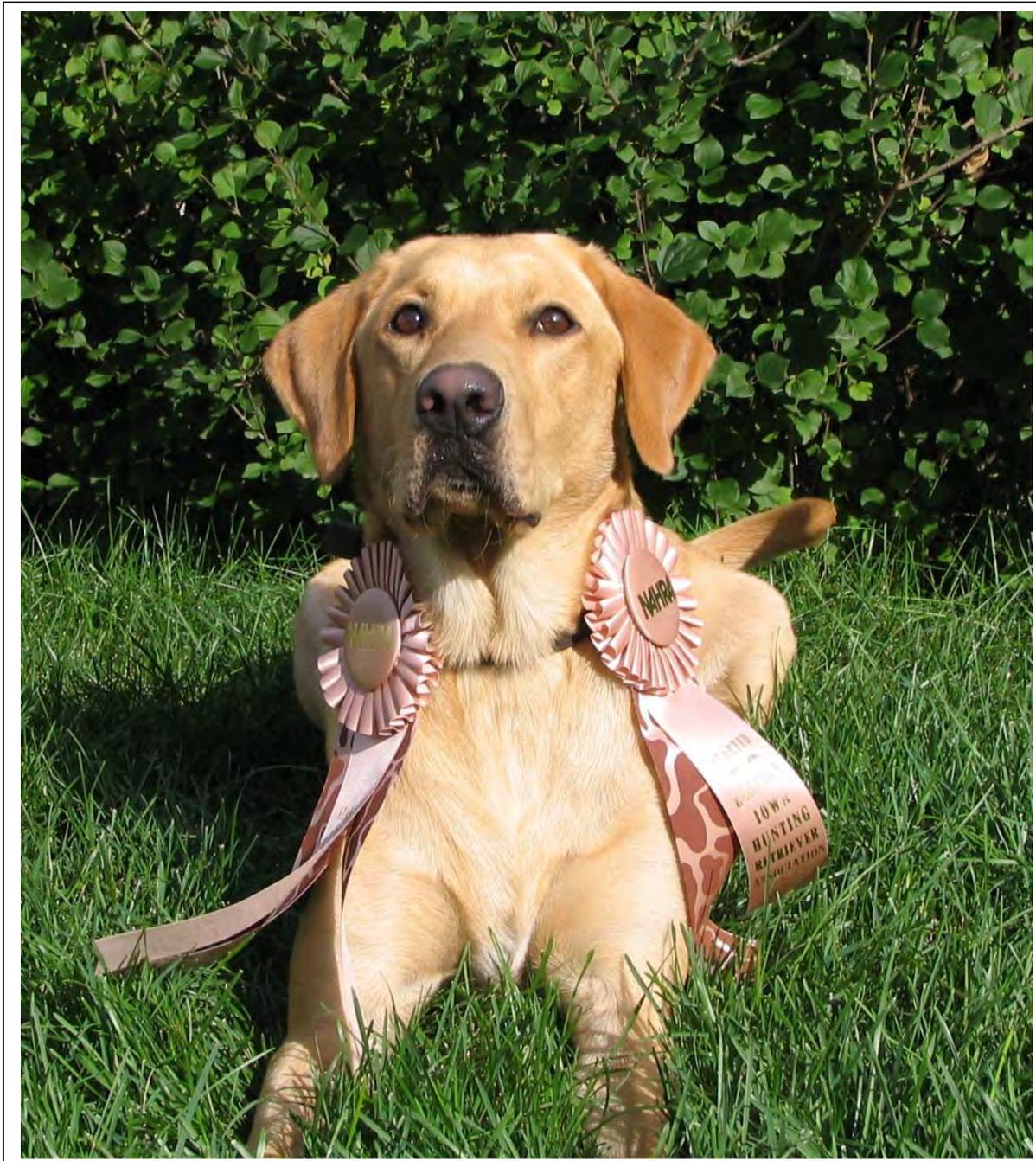


Online Volume II

Spring 2006

NAHRA NEWS

NORTH AMERICAN HUNTING RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION



Conservation through the development of trained retrievers

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Individual - \$37; Family - \$42; Sponsor - \$200; Club - \$40
Corporate sponsorships are available by contacting the NAHRA office in writing.

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NAHRA NewsLetter is published quarterly by the North American Hunting Retriever Association, with business offices located at P.O. Box 5159, Fredericksburg, VA 22403, and distributed to members as a benefit of their membership. Application (#001) to mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is pending at Fredericksburg, VA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NAHRA NewsLetter, P.O. Box 5159, Fredericksburg, VA 22403-0159

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President's Bark

The decoys are put up, well mostly, the float rigs are off the boat and the dogs are catching the rays, as the days get longer. The geese that love to torment me fly in every evening just as I get home and show no fear as if they can read a calendar. The chores that have been put off all hunting season compete with training time, and they are actually not surprised when I get to work on time. Must be spring.

I hope this past hunting season left you with great memories of your time afield with friends and your dogs. My usual trek to the Midwest had to be abandoned this year, but fortunately the duck season here was a bit above average. I kept a pair of beautifully plumed gadwall for the collection and left far too many widgeon for the flight home. I don't know why, but I can't figure widgeon out. They come to the rig at the most inopportune times, like when I'm watching the long approach of a nice group of blackheads. I'll hear the rush of wings and that taunting whistle, get off a late shot and they are gone. Oh yeah, now those blackheads are heading down bay. The good news and bad news is that there seem to be more of them this year, just not in my freezer.

Things at the NAHRA office are picking up. Field Test applications are flowing in and that's a good thing. What's not so good is the number of incomplete applications. Applications that lack a complete judge's slate, committee members whose memberships are not current or not including a copy of your clubs insurance policy cause increased workload for the office. Rosemary has to chase up these details with your club secretary and depending on the timeliness of the response this may require multiple phone calls and emails. We just don't have the time for this extra work during the peak of the test season. The application is very straightforward and should not pose such difficulty. Please note that your application must be approved prior to your premiums being sent out. Please work with your committees to get your applications submitted completely and on time to insure we can support you with a timely approval. A final note, your insurance is absolutely critical; your event will not be approved without it. NAHRA cannot accept the liability of uninsured events.

Contained within this issue of the News, is NAHRA's Budget Plan for 2006. Many thanks to Kevin McLaren and Rosemary Haynes for the painstaking work of reviewing past expenditures and seeking out cost savings for the year ahead.

This planning document is the first step in keeping NAHRA financially running straight lines for 2006. Please keep in mind, this is a planning document and changes may occur. The BOD will be notified and their consent sought for discretionary changes to this budget in excess of \$250. Once we have completed our 2005 taxes we will get 2005's financials published.

Best wishes for successful training and testing this spring, hope to see you out there.

Jim VanderGiessen



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On the Cover:

"First Title"

SR Zip Birdy Zazu

Co-editor Doug Kelley's first titled dog

Trailing

by Brad Lindberg & Keith Stroyan

Trailing is one of the most important things a hunting dog can do. Wild pheasants are notorious for running a ways and burrowing in. We've also seen a duck swim to an island and take off running. (That day, Keith's only duck was recovered by a skillful trailing dog.) The rule book says, "NAHRA's purpose ... is to discover and reward dogs that can fulfill the hunter's needs in the field by performing in a manner consistent with the demands of actual hunting conditions." Almost any game bird can come down and require a trail to bring to the bag, so we want to encourage and reward trailing skills.

In a perfect world every trailing test would be set up with live birds, freshly shot so that only one wing was broken, and maybe one number 6 in the leg to slow a pheasant down a little. The bird would be shot in sight of the dog and he would be set on the trail by his handler. Perfect trailing test. We can all dream.

In our not so perfect world of field tests we do not get to do it the perfect way. We have to set up tests that show us that a dog has been trained to follow his nose. This is a really valuable skill, even if we test it in less than ideal conditions. It is mostly a natural skill, but a trained dog gets right to business. On a dry windy day in real hunting that makes the difference between a bird in the bag or one lost.

The best test of a dog's ability to trail is the live released bird. It is also the most fun to watch. The down side is that it takes lots of time, you need the right area – AND the right birds. We often do not have the time or our grounds or birds are restricted.

Second best is the live bird walk. Take your bird at heel and walk through the fields in a wandering path, one new path for each dog. Time is less of a factor but you need lots of space and good scenting conditions. Dipping the bird in a bucket of water can increase scent.

The third way to test the trail is probably the way most of us are forced to get the job done. This is to set up some kind of repetitive dragged trail and run dogs on the same trail. If you want a consistent trail for each dog and want the "same test" for each dog, this is the way. Just run a test dog before the first dog so that now even the first dog has had a dog go before him.

What we've said so far is more-or-less written in the judging guidelines, Chapter 6, of the NAHRA Rule Book. Please re-read those guidelines with this article.

After judging 50 senior tests including the Invitational and 20 intermediate tests, Brad has seen just about everything that can go right or wrong with the trail. Keith has only judged 50 or so and another Invitational, but he trained and handled 10 MHRs. Both of us REALLY BELIEVE that the trail is an important part of NAHRA, it's just different from the other programs.

Probably the most exciting and most fun trail Brad judged was at an Invitational when they loaded dogs and handlers onto a truck and drove off into a large area of pheasant cover to release one bird for each dog. The dogs did great and the handlers cheered for every dog. They ran about 50 dogs. It was the only test that day. All dogs completed the test. Keith tried a similar test at an Invitational where the pheasants wouldn't run. They'd go a few yards and burrow in. At yet another test, Intermediate dogs got ducks with a similar scenario because "they wouldn't run like pheasants." Keith's dog ran a 300 yard trail – clear she was following something all the way. Wow, that was heart in the throat time – and SO cool when she got it.

Now back to the real world where we usually have time restrictions, land restrictions, and uncertain birds. Our favorite artificial trail is a U shaped one. Run the first leg angled down wind as far as you can but at least 40 yards. Turn and run the second leg across wind again for at least 40 yards or more. Run the third leg angled into the wind back toward the initial starting point so that the pickup bird is even with and about 40 yards from the starting point. This u shape forces the dog to make the turns and trail in all wind directions. It also eliminates drag back on the return. Use a wet live or dead bird, they both work well. Depending on weather conditions blood in the water sometimes helps.

Drag the bird in your footsteps. Do **not** attempt to use a pole or something to make a clean drag away from the dragger. You will only create 2 trails that could confuse the dog.

Complete the drag and wait a couple of minutes. Run a dog and cross your fingers. If scent is good the dog will run the trail like a rocket sled. If it's a bad day he will get the job done but it will be a little slower. Do not re drag the trail until at least 5 dogs have run (3 on a bad day).

If a dog cannot complete the trail give him two or three chances before you excuse him. When a dog fails the test bring up the next dog and run him on the same trail without re-dragging. If this dog can complete the trail you can be fairly certain that the previous dog was not up to the test today. If both dogs fail, re-drag the trail, hopefully in a new area, and continue on. Recall the two questionable dogs and drag the trail just for them to confirm that they do not have what it takes today.

Some judges don't like this "eye wipe" version of verifying a trail, but we usually do. Keith likes to bring one of his old experienced dogs as test dog and use her for this. People aren't much good at trailing, but observing an experienced dog you KNOW can reveal pretty good hints of what dogs must smell.

The Guidelines say, "*It is important to not over scent the trail. If the trail is too heavily scented, it can confuse the dog. If the same trail is to be used for a number of dogs, it should be dragged again, but usually not more than once for every three or four dogs. Even such trails may "wear out" from over-scenting after a number of uses. (Inexperienced judges may feel that dragging a trail for every dog helps the dogs, but experience shows that this practice eliminates excellent trailing dogs in unpredictable ways.)*" We don't know why over scenting doesn't work, but the guidelines are right.

Another trail we like when grounds are restricted is to drag an L or U, run 3 to 5 dogs and then move just far enough to drag another L, run 3 to 5 dogs, move to a third L. Only after running 9 to 15 dogs on 3 trails, return to the first trail and re-drag. We've even seen this wear out from over scenting.

Brad taught Keith that trails in woods often work great. On a sunny day, the shady forest floor with seemingly little cover other than forest litter can hold scent very well. It saved the day at the 1993 Invitational when the pheasants wouldn't run in grass.

For all of the handlers out there please understand that you must teach your dog to trail on these artificial trails. The good dogs do the trail with ease. In fact, most of them LOVE training on it. It has been years since we have seen an experienced senior dog fail a trail in good conditions, but we would never think of eliminating this test from the NAHRA format. We have seen many otherwise highly trained dogs fail the trail, most likely because they didn't understand what the handler wanted. Trailing is 10% training, 85% natural talent, and 5% luck (like everything else), but you can't skip the 10%.

