

Great Plains Hunting Retriever Club

HRC – “Conceived By Hunters for Hunters”

Volume 5 Issue 12 December 2017

Editor’s Message – Paul Bishop

Since the November *Newsletter* a couple of “newsworthy” items have emerged. First the Running Rules Committee has issued all the proposed rule changes to be voted on by the local HRC clubs. Bill Shaffer and I will work together to create a tab on the Great Plains web page (greatplainshrc.com) whereby members can read the proposals so as to be “an informed voter”. Since clubs have an early spring deadline for submitting their ballots to the Running Rules Committee, it makes sense to agenda this matter for the January 2018 meeting. Second, some of the young dogs in the club have gotten some “on-the-job training” and have picked-up some birds. The photo below is of Kimber owned by Chris Puccini on her first hunt.



It has been mentioned in the last few *Newsletters* that equipment items suggested for purchase during the “wrap-up meeting” in May

have arrived. The replacement surgical tubing for the wingers has arrived as have the winger screens and holding blinds. We need to “fix” the wingers by replacing the surgical tubing and rivet the holding blinds and winger screens to the poles. Also, over the spring and summer, we’ve had some winger and box launcher breakdowns during club training days, so those need to be fixed as well. If you would like to help “fix” equipment, contact Paul Bishop to set a date and time to make the “fixes”.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, The GPHRC hunt test is confirmed for Saturday April 21 and Sunday April 22, 2018. You’ve probably gotten your new 2018-day planner so please mark your calendars now and include the Friday afternoon of April 20 to help with set-up. Pending something unforeseen, the hunt test will be held on the Gideon property near Wood River as we’ve done in the past.

How to Feed Your Dog

Every hunting dog owner has a belief and routine for feeding their hunting companion. Purina nutritionists recommend a “30/20” dog food formula – 30% protein-20% fat – year-round. According to the Purina nutritionists, a high protein-high fat diet is best because it “primes” your dog’s metabolism to efficiently convert nutrients to energy for work.

The Purina nutritionists emphasized feeding the 30-20 dog food “year-a-round”. Apparently, it takes about 60 days for a dog’s digestive system and metabolism to efficiently use a new blend of dog food. Simply said, “stick to a diet”.

Another question often ask by dog owners is “When to feed?”. For optimal nutrient uptake, Purina nutritionists recommend feeding the dog after the hunt and after the dog has cooled down. The reason is simple. Digestion can take up to 12 hours. Feeding that dog an excellent meal the night before an upcoming day of hard hunting allows that food to digest. The protein, fat and calories can become available to burn. Sled dog racers like to feed their dogs as early as possible the evening before a hard day on the trail to give the food even more time to digest and be available to use as energy the following day.

Feeding your dog on the morning of the hunt can be counter-productive. According to the Purina Nutritionists, morning food won’t digest fast enough or efficiently enough to be used as energy. The food will sit in the gut, unavailable for the dog’s use, and drawing blood away from the dog’s muscles and to its stomach. Furthermore, a morning feeding could cause bowel torsion and bloating issues. If the dog is already on a morning feeding routine, consider providing a much smaller serving and provide the serving as early as possible.

Should you feed your dog during the hunt? The recommendation of the Purina Nutritionists is similar to the recommendation about morning feeding. Simply said, a small snack (1/4 cup) during the hunt probably won’t hurt anything but it won’t help the dog’s performance. The snack serving needs time to digest before it is ready to serve as energy.

The Purina Nutritionists also commented on weather conditions in relation to feeding. Cold air, and wet, damp or snowy days, increase your dog’s energy needs. For example, for each 10-degree F drop in ambient temperature, you should increase the dog’s calories-per-day intake by about 7.5 percent. For example, if you’re feeding 4 cups a day at 50 degrees, a drop to 20 degrees would suggest a 22.5 percent calorie intake increase, or just about one more cup.

2018 Region 13/13A Hunt Test Calendar

February 24, 2018
Region 13A
Judges/Handlers Seminar
North Platte, NE

March 17 & 18, 2018
Platte Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Upland Hunt
Ft. Lupton, CO

March 30 & April 1, 2018
Southern Colorado HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Pueblo, CO

April 21 & 22, 2018
Roadrunner HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Navajo Lake, NM

April 21 & 22, 2018 Great Plains HRC Back-to-Back Regular Hunt Wood River, NE

May 19 & 20, 2018
Platte Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Snyder, CO

June 2 & 3, 2018
Mount Rushmore HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Rapid City, SD

June 9, 2018
National Meeting
St. Louis, MO

June 16 & 17, 2018
Hidden Pines HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Cheyenne, WY

June 16 & 17, 2018
Salt Valley HRC
Back-to-back Regular Hunt
Syracuse, NE

July 7 & 8, 2018
Platte River HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
North Platte, NE

July 21 & 22, 2018
Western Colorado HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Grand Mesa National Forest; Cedaredge, CO

August 11 & 12, 2018
Platte Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Tamarack Wildlife, Sterling, CO

August 18 & 19, 2018
Elkhorn Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Norfolk, NE

[Service Opportunity – Youth Hunter Program](#)

Youth involvement in Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. is said to be critical for keeping our program going in the future. The Youth Hunter Program is geared towards teaching kids how to run a hunt test, not how to train dogs. Although this is an integral part of the seminar, the principle objective is to entice youth to want to run tests and further their involvement in HRC. At least two HRC clubs have hosted “youth hunter” events. Perhaps GPHRC would like to host an event. Look over the “Youth Hunter Program” guidelines on the HRC website. We can discuss the possibilities at the January meeting.

[Next Meeting](#)

For more than a decade, the club’s first meeting in a new calendar year has been near the end of January – often the third Tuesday of the month. A tradition of meeting at a restaurant around

6:00 PM, having a light meal, and conducting business after the meal has evolved. If the club wishes to continue that tradition, our first meeting of 2018 would be on Tuesday January 23 at 6:00 PM. We’ve been meeting at the Pizza Hunt on 2nd Ave. in Kearney. If there is a need to alter our meeting tradition, please advise Bill Shaffer or Paul Bishop of your preference. Unless alternatives are put forward by club members and pending the consideration of the Board of Directors, the first meeting of 2018 will be:

Tuesday January 23 – 6:30 PM

Location is “To Be Determined” pending the availability of Pizza Hut.

