

Great Plains Hunting Retriever Club

HRC – “Conceived By Hunters for Hunters”

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 2017

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Editor’s Message – Paul Bishop

The first meeting of 2017 is “in the books” and it was encouraging to have so many club members in attendance. Most of the meeting time was devoted to hunt test planning. Thanks to Matt Gideon, we’re “good-to-go” on the property near Wood River that we’ve used for the past several years. Eric Nielsen has been busy confirming a site for the Saturday evening social and arranging for people to operate winger. Recruitment of judges is ongoing and ought to be completed in the next 10 days or so. The minutes of the January 31 meeting have all the hunt test matters addressed during the first meeting.

As the hunting seasons draw to a close, we’ll be giving our attention to training. The Training Committee of Eric Nielsen, Dane Johnson and Paul Bishop are drafting the 2017 training day schedule which is expected to follow the “once-a-week alternating Thursday evening and Saturday morning” format used in 2015 and 2016. The very first training day will be in late February or very early March.

Bill Shaffer has maintained our presence on the worldwide web and is looking forward to receiving photographs of hunts or hunt tests

taken in 2016. The photographs will be used to update the “photo gallery tab”. Check the minutes of the January 31 meeting for procedures for submitting photographs. There will be changes to our Facebook page. A photo of Zale, owned by Dane Johnson and the club’s first 1,000 point dog will occupy the upper left corner. Jill Manring is going to add a photograph in the banner portion of the page. Check the January 31 minutes on details for submitting photographs for the banner.

Dues are due, so if you have not already paid, please submit your annual \$25.00 membership dues to Dick Schumacher. His address is:

Dick Schumacher
PPO Box 93
Kearney, NE 68848

Paul Bishop

New Product

Wet Mutt is a HRC corporate sponsor and has a great product that is functional and durable. The **WETMUTT KENNEL MAT** is a superior product worthy of serious consideration. The mat was created with the hunting retriever in mind -- waterproof, odor resistant and easy to clean. The material is “closed cell”, making the product anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal. Mats come in two sizes and will fit inside kennel crates. The web site for WetMutt is:

www.wetmuttbeds.com

A working email address is:

eddie@wetmuttbeds.com

The product is being sold by a number of vendors including HRC sponsor HuntEmUp.com. Online retail price is below \$50.00.

Judges/ Handlers Seminar

The 2017 Judges/Handlers Seminar for Region 13A is scheduled for **Saturday February 25, 2017**. Salt Valley HRC is hosting the 2017 Region 13A Judges/Handlers seminar. The event will begin at 8:00 AM and dismiss at around 4:30 PM. The exact location of the event is 2949 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE 68521. The seminar is intended to prepare judges to effectively judge retrievers in hunt tests. The seminar is valuable for handlers. Handlers are likely to gain a more thorough understanding of hunt test standards and how to pass hunt tests. Please consider attending the seminar. There is no cost associated with attending. Licensed judges are required to attend a seminar every three years to keep the license enforce. At this time, there are four GPHRC members who have "signed-up" for the seminar. Our club has only a few apprentice or licensed judges. If you wish to become involved in judging or attend the seminar, please contact Paul Bishop so the necessary paper work can be filed. It would be great if the club could use members to fill judging assignments at our hunt tests. The hunt test expenses could be reduced and the pool of knowledgeable members could be increased. Paul Bishop is the contact person: (308) 920-1693 – bishoppaul1500@gmail.com. A RSVP is required.

2017 Fort Kearny Outdoor Discovery Day

The good folks at Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) have invited us to provide demonstration at the upcoming "Outdoor Discovery Day" event. The event is scheduled for Thursday May 11 and Friday May 12. We've a few members committed to providing demonstrations but will be recruiting others. Note the dates and contact Paul if you wish to volunteer.

Next Meeting

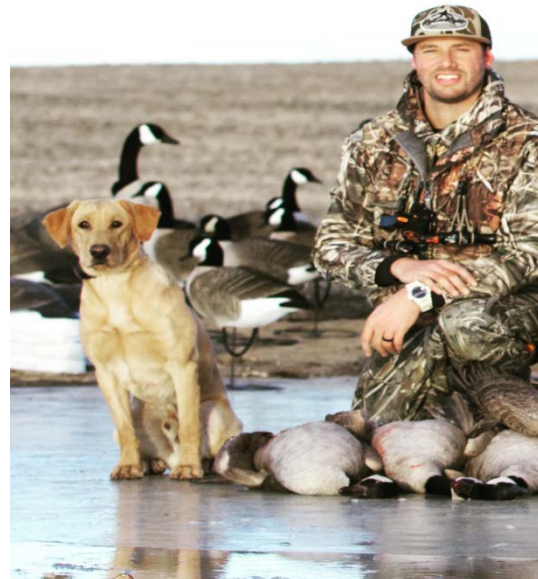
Date: February 28, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM meal – business to follow

Location: Pizza Hunt – 1412 2nd Ave. Kearney

Training Pays Off

Nate Krizek had a young dog in 2016 but has a useful hunting companion now. Training paid off! Nate said "Of all the things I desired to teach my young dog River, "steadiness" was near the top of my list. I believed teaching my pup "steadiness" would allow me to place him in a position that would raise his ability to see the birds during the hunt and have the highest capability for a successful retrieve. I found this be true as the season went on. During one of our goose hunts, three geese landed on the ice in front of our layout blinds. I thought to myself -- here we go. Let's see how this 10-month-old pup is going to perform. Sure enough, the training paid off. River stayed steady, allowing us to work another group of ten geese into the decoys. I was so proud of my dog. That goose hunt will be etched in my mind for years".



