

NAHRA NEWS

NORTH AMERICAN HUNTING RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

Volume I, No. 1

May 1984



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President's Bark

Little did Penny (she is the good looking one without glasses in the above photo) and I realize a year and a half ago, as we greeted Dick Wolters on his visit to north-western Vermont, that the meeting would be the Genesis for what has become the fastest growing dog organization in the country. While it is exhilarating to look back over the past few months and contemplate NAHRA's accomplishments, it is also more than a little intimidating to consider the tasks that await us.

Today the first field testing of hunting retrievers stands at the threshold. What NAHRA has gained in its short life is history; the future will be our judge. Life has been breathed into "baby," but adolescence will come all too soon.

Fund raising and the creation of a certified group of competent *hunting retriever judges* are the two things that are foremost in the thoughts of NAHRA's Board of Directors. Money, as crass as it may sound, is the life blood of organizations such as ours. It will provide us with the means to hold clinics, train judges, create video presentations, and carry on the day to day work of a national organization.

The key to fund raising is a large and dedicated membership that actively promotes NAHRA's objectives. To achieve such a membership, we will advertise aggressively in the national media, and continue to seek converts among professional writers to aid in spreading the word. In



addition, the Board is undertaking an active program of seeking corporate grants, in an effort to promote specific areas of interest and to provide operating funds for immediate needs. Other projects, such as an annual "Hunting Retriever Print" are being considered.

NAHRA NEWS will be publicized as an important advertising vehicle for firms wishing to reach thousands of owners of hunting retrievers. It will soon become prime forum for advertisers to present their products and services to a serious core market.

NAHRA NEWS will also be a meaningful step toward the creation of a stud book for hunting retrievers by providing a national magazine in which proven hunting retrievers will be show-cased. Shortly we will be able to choose, on a national scale, breeding combinations that go far beyond our neighbor's or our hunting buddy's dog. We will have an organization that will enable us to reach like-minded individuals throughout the country.

The training and certification of an adequate number of field test judges is a priority issue facing NAHRA. Judges who can faithfully duplicate a day afield, and who can follow NAHRA's aims and philosophy, are essential to our continued growth. To guarantee quality judges, and therefore quality tests and quality dogs, the NAHRA Board has established an ambitious program of scheduling seminars in key locations, at which NAHRA will demonstrate proper techniques for managing field tests, as well as setting forth, in a hands-on forum, our conception of how tests are to be designed and judged.

Of primary importance in training judges, will be the NAHRA video program. Professionally taped and edited video tape programs in the VHS format, designed to illustrate correct methods for evaluating hunting retrievers in a variety of hunting situations, will be made available for purchase or rental by member clubs and individuals. A total of six tapes are planned. They will be approximately one-half hour long. The first tape, "Two Days on the James River," is projected for completion on May 15.

These ambitious but necessary projects are well within our grasp if we dedicate ourselves to them and to NAHRA's success. Now is the time for action and participation.

Ned Spear

NAHRA

The Official Publication of the North American Hunting Retriever Association, Inc.

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Richard A. Wolters

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MOVING?

Be sure to let us know so you don't miss the next issue of **NAHRA NEWS**.

Cover Photo — Action during the Senior Test at the Tidewater Retriever Club Field Test March 10 and 11, 1984. Photo by David Follansbee.

Bark Back

Letters, nasty and otherwise, to ye ole white-haired editor-in-chief.

Dear Editor:

I believe wholeheartedly in your organization. Having three Labradors myself, I place great value with the future of this hunting breed. Evaluation of a dog on strictly hunting skills against a standard is far better than the field trial work now in existence.

Douglas Janes — Columbus, OH

Dear Editor:

I am interested in attending a retriever stake but do not wish to run my dog as we are both wet behind the ears.

Andrew Catozz — Hinsdale, NH

That's the point of NAHRA. Anyone can participate. Put your dog in the Started field test and get your ears wet. Ed.

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading Richard Wolter's column in the new GUN DOG and I'm writing to express my interest in NAHRA. You see, I have two hunting retrievers and I'm most anxious to see what your new tests consist of. However, first off, I have to know who's eligible to play this new game — you see, my hunting retrievers are gray, dock-tailed dogs who have been type cast by the AKC as a pointing breed. They're Weimaraners, and I'll forever be puzzled by the decision that they are a pointing breed that happens to retrieve. I've lived with three now, and it is my conviction that they're a retrieving breed that just happens to point! Mine would rather retrieve than eat, and that's saying something.

Martha Kuhn — Reynoldsburg, OH

At the moment, your gray, dock-tailed "retrievers" cannot participate. But don't feel too badly, my aunt Mini and her bulldog want in also. Ed.

Dear Editor:

My family has bred and hunted over Airedales for more than 60 years. It would be wonderful to be able to compete with other breeds on birds and retrieving.