All good hunting dogs must be able to follow and find game that is moving along the ground. This game may be a running pheasant trying to elude the hunter or a wounded mallard trying to make it to safety. These birds don't stand a chance with an MHR on their trail – they take the command and get right to work. Your artificial trailing will pay dividends in the field and marsh.



NAHRA's Most Important Asset

By Jim VanderGiessen

Many of you have had contact with Rosemary Haynes, NAHRA's Office Manager/Executive Assistant. Rosemary has been with NAHRA since January of 1988 and other than a brief respite to attend to the needs of her young children, she has been with us ever since. NAHRA has been fortunate to have an employee of such long experience and dedication to our sport. Rosemary has lent permanence and corporate memory to us as well as her considerable talents in running our office single handedly. I wanted to take a few minutes to share with you some of Rosemary's duties, talents and contributions.

NAHRA while a small organization has diverse needs and requirements. These needs must be met across four (4) time zones, often on a very tight schedule and all by one person. Those of us who participate in NAHRA are out pursuing our sport in our leisure, Rosemary, as NAHRA's only paid professional must be there to help make our sport a reality.

Rosemary's duties include: keeping NAHRA's books, year-end tax preparation for our accountant, quarterly and yearly payroll reports, banking, check writing, processing our incoming and outgoing mail, keeping your phone calls and emails answered, compilation of information for NAHRA NEWS (field test results, titles, field test schedule) and assistance with proofreading and editorial content.

Perhaps her most important contribution is maintaining our database of dogs and members. The processing of field test results and the logging of your dogs' accomplishments is an exacting task and preserves these records for the future. When you consider how many dogs have participated over the years you can imagine the scope of this task. Fortunately, Rosemary is very detail oriented.

When you call the office, Rosemary may be in the middle of any one of these important tasks and I ask your indulgence if she has to get back to you with an answer. There are times when it is not practical for her to stop what she is doing to track down your request. I know she will get back to you promptly.

Rosemary is joining the rest of us in the world of electronic publishing, and is helping Sandy and Doug with the NAHRA NEWS and website. I expect this area of responsibility to increase as we strive to make more of our services more web-based.

While the leadership of NAHRA has changed over the years, perhaps NAHRA's most important asset has remained constant and maintained the accomplishments of our dogs. Thank you Rosemary - couldn't do it without you.

Reflections

by Darin Westphal

The romantic in me may argue with a gas fireplace, the atmosphere surrounding gas doesn't measure up to a regular wood burner with its smoky aroma and popping logs, but it's difficult to argue with the ease in which to turn one on. I sink into my favorite location on the couch and glance down at Jake, my oldest yellow lab. He's curled up as close to the fireplace as he dares. It amazes me how a dog with such a thick coat can lay that close. Eventually he'll get up and move when his coat feels almost hot to the touch, but he's earned his winter break, and I trust his judgment in knowing when it's time to move, so I let him be. A busy 2005 chasing roosters can lend oneself to weary bones and creaky joints, so he's more than earned the opportunity to enjoy some moments of silence. Although I long for the smell that only a wood burner can emit, or the popping of sap in its logs, I think at this point, we both will simply enjoy the heat.

It's difficult to comprehend the let down when you realize the pheasant season has closed. All those hours and days spent daydreaming, training and the anticipation felt for the upcoming season, which seemed to have passed at an agonizingly slow pace, now seem ever so distant. 9 months of waiting for 3 months of bliss hardly seems fair, but here I am, after another year reflecting back on the memories of seasons past.

Some people may scoff at the idea of taking pictures during and after the hunts, but when the temps hovering around Artic like and you're attempting to soak in every last molecule of heat into those weary bones, those pictures are the greatest means of transferring yourself back to those days afield.

If I'd only taken a picture of our opener in Minnesota. Although, I'm not sure how the pictures would have looked with everyone leaning in the same direction. 30-40mph winds with gusts into the 50+ range will do that. But when you've waited for 9 months, sitting at home isn't an option. Or I wish that I had taken the time to snap a couple of the second double of my career. A report double when 2 roosters exploded into the air one after another, voicing their disapproval of my labs wet nose ruffling their feathers. A double resulting in a Minnesota limit is certainly a nice way of going home with both a happy dog and hunter.

However, nothing mirrors the anticipation of a trip to South Dakota. Having been a die hard bow hunter for years who lived for an Oak tree in early November, the world of dogs and roosters have slowly moved up the ladder to where South Dakota is now the priority. Don't get me wrong, watching a 160" whitetail stroll into range is a sight to behold, but I'm not sure if anything parallels that of watching your dog do what they enjoy more than anything else. The countless hours of training that have been accounted for come to fruition and everyone goes home tired and happy. There's a look in your dogs eyes that makes it all worthwhile. A look that is shared only between the dog and his owner. Others may see it, but few perceive it for what it is. The memories and stories created here are unsurpassed and live forever in both memory and in pictures.

How good will the story be in 10 years of the rooster that refused to fly? He had 3 hunters plus 2 dogs masquerading as clowns chasing him through a CRP field, only to meet his demise by a perfectly timed size 9-1/2 Browning boot. Or the rooster that went down on a frozen sheet of ice with a slide that any big leaguer would stand up and applaud. But the one memory that I keep coming back to is a limit of 6 roosters. One of those days where 1 dog and 2 hunters could do no wrong. When you're walking back to the truck with the weight that only a limit can carry in your vest, it's impossible to hide the smiles. And those pictures bring it all back as if it happened just yesterday.

The success pictures have a way of allowing me to relive those moments, and thumbing through them in the photo album does nothing but make winter feel that much longer, while providing a sense of relief. But ironically...almost sadistically, it's the misses that I can't seem to forget (and thank Heaven there are no pictures of those). I can remember that crossing rooster that was dropped at the edge of my pattern with my second barrel as he tried to escape with a strong tail wind, but I also remember the "gimmie" 20 yard shot on a slightly quartering rooster who's flush was of no surprise and all I was able to give him was a farewell salute, not once but twice. How those 2 memories share an equal amount of brain space is something that I'll never be able to figure out.

Jake's now moved away from the fire and is lying at my feet. His deep sigh makes me wonder if he too is thinking of long tailed roosters and the one's that have gotten away. At the sound of the ice cubes in my drink rattling against the glass, Jake lifts his head and stares in my direction. It's truly amazing when you look into those eyes. At that very moment, he's as content as can be, and yet, should I stand and lace up my Brownings, he'll beat me to the door and all you'll hear is the thumping of his tail on the floor. But for now, it's time to relax and reflect back, as the Fall of 2006 is still a ways away.



North America Hunting & Outdoor Services

NAHRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships through the NAHRA are limited to those who:

Name: _____
 Spouse's name: _____
 Street/Box: _____
 City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____

Individual: \$87
 Family: \$42
 Sponsor: \$200 (once a year) (see jacket for complete details)
 Club: \$40
 Introductory Individual: \$25
 Introductory Family: \$20
 Youth Membership: \$15

Total: \$ _____

If you wish to pay by credit card, please provide the following:
 Circle Card Type: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration: _____
 Signature: _____

All memberships include a limited membership to special NAHRA events and a membership subscription to NAHRA NEWS.

New sponsor members will receive a "sponsored" jacket with embroidered sponsor patch.
 New sponsors, circle your size of jacket: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Please make checks or money orders payable to "NAHRA" and mail or fax completed application to:

NAHRA
 P.O. Box 5150
 Fredericksburg, VA 22403
 (540) 804-7620
 FAX: (540) 804-7691

New Memberships

Introductory Individual: \$20
 Introductory Family: \$20

This rate is for first-time members only and is available only for the first year of membership. Members will be at NAHRA's current membership rates.

Youth Membership: \$15

To also be eligible to receive our youth award, participating in NAHRA or national membership is available for those 21 years or under by only November 1st the eligible for this rate must be 18 years old or older.

2006 BUDGET

In the interest of efficiency, an audited income statement will be completed as part of our tax filing process. I anticipate that to be finished in the not too distant future. However, the Board of Directors would like to present to you our 2006 budget.

Your Board of Directors is very committed, demonstrating the highest level of fiscal responsibility and accountability to the members as possible. To accomplish this goal, we feel that the cornerstone must be a realistic budget. This Board approved budget was developed using the most recent years revenue and expense numbers, as well results from future planned initiatives. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Kevin McLaren
 Treasurer

INCOME

	2006
Membership	33,559.00
Entry Fees	20,000.00
Advertising	10,000.00
NAHRA Benefit	
2006 Invitational	
Service	
Sales	
<i>Total Income</i>	63,559.00

EXPENSES

Jackets & Hats	2,200.00
Awards/Bands	200.00
Meeting Expense	800.00
Computer Expense	250.00
Dues & Subscriptions	450.00
Equipment Leasing	2,000.00
Utilities, Phone, Internet	4,000.00
NAHRA Benefit	0.00
Licenses	25.00
Office Supplies	1,800.00
Payroll Taxes	2,808.00
Payroll Expense	36,000.00
Rent	0.00
Postage	2,250.00
Printing	500.00
Professional Fees	1,500.00 *3
NAHRA News	2,300.00 *4
Advertising	750.00
2006 Invitational	2,500.00
Miscellaneous Expense	250.00
Total Expenses	60,583.00

Other Income 0.00

Net Income or Loss **2,976.00**

*3= Includes payment of Attorney in MT that worked on 501C

*4=Includes payment for work on NAHRA News in '04-05

“In The Kitchen”

by Bruce Caplin

A Classic German dish

Serve this with homemade spaetzle or roasted potatoes. Braised red cabbage w/apples and raisins and sautéed string beans round out this feast. This dish goes well with a good dark or amber German beer. For those that prefer wine, try younger pinot noir for reds or a pinot gris for whites.

Jaeger Schnitzel with Mushroom Sauce

Ingredients:

1 lb. pheasant or other light colored game bird cutlet (1/2 inch thick) pounded for tenderness
 2 eggs beaten
 salt and pepper
 1/2 c. bread crumbs
 oil or lard

Sauce

2 oz. bacon, diced
 4 oz. onion, chopped
 16 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced (preferably wild such as morels, shiitake, cremini or porcini)
 1 T. tomato paste
 1/2 c. beef stock
 1/2 c. dry red wine
 dash thyme
 salt and pepper
 1/2 t. paprika
 1 T. parsley
 2 T. sour cream

Instructions:

Pound cutlets and rub with salt and pepper. Let stand for 10 min. Dip cutlets in beaten egg and breadcrumbs. Brown in small amount of oil on low heat (about 10 min.) Make sure they are cooked through. While schnitzels are browning sauté bacon and onions for gravy in separate pan. Sauté until they are golden. Add tomato paste and mushrooms and sauté over low heat. Add wine, stock and seasonings and simmer 5 min. Stir in sour cream last and serve mushroom sauce over schnitzels.

In order to ensure that all clubs hold combined events in the same standardized manner, the BOD has passed the following Combined Event Policy. The BOD felt that this policy would ensure that handlers could show up to a test and run all events as advertised as long as cross entries are allowed by the hosting club. This would eliminate the possibility that a handler would have to choose one category or another if they had cross-entered the same dog. This also allows clubs to state on their premium that they will not be allowing cross entries for combined categories.

COMBINED EVENTS POLICY

– Clarification of Policy regarding combined events –

In the event a club is compelled to combine events the following guidelines must be followed:

- *The NAHRA office must be notified at the earliest opportunity of the categories to be combined and the judges that will be officiating (Note 1)*
- *All categories offered on the premium must be held (Note 2)*
- *Handlers may not be compelled to withdraw from a category*
- *Clubs may elect to not accept cross entries if they chose to but must state this fact in their premium*

Note 1: The NAHRA office must be notified to insure the judges are not pointed out for the given category within that region

Note 2: Marks may be combined or split in the categories however all rulebook guidelines regarding distances shall be observed.

In the event a dog is entered in two categories, a separate set of marks for the two categories is required; also separate trails and upland hunts, and separate blinds.

North American Hunting Retriever Association

NAHRA

conservation through the development of trained retrievers

NAHRA acknowledges and gives special thanks to its Member Sponsors. In addition to their standard membership package, these \$200-level members receive a camouflage jacket, an embroidered "Sponsor" patch, and the organization's heartfelt appreciation.

