



MNRC News

Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club

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President's Message...

Greetings Master National Enthusiasts!

We have had a busy two months since the 2005 event and have much to catch up on. Before addressing the many topics of this letter I want to thank my predecessor, Bill Blochowiak for an outstanding job as President during the 2005 year. The 2005 event held in Palestine, Texas was another successful test. Many thanks to the three host clubs for all of their hard work and especially to test chair, Bruce Bachert for his efforts in the smooth coordination of test mechanics. A complete report of the test can be found on the MNRC website.

The 2006 Event

Many of you have already heard that the test site for this year's event has been moved. The California Retriever Trainer's Association (CRTA) made the offer of their grounds in late 2003. At that time their properties consisted of the Goose Lake grounds near Lost Hills and property near Lincoln, CA. The Goose Lake grounds were felt to be more suitable at that time and were the original test location. The arrangement between the CRTA and the pheasant club that leases that property (Lakeview Farms) was questionable, but in the meantime Lakeview Farms offered their property regardless of CRTA involvement. Due to the proximity of these grounds for the host Marin Retriever Club the tests was re-located to Lincoln. Lakeview Farms and CRTA appeared to be resolving their differences and heading towards a renewal of their contract. In January we learned that the CRTA contract with Lakeview Farms would expire after June of this year. Upon further review it was felt that resolving the parking situation on these grounds would be impossible without the involvement of the CRTA.

Realizing our situation, the CRTA graciously offered us the use of Mead Ranch for this event. The grounds were reviewed and an agreement was signed with ranch management. We are truly privileged to have these grounds available to us for this event. This is the only year these grounds will be available for hunting tests.

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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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President's Message continued...

Mead Ranch is located about 15 minutes from the town of Morgan Hill, the site of the test headquarters, meeting and dinners. Morgan Hill is about 10 miles south of San Jose. For those of you planning to fly to the event you will want to use the San Jose Airport. The Holiday Inn Express will serve as our hotel headquarters and location of the welcome and worker parties. They are accepting dogs for this event only and offering a special price of \$75 per night for participants of our event. Information is detailed on the back page of this issue.

Results of Poll

This past December we sent a letter to all of the delegates and club contacts of our member clubs. Based on the information presented in that letter we asked the clubs for the direction they wanted us to place our energy: 1) working to find a solution and stay with AKC or 2) leaving AKC altogether. We received responses from 89 of our 141 member clubs. Based on these results the MNRC Board set about looking for the best plan for the future. A letter has been sent to the member clubs with a proposal outline and is included in this newsletter.

What About Me?

When we talk about the Master National situation it can be difficult to separate reason from emotion. It is one thing to talk about what is best for the sport, but something else might be right for the MNRC. Even more important is the "me" factor. What is best for my interests? Why am I here? What are my goals and interests in this sport? Am I here for just this dog, or for a lifetime of participation? My own participation in hunt tests began in 1984. My local club was a longtime field trial club with a dwindling membership. As interest in the development of the hunt test movement grew it seemed like a way to bring new blood into the club. It looked like a way for hunters to prove the value of their dogs without training and participating in field trials. When the first event was held in Delaware in 1991 my son was three months old. Even though I had a qualified dog I wasn't able to attend. I had been running and judging Master tests and I had a deep interest in the concept of the program that would become the Master National. I was asked to serve as the director for Region 4 for the soon to

be organized Master National. It didn't take me long to realize that as a working mother I didn't have the time to devote to the Master National. However, as luck would have it I seemed destined to remain involved. I judged both the 1995 and 1998 events and found myself on the Board again in 1998. It seemed like that was the end, but again in the fall of 2001 I was asked to fill a vacancy in the director position.

I have continued to run dogs and judge throughout the 16 years of the MNRC. I would consider myself to be a "lifer" in this sport. I have a deep commitment to seeing this program be a success whether I have a dog that is eligible to run or not. I love training, watching and judging good dogs. I love the friends and experiences this sport has brought me. When I think about the future of the MNRC, what is best for the sport and club is probably not what is best for me. When I look at diminishing grounds, the price of gas and the fact that my employer keeps finding ways for me to work longer hours and make less money, I have to face the fact that it may be time for a new reality. It may not be what was originally envisioned, but it still might meet the goals of testing and rewarding the best hunting retrievers. What may have worked in 1991 may not be what will work in the future. It isn't about what the Master National can give to you, it's about what you are willing to give to the sport for its future success.