S.G. — Lima, Ohio

Aunt Mini has a chihuahua that retrieves chicken legs. Why don't we get you folks together? Seriously, NAHRA has no objection to any breed participating in fun or picnic events, and every effort will be made to open the sanctioned and licensed field tests to all breeds whose primary purpose is retrieving. — Ed.

Dear Editor:

I am currently President of the Bootheel Retriever Club located in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Our club now consists of 80% retriever enthusiasts, who are not field trialers, and 20% who are both gun dog and field trial people, like myself.

Our club has been in existence for 3 years and although we are not sanctioned by the AKC, we are known throughout S.E. Missouri as holding some of the most interesting duck dog stakes.

Bruce Thompson — Jackson, MO

You are just what we're looking for . . . get aboard. Ed.

Dear Editor:

I prefer that retrievers hunt as well as make retrieves.

D.R. — West Point, MS

Wow, what a good idea. Wish I'd thought of that. Ed.

Dear Editor:

I read the rules and have been in field trials for 20 years. How are the judges going to make this NAHRA thing work?

Bill Jackson — Tampa, FL

I think I see what you mean. Rules show the way but they don't guarantee spirit. "Camouflage dress a NAHRA test does not make." The judge has to be a hunter. He has really got to think out a scenario of ex-

actly what the hunting situation is. It has to be real. He has to tell his story to the handlers before a test dog is run. Let's give an example; The judge says, 'You and your hunting buddy are in a boat; your rig is all set out. (That's to see the dog's boat manners.) After you sit there a while a duck call will sound from over in the marsh. A duck will be thrown in the air and your buddy will shoot it from the boat. You have to shoulder your empty gun but his gun "takes" the bird at the top of the arc. That duck will be around in the cove and your dog won't see it fall but will hear it splash. Down the shore behind those trees is another blind with hunters. A shot is fired. But the gunner missed. (That is to get your dog's attention). Then a flier is thrown from behind the trees and shot, landing in the decoys in front of that blind. You don't have to wait for a number from the judge . . . send your dog as soon as the bird hits the water. The guys in the other blind don't have a dog so your dog is covering both blinds. As your dog swims out to make the retrieve for them . . . your duck, only winged, flew off beyond the point of land. Your dog did not see any of this while he was swimming for the first retrieve. (In the meantime . . . the thrown duck, which was on a string was pulled in by the boy who threw it and a blind was previously set out beyond the spit of land on the edge of the next cove.) When the dog returns, he thinks he knows where that first bird is but we know it is no longer there. Send your dog on a blind retrieve to the "winged bird's" new location and don't let him go back into the cove where he thinks it is." In this case the judge has to tell this story to the participants. If the judge's story is not authentic . . . the hunting handlers will know it . . . there can be no flaw, everything must make hunting sense and help not fool the dog. You just can't have birds being shot from the boat at seventy yards . . . only Gene Hill is that good a shot!

This is your space to "Bark Back!" Please address your "short" letters to: Ye C White-Haired Editor-in-Chief, 12 Susquehanna Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

A Move Into History

The First AKC Sanctioned NAHRA Hunting Retriever Field Test,
James River Retriever Club, Richmond, Virginia

by Jack Jagoda

A stiff northwest wind bends the pines as we approach the entrance to Curles Neck Farm, not far from Richmond, Virginia. The date is February 25, 1984. Our last minute conversation is interrupted briefly as a flock of Canada geese pitch into a corn field bordering the main roadway.

A year of planning and struggle, numerous meetings, and hundreds of phone calls had paved the way for the first NAHRA-AKC hunting retriever field test, soon to become history.

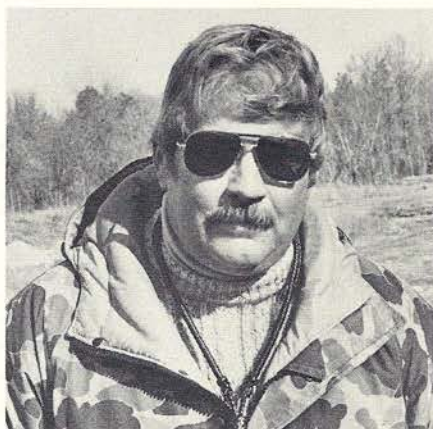
Along the last half mile of the road we find over 300 vehicles and hundreds of people and dogs. "Unbelievable," mutters Ned Spear as we approach the club house. We are greeted by Lewis Brothers, who is Ned's co-judge for the Senior hunting retriever field test. The two quickly disappear for consultation on the quartering and flushing test that has been chosen as the first event.