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**To become a Member Sponsor, please contact
The NAHRA office at (540) 899-7620.**

I have been working with the NAHRA Board on several initiatives, which I hope may be resolved and become a reality by the time you read this. The first involves the following *“Bird Management and Care Guidelines”* document, which has been prepared to assist clubs with their field test events. No, we did not reinvent the wheel here but many tips are contained within to help or remind folks how to present good quality birds for a successful event.

Sincerely,
Frank Plewa
NE Regional Director

BIRD MANAGEMENT AND CARE GUIDELINES

The purpose of the following guidance is to provide host clubs some potential protocol for the care and management of pen-raised birds used in hunting tests for retrievers licensed by the North American Hunting Retriever Association (NAHRA).

NAHRA requires the use of live and/or dead birds in a licensed hunt test event. Member clubs hosting these events have a responsibility to provide adequate quality and quantities of birds to ensure that all participants are fairly and effectively evaluated. Failure to do so may result in the undue or premature disqualification of dogs participating in a given event and will cast a poor reflection upon the host club and NAHRA.

It is in the water marking series where birds are repeatedly thrown into a pond or creek that the breakdown usually occurs and can have a serious effect on the evaluation of a dog. Fresh, high floating birds are preferred to create a fair and adequate test. Low floating or sinking birds impose an unfair standard usually to the dogs at the end of the running order. Low floating or sinking birds in a water test can usually be broken down to three major causes.

1. **Immature birds.** Younger birds are usually very poorly feathered especially in the breast area and will not hold up to repeated use. Many times they are still replacing their juvenile down and erupting feathers are still in the “pin feather” stage. The result is that they will not float nearly as well and certainly not as long as mature birds.
2. **Dirty birds.** Pen raised birds, especially ducks, are usually filthy upon delivery for a variety of reasons. Particularly, pen raised ducks are usually produced in large numbers and held in outside pens where the lack of vegetation coupled with the accumulation of manure and constant access to water, will cause muddy conditions that create very dirty birds. In addition, during shipment, the birds are usually subject to tight quarters, do not have access to water and therefore are not able to clean themselves. Water absorbed by the accumulation of manure and dirt in the feathers will cause the birds to sink quicker.
3. **Poor Care and Management of Birds.** While this situation is usually self-inflicted, the results can be the same. Clubs and judges who do not wisely care for or manage the use of the birds during an event are their own worst enemy and can have a serious impact on the quality and quantity of birds available.

If clubs consider these factors and plan ahead, several or all can be overcome. Simply being aware of these factors as well as knowing the provider(s) and their products will go a long way in providing good birds for an event. The following are some recommendations that may help clubs prevent future problems. The recommendations are primarily targeted at pen raised ducks since most of the problems encountered center around keeping them floating during a water series.

PROCUREMENT AND PLANNING

All clubs should have a bird steward to receive, care for and manage their birds for an event. It is the job of the bird steward to know the product they are receiving from a given provider, what the potential problems are and remedies for all situations. The bird steward should advise the club on quality and the quantity of birds required for an event.

- The bird steward will develop a good working knowledge of the product they are receiving from various providers. They should know what the provider’s inventory is likely to be at the time of their event (age

of birds) and must make adjustments to remedy potential problems. If the providers are likely to have young birds at the time of an event, several options may be available. These options are covered below.

- The bird steward should meet with the providers well in advance to the next event. Identify the product required (mature birds) and determine what quantities can be delivered at the time of the event. If possible, order birds well ahead of time. Some clubs order birds for the entire following year as much as six months in advance. This may be preferable to the provider also.
- If it is likely that a suitable quantity of mature birds will not be available at the time of the event, clubs may wish to attempt to contract with the provider to hold mature birds until the event or until they can be received by the club and held. This will require additional expenses but may remedy a given situation. Clubs will defer the additional costs by getting the most out of mature birds and properly caring for them.
- If a club has the means, it may wish to obtain mature birds to be frozen until an event or as a backup. Several clubs have indicated that they have freezers available for this purpose.
- If young birds must be used, it is recommended that clubs order an additional bird per entry. Assuming they are receiving adult birds, clubs generally order on average, 1.5 - 2.0 birds per entry. Therefore, if young birds must be used, clubs may want to order up to three birds per entry (young birds are usually several dollars cheaper). Clubs should also seek a new supplier if they are continuously provided with young birds.
- Whether it is 24 hours or several weeks, clubs should make every attempt to take possession of birds ahead of time. Clubs can significantly decrease their worries if they can secure a holding area prior to an event.
- NAHRA strongly recommends that a host club, in addition to its major supplier, have a backup supplier on hand in case a last minute problem occurs. Have several other sources on hand that can deliver large (100+) as well as smaller (25-50) bird orders. Especially knowledge of providers who can deliver birds at the last minute. It is also recommended that clubs consider having frozen birds held in reserve for unanticipated problems.
- As a bird steward gains experience with various providers, they should know what to expect in terms of what the general condition of the birds will be upon arrival. Providers deliver birds and are not usually concerned about them being dirty. Bird stewards should assume that the birds will arrive dirty and they should be prepared to take measures to remedy this.
- Finally, clubs who skimp on bird orders are flirting with disaster. With the exception of the conditions of the grounds, there is probably no other factor that will affect the quality of a hunt test than the quality and quantity of birds available. Clubs that schedule last minute tests or those that routinely accept late entries should keep all of this in mind.

CARE OF BIRDS

- Upon delivery, birds and/or crates should be cleaned and kept clean throughout the event. The optimal situation is to take early delivery (several days to weeks) and provide a holding area, which is as clean as possible with lots of available water. Fact is, clean birds will float higher, fly stronger, last longer and give the club the most for its investment.
- Whether it is ducks or upland birds, they should be cared for humanely. This means not letting them sit in stacked crates especially in hot weather. Ventilation is a key factor in keeping birds alive and in good condition. They should be given water immediately, and if they are to be kept for any period of time, adequate food also. Remember, this is an investment on the part of your club, which will directly effect and determine the quality and success of your event.
- NAHRA recommends that clubs must make every effort to take possession of ducks from a provider at least 24 hours before an event. This is the minimum amount of time required to clean the birds and dry them out before use in a test.
- If clubs are faced with the minimum time frame, they should at least hose down the birds and their crates. The more applications the better. A source of water is generally available on the grounds (streams, ponds, etc.) where the crates can be partially submerged. This will allow the birds to get the

dirt and manure out of their feathers and to apply oil before they are used. A small stream is preferable as it allows a constant source of clean water.

- Bird stewards should ensure that the birds have ample time to dry out before use in a water test. If it is raining, cover should be provided to allow them to dry out.
- After the birds have had time to clean up, bird stewards can keep them clean by putting wood shavings in the bottom of the crates for the drying out period. Do not use sawdust, as this will have the same effect as dirty feathers. The wood shavings will absorb manure in the bottom of the crates keeping much of it off the birds. The shavings can be used in the holding pens also. A bale of wood shavings is a pretty inexpensive preventative measure to have good birds.
- Birds to be used in the second or third day of an event should be in the best shape of all. Clubs will have had ample time to clean and care for them provided they take the responsibility to do so.

MANAGEMENT AND USE

In theory, it is equally the responsibility of the host club and the judges to ensure the proper care and management of birds during the course of an event, but the club should take the lead here. The presiding judges will not be the ones remembered for bad birds used at an event.

- Once birds have been dispatched, keep them in closed containers (bags, buckets, etc) to prevent their access to flies. If bags are employed, it may be wise to “double bag” as flies will lay eggs on the bags and eventually travel through the mesh. Buckets with lids and drainage provided are a much wiser alternative.
- Birds that have been dispatched and are to be used in the next day’s event should be thoroughly inspected for fly eggs. Pay special attention to the openings like the mouth (check inside) and the nostrils as well as the wing attachment areas. One egg mass will ruin an entire bag of birds in less than 24 hours. This is where the addition of a gun captain at each stake comes in handy to ensure the birds are inspected and cared for properly.
- The use of fans in a building overnight can salvage wet birds as well as prevent flies from laying eggs on them.
- While in use and especially after they have been retrieved during a water test, birds should be hung to dry in a screened enclosure with mesh small enough to prevent the entry of flies. It is recommended that the club provide a worker at the line to ensure the birds are properly cared for even though the presiding judges should assume some of that responsibility. “Drying boxes” are relatively easy to construct and generally a one time expense. Towel drying the birds as they are put on the rack is a way to increase the longevity of your birds.
- Wet birds in use, particularly in a water series, should never be piled on the ground, or in a container. As stated, they should be hung up to dry before being rotated back into use. If they are thrown into the mud, they should be rinsed or dunked upon return before hanging them up. If they must be put into a container before they are dry, then containers with bottom drainage should be used. Another remedy is to add several inches of wood shavings in the bottom to prevent the birds from lying in accumulated water and becoming saturated much quicker. The shavings will draw moisture from the feathers also.
- As birds become saturated, they should be removed from any rotation that requires a floating bird. They can be used for blinds or marks thrown on land. Thoroughly soaked birds should be removed altogether as they can often tempt an experienced dog to bite down!
- Where possible. Bird stewards should attempt to ration birds early in the event or a given stake (i.e. land series) to ensure adequate birds are available for the water series later.
- Judges are in a prime position to increase the longevity of birds. They are generally in control of which birds are sent to each station when re-birding. They can select the birds and give instruction to the throwers as to where to and how to throw birds throughout the course of a test. It is usually not of primary importance to a thrower to examine the birds and make a decision as to whether or not the bird will make an adequate or fair presentation to the dog being evaluated, so judges must be vigilant to ensure quality is maintained.

- Judges can also increase the mileage of birds by choosing to throw some marks in “dry” locations or onto supporting emergent vegetation. Particularly, if they have young birds to work with. Even the most inexperienced judges do not want to see a dog unfairly evaluated because of a low floater.
- For events where the weather pattern is forecast to be unusually wet, judges would be advised to run the water series first as the birds are likely to be wet anyway due to the conditions. Saturated birds will be much more favorably received if it occurs during a land series.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

In light of the past problems associated with the use of birds in licensed field tests, it is imperative that all clubs have a contingency plan to prepare them for an emergency. While we all hope that the need never arises, all clubs should have backup plans to handle an emergency situation. This is going to fall directly upon the club leadership who should discuss the potential issues and develop a plan to handle the situation. Until a few years ago, emergency situations have been an after thought.

A situation may occur where, at the last minute, birds are lost, stolen or otherwise unavailable on the eve or a short time frame before a scheduled event. This would cause absolute panic among the members of a club if there were no contingency plan in place. For situations where birds are not available before the start of a test, the following may offer some potential solutions.

- Obviously, where possible, clubs may wish to cancel an event. That itself may be the best solution for the host club.
- However, significant resources may have already been committed and the club is faced with coming up with some solutions in a very short time frame. In this event, clubs should be prepared with some of the previously mentioned alternatives such as having access to multiple providers or by taking possession prior to the event.
- Clubs may wish to purchase freezers and keep frozen birds for such an emergency. Long-term storage facilities might also be an alternative. Several hundred birds can be kept in freezers giving you a safety net in the event of the loss of your birds.

Secondly, in the event of another round of bird flu outbreaks either locally or on a much more widespread level, quarantines may severely handicap procuring or even using birds in field tests. Quarantine situations take this to another level that will eventually have to be addressed not only by the NAHRA BOD but the other competing programs as well. With a few exceptions, most clubs will know well ahead of time that the imposition of quarantine is imminent or in place. Therefore, a contingency plan in this situation is even more imperative.

Clubs should take the time now to find out what agencies will be involved and what the regulations are for their state in a quarantine situation. They should know what the guidelines for the purchase and transport of birds are as well as what options are legal and what the penalties are for violating regulations. NAHRA will not condone the unauthorized or illegal transport or possession of birds in these situations. This is especially true when one considers the potential effects on the health of the public and the livelihoods of poultry producers.

Not only should clubs recognize that live birds might not be possessed or transported in a quarantine situation, but that frozen birds may be subject to the same standards. The bottom line in this whole discussion is that NAHRA clubs should be prepared for the above situations and not to wait until potential problems become a reality.

First Virginia Retriever Association Event in Two Years a Huge Success!!!

The first real spring weather weekend in Northern Virginia proved to be a great time to be out with your NAHRA dog! Two sunny days with temperatures in the 70's and a light breeze provided the setting for VRA's spring event in Bealeton, Virginia. Despite last minute obstacles presented by lack of premium mailings and judge changes, NAHRA members proved once again they love to have the opportunity to run NAHRA events!



