me as Rich. My wife's name is Linda. I have two children, a son Tim and a daughter Tiffany. I have been employed at U-Haul for 32 years. I started working there right out of high school and have worked my way

up to being a truck technician.

My hobbies are deer hunting both gun and bow. Along with upland game and waterfowl hunting. My other passion is training retrievers and running hunt tests along with judging.

Twenty-one years ago I bought my first Labrador a chocolate named Upper Woodland Suede MH. Although I had him mainly for hunting, I became interested in AKC hunt tests because it offered a way to train and test my dogs ability in the off season. Since then I have trained four other Master Hunters. One of which is Suede's son. Upper Woodlands Whiskey Runner MH.

I belong to two retriever clubs. Fox Valley Retriever Club Inc. and Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Club Inc. I have proudly held the position as President for 15 years of Fox Valley Retriever Club.

It has been an honor to be asked such a high position in a highly motivated and unique retriever club with a long-term goal of owning its own land in the near future.

When judging I enjoy setting up fair but challenging tests with a strong sense of hunting situations. I would like to thank all the clubs that voted for me to judge at the Master Nationals. I believe it is truly the highest honor a hunt test judge can obtain.

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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.