Nate & River after a successful hunt.

Jason Borg also had a young dog in 2016. Jason and Kruz were frequent attendees at club training days during the summer months. Jason said "Steadiness was the key to some late season success on public ground".



Jason & Kruz at club training day.

A steady dog is a pleasure to hunt with and a dog that is likely to pass a hunt test. Steadiness training is “a-way-life” for working retrievers and club training days afford a great opportunity to “proof steadiness” in conditions that the dog is likely to encounter in a day hunting or at a hunt test.

[Region 13 & 13A Hunt Test Calendar](#)

The 2017 Region 13 and 13A Hunt Test calendar has been formed. This is the list of events in Region 13 and 13A that you can use to plan your 2017 hunt test schedule.

February 25, 2017
8:00am
Judges/Handlers Seminar
Advance Services, Inc.
2949 N. 27th St,
Lincoln, NE 68521

March 12, 2017
Judges/Handlers Seminar
298 S. Joe Martinez Ave.
Pueblo West, CO

March 18 & 19, 2017
Platte Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Upland Hunt
Ft. Lupton, CO
(make-up date if needed March 25 & 26)

April 1 & 2, 2017
Southern Colorado HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Walsenburg, CO

April 22 & 23 2017
Roadrunner HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Navajo Lake, NM

May 6 & 7, 2017
Great Plains HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Wood River, NE

May 13 & 14, 2017
Platte Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Snyder, CO

June 10 & 11, 2017
National Meeting
St. Louis, MO

June 17 & 18, 2017
Hidden Pines HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Cheyenne, WY

June 17 & 18, 2017
Salt Valley HRC
Back-to-back Regular Hunt
Syracuse, NE

July 8 & 9, 2017
Platte River HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
North Platte, NE

July 22 & 23, 2017
Western Colorado HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Grand Mesa National Forest; Cedaredge, CO

August 12 & 13, 2017
Platte Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Tamarack Wildlife, Sterling, CO

August 19 & 20, 2017
Elkhorn Valley HRC
Back-to-Back Regular Hunt
Norfolk, NE

Basic Handling

There are several club members who have dogs with a season of hunting and training and are ready to learn to “handle to a blind retrieve”. If your dog does not handle or if he does not handle well, you’ve probably experienced lost game or at least had to “find the bird” yourself. Over the next three or four issues of the *Newsletter*, information about “how to” teach your dog to handle will be presented. But first a few pre-requisites to consider.

According to Bobby Wills, well-known and successful handler, there are some pre-requisites that the dog must have in place in order to become “a good handling” dog. The pre-requisites are:

- Solid Basic Obedience
- Collar Conditioned
- Force Fetch Trained
- Steady in the Yard and Field
- Enthusiastic About Picking Up Bumpers

Wills recommends that armature handlers give serious consideration to the pre-requisites. Work on the pre-requisites to assure that they are well entrenched in the dog’s repertoire of behavior before starting handling drills.

Another well-known professional handler, Charles Journey, added another pre-requisite to have in place before basic handling training begins. Simply said a handler who has a Beta relationship with his dog is not very likely to have a dog he can handle. If the dog is Alpha, he feels like he is the boss and does not have to respond to the sit whistle or take a hand cast. Journey said “An Alpha dog will not handle well until the handler becomes Alpha and the dog accepts [the] Beta Role”. Accepting the Beta roll is important – the dog must respond to directional cues because “the handler sent him,

not because the handler ask him”. Another important aspect accepting the Beta role is faith in the handler. According to Journey, “The dog must believe that there is always something waiting for him. Therefore, there must always be a bird or bumper waiting for him. Eventually, your dog will go enthusiastically because he believes or has confidence in you”.

In the next issue of the *Newsletter* “where to begin” basic handling training will be addressed. The viewpoints of several professional handlers will be presented. It’s worth noting that “there is more than one way” to teach dogs to handle and several different techniques and drills are available in print and video formats. Check the index of *Retriever Journal* for article titles on this topic. Most of the books devoted to retriever training have excellent chapters on how to teach handling. Some titles are:

Spencer, J.B. *Retriever Training Drills for Blind Retrieves*. Alpinepub, Crawford, CO.
www.alpinepub.com (800) 777-7257

Graham, E. *Smart Work for Retrievers*. Available from The Retriever Journal, PO Box 509, Traverse City, MI 49685

Lardy, M. *Total Retriever Training*. Available from www.totalretriever.com



HRCH UH Millie owned by Paul Bishop