The MNRC Newsletter

This year we are experimenting with placing the Newsletter online. If you are a regular recipient you should have received a postcard notification of this issue's publication. The next issues are planned for July and September. No further postcards will be sent.

Julie Cairns
President



LETTER TO MEMBER CLUB CONTACTS AND DELEGATES

April 21, 2006

Dear Member Club Contacts and Delegates;

This past December we sent a letter to you that included the Future of the Master National report that was originally presented at the MNRC Annual Business Meeting. In that letter we asked you for the direction you wanted us to place our energies: 1) working to find a solution and stay with AKC, or 2) leaving AKC altogether. The results of that poll were that 75 of the voting clubs responded that they wanted the MNRC to remain an AKC club and continue working towards a solution. More telling is that only 14 clubs voted to continue with plans to leave the American Kennel Club.

Last year the Future of the Master National Report recommended the "batting average" as a system for qualification. This idea was set aside due to the unknown adverse affects such a system might have on the quality of weekend tests. Over the last few months the MNRC Board set about looking for the best plan for a future with the American Kennel Club. Such a program would need to satisfy the desires of the hunt test community as well as the AKC. It must be equitable and bring the best dogs to the event without favoring professional or amateur handlers or any section of the country. It must provide a means of qualification that is fair and equal to all. The results of our efforts were presented to AKC Performance Events for their input and approval. There would have been no purpose in presenting a plan to you that did not receive the backing of AKC.

After extensive review and discussion the MNRC Board believes that the best plan for the future of the MNRC event is to incorporate regional tests into the qualifying process for the Master National Retriever Hunting Test (MNRHT). A regional qualifying process is required in almost every sport's national event. What would happen if all of the teams that were invited to the NCAA Basketball Championships went straight to the "Big Dance"? What if all the professional golfers eligible for the U.S. Open came to that event? Quite simply there would not be the facilities or time to manage the entry numbers. Due to the number of dogs and people it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the facilities needed to put on the event. The fact of our present situation is that we have many good dogs, too many to adequately and fairly test at a single event. The time has come to test our qualifying Master dogs at the

regional level where they will receive due recognition for their weekend accomplishments. Regional tests will not only recognize our really good dogs, they will also select the very best retrievers: those that are eligible to enter the Master National event.

Let's look at the event as it currently exists. Presently there is a core group of participants that enter the MNRHT every year regardless of the location. However, the majority of qualifiers only enter when it is in their back yard. They have spent the time and money to qualify, but due to time and additional monetary constraints do not enter the MNRHT. The regional system would provide a testing place for these dogs and handlers in the years when they cannot get to the MNRHT test. Regional tests would not only be the step to the Master National, they will also make the entire program more accessible by rewarding and recognizing more dogs than the current method provides. It is time to look at the realities of our present situation and make the necessary changes for a great future.

In the past we have looked at the various solutions to the Master National problem and there has always been an issue that would make it difficult to enact. In regards to regional tests the stumbling block has always been that a change in AKC regulations would be required. What we learned in our March meeting with AKC Performance events was that they are completely supportive of a system of regional testing. More importantly they will grant a special dispensation to clubs desiring to hold a regional event by itself. They will also approve a regional event held with an already existing weekend test. A Master National member club can also hold the maximum number of tests allowed per year AND a regional test. They have removed the largest hurdle facing us in regards to a regional system.

Another issue of interest to many of you is the subject of an advanced Master Hunter title. AKC cannot grant a title for successful performance at the event with just a single change. They need to see the pattern of the event over a three to four year period. What this means to us is that if we were to implement a successful regional program, work out the bugs, and came up with a set of qualifications for a new title, it would then be looked at seriously. The thing to

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LETTER TO MEMBER CLUB CONTACTS AND DELEGATES

continued

remember is that an advanced Master title would also have to be available to other breeds that participate in the AKC hunt test program (i.e. Pointers, Spaniels). The Spaniel parent club is currently planning a Master National type event for their program, however it will take them three to four years to test and prove. The bottom line is that the sooner we move to make changes, the more likely a title can become a reality.

Last year's decision to deny the three-way split by the AKC Board of Directors was permanent. It is not an issue open to them for reconsideration. In respect to this year's event we ask you to be patient during this process of reaching a solution. We do not expect the number of entries at the 2006 event to be so excessive as to warrant a third flight. If the goal is to find a solution and remain an AKC event then it is in the best interests of this organization that we proceed as two flights with AKC licensing for 2006.