Eleven Started dogs and fourteen Intermediate dogs matched their skills against the NAHRA standard judged by NAHRA President Jim VanderGiessen, Dave Bicksler, Patti Sutton, and Sonny Zaun. We are especially grateful to NAHRA veteran Sonny who stepped in on a three-day notice to fill in one our judging slots.



"The overall quality of the dog work this weekend was really great," commented Jim VanderGiessen.

It was terrific to see some new faces and lots of familiar faces with new dogs at the event. At least 6 dogs completed their titles over the weekend.



Event Secretary Jean Leonard did a spectacular job getting the premium out, taking entries, compiling the catalog, marshalling at the event and providing great Hospitality for all attendees. Jean also managed Sunday's Beginner Test. Husband Greg acted as Head Marshall, moving equipment, setting up tests and throwing birds for two days. Thanks Greg and Jean!



Nearly everyone who attended the event pitched in to help in some way, by throwing birds, moving equipment, and cleaning up. "It was really terrific to see how people enjoy pitching in and helping make the event a success without the need for paid help" commented NAHRA Treasurer Kevin McLaren.

A real treat occurred on Saturday when longtime NAHRA Secretary Rosemary Haynes stopped in to say hello.

Past NAHRA President Jack Jagoda was on hand, running several dogs and talking to many people to help with training tips and getting people back on board with the NAHRA program. "This has always been the premier program for the hunter to train and test his own dog. We are the original hunt test program, and have always felt it was important to provide a format to help the hunter develop his own dog for waterfowl AND upland hunting."

The VRA test was the third of six events scheduled for the MidAtlantic Region this spring, with renewed interest, vitality and support for our organization's new president Jim VanderGiessen. Thanks to Jim for making it all possible!



Way to Go and Welcome Back VRA!!

REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Two years ago in November 2003, the NAHRA BOD approved the decision that enabled members to have more control over the organization by conducting an election of Regional Directors. Each Regional Director represents its' region on the board, assumes the duties of the former Regional Liaison, in addition to the responsibility for regional member and club development. They may also be assigned to various task forces or committees as needed to plan, research and complete growth or improvement related options and programs.

This election covers the active odd-numbered regions, plus the regions of the Regional Directors who were elected to the Executive Board in December 2005. Newly elected Regional Directors from the odd-numbered regions will serve on the Board through 2007. The Regional Directors elected to replace those who have moved to the Executive Board, will serve through 2006. An election for Regional Directors in the even-numbered regions will occur in the first quarter of 2007.

Beginning mid-February through March 1, 2006, Regional Directors holding the seats up for election began the nomination process via e-mail and/or telephone. The following information was requested from each nominee either in answer form or a short biography: his/her name, location of residence, career info, length of tenure as a member of NAHRA and as a NAHRA judge, details about his/her dog(s) and the clubs they may belong to. Lastly, each was asked "If elected, what would be their most important goal as a member of the board of NAHRA?"

Ballots will be mailed to all members of the NAHRA Organization in the respective electing regions **with two or more candidates** via the U.S. Postal Service by March 31, 2006. (*It would not be fiscally prudent to incur expenses in Regions where there is only one candidate.*) In order to vote, your membership must be current as of April 1, 2006. **Important Voting Information:** Individual memberships have one vote; Family and/or Sponsor Memberships have two votes. Family and Sponsor Memberships will receive TWO ballots at your mailing address. **DO NOT DISCARD EITHER BALLOT.** *When returning the completed ballot(s), please do not remove your mailing label(s).* Please return the ballots to the NAHRA Office by April 19. Votes will be tallied by May 1, 2006 and election winners will be notified by NAHRA President, Jim VanderGiessen or the Outgoing Regional Director by May 5, 2006. Newly elected Regional Directors will take office June 1, 2006.

As a member of NAHRA, it is your responsibility to be part of the democratic process. Make the time to return your ballot by April 19. All ballots received after this date, will not be counted in the election. For additional information contact the NAHRA Corporate Office at (540) 899-7620 or NAHRA@starband.net. Visit www.NAHRANews.org for online updates throughout the process.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Region 1 - Alaska

John Johnson

I have been employed by Fed Ex (Flying Tigers) as a Crewmember since 1987. I am presently a MD-11 Captain based in Anchorage flying international and domestic routes.

I have been active in NAHRA since 1983. I have trained and run 4 dogs in all stakes currently offered by NAHRA. During the last year I worked with my hunting buddy, Smokey and he and I finished his GMHR in Arizona last December. I have run tests in Alaska, Nevada, Washington, California, and Arizona. I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet and compete with a lot of the NAHRA members in the Western portion of the U.S. Last spring I attended the judges clinic in Alaska and have passed my test. I plan to start judging both Alaska and the lower 48 this upcoming season. We currently belong to the Midnight Sun Gun Assoc., Puget Sound Retriever Club, and Copper State Hunting Retriever Club. We currently reside in Alaska but spend some time outside in the winter.

I think the most important goals for the Regional Director are to complete the reorganization of the NAHRA Board of Directors, improve communication between the BOD and the members. Get the finances in order and try to find new and additional sources of funding and sponsorship for the organization. Develop and evaluate plans to recruit and retain new members into NAHRA. Look at possibly expanding existing programs to enhance current membership participation.

Region 2 - Northwest

John Gilbert

Spokane, Washington
Firefighter/Paramedic

NAHRA member since 1991
NAHRA judge since June 20th, 1994

My most important goal as a member of the Board of NAHRA:

First off I am running for the position of Regional Director of the Northwest Region. This position is also a member of the NAHRA Board of Directors, and I understand current board members are interested in my goals in this regard. Since these words are directed to those that will be picking our next Northwest Director, I will start by clarifying my goals are more regional in nature. I feel our region is challenged with pure distance, and an international border, as obstacles in keeping us working as a cohesive group. I feel we must nurture the "Group" feeling within our region. Every club, indeed every member, should be made to feel that this is not MY region, but OUR region. My first step in accomplishing this is making it clear a Regional Director must be willing to go the path that their constituency desires. All the time maintaining a balance of working together, while allowing maximum autonomy within clubs. We all have similar goals, through our different markets require this autonomy to utilize individual strategies and talents to accomplish these goals.

I feel strongly we need to do whatever it takes to increase communication and keep it flowing. Without this many individuals with a lot to offer will not feel comfortable contributing both opinions and efforts. Communication as a word is easy to say, but to maintain the balance for it to grow is a never-ending job. One that needs someone with an understanding of what we are about, and where we came from. We have great people, let everyone contribute and join in our decisions. My policy is complete honesty, accurate records, and as much information as our members want available for their inspection.

I have been a large part of the operation of the Spokane Bird Dog Association over the last dozen years. As far as experience outside our club, I have also participated in many other Field Tests throughout ten Western States & Canada. I have also run in five Invitationals, training and earning two GMHRCH's as an amateur along the way. At this point the SBDA has hosted more Licensed NAHRA Tests than any other club in North America. As the SBDA, we have made a lot of changes over these years without ever needing to "leap out", hoping to pull "a rabbit out of the hat". Slow, steady, solid growth has eliminated many backslides we all have witnessed in other groups. This is not very exciting stuff, but the strategy all successful organizations are made of.

As far as being a member of the NAHRA Board of Directors? I would hope to bring what we as a region wish to send. I know I can mix knowledge of our past successes, and failures, with an open mind to make changes that might be necessary for the overall health of NAHRA. And hence the health of our NW Region.

Region 5 - Midwest

Keith Stroyan

Johnson County, Iowa (postal address Tiffin, IA 52340, 7, mi. west of Iowa City)
Professor of Mathematics at the University of Iowa -- See: <http://www.math.uiowa.edu/~stroyan/>

Years NAHRA member - 22 (1984-2001 & 2003-2006)
Years NAHRA judge - Since 1986. I judged my first Started with Rick Knuth at NIHRA near Tripoli, Iowa. I still remember a good-looking curly-coat crushing a bird... I have over 50 licensed judging points.

I have owned, trained and handled 10 MHRs (5 GMHR) and currently have 2 young dogs, one finished WR last Fall and one recently turned 1 yr. old. We took a Katrina rescue "Labrador" last fall. My dogs also earned 5 HRCHs, 4UHs. (EIHRA was affiliated with HRC 2001-2004.) Jessie had an AKC - MH and I have run a few derbies, qualifying, and amateur stakes with a licensed qualifying JAM. See: <http://www.math.uiowa.edu/~stroyan/Shohola.htm>

NIHRA (Northeast Iowa HRA, Iowa's first NAHRA club, Board member in 1986-87), RUF! (Retrievers Unlimited forever, founding member 1987), these clubs merged into EIHRA in 1988 when NAHRA allowed clubs to hold more events. I was a club officer from 1986 to 2004, incl. pres, sect, treas, and HT secretary many times.

Also a member of Blackhawk RC (Wisc.) during its NAHRA years, member of Mid-Iowa RC (I usually gun for their licensed trial), and now defunct retriever clubs in Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. I was a member of Mississippi Valley HRC for many years after it's founding in the mid-90's and Mississippi Flyway both while it was with NAHRA and a couple of years with HRC.

Helping build the Midwest NAHRA Region back up to a "critical mass" while promoting unity in the international organization.

Where I feel I can make a strong contribution is in making a connection with NAHRA's past. My experience should be useful as the Board of Directors charts a new course for the organization. I first joined NAHRA in 1984, partly because of my passion for Iowa pheasant hunting. I heard NAHRA had an upland test. I also tried to get AKC not to split with NAHRA the next year for that reason. I've been hunting since I was a tike in the late 1950's. (YIKES!)

I wrote for the old print NAHRA News for about a dozen years. I served as a Regional and International Liaison and briefly on the old Board of Directors. I edited a NAHRA judges' newsletter for several years and served as non-voting editor to the 1993 revision of the rulebook.

In many ways Troy is a better choice for Regional Director. He has been more active the last few years and probably knows more of the region's members. If he is elected, I will support him enthusiastically and continue to help NAHRA where I can. If I receive the position, I hope I can count on his support and effort.

The few of us left need to work together over the next year to help bring NAHRA back up to strength. As you all know, we're NOT the only game in town.

Troy Tilleraas

Hastings MN 55033

I have been employed by Schindler Elevator Corporation for the past 15 years. I am a regional superintendent for new installation traction elevators and modernization. I have been in the vertical transportation industry for 19 years.

I have been a member of NAHRA since 2001, and a judge from 2003.

I along with my wife Niki, currently own 5 Labradors. Master Hunter titles have been achieved on two of these and others are in various stages of their training. I also train for others on a limited basis, only taking an extra 2 dogs in at a time. I hunt in Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota for almost all of the upland species available.

We as a family are members of Four Points Retriever Club in Minnesota.

NAHRA, to me is an organization that needs some growth, advancement, and an objective. If elected my first and most important goal would be to represent the entire Midwest Region's members. I would want feedback on ideas and issues as they arise. I would voice my personal ideas with the region and respect their thoughts and wishes for the benefit of the region. I would like to see NAHRA pursue a recognized organization of some type to get the well-earned titles of these dogs recognized on paper to compete with the other hunt test venues as their affiliated dogs have.

Region 8 - Mid Atlantic

Mario Cilia

I grew up in Western PA, starting my hunting career at age 13. Pheasants, rabbits & deer were the game that I pursued throughout my college years. After graduation I obtained a job with the Federal government and moved to Maryland.

Betty and I bought our first house in 1993 and we were both anxious to have a dog in our life. Knowing that I wanted a dog that I could have as a hunting companion, she let me chose the breed and within two months of

moving into the house we were the proud parents of a 15 month old yellow Labrador. That landed us into the sport we know as Labrador Retrievers. We were somewhat naïve about owning and training a working dog, but went into it with a lot of enthusiasm.

Our real adventure into Labradors started when we saw a sign at a pet store advertising a lab rescue event. We had no idea what this was about so we went into the store and our lives really changed. From volunteer work with them we learned more about life with a Labrador than we ever imagined. As an offshoot, we met many member of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac (LRCP), where we were introduced to all aspects of retriever games from conformation to hunt/field tests.

As I am a hunter by heart, the field events became my game of choice. I began running AKC & NAHRA events in 1997. From there I've chaired many field events and then decided I needed to give something back to the sport so I began to judge both AKC and NAHRA events. I have been a member of NARHA since 1998 and have been judging NAHRA events since 2001, and am pointed in all three stakes. I am a member of the Mid-Atlantic RC and the LRCP (former Board Member, 2005 Member of the Year and Field Training Coordinator encompassing all levels of experience for the last 4 years).