My wife, Diana, wades through the eagerly awaiting crowd, making her way to the back porch of the club house. She pauses to announce that post entries will be accepted. A line forms quickly, and an additional 40 dogs join the 136 that have been pre-entered. The final count is a mind-boggling 94 Started dogs, 56 Intermediate, and 26 Senior dogs. A decision is made to acquire a second set of judges for the Started dogs, to relieve some of the burden and hasten the testing. We are on our way.

Prior to the running of each test, I welcomed the handlers to our event and outlined the basic regulations and procedures. I also indicated that we hoped to return to the club house at about 4:00 P.M. for the traditional hot dog roast and that all were welcome.

By 10:00 A.M. all three tests were underway. My Chief Game Steward, Joe May, and my Gun Captain, I. B. Wilson, reported that everything appeared to be going smoothly and that they anticipated having second tests on each level. Preparations were being made for these second tests.

An event of this size requires approximately 48 people to adequately cover the operation. All of the workers at the James



River event were club members who donated their time to make the event a success. The James River Retriever Club is primarily an AKC licensed field trial club. We do, however, understand that we must provide events for the hunter and his retriever as well as the traditional field trialer, in order to survive as a solvent, active retriever club. Although this was the first NAHRA-AKC field test, the James River Retriever Club boasts over 15 years of gun dog experience.

At 5:30 the hot dog roast began, and at the end of two hours, some 600 had been consumed. Ned Spear, Richard Wolters, and myself addressed the group that remained on the NAHRA program.

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February 26, 1984 (the second day)

The heavy winds had subsided and the temperature reached a sunny 60 degrees. Again, everything was running smoothly.

Dogs on every level were adequately tested on land and water according to the standard. Domestic pen raised ducks and pigeons were used in all tests.

Just before dark all of the handlers returned to the club house and eagerly awaited the announcement as to which dogs had qualified. Finally the scores were totaled and the presentation began. Special recognition was given to the judges: Ned Spear and Lewis Brothers who judged the Senior group, Phyllis McCloud and John Chew for the Intermediate, and Hank Miller and Madison Macon for the Started. Out of 94 Started dogs, 29 qualified with an average of 80% or more. In the Intermediate group, 28 of the 56 dogs qualified. On the Senior level, 5 of the 26 dogs qualified with the required score of 80% or better.

The huge number of dogs and people, most of whom were new to me, will remain a constant reminder of the interest that has been generated by the new NAHRA movement.



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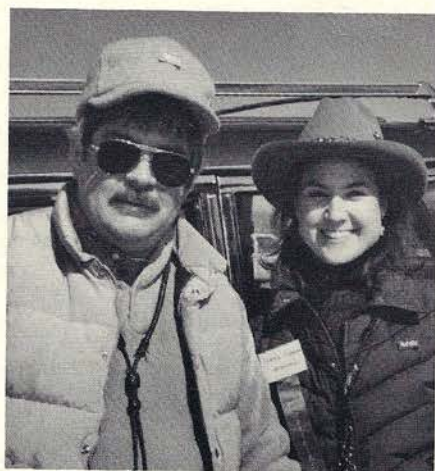
They worked on water



... and on land.

photos by Hamilton Rowan

A Look at History



Jack Jagoda and pretty Diana toiled night and day to make the James River NAHRA a tremendous success.

Curles Neck Farm outside Richmond, VA was the setting. Almost 200 retrievers came to try their skill against the NAHRA standard. There were Field Trial Champions, club champions, some good working dogs, and some who had nothing else to do that weekend because the hunting season was closed. *It was the biggest hunting dog event in history.*

The AKC had three representatives on hand to observe the spectacle including Bob Bartel, their Senior Field Representative who flew all the way from Missouri for the weekend. He claimed he had a great time but he wasn't alone. At the James River club house on Saturday night 600 hot dogs were consumed, which indicates that it wasn't only dogs

that were in record breaking numbers.

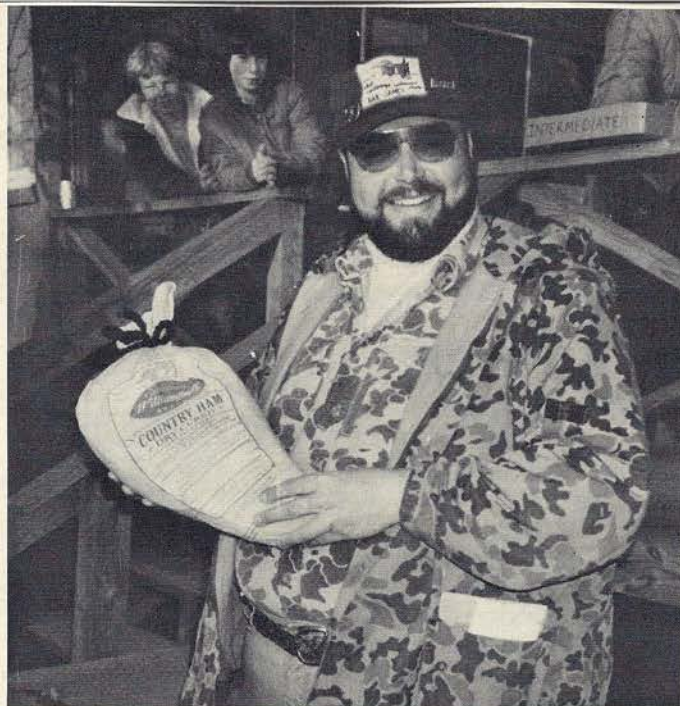
For the Virginian who is not accustomed to using his retriever as an upland hunter, there were some pleasant surprises. Senior Judge, Lewis Brothers was heard to comment after he ran his test dog through the field to flush a pigeon, "I'm going up to Pennsylvania next season. My 'ol gal knows more about this game than I thought!"