In this letter we have included an outline for a regional test plan. Please review it with an open mind. Your regional Vice President or Director will be contacting you for your club's input. We are not asking for a vote, rather we want your ideas in regard to these proposals. A special called meeting is tentatively planned for early this summer depending on your comments. Attendance at this special meeting is important to the future of the MNRC. We ask that your club give consideration to funding your delegate's expenses to attend.

Sincerely,
Julie Cairns
MNRC President

REGIONAL TEST OUTLINE

- One regional test will be held in each region between the months of March and July. The period of qualification would be from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year.

Explanation: The window that the regional can be held is to allow flexibility as to where tests can be held. The March through July period should allow for regional tests to

rotate from northern, middle and southern sections of any region, thus dogs in no single area of a region would have an advantage.

- Dogs that are eligible must have 5 qualifications and a Master Hunter title during the regional qualifying period. Example: to qualify for the Regional in 2008 a dog must have 5 qualifications and a MH title in 2007.

Explanation: If this system is implemented in time for 2007 a special qualifying period extension could be allowed for that year only.

- Dogs may only run in one regional test per year. A dog must be domiciled in the region they are qualifying in. The exception would be if a dog is injured or in heat it can run in another region's test but only with a veterinary note. A written veterinary note must be presented to the HT secretary.

Explanation: To keep entry numbers consistent dogs should run only in the region they reside. If a question of a dog's domicile is raised the address listed on a dog's registration slip would serve as the region of residence. Even if a dog is injured or ill prior to the closing of entries a veterinary note must be submitted to that regional test's secretary to be allowed to run a test in another region.

- Regional tests can be held as an individual event or the host club may hold it in conjunction with their weekend test. There will be no penalty from AKC to clubs holding four tests and a MN regional.

Explanation: The preferred system would be a regional test held separate of a weekend test.

- Regional tests will conform to the AKC requirement for splitting at 60 dogs for a two-day or 90 dogs for a three-day test. The total number of series run would meet the minimum requirements of a weekend test. The judging and test design will be the same level as the Master National.

REGIONAL OUTLINE cont'd

Explanation: If regional tests were run in split divisions all dogs would run the same tests.

- Judges must have at least 8 Master points and meet current AKC judging requirements. One judge in each pairing must be a previous Master National judge. Selection shall be by the Master National BOD. It is recommended that the judges be from outside regions, judge only one regional per year and that judges for the current year's MNHRT not be eligible to judge a regional test.

- The host regional test club and the MNRC will determine entry fees jointly.

- The event will be put on by a MNRC member club of the corresponding region with either that region's VP and/or Director attending the event in an advisory capacity.

- Rosettes with the MNRC logo will be awarded to regional finalists along with additional suitable items (duck band, pin etc).

Explanation: Host clubs will be encouraged to include a dinner or a similar social event in conjunction with the regional. Every attempt should be made to make this an event above and beyond a weekend hunt test.



California -Fact or Fiction?

What concerns should we have about plants and wildlife?

The only plant that might cause a problem for humans is poison oak. The list for dogs would include foxtails and star thistle. Foxtails are primarily a problem in the late spring and summer. There are several grassy weeds that have the common name of foxtail and these grasses grow just about anywhere that isn't under cultivation. There are several grasses that produce foxtail-like spikelets. The problem is that seeds fall off from the spikelet and a dog can inhale it through the nose. Due to the fact that they have tiny barbs they travel forward, but not backwards, and can work their way into a dog's system causing infection and possible life-threatening situations. The seeds can also work their way into a dog's body through other places such as the feet, ears etc. In the fall, most grasses have dropped their seeds and the foxtail problem is almost insignificant.

Star thistle creates another problem. This weed produces sharp spikes on its flowering head that are at about the level of a dog's head. They can poke and scratch eyes. They are can be found just about everywhere.

As far as wildlife there is the average everyday Californian to be watchful of and Mead Ranch has a few rattlesnakes. But look at the bright side. There are no alligators, chiggers, cottonmouths, water moccasins, fire ants or Friday night fish fry's.

We have heard that smoking is forbidden in the Golden state, is this true?