We are still active in Lab Rescue and we exhibit in Conformation, Obedience & Field events where we have dogs titled in all 3 venues. Field titles range from NAHRA MHR to AKC Senior. Our newest endeavor is agility. Who knows where we'll go from there. We occasionally breed English Style Labs under the Milltowne prefix.

I believe that the most important goal that we can aspire to is encouraging of open and honest communication to achieve mutual understandings. Everyone has good ideas and we need to put our pre-conceived notions behind us and listen to what we all have to say. We as board members need to display energy and enthusiasm to the members so as to rejuvenate and motivate them. We need to foster camaraderie between the members and the clubs in and among all regions. The membership is the organization and we must remember that we are doing this for the dogs that have endeared themselves to us.

Don Quackenbush

Port Republic, VA 24471

Senior Mechanical Engineering - Design Consultant in the HVAC Industry
President of Don Alan's North American Trophy Hunts - Hunting Consultant
Owner of QnB Kennels - training, handling and breeding labs

Years NAHRA member - 12

Years NAHRA judge - 8

For the first sixteen years of my life I lived in the Northern Virginia area. My first taste of hunting was at 12 years with the Boy Scouts. We took field trips to the Washington DC dump to hunt rats at night with flashlights taped to our rifles. The Scouts also introduced me to the outdoors with fishing trips to the Outer Banks and target shoot at summer camp.

During my college days in southwestern Virginia I earned five engineering degrees at Community College and Virginia Tech. In my spare time I spent exploring, hiking and hunting in the National Forrest. After college, I worked as an Engineering Manager for a custom transformer and switchgear company. I continue to work professionally in the HVAC industry as a consultant. This work made me appreciate my time in the field and led me to my current passion.

About 25 years ago I started my own business as a big game hunting consultant, Don Alan's North American Trophy Hunts. In conjunction with this business, I have been exposed to numerous types of dogs and their uses in running, hunting and /or retrieving game. Twelve years ago this passion for hunting and dogs led me to start my own kennel, QnB Kennels, where we train, trial and breed labs. I currently own 14 labs, all sex and colors. They range from up and coming started pups to a few retired GMHR titled dogs. I have run in all levels of the NAHRA program from puppy to regional events over the past twelve years. I'm making room for two spring litters and a new black female pup. I have not run a dog to the 1000 point level as my enjoyment comes from the challenge of taking multiple dogs to their GMHR title, then retiring and breeding a new generation of quality dogs.

I'm a founding member of the Shenandoah Valley Hunting and Retriever Club and its current president. I have held various positions on hunt test committees for the SVHRC and other clubs over the past twelve years.

Major goal as a Regional Director - Build the membership upon NAHRA's strengths. NAHRA offers the oldest and best program for testing hunting retrievers. From individual members to associated clubs NAHRA has a solid core membership. NAHRA needs to promote these strengths on a national level, such as advertising in hunting, outdoor, waterfowl and dog publications. Clubs need increase their own membership and promote regionally through various outlets like vets, pet stores, state game department programs, outdoor shows and hunting clubs. Individuals can have a large impact helping others with training, handing out literature and simply talking with other dog lovers, upland hunters and water fowlers about the benefits of being in a club and NAHRA member. I will work in this endeavor to promote and build the NAHRA membership. From the individual who just purchased their first dog that in a few years may own multiple dogs and be addicted to training and running tests to bringing new and old clubs back into the fold.

Region 9 - Northeast

Frank Plewa

It's two years later and here I am, applying for the same job for the same pay! I can honestly say that many of the important things have not changed and I have learned a thing or two along the way. I have, for the most part, enjoyed trying to make a difference for the Northeast and for NAHRA in the past two years. While I feel we have a long way to go in becoming a well-run organization, we have made some good strides and are currently laying the groundwork for many more. Unfortunately, most of our plans are in process and won't be known until we have our ducks in a row.

It has been my pleasure to work with a number of energetic people who always seem to step up when NAHRA needs them. People who follow through with their ideas and promises instead of letting someone else pull the wagon. Most notable is the effort by Sandy Zandlo and Doug Kelley for creating and staying on track with our new website. While I have some idea, I cannot even begin to think about the number of hours they must have logged to date. The Northeast members and I thank you both for all your effort.

It's been 15 years since I took a yellow lab into the goose field and soon after to her first NAHRA Started Field Test. My associations with NAHRA and all the great people I have met have allowed me to acquire enough skill to put six of my own dogs through the Senior program. All of my dogs have enjoyed great success earning many NAHRA titles. The highlight of my retriever training experience happened in 2004 when GMHRCH MFR Fowl Weather's Token Trouble joined the 1000-point club. Does anyone know how many trips or guns you could buy with that money? My wonderful wife who I will be celebrating 20 years with this year probably does!

I have been a waterfowl guide for over 12 years now and my NAHRA dogs were the reason I started and the reason I can continue that pursuit. I do not know of any program that prepares a dog better for the blind or the field than NAHRA. My dogs are living proof of this as I receive many compliments on their behavior and skill from my clients. I tell them they are "NAHRA dogs."

I have been a biologist for the past 25-plus years with most that time served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Enforcement Program. My professional duties mirror my personal interests and pursuits, which is primarily the protection and wise use of our natural resources. I figure in about 10 years I can roll out of bed and play with dogs, every day!

I am a member of the Northern Piedmont Retriever Club and have held various board and officer positions since its beginning. I was the initial organizer of NPRC and have watched it grow into one of the largest and most active clubs in NAHRA's Northeast Region during the 14 years it has been in existence. I have always been involved in the planning and organization of most club events as well as serving as test chairman numerous times for our annual field test events.

As I told you two years ago, NAHRA has given me so much by presenting a quality program. So about 10 years ago I decided that I needed to give back to the program by becoming a judge. It was one of the best moves I ever made. My training program has benefited immensely from my judging experiences, which now total over 50. How do you like that, the program just keeps on giving! I highly recommend that all NAHRA members, at the very least, attend a judges clinic and maybe get their feet wet judging. While you may ultimately find that you are not cut out to be a long term judge, you will learn more about dog handling than you might think.

I am again offering my services to serve as the Northeast Regional Director. While it involves two more years of my time, I feel I owe the program at least that much. More importantly, I do not feel I have accomplished all that I set out to do. If elected to this position, I plan to continue to work with the Board of Directors to continue to restore order and credibility to the NAHRA Organization and the Field Test program.

I have several initiatives in the pipeline and would like to see them through. Among them, are the creation of a "Bird Management and Care" guidance document, to bring the Invitational to the Northeast in the near future, explore the possibility of a new testing level to bridge the gap between Started and Intermediate and to continue to make improvements to the NAHRA judging ranks.

In the Northeast Region, we continue to try to make improvements to the Regional Event to gain better participation. Since I took over as Regional Director, we have held three judges clinics and continue to maintain a healthy number of Field Test events. While several clubs have either moved on or have become inactive during this period, the Northeast has managed to maintain a good nucleus of eight clubs holding events. Furthermore, we have added a ninth club in 2006 and are hoping for two more. I fully intend to pursue some of those who have left us in hopes that we can get them back into the pack.

To the Northeast members, I thank you for your patience and your help over the past two years and I hope to continue to serve you as your representative to the NAHRA Board of Directors.

Frank Plewa
Northeast Regional Director

Region 11 - Quebec

Dany Filteau

Trois-Rivieres, Quebec CANADA G8V 1R8

President (owner) of Sécurité de Francheville - Security and investigation agency with 200 employees

Member of NAHRA since 2004.

Owner of a brown lab named BUDDY (4 years old) who passed is beginner degree with NAHRA in 2005. Member and Chairman of the Club du chien rapporteur de la Mauricie.

If I were elected as a member of the board of NAHRA my main goal would be to promote NAHRA activities in my region. I would like to establish links with people from this organization to ease our participation in events. I truly believe that NAHRA is a very well structured organization and I would work hard to increase the number of members.

With the company I own, I use to sponsor NAHRA activities every year. I think that being a member of NAHRA enables you to take part to events of a very professional level. I'm willing to give time and effort to make this work out.

NAHRA NEWSLETTER				
NORTH AMERICAN HUNTING RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION				
ADVERTISING RATES				
MEMBER RATES	<i>Per Issue</i>	COMMERCIAL RATES	<i>Per Issue</i>	<i>Annual Contract</i>
Full Page	\$200	Full Page	\$450	\$425
1/2 Page	135	1/2 Page	275	230
1/4 Page	100	1/4 Page	175	145
Business Card (standard size)	35	Business Card (standard size)	75	50
Classified Ad (per word – 25 word min.)	\$1.50			
GUIDELINES & AD DIMENSIONS				
Full page: 7" wide x 9½" long				
Half page: 7" wide x 4½" long				
Quarter page: 3¼" wide x 4½" long				
These dimensions allow for margins. Please make sure your ad is the correct size.				
<small>All ads must be prepaid. Submit typed or camera-ready originals. For additional information, contact the NAHRA Office. A charge will be assessed for any changes in contract ads or typesetting of ads by the Editorial staff. All advertising requests and fees should be sent directly to NAHRA NEWS, PO Box 5159, Fredericksburg, VA 22403. If you have questions, please call (540) 899-7620.</small>				

Proposed 2006 Field Test Calendar

APRIL

1 MW Judges Roundtable

Travis Lund tlund@boserconstruction.com

1-2 Western Arizona Gun Dogs

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Jennifer Hood 480-354-9876 rae_hood@hotmail.com

7-9 Northern Piedmont Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Thomas R. Johnston, Jr., 717-444-3691 tkjohnston@pa.net

22-23 Shenandoah Valley Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT

Cary Irvine 571-258-0098 cary_g_irvine@fanniemae.com

22-23 Copper State Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

John Geames 602-942-6756 jgeames@cox.net

29-30 Skunk River Hunting Retriever Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Larry Dusanek 319-372-7353 dusanela@geticonnect.com

29-30 Spokane Bird Dog Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Contact TBD

29-30 Hudson Highlands Hunting Retriever Association

2 SR

Bruce Caplin 203-431-2921 bscaplin@aol.com

MAY

6-7 Lake Champlain Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Mel McKnight 802-454-7746 sprucemt@sover.net

6-7 Four Points Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Patsy Hove 651-738-0822 pahove@aol.com

13-17 R.A.W. Invitational

Contact Lenda Barker larsnlenda@lolenda.com

13-14 Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Robin Brennan 845-386-8750

rbrennan@brennansdairy.com

13-14 Central Coast Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

John Milton 805-489-8065 Jmmilton_1@charter.net

20-21 Western New York Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Michele Rappl 716-649-1656 RAP4840@aol.com

20-21 Rocky Mountain Regional

Contact TBD

JUNE

2 Leatherstocking Hunting Retriever Assoc.

Regional Meeting

Mike Hass 585-229-2220 rouke@twcny.rr.com

2 NW Judge's Clinic

Laura Kinney Laura_Kinney@msn.com

3-4 Leatherstocking Hunting Retriever Assoc. & NE Regional

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Mike Hass 585-229-2220 rouke@twcny.rr.com

3-4 Okoboji Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Doug Dodge 712-853-6378 dldodge@terril.net

3-4 Northwest Regional

Laura Kinney Laura_Kinney@msn.com

10-11 Spokane Bird Dog Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Contact TBD

17-18 Four Points Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Dean Bartosch deanfbart@hotmail.com

17-18 Mountain & Prairie Hunting Retriever Club

Info TBD

Contact TBD

24-25 Nutmeg Retriever Association

Info TBD

Bruce Caplin 203-431-2921 BSCaplin@aol.com

24-25 Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Kody Bull 907-441-8722 webmaster@msgda.org

24-25 Big Sky Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Contact TBD

24-25 Big Sky HRC Smartworks Clinic

Judy judy@whitefishrental.com

JULY

7-9 Puget Sound Retriever Club

3 ST 3 INT 3 SR

Contact TBD

8-9 Midwest Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Bob Riggs 515-961-4794 jssbriggs@earthlink.net

15-16 Horseshoe Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Yvonne Mangan 519-323-2883 Blazeon4@aol.com

15-17 Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club

3 ST 3 INT 3 SR

Lisa Williams mydogs3@shaw.ca

21-23 Alberta Clipper Hunting Retriever Association

3 ST 3 INT 3 SR

Contact TBD

22-23 Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Kody Bull 907-441-8722 webmaster@msgda.org

AUGUST

5-6 Southwestern PA Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Charlene Givens 724-327-5605 charted@alltell.net

5-6 Treasure Valley Hunting Retriever Club

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Debbie Ellis debellis@spro.net

12 Leatherstocking Hunting Retriever Assoc. (*club test)

1 ST 1 INT

Mike Hass 585-229-2220 rouke@twcny.rr.com

12-13 Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club - pending

Contact TBD

19-20 Four Points Retriever Club & Midwest Regional

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Travis Lund tlund@boserconstruction.com

Dan Tongen dctongen@hotmail.com

26-27 Spokane Bird Dog Association

Contact TBD

SEPTEMBER

9-10 Eastern Iowa Hunting Retriever Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

Paul Grimm 319-848-4711 paulgrimm@mchsi.com

9-10 Hudson Highlands Hunting Retriever Association

1 ST 1 INT 1 SR

Bruce Caplin 203-431-2921 bscaplin@aol.com

9-10 Hidden Pines Hunting Retriever Association

Contact TBD

17 Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club

1 ST 1 INT 1 SR

Robin Brennan 845-386-8750

rbrennan@brennansdairy.com

29-30 Northern Piedmont Retriever Club

Oct. 1 2 ST 2 INT 3 SR

Thomas R. Johnston, Jr. 717-444-3691 tkjohnston@pa.net

30-Oct 1 Skunk River Hunting Retriever Association

2 ST 2 INT 2 SR

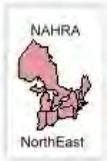
Larry Dusanek 319-372-7353 dusanela@geticonnect.com



From The Regions



From the Northeast



Sadly, the hunting seasons have ended and much like many of you, I have gone back to work full-time to get some rest. My NAHRA dogs served me well in the past hunting season and now it's time to put the polish back on them. Isn't it amazing just how much the little devils learn to get away with while you are concentrating on getting as many birds as you can while the getting is good! Oh well, I suppose we can fix all of that.

