

Great Plains Hunting Retriever Club

HRC – “Conceived By Hunters for Hunters”

Volume 3 Issue 7 July 2015

Editor’s Message – Paul Bishop

There are a couple of hunt tests in August that GPHRC members could participate. Platte Valley HRC is hosting regular licensed hunt test on Saturday August 15 and Sunday August 16. These tests are held on public ground along the South Platte River near Sterling, Colorado. Elkhorn Valley HRC hosts regular licensed hunt tests on Saturday August 22 and Sunday August 23. This club uses private ground near the Wood Duck WMA south of Norfolk.

It would be great to have members from Great Plains running dogs and getting titles on their dogs at these tests. We’ve got members with started or seasoned dogs that can do the work to get the titles. Give some consideration to participating in the hunt tests hosted by these clubs. You can enter your dog using the registration service provided by Hunt Secretary (www.huntsecretary.com).

There are only five more training day opportunities. The July 9 training day will be held at Bishop’s (1550 Amherst Rd., Elm Creek, NE 68836). The focus of this training day opportunity will be walk-ups and diversions. Seasoned and started dogs will be a good fit for this training day. The balance of the training day schedule is posted below.

2015 Training Day Schedule

Host	Date	Day	Time	Location
Bishop	9 July	Thr	6:30 PM - Dusk	Bishop’s
Dane	23 July	Thr	6:00 PM - Dusk	Dane’s

Bishop	6 Aug	Thr	6:00 PM - Dusk	Bishop’s
Dane	20 Aug	Thr	6:00 PM - Dusk	Dane’s
Eric	29 Aug	Sat	8:30 - Noon	Gideon’s

One of the outcomes of the May 19 meeting was to have a Summer Social sometime in August. If you’ve got an idea for a good location and activities for this event, contact me and we will get it organized. If I don’t hear from the membership, I’ll defer to the Board of Directors to plan the event

Hunt Test Calendar

Platte River HRC – July 11 & 12 – North Platte, NE

Platte Valley HRC – Aug 15 & 16 – Sterling, CO

Elkhorn Valley HRC – Aug 22 & 23 – Norfolk, NE

Next Meeting

To be determined – Most likely a picnic in late July or early August.

Salt Valley Report

Four GPHRC members handled dogs at the recent Salt Valley HRC hunt tests held near Syracuse, NE. Dane Johnson handled five finished dogs. Most dogs passed both days. Paul Bishop and Millie earned two finished passes. With these passes, Millie is GPHRC’s most recent 500 point dog. Brett Scheuler and Alley earned two seasoned passes. Alley is one

pass away from the HR title. Pat Baughman ran two dogs and earned at least one pass.



Paul Bishop and Millie after the 500 point run.

[US Fish and Wildlife Report](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) released its report on duck breeding populations based on surveys conducted in May and early June 2015 by FWS and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Overall, duck numbers in the survey area are statistically similar to last year and remain strong. Total populations were estimated at 49.5 million breeding ducks in the survey area, which is 51 percent above the 1955-2014 long-term average and the highest count on record. Last year's estimate was 49.2 million birds.

According to FWS officials, the key to success in 2015 was the condition of wetlands and uplands in the traditional breeding area. The FWS officials were somewhat skeptical about the sustainability of a record breeding population count in the immediate future because of the losses in "pond count". Total pond count in the US and Canada was 6.3 million which is down from 7.2 million in 2014.

Critical habitat lost to production agriculture will likely drive down duck numbers. Concerns about weather extremes also contributed to the skepticism of FWS officials.

At least for now, waterfowl hunters can expect "good numbers" of ducks in 2015. If the FWS officials are accurate, duck numbers may decline in the future.

["Tick Talk"](#)

"Tick season" is influenced by climate/weather but the prevalence of ticks in south central Nebraska tends to remain a concern through the summer months and into the fall.

Veterinarians recommend the use of tick preventatives including topical medications or tick collars. Retriever owners need to be diligent about the routine application of the medications to minimize the occurrence of tick-borne disease.

Veterinarians also recommend checking working retrievers daily for ticks. Check the head, ears, shoulders and upper leg areas. If ticks are located, remove immediately. Use tweezers to pull the tick from the retriever's skin. Don't squeeze the tick. Squeezing may cause the tick's bodily fluids to be transferred to the retriever.

Never spray human tick repellent on retrievers. Human tick repellent contains chemicals that are toxic to retrievers if ingested.