

# Great Plains Hunting Retriever Club

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*HRC – “Conceived By Hunters for Hunters”*

## Volume 3 Issue 2 February 2015

### President’s Message – Steve White

We’re into the last few days of the dark goose season. For many of us, the close of the dark goose season begins “a time of transition” into training that will assure passing upcoming hunt tests. The end of the dark goose season also coincides with regular monthly club meetings. Please plan to attend our upcoming meetings. **Our February meeting is set for the 24<sup>th</sup> at Bico’s – 6:00 PM meal with business meeting to follow.**

We had a pretty good attendance at the January 27 club meeting of 2015. Several tasks associated with the **May 2 and May 3** hunt tests have been completed. We are “good-to-go” at the former Lilly Sand and Gravel properly south of Wood River. The Meier Ballroom has been reserved for the social. A big “thank you” goes out to Bill Shaffer, Hunt Test Chair and the rest of the hunt test committee: Dick Schumacher, Jim McCurry, Troy Eureka and Randy Gale. A big “thank you” is in order for Jill Manning. Jill has volunteered to serve as Hunt Test Secretary. Paul Bishop reported that judges have been secured. All things considered, we’re making good progress on the “chore list” associated with the hunt test.

Another topic discussed at the January 27 meeting was the notion of a “pre-social” raffle item. Over the past several year the auction and raffle associated with the Saturday evening social has become an important source of income for the club. The notion of a pre-social raffle is to provide club members an opportunity to sell raffle ticket to persons outside of the people who will be attending the social. The club members present at the

meeting charged Dick Schumacher and me to develop a proposal regarding this matter for consideration by the membership at the February meeting.

One last thing – according to the report prepared by webmaster Bill Shaffer, our web site ([www.greatplainshrc.com](http://www.greatplainshrc.com)) has averaged 8 visitors per day. We’ve had nearly 3000 visits since the site was activated. Bill has done a great job of keeping the website current and accurate but is in need of photographs for the photo gallery tab. Please consider sharing photographs of your past hunting season for inclusion in the photo gallery. Send your photograph as an email attachment. Bill’s email address is: [shafferwp@gmail.com](mailto:shafferwp@gmail.com)

Steve

### Training Days and Clinics

Training days and clinics appeared on the agenda for the January 27 meeting. Dane Johnson volunteered to serve as Training Day coordinator and chair the Training Day Committee. Paul Bishop and Eric Neilsen are also members of the Training Day Committee. The consensus of the members present at the January 27 meeting was to survey the membership to discern preferences about “what to train” and “when to train”. Please respond to the survey since the results will be used to set the time schedule, training concepts, and locations for club Training Days. The survey will be sent via email in mid February.

## Judges/ Handlers Seminar

The 2015 Judges/Handlers Seminar for Region 13A is scheduled for **Saturday February 21, 2015**. The location of the Seminar is 2949 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68521. The seminar is an 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM event. If you are a judge in need of attending a seminar to keep your license enforce, "ink in" this date in your 2015 day planner. There are only a few judges among the membership of Great Plains. Please give consideration to attending the seminar in order to become a hunt test judge.

## Online Judges Test

Judges who are recognized by Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. are required to take a "rulebook test" every two years in order to maintain their judge license. The purpose of the test is to require judges to read the entire rulebook in order to be knowledgeable about the running rules. The test must be taken by **May 1, 2015**. The test is an "open-book test" based on the current rule book (*Rules and Guidelines for Hunting Retriever Tests, 2013*). The online test can be accessed for the Hunting Retriever Club web site: ([www.huntingretrieverclub.org/](http://www.huntingretrieverclub.org/)).

## Is Your Dog in Condition?

Did your retriever get a lot of "on-the-job training" during the 2014-2015 hunting season? If not, beware of the "side effects" associated with a long lay-off.

It is not uncommon for retrievers to be in poor condition for the rigors of yard and field work associated with training. This is especially true at the beginning of the hunt test season after a long period without regular work. These retrievers can develop mental stress to training work because of their poor physical condition. Muscle and skeletal injury may occur because of the retriever is in poor physical condition.

Beware of your retrievers' condition -- don't do too much too soon. Remember it takes time to get into condition for running hunts test or engaging in advanced training associated with

hunting. February can be a good month for conditioning your dog for the rigors of more advanced training. Long walks can be helpful. "Walking singles" can be useful. Gradually increase the number and distance of the marks.

## "Get the Picture?"

As a part of training, young retrievers must "look out" and identify a destination. To many trainers this is called a "picture". The picture might be a gap, a slot, a channel, or a piece of water. Dogs that have learned to "look out" and identify a destination (i.e. the "picture") will likely run a straight line to this target. "Getting the picture" is a useful skill for the young retriever. Many blind retrieves and marks become routine when the retriever can look out and see the pictures.

## Dues are Due

According to the club constitution and by-laws, the annual membership fee is due and payable in January of each year. Our membership fee has been \$25.00 annually for nearly two decades and will be \$25.00 in 2015. The membership fee is useful to the club to cover "start-up costs" associated with the spring hunt test. If you have not renewed your membership, please send a check in the amount of \$25.00 to:

Dick Schumacher  
PO Box 93  
Kearney, NE 68848

## Next Meeting

When: **Tuesday February 24, 2015- 6:00 PM**

Meal, Business to follow the meal

Where: Bico's 3012 Highway 30 West, Kearney, NE 68845

## Great Plains HRC Hunt Test

When: **Saturday May 2 & Sunday May 3**

Where: The former Lilly Sand & Gravel Property south of Wood River, NE

Please volunteer to help put on the event.