I am happy to say that the Northeast has a very full schedule for 2006. Our clubs have been busy planning a number of training and testing events for their clubs. Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club will kick off the season with a Judges and Handler Clinic in March. Brad Lindberg and I will be the presenters for this clinic. Whether you are a perspective judge or simply a handler wanting to be better informed in the area of field-testing retrievers, you should try to attend.

Northern Piedmont Retriever Club will offer an early April test followed later in the month by Hudson Highlands HRA. The weekends in May are full with tests planned for Lake Champlain Retriever Club, Navesink River HRC, and Western New York Retriever Club. So get the dust off those chaps and the rust off ole knothead because it will be here before you know it.

June will feature our Regional Meeting and Field Test to be hosted by Leatherstocking Hunting Retriever Association for the third consecutive year. I want to publicly acknowledge our Regional Committee composed of Dave Combs, Jon Vernam and Henry Cynkar who stepped up and have been hard at it putting together what will be a great time for all. Additionally, thanks to the Regional Finance Committee members Tom Rourke, Scott Leonescu and Scott Unkel who are developing some good ideas to not only keep us afloat, but to ensure our financial future as well.

Also, June will present the first of what I hope is an annual event, the newly formed Nutmeg Retriever Association (Connecticut) will host its first licensed field test. Please get out and support our newest addition to the family. I would like to express my thanks to Bruce Caplin for his initiative in growing NAHRA in the Northeast.

The second half of the season kicks off with a field test by Horseshoe Hunting RC in Ontario in July and Southwestern Pennsylvania HRC and Leatherstocking HRA in August. The season wraps up with the annual September field tests at Navesink, Hudson Highlands and Northern Piedmont.

Where there are gaps in the Northeast schedule, our neighbors to the south in the Mid-Atlantic have numerous test weekends planned, so make it to as many as you can and start piling up those ribbons!

I have been working with the NAHRA board on several initiatives, which I hope may be resolved and become a reality by the time you read this. First, a *"Bird Management and Care"* document has been prepared to assist clubs with their field test events. No, we did not reinvent the wheel here but many tips are contained within to help or remind folks how to present good quality birds for a successful event.

Secondly, I have presented a proposal for the 2007 RAW event to be hosted by the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions in central Pennsylvania. The grounds we propose are those currently used by the Northern Piedmont Retriever Club approximately 30 minutes west of Harrisburg. A committee will be formed with more information to follow pending BOD approval.

Lastly, I have submitted to the BOD for approval a proposal to evaluate a potential new level of testing in our program. It is tentatively named the "Hunter" level (until someone attaches a catchy name) and is intended to bridge the gap between the Started and Intermediate levels. I have requested that a pilot program be initiated starting in 2006 for review. I am hopeful that once we get the rules out to the regions that they will hold a pilot test to determine if this is something we want to explore and potentially make a permanent part of the program.

If it is a go, I will probably serve as one of the points of contact for all perspective pilot tests. It is our intent to initiate this level at first as an exhibition as to how the "paper" idea might shake out. Regardless of your knee jerk reaction to such an idea, I hope you will all give it a chance by participating and providing comment. The proposed

rules are written loosely as it is intended to be a living document for now until all of you have had a chance to evaluate its merit. I am very sure that your comments will provide evidence of its potential to be used in our future testing, or not.

In closing, I wish all NAHRA members a safe and successful testing season. May all of your goals be met in the coming year and if they do fall short, I hope the experience brings you a positive lesson. To our judges, challenge those dogs but keep it fair and between the lines. Pick 'em up clean!

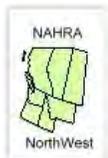
Frank Plewa
Northeast Regional Director



From The Regions



From the Northwest



NW Regional Test Update – June 3rd and 4th

The 2006 Regional Test format will be the following: two days of testing and a one-day judge's clinic. On Friday, June 2nd, we will host a judge's clinic in Ronan, MT. We are working with a member of the judge's committee to create a new format, new materials, and to train presenters within our region. Then, on Saturday, we will have the Regional Test, combined with a regular stake, and another test with all three stakes on Sunday. All three stakes will be tested both days. The Regional FT committee is having meetings and our gracious volunteers include: Billy Jewitt, Bob Burkett, Shaun Brien, and Jeff Smith. I will be the FT Secretary again this year. Judy Cornell has been invaluable lining up venues in Ronan for us, as well. Thank you, Judy!! We can all look forward to a relaxed, fun event this year!

Judge's Clinic – June 2nd

We are still working on the details of the judge's clinic, but we are going to pilot a new program that the Judge's Presenter Committee has been working on for a year. We are looking for people who are interested in becoming certified presenters within our region. Presenters must not only have a long, positive history of judging, but also proven presentation skills and the ability to conduct workshops. If you have these skills and are interested, please contact me. This clinic will be different than ones we have had in the past and the Board of Directors plans to use a standardized program to train and re-certify judges. Although participation in a judge's clinic is not mandatory right now, it could be in the near future. I encourage all that are coming to the Regional Test to attend the judge's clinic – even if you are not a judge!! It is amazing how much you can learn about the intent of the testing program of NAHRA from attending one of these clinics. It will even help you improve your training program once you understand what judges are looking for!!!

If any other club within our region would like to volunteer to hold a judge's clinic, please contact me and we can coordinate the event.

Again, here is the NW Field Test Schedule for 2006:

April 29-30 **SBDA** Spokane Bird Dog Association, Spokane, WA

May 13-16 **RAW** Invitational in Colorado

Jun 2nd **Judge's Clinic** – one day in Ronan, MT NEW FORMAT, NEW PRESENTERS

Jun 3-4 Regional Test at Ronan, MT (Contact Laura Kinney Laura_Kinney@msn.com) Regional Meeting, as well.

Jun 10-11 **SBDA** – Spokane Bird Dog Association

Jun 24-25 **BSHRC** – Big Sky Hunting Retriever Club, Columbia Falls, MT

Jun 26-27 **BSHRC** Presents **Smartworks** Clinic by Evan Graham (Contact Judy @ judy@whitefishrental.com)

Jul 7-9 **PSRC TRIPLE** - Puget Sound Retriever Club, Belfair, WA

Jul 15-17 **WRHRC TRIPLE** – Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club (Calgary, Alberta)(Contact Lisa Williams at mydogs3@shaw.ca)

Jul 21-23 **ACHRA TRIPLE** – Alberta Clipper Hunting Retriever Association (Edmonton, AB)

Aug 5-6 **TVHRC** – Treasure Valley HRC – McCall, Idaho (Contact Debbie Ellis at debellis@spro.net)

Aug 12-13 **WRHRC** - Wild Rose – Pending

Aug 26-27 **SBDA** – Spokane, WA

Contact information for the tests available on www.nahranews.org (hopefully by the time this goes to print).

Hopefully, this is my last article as NW Regional Director as I have been elected the Secretary for the NAHRA Board of Directors. As I type this, we are looking for nominees to run for this position, so hopefully, you will see those nominees in this issue of NAHRA News! It has been a challenge to represent all the diverse views within our diverse region and I learned a lot!! I look forward to my new position and the ability to add value at the national level to improve the operation of NAHRA. The new officers are getting organized and working hard to make things happen for NAHRA. It is an exciting time for NAHRA.

Pictures from NW Qualifiers from the 2000 RAW and 2001 RAW





From The Regions



From the Mid Atlantic



It has been a very strange hunting season here in Virginia and for me in particular. There seemed to be an inverse correlation between bird conducive weather and my availability of hunting time. Job activities or travel seemed to make me unavailable the most productive waterfowling days of the season. With that said, I did manage to get out with the dogs 20 days or so, even with mild weather and few birds, it beats being at work.

As I look out the window at what is fast becoming 10 inches of snow, it is hard to believe that we will be holding our first test of the year in less than 7 days. I hope that the weather will moderate enough that we will not have to have a snow series and an ice series. It is that time of year when the hunting season is winding down, and we start thinking about training and running field tests, working on some problem areas that arose over the hunting season, pushing to that next level, or just polishing existing skills.

We have two new clubs in our region holding tests this spring. The Back Bay-Knotts Island club will be holding their first NAHRA test on February 18, 19. The re-formed Old Dominion Retriever club will be holding their first NAHRA test in several years on the 18th and 19th of March. We are very pleased to welcome both of these clubs into the region and ask for your help in supporting them.

In addition to the new clubs, the established clubs in the region all have either dates on the spring schedule or are currently selecting a date for the fall. Please check the calendar for specific dates and locations.

To say that the Mid Atlantic Region has had a turbulent past 2 years would most likely be an understatement. However, the past is behind us and I believe the future looks extremely bright. I believe both for NAHRA and the Mid Atlantic Region.

If you have any questions or comments concerning NAHRA or an upcoming field test, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at an event in the Mid Atlantic Region this spring.

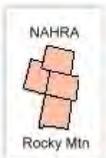
Kevin McLaren
Mid Atlantic Regional Director



From The Regions



From the Rocky Mountain



Howdy all from the snow covered Rocky Mountains! I hope that everyone had an outstanding hunting season and are ready to get the hunt test season going. Here in Colorado during this time of the year we experience so many changes in the weather. It was -8 below zero in the middle of February, but now at the end of the month it is 50 degrees or warmer, go figure. It does make for some good dog training days. I feel that it is a good time to get out work on your OB and yard work.

There are some things going on in the Rocky Mt. Region and I would like to tell yawl about them. We are holding our annual regional meeting 25 February up in Cheyenne, WY. Also, the Hidden Pines is having their annual Game Feed Saturday night, 25 February and we will all be there. I would like to let folks know that the Mt. & Prairie has a new set of club officers they are: President Chris Goeson, Vice President Brian Clark, Treasurer Gabrielle Cheatham, and Membership Coordinator Jeff Wirsing. This is good group of folks that I know will keep things going up in Denver.

The Muddy Hunters has club officers and they are: President Ron "Chief" Hubble, Vice President Chris Mayette, Secretary Greg Cress and Treasurer Richard Zubeke. These are also a good bunch of guys that I know will get things going again with the Muddy Hunters. I am not for sure who the Hidden Pines new club officers are, but I will let everyone know in the next newsletter.

The Rocky Mt. Region does have a firm schedule of dates for the Hunt Tests in our region and they are: Rocky Mt. Regional 20 & 21 May Scenic Mesa Ranch Hotchkiss, CO, 17 & 18 June Mt. & Prairie HRA to be held at their Ft. Vasquez property. The Muddy Hunters is looking to get back on the Hunt Test schedule by holding theirs 5 & 6 August up by Woodland Park, CO at Rainbow Lakes and Triple B Ranch. It will be hot this time of year so come on up to the mountains and cool off! Then to close the Hunt Test season here in the Rocky Mt. Region the Hidden Pines will be having theirs 9 & 10 September up in Chugwater, WY at the Diamond Ranch, which is always an awesome time!