Being the left coast this is nearly true. Laws have made it very difficult for the smoker to partake of their habit unless they are on their own property. Smoking is forbidden in restaurants and all public places. It will not be allowed at Mead Ranch unless a person is in their vehicle. Fire danger is a very real threat in the fall and smoking violations will be dealt with as unsportsmanlike behavior.

Is it true that non-residents of the state will not be allowed to shoot guns at the event?

Non-residents will be required to obtain a California hunting license if they want to gun at the Master National event. A non-resident license to hunt birds was about \$130 in 2005. Temporary non-resident permits are about \$30.

2005 MASTER NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB HANDLERS MEETING & ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2005 THE EXPRESS INN, PALESTINE, TX

President Bill Blochowiak called the handlers meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Bill introduced Julie Cairns, Chief Marshal. Julie introduced Mary Williams Assistant Chief Marshal. Julie then gave the handlers instructions pertaining to the 2005 event.

Julie introduced the 2005 judges: Region I-Sidney Williams, Region II-Wilfred McAnespy, Region III- Russ Reavis, Region IV-Janet Peters. Julie announced that the pairing would be Wilfred & Russ, Sidney & Janet. A blind drawing was held and Flight A would be judged by Sidney & Janet; and Flight B would be judged by Wilfred & Russ. Another blind drawing was held and Flight A would start with Test 1 and Flight B would start with Test 2.

The judges gave their comments about their assignments. Questions from the handlers were answered.

President Bill Blochowiak called the Annual Meeting to order at 12:30 PM. Bill introduced the corporate sponsors and AKC representatives in attendance: Bill Speck and Jerry Mann.

Bill recognized the host clubs: Waterloo Amateur RC, Bryan-College Station RC and Rose Co RC of East Texas. The representative of each club was presented with the MNRC flag. Bill recognized the 2005 Hunt Test Chairman, Bruce Bachert.

Bill then introduced the MNRC Board members in attendance: Bill Blochowiak, President; Mike Bunting, Treasurer; Frank Barton, Secretary; Mary Williams, V.P. Region I; Bill Teague, V.P. Region III; David Christianson, Director Region III; Julie Cairns, V.P. Region IV; David Bornhofen, V.P. Region II.

Board members absent were Molly Moxley, Director Region I; George Tookey, Director Region IV, and Cindy Read, Director Region II.

Secretary Frank Barton called for the club delegates present. 68 clubs were present which constituted a quorum.

Bill called on Frank to read the minutes from the 2004 Annual Meeting. Bill Teague moved to accept the minutes as published. This was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Mike Bunting distributed the MNRC Financial Statement and presented the status of the clubs' finances.

Gene Byrd made a motion to accept the financial report. It was seconded and approved.

Mary Williams announced that the 2007 event would be held in Manassas, Virginia and hosted by the Rappahannock River Retriever Club.

Julie Cairns reported that the 2006 event has been moved to Lincoln, CA which is part of the California Retriever Trainers Association property. Dates are October 1 thru 8, 2006.

Julie explained the judges selection procedure. Votes were taken for the 2006 Master National Judges. Elected were: Region I - Tim Summers, Region II-John Blackbird, Region III- Rick Greer, Region IV- Bill Largent.

Bill Blochowiak then announced that there were no reports from any standing committee and there was no unfinished business from last year.

Region IV VP nominations from the floor were received for Jim Huston and Janet Peters. The nominations were closed and the vote called for. Janet Peters was elected.

Region I Director nominations from the floor were received for Terry Thomas and John Marchica. The nominations were closed and voted called. John Marchica was elected.

The Region III Director nomination was received for David Christianson. A motion was made by Eugene Byrd and seconded to close the nominations and elect David by acclamation.

Bill Speck introduced John Rabidou, the new AKC Director of Performance Events. (Editor's note: Mr. Rabidou is no longer with Performance Events.)

New Business:

The report from the Future Committee was given.

Julie Cairns announced that the rotation would be 1, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150.

Helen Romain asked the MNRC to develop procedure to put a percentage of the money from the MNRC event for workers and replacing equipment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank G. Barton III
MNRC Secretary

**MASTER NATIONAL RETRIEVER
CLUB
Board Meeting
October 5, 2005
6:30 PM**

The Board convened at the Palestine Public Library at 6:30PM. Those in attendance Bill Blochowiak, Bill Teague, David Bornhofen, David Christianson, Mary Williams, Frank Barton, Julie Cairns, Mike Bunting.

Mary Williams said that the presentation for the 2007 MN event will be delayed because of travel problems with the host club.