I don't want to forget to mention the 2006 NAHRA Invitational which is in case y'all forgot or did not know, is 13 – 17 May at Scenic Mesa Ranch in beautiful Hotchkiss, CO over on the Western Slope of Colorado near the foothills of the West Elk Mountains and near the Black Canyon National Park. All of the NAHRA folk in the Rocky Mt. Region are looking forward to having everyone from all over the country come to the beautiful Rocky Mt. State and having an awesome time! If you have not decided on when you are or where you are going to take a vacation this year, well set aside some time prior to 13 May or after 17 May and stick around and enjoy more things that you can do in a day that are within a 3 hour drive or less. Take a scenic tour of historic silver or gold mines. Check Telluride, CO. Go see the four corners down by Cortez, CO or the Grand Mesa National Park. Take a float trip down the Gunnison River out of the Black Canyon National Park. Enjoy the Swiss Alps of the Rockies, the San Juan Mountains with Silverton, CO, Ouray and the hot springs or Durango. You can even take a trip on a narrow gauge railcar that runs from Silverton to Durango and back. So folks as you can see coming out to run your MHR or GMHR in the Invitational can get you more than a ribbon, it can allow you to capture some memories that you will have for forever!

For those that are coming out for the Invitational please stick around for the following weekend, 20 & 21 May which will be the Rocky Mt. Regional NAHRA Hunt Test. It will be a back to back Senior, Intermediate and Started each day. So bring along your young dog and run them in our Regional the next weekend.

I am looking forward to another outstanding year in the Rocky Mt. Region. I hope to see everyone out at the Invitational. Take care, hug your knot head, and God bless,

Greg Floyd
Rocky Mountain Regional Director



Photos courtesy of Betty Schmidt at Pointe and Shoot Photography ©



FROM THE REGIONS



From the Midwest



While the snow continues to fall and quickly melt here in the Midwest, the region clubs continue to plan for our upcoming 'short, yet productive' field test season. There are hints and glimmers that frozen ponds, streams and lakes will soon give way to liquidity and the season will begin. Those early tests however, will make one pack several different layers or types of clothing in the off chance the weather turns cold and rainy. (At least you've packed it, doesn't mean you're wearing it when you need it however.)

To help folks get a "jump start" on the season, Keith Stroyan and Travis Lund have coordinated their efforts to facilitate a NAHRA Judges Round Table open to all interested parties on April 1st at the Cabela's in Owatonna, MN. The panel will consist of five judges from the Midwest (Larry Dusanek, John Giudice, Dan Hove, Terry Plagman and Kirk Rice) with a combined total of 190 NAHRA judging points. Keith informs me the day will be an interesting one spent discussing judging, various scenarios, the NAHRA rulebook and possibly some video performances from recent Field Tests.

Three weeks later, the Four Points Retriever Club will be hosting a Training Seminar presented by Ben Vallin at R & J's Rooster Ranch in Lonsdale, MN. This two-day seminar is open to all, however, space is limited and reservations are required. More information can be found on the FPRC website at www.geocities.com/fourpointsrc/.

The following weekend, Skunk River Hunting Retriever Association (SRHRA) will host the first two Midwest Field Tests of the year. Below is a calendar of Field Tests scheduled for the Midwest region. Mark your calendars!

APRIL

1 MW Judges Roundtable – Cabela's in Owatonna, MN

22-23 Ben Vallin Training Seminar - R & J's Rooster Ranch in Lonsdale, MN

29-30 Skunk River Hunting Retriever Association – Crooked Creek Shooting Preserve in Washington, IA

MAY

6-7 Four Points Retriever Club – Willson Farm in Western Wisconsin

JUNE

3-4 Okoboji Retriever Club – Okoboji Game Farm in Milford, IA

17-18 Four Points Retriever Club – North Dakota Retriever Grounds in Dilworth, MN

JULY

8-9 Midwest Retriever Club – Chichaqua Greenbelt Bottoms Area in Elkhart, IA

AUGUST

19-20 Four Points Retriever Club & *Midwest Regional* – Benton Retriever Grounds in Benton County, MN

SEPTEMBER

9-10 Eastern Iowa Hunting Retriever Association – TBD in IA

30-Oct 1 Skunk River Hunting Retriever Association – Crooked Creek Shooting Preserve in Washington, IA

A reminder to all region members that the Midwest Regional Qualifying period is ongoing through July 7, 2006. (The Midwest has a "flex qualification period" and closes approximately six (6) weeks prior to the date of the 2006 Regional.) This year's Regional will be hosted by the Four Points Retriever Club at Benton Retriever Grounds in Benton County, MN. If your dog has already qualified – **Congratulations!** However, if you may be a pass or two short, four double opportunities in the Midwest await before the deadline, so you too can join in the fun! (See the schedule above for test dates.)

I would like to extend a warm "Welcome Back to NAHRA" to the Southern Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association (SMHRA) and the renewed Midwest Retriever Club (MRC). After a short respite, both clubs have filed the appropriate paperwork to re-affiliate with NAHRA and are discussing the calendar with club members. At the time this article went to press, no specific field test dates were selected by either club for 2006. (Doesn't mean they won't have a test in 2006.) Below is more information on each club:

Owatonna, Minnesota is the base of the Southern Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association. Yes, it is also home to one of the two Minnesota Cabela's stores. (Gives us a good excuse to stop by and check out the new gear for the upcoming outdoor seasons. Not that one really needs an excuse to go shopping...) Mike Kingland, SMHRAs Vice President, advises that the club membership recently voted to renew its' affiliation with NAHRA, because a large number of members are hunters who rely heavily on their four-footed hunting companions to get shot or crippled game out of the field. SMHRA is also affiliated with the AKC, hosting an annual event. Recent real estate transactions has the club "in the hunt" for new field test locations, and they are hopeful one or two will be found, so a field test "may happen" yet this year. For more information on the club and training events, contact Mike Kingland via email at mksk1993@bevcomm.net or by phone at (507) 455-9661.

Heading Southbound on I-35 from Owatonna into Iowa on February 20, an organizational meeting took place to gauge the interest in forming a club near Des Moines, Iowa to replace the defunct club in Diagonal. A very good turnout that day prompted the group to proceed with starting a club and affiliating with NAHRA, keeping the previous name, Midwest Retriever Club. The following individuals were elected as Club Officers: President - Bob Riggs, Vice President - Jack Bingham and Secretary/Treasurer - Chuck Lenze. The second meeting was conducted around the "first" training day on March 12th at Bruce Mountains' property. A club constitution and bylaws were approved and an application to affiliate the club with NAHRA was sent to Rosemary at the Corporate Office. After the second meeting, the membership was counted at 22 and they are continuing to work on adding more. Bob Riggs advised that many are very pleased with the amount of interest that has been shown - there are a lot of new faces and that is always good. MRC is tentatively planning a hunt test for this summer, possibly at Chichaqua Greenbelt Bottoms Area, near Elkhart, Iowa (the location of the 2001 NAHRA Invitational). For more information on the club, contact Bob Riggs via email at jssbcriggs@earthlink.net or by phone at (515) 961-4794.

On the front burner in the upcoming weeks, NAHRA Organization members of the Midwest Region will be electing a new Regional Director as part of my transition to the Executive Board. Please be sure to return your ballot by the stated due date in order to have your vote count. The new RD will take the reins of the Region effective June 1, 2006. (See the Regional Election article in this issue for details.) In the past few months my Regional Director contributions to the NAHRA Board have been very busy with numerous conference and telephone calls, direct involvement in and with the new website and the electronic version of the NAHRA News, to name a few.

In the mean time, I hope each one enjoys a successful Field Test season, and I look forward to seeing you along the way!

Cordially,

Sandy Zandlo
Midwest Regional Director



Photos courtesy of Betty Schmidt at Pointe and Shoot Photography ©

TITLES

TITLES ISSUED in JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2006

GMHR TITLES

MAGIC'S SMOKIN' TNT EXPLOSION, LAB, M, 2/19/2002,
JOHN J. JOHNSON & SUSIE R.C. JOHNSON

MHR TITLES

ABE'S LEWIS RIVER PICK, LAB, M, 4/17/1998, W.
MICHAEL MOODY & CHARLOTTE A. MOODY; **GRTLND'S
FLASH OF BRILLIANCE**, LAB, M, 1/25/2000, RANDY K.
SMITH

STARTED TITLES

BEAU'S NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS, AWS, F, 12/19/2001,
SHARON ARCAND & RAYMOND DUSZYNSKI;
BROOKSIDE'S MIDNIGHT ARTEMIS, LAB, F, 12/5/2002,
NANCY NIERATKO; **CAS-HI CRUISIN THE ALLIEWAY**,
LAB, F, 5/12/2004, DAVID COMBS; **CONOCOHEAGUE
UPLAND HUNTER**, LAB, M, 1/11/2005, JOSHUA
SHERMAN & LAURA SHERMAN; **DUBOIS RIDGE STORM
TRAVELER**, LAB, F, 5/12/2004, HENRY DUBOIS; **JAKE
DANIELS ANYTIME**, LAB, M, 4/17/2003, TERI HUBLER;
MT. NEBO TWELVE GAUGE MAGNUM, LAB, M,
6/22/2003, MICHAEL F. MINCHHOFF; **REMINGTON SHOT
FLYER REBEL**, LAB, F, 5/14/2004, LUCY ANG &
EDUARDO ANG; **SADEA'S RIO GRANDE COLE**, LAB, F,
12/9/2002, DEAN BARTOSCH & SARAH BARTOSCH;
SILVERBROOK JAZZIN' JERSEY GIRL, LAB, F,
4/13/2004, SCOTT LEONESCU & CHRISTINE LEONESCU;
SUNFIRE'S LORD BOOMER, GOLDEN, M, 1/10/2000,
DAWN SHEWCHUCK; **WESTHARBOUR RIVERDUCK
INDY**, NSDTR, M, 7/4/1998, JEFF SMITH, JR. & CINDY
RICHARDSON

GMHRCH Velvet's Midnite Ryder SH

by Diane Sheppard

In the Fall of 1993, my daughter helped me pick Ryder out of a litter of nine puppies presented to me by my first dog Velvet. "We picked the right one, Kim!" From an early age, Ryder showed remarkable ability in marking and a strong desire to please.

Ryder qualified for the last four Invitationals, 1998 – 2001. She ran in three and qualified in two. We are very proud of her accomplishments, and I thank her for allowing me to stand next to her at the line.

Ryder's attributes have not diminished over these past 11 years, but have been enhanced through experience, intelligence, and perseverance. Her desire to retrieve has not lessened, in spite of her difficulty breathing due to laryngeal paralysis. Whether upland hunting with us or running hunt tests, we have to be the ones to pick Ryder up when her breathing gets difficult. She never quits.

Ryder qualified in her first RAW Invitational May 8-19, 1999, at Linden Farm in Rapidan, Virginia. Fittingly, Ryder qualified for her 1,000 points at Linden Farm during the 2005 NAHRA Benefit.

Both events were co-chaired by Trish Jagoda, and it was Trish who agreed to handle Ryder in the 2005 Benefit for me in a last-minute call a few days before. I had almost decided to scratch her from the Benefit, as her health problems had caused me to pick her up in two of the last three tests she had run. She would always be my "980 point dog" I had decided. Family and friends kept encouraging me to try again. Thank you all for your confidence and support – Ryder's courage never failed, just mine.



Trish – Ryder and I will be forever grateful for your confidence in her and the patience and love that was evident to all who witnessed your handling of Ryder in this last trial of her career...Thank you.



FIELD TEST RESULTS



DECEMBER 2005 through FEBRUARY 2006

Copper State Hunting Retriever Club Buckeye, Arizona December 2-4, 2005

Started

Dogs Entered: 9 – **Dogs Qualified:** 6

Judges: Richard Winton & Jennifer Hood

Buddy of Saint Morrow, LM – Gerald Runke; Elk Horn Mountains Buddy, LM – Ron Keeler; North Rims Blazin Molly, LF – Casey Dray; Bangaway Yukon Daisy, LF – Daniel Nelson; Green Forest Logger, LM – Larry Green; Denali Lace of Lolenda, LF – Brian Bruggeman

Intermediate I

Dogs Entered: 7 – **Dogs Qualified:** 6

Judges: Lenda Barker & Lars Barker

Sentee's Spanish Biscuit, LF – Karen & lance Sennette; Shannon's Southpaw, ESS/F – Tom & Lois Hooker; Elk Horn Mountains Buddy, LM – Ron Keeler; WR Justes B Flying Solo, LF – Marcia Lucas; Silverhill's Amazing Gracie, LF – Mike Sinykin; SR Granites Jumpin Zach Kobe, LF – Barb Sampson

Intermediate II

Dogs Entered: 5 – **Dogs Qualified:** 3

Judges: Phil Deschene & Phil Olmstead

SR Lolenda's Jo Dee, LF – Nick Rosander; Silverhill's Amazing Gracie, LF – Mike Sinykin; Shannon's Southpaw, ESS/F – Tom & Lois Hooker

Senior I

Dogs Entered: 11 – **Dogs Qualified:** 9

Judges: Lenda Barker & Lars Barker

GMHR Magic's TNT Explosion of Winton, LF – Richard Winton; Deep Run Blues Man, LM – Tyson Borum; Silverhill's Amazing Gracie, LF – Mike Sinykin; Abe's Lewis River Pick, LM – Mike & Susie Moody; North Rim's En Fuego De Cabo, LM – Linda & Manny Salazar; Code 3 Levi, LF – Maynard Jenkins; WR Grlnds Flash of Brilliance, LM – Randy Smith; MHR Magic's Smokin TNT Explosion, LM – John & Susie Johnson; Code 3's Raging Inferno of Winton, LM – John Abramson

Senior II

Dogs Entered: 13 – **Dogs Qualified:** 12

Judges: Phil Deschene & Phil Olmstead

Code 3's Raging Inferno of Winton, LM – John Abramson; MHR Riparian Bearly Behavin, LM – Mark & Cindy Lowans; MHR Magic's Smokin TNT Explosion, LM – John & Susie Johnson; Code 3 Levi, LF – Maynard Jenkins; Silverhill's Amazing Gracie, LF – Mike Sinykin; GMHR Magic's TNT Explosion of Winton, LF – Richard Winton; Deep Run Blues Man, LM – Tyson Borum; WR Lolenda's Corazon De Gordo of Winton, LM – Lenda Barker; Abe's Lewis River Pick, LM – Mike & Susie Moody; North Rim's En Fuego De Cabo, LM – Linda & Manny Salazar;

WR Grlnds Flash of Brilliance, LM – Randy Smith; MHR-WR-SR Claridge Gizmos Got Pizzazz, LM – Sandy Zandlo

Senior III

Dogs Entered: 12 – **Dogs Qualified:** 9

Judges: Richard Winton & Jennifer Hood

WR Lolenda's Corazon De Gordo of Winton, LM – Lenda Barker; North Rim's En Fuego De Cabo, LM – Linda & Manny Salazar; Code 3's Raging Inferno of Winton, LM – John Abramson; MHR-WR-SR Utopias Tapo II From Simi, LM – Ed & Karen Foster; MHR Magic's Smokin TNT Explosion, LM – John & Susie Johnson; Deep Run Blues Man, LM – Tyson Borum; MHR Riparian Bearly Behavin, LM – Mark & Cindy Lowans; Code 3 Levi, LF – Maynard Jenkins; Silverhill's Amazing Gracie, LF – Mike Sinykin

Kern Retriever Club

Bakersfield, California

February 11-12, 2006

Started I

Dogs Entered: 24 – **Dogs Qualified:** 12

Judges: Johnny Walker & Tom Hooker

Wildheart Bear Fetish, LM – Rebecca Williams; Fresh Start Ruger, LM – Perry Bell; Top's Lil' Bit O' Gusto, LM – Louie & Joanne Rizzoli; Rockin C4s Twenty Gauge, LF – Gaylene Cranford; Summit's It's All About Me, GF – Lucy Bradford & Sherry Brothers DVM; Hyspire Slim Shady, LM – Hyspire Labradors; Rolling Rock Ruthie, LF – Cole Sorrell; Holly Hills Lets Make a Deal, LM – Laura Fletcher; TDK Noble Lady Guinevere, LF – Jack & Cheri Noble; Chases Texas Prime, LM – Ty Borum; Ramblin Man's Malarky Sky, LM – Heidi Edelman; Kitlyn's Handsome Hooligan, LM – Kit McClurg

Started II

Dogs Entered: 27 – **Dogs Qualified:** 16

Judges: Dan Collier & Brian Clasby

Fresh Start Ruger, LM – Perry Bell; SR Terrell's Midnite Tigger CGC, LF – Jack & Cindy Terrell; Top's Lil' Bit O' Gusto, LM – Louie & Joanne Rizzoli; Woodecoy Winged Avenger, GM – Danette Weich DVM & Kalie Weich; Wynwoods Spectacular Ce L, GF – Bonnie Speckels; Summit's It's All About Me, GF – Lucy Bradford & Sherry Brothers DVM; Hyspire Slim Shady, LM – Hyspire Labradors; Seawind's Little Gideon, LM – Liz Frangos; Firemark Woodecoy Back N the Saddle, GF – Bradley Weich & Danette Weich DVM; Rolling Rock Ruthie, LF – Cole Sorrell; Wham's Wild Child, LF – Mary Burton; Seawind Macadamia's Top Ace, LM – Phil & Anne Arms; Chases Texas Prime, LM – Ty Borum; Ramblin Man's Malarky Sky, LM – Heidi Edelman; Kitlyn's Handsome Hooligan, LM – Kit McClurg; Stevensons Yellowstones Sunshine, LF – Matt Stevenson

Intermediate I

Dogs Entered: 6 – **Dogs Qualified:** 6

Judges: Johnny Walker & Tom Hooker

Top's Lil' Bit O' Gusto, LM – Louie & Joanne Rizzoli; Double Diamond Paragon Quest, LM – Christine & Brandon Gaither; C.P. Sir Knight Sky of Black Forest, LM – Jack Noble; Winton's Magic Spring Delight, LF – Michael & Mary Myrick; Lil Cash Nda Hat, LM – Josh & Lisa Russum; California H2O Mojo, LF – Kent & Evan Ernst

Intermediate II

Dogs Entered: 5 – **Dogs Qualified:** 4

Judges: Dan Collier & Brian Clasby

C.P. Sir Knight Sky of Black Forest, LM – Jack Noble; Top's Lil' Bit O' Gusto, LM – Louie & Joanne Rizzoli; Double Diamond Paragon Quest, LM – Christine & Brandon Gaither; Winton's Magic Spring Delight, LF – Michael & Mary Myrick

Senior I

Dogs Entered: 16 – **Dogs Qualified:** 4

Judges: Dan Collier & Brian Clasby

WR Two River's Dynamite Darlin, LF – Linda Markos; GMHR Paul's Jack Attack, LM – Paul & Judy Ernst; Code 3's Raging Inferno, LM – John Abramson; Rocking Rocky Rhoades, LM – Charles Rhoades

Senior II

Dogs Entered: 16 – **Dogs Qualified:** 10

Judges: Johnny Walker & Tom Hooker

MHR Remi's Northern Breeze, LF – Jim Nichols; WR Pickup Man's Payback, LF – Rebecca Williams; WR Copenhagen Augustus Maximus, LM – Jack Gonzales; GMHR Paul's Jack Attack, LM – Paul & Judy Ernst; Code 3's Raging Inferno, LM – John Abramson; Deer Creeks Good Golly Ms Molly, LF – Dan Edelman; California H2O Mojo, LF – Kent & Evan Ernst; Rocking Rocky Rhoades, LM – Charles Rhoades; MHR St. Clairs Heart Ann Soul, LF – Bill St. Clair; Bud's H,Two,O,To,Go, LM – Charles Rhoades

Back Bay Knotts Island Retriever Club

Goldvein, Virginia

February 17, 2006

Intermediate

Dogs Entered: 8 – **Dogs Qualified:** 6

Judges: Kevin McLaren & Mario Cilia

Deep Run Jailhouse Rock, LM – Jack Jagoda & Phyllis Giroux, DVM; Deep Run Claire, LF – Phyllis Giroux, DVM; Indian Rock's Fools Gold, LF – Jack Jagoda & Phyllis Giroux, DVM; SR Licking Run's Blackberry Jam, LF – Gregg & Jean Leonard; SR Caer Bren Superhero, LM – Phyllis Giroux, DVM; Deep Run Manu Kuri, LM – Paula Winchester

Senior

Dogs Entered: 10 – **Dogs Qualified:** 5

Judges: Jim VanderGiessen & Scott Wood

Bicksler's Major, LM – David Bicksler; Indian Rock's Fools Gold, LF – Jack Jagoda & Phyllis Giroux, DVM; GMHR Deep Run After Six, LM – Phyllis Giroux, DVM & Jack Jagoda; WR-SR Licking Run's Star Rider, LF – Jean & Gregg Leonard; MHR Sharihil's Mattaponi Chico, LM – Joe May

Las Vegas Hunting Retriever Club

Overton, Nevada

February 25-26, 2006

Started I

Dogs Entered: 10 – **Dogs Qualified:** 10

Judges: Karen Foster & Laurna Cote

Semper Leigh Sadie, GF – Nathan Leigh; Chase's Texas Prime, LM – Ty Borum; Coxs Desert Tulie Honey Pooh Too, LF – Donald Cox; Sungold's Vegas Summer Flame, GF – Daniel & Susan Dabbs; King's Candlewood Kate, LF – Bob King; Kelleygreen's Tallented Max, LM – John & Amanda Kuhlman; Seawind Macadamia's Top Ace, LM – Phil & Anne Arms; Dirk's Magnificant S kyrader, LM – Robert & Carla Dirk; Hadland's Derby Duck Down, LM – Randy & Carriann Hadland; Swanson's Dannie Girl, LF – Adam Brose

Started II

Dogs Entered: 10 – **Dogs Qualified:** 8

Judges: Lenda Barker & Arlon Woodlee

Semper Leigh Sadie, GF – Nathan Leigh; Chase's Texas Prime, LM – Ty Borum; Hadland's Derby Duck Down, LM – Randy & Carriann Hadland; Sungold's Vegas Summer Flame, GF – Daniel & Susan Dabbs; King's Candlewood Kate, LF – Bob King; Dirk's Magnificant S kyrader, LM – Robert & Carla Dirk; Sandstone's Elusive Sprigg, LM – Jason & Heather Luis; Swanson's Dannie Girl, LF – Adam Brose

Intermediate I

Dogs Entered: 6 – **Dogs Qualified:** 2

Judges: Jennifer Hood & Kent Ernst

Ramses of Aliante, LM – Bob & Jeannette Smith; Shannon's Southpaw, ESS/F – Tom & Lois Hooker

Intermediate II

Dogs Entered: 6 – **Dogs Qualified:** 3

Judges: Karen Foster & Laurna Cote

Ramses of Aliante, LM – Bob & Jeannette Smith; Shannon's Southpaw, ESS/F – Tom & Lois Hooker; King Louis Pointe Du Lac, LM – David Crawford

Senior I

Dogs Entered: 18 – **Dogs Qualified:** 11

Judges: Lenda Barker & Arlon Woodlee

MHR-WR-SR Utopias Tapo II From Simi, LM – Ed & Karen Foster; GMHR Bud's H,Two,O,To,Go, LM – Charles Rhoades; WR Copenhagen Augustus, LM – Jack & Marciela Gonzales; GMHR Magic's TNT Explosion of Winton, LF – Richard & Martha Winton; Code 3's Raging Inferno of Winton, LM – John Abramson; California H2O Mojo, LF – Kent Ernst; Greenwing Drake, LM – Jack Dennis; Winton's Magic Spring Delight, LF – Michael & Mary Myrick; WR Semper Choo Choo Ch'Boogie, GM – Ken Wilson; Silk's Gentleman Jack, LM – Ray & Joann Silk; Dusty Dixie Road, LF – Dan Prentice

Senior II

Dogs Entered: 17 – **Dogs Qualified:** 9

Judges: Jennifer Hood & Kent Ernst

Waterdog's Sweet Peaches, LF – Walter & Virginia Kobeski; Greenwing Drake, LM – Jack Dennis; GMHR Bud's H,Two,O,To,Go, LM – Charles Rhoades; Deep Run Blues Man, LM – Ty Borum; MHR Remi's Northern Breeze, LF – Jim Nichols; Code 3's Raging Inferno of Winton, LM – John Abramson; Rocking Rocky Rhoades, LM – Charles Rhoades; Silk's Gentleman Jack, LM – Ray & Joann Silk; Dusty Dixie Road, LF – Dan Prentice