Bruce Bachert said that the set up for the first series will take place Saturday morning.

Bill asked "how it was going" regarding setup. Julie said that it was going well and things were in place.

Preparations were made for the opening ceremony regarding who needed to be where and when.

Bill went over the Agenda for the Annual meeting.

The report from the Legal Concerns Committee was reviewed and accepted by the Board. This report is a part of these minutes. (Editor's note: this report was sent to all member clubs and previously placed on the website. Due to its length it is not being included in the newsletter.)

The report from the Futures Committee was reviewed and accepted by the Board. The Futures report is attached and part of these minutes.

At 8:00pm the meeting moved to Julie Cairns room.

Discussion then turned to the report from the Futures committee. At 9:30pm, after lengthy discussion the meeting recessed until 6:30 Friday Evening.

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 on Friday and the matter of the report was reopened.. After more lengthy discussion, David Bornhofen made a motion, seconded by Bill Teague that the board approve the three recommendations from the Futures Committee as contained in its report. After debate, a vote was taken with the motion being approved 6-1 with David Christianson voting nay.

Bill Teague made a motion, seconded by Mary Williams, to approve the selection of William Feeny with the law firm of Lanaham Reilly

Frank Barton reviewed the voting procedures for the Annual Meeting.

Bill Teague made a motion, seconded by Julie Cairns to accept the recommendation from Region 1 VP, Mary Williams, for the Rappahannock River Retriever Club to host the 2007 Master National with the dates to be determined. The board was extremely impressed with the detail of the presentation and sends it heartfelt appreciation to the members of the Rappahannock River Retriever Club for traveling to Texas to bring the board this presentation.

The board reviewed the email from Cindy Read regarding the Women's Challenge Trophy. Mary Williams agreed to review and update the names on this trophy. David Bornhofen made a motion, seconded by David Christianson, to award Sallie Sullivan and Cindy Read a bowl to recognize their accomplishment in passing the MN event 5 times with the same dog. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Frank G. Barton, III
Secretary

**MASTER NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB AGENDA
Board Meeting
October 12, 2005
6:00 PM**

Those in attendance Bill Blochowiak, David Bornhofen, David Christianson, Mary Williams, Frank Barton, Julie Cairns, Mike Bunting.

The meeting convened at 6:00PM on Wednesday, October 12th in the Big Woods equipment shed. David Bornhofen made a motion, seconded by David Christianson to reimburse the board \$50 per diem for the time they were attendance in support of the MNRC event. After discussion the motion passed unanimously.
The Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank G. Barton, III
Secretary

LODGING...



It is a pleasure to introduce the *Award Winning Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites* for your consideration. We are an award winning, three diamond rated hotel just off of Highway 101 at the East Dunne Avenue exit. Our hotel is conveniently located 10 miles outside of San Jose near nine wineries and four golf courses.

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- ◆ *2003 Quality Excellence Award Winner*
- ◆ *2002 Quality Excellence Award Winner*
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The following amenities are always available to all of our valued guests:

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- ◆ *New Bedding Collection arrives 04/06...Please ask for details*
- ◆ *Complementary Expanded Breakfast Bar 6a-9:30a (10a on Sat-Sun)*
- ◆ *Eggs, Omelets, Breakfast Burritos, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Browns Mon-Fri*
- ◆ *Manager Reception Mo-Th w/complimentary beer, wine and hors de oeuvres 09/25-09/28*
- ◆ *No Host Bar - \$3 Wine, \$4 Beer 09/29-10/03 – Hours to be determined by group*
- ◆ *Free Secure High Speed Wired and Wireless Internet Access w/printing abilities*
- ◆ *Indoor Pool, Spa, Sauna, Steam Room*
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- ◆ *Full Fitness Center*
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- ◆ *Movies played in THX on a 6' screen*
- ◆ *Free On Premise Laundry Facilities*
- ◆ *Book and Game Library*
 - ◆ *4 Panel Plasma Video Wall in Atrium – Arriving 05/06*
 - ◆ *Video Conferencing...5,000 watt DJ and Karaoke system with 3, 6' TV's – Arriv. 05/06*

At the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, our commitment is to our guests; and as a service conscious organization our goal is to see that all our guests have a delightful stay!

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact the hotel at 877-776-7670. We look forward to working with you in the near future. Please visit us @ www.hiemorganhill.com.