Although this was the first of the sanctioned field tests, this reporter heard a comment that was repeated often: "When they get around to running for points in the licensed field tests, the Master Hunting Retriever title isn't going to be a g'away!"

The dogs are sure doing their best practicing to get MHR on their AKC pedigrees.



Five lasses had a marvelous time and one won the gray ribbon. If it were a beauty content, they all would have won.



A Virginia ham for the Vermont ham. President Ned Spear, receives a gift for his work as a senior judge.



Ned Spear and Dick Wolters planned some devilish strategy.

Harvey Sanderson of Lorsan Company, Inc. shoots video for the first NAHRA production to be viewed by NAHRA clubs.



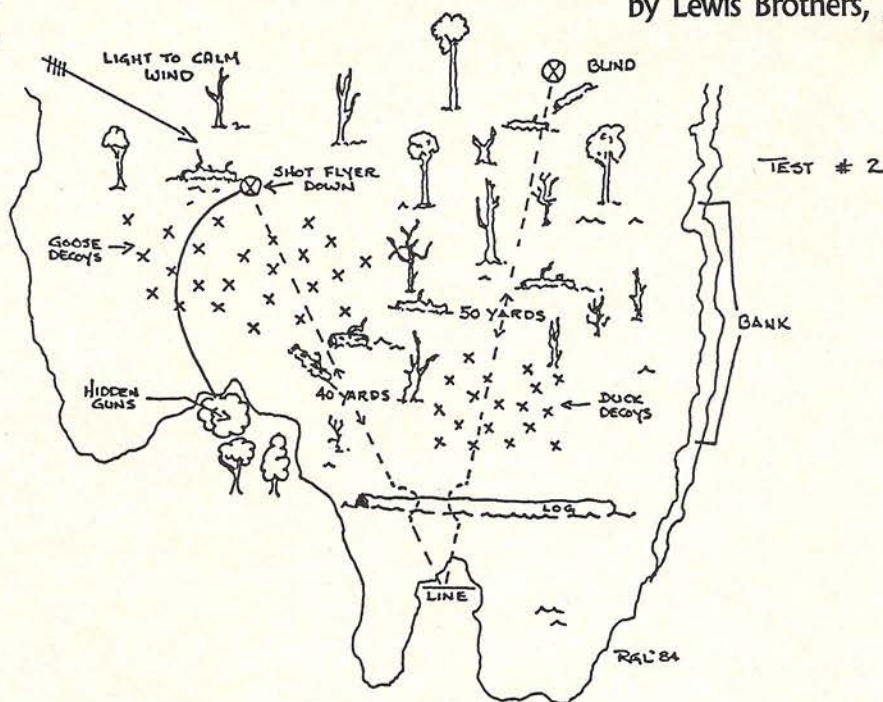
JUDGES' CLINIC

by Lewis Brothers, Jr.

To set up NAHRA tests a judge has to forget the established trials and think like hunter. This James River trial was the first NAHRA-AKC field test and Ned Spear and I spent a day going over the grounds working out tests and thinking out just what we expected from the dogs. I have always felt I would rather, if given the chance, hunt with a good handling dog than an excellent marker who was only so-so in handling, as most falls in actual waterfowl hunting conditions are not seen by the dog. Ned added that he preferred hunting with a quiet, well-mannered retriever. We planned to use all the new "tools," shot for attention, real decoy patterns, etc., all set up by the NAHRA rules.

Test I: Weather conditions for the first test could have been better for field trial spectators and judges. Strong northwest winds, 25-30 knots, with a dark overcast sky greeted us. Conditions were excellent for waterfowling. Ned remarked the test site and weather reminded him of a hunt in Canada.

The starting point was located along the top of five-foot dike overlooking a drained pond. Cover in the pond bottom and surrounding hillside was three feet high in all areas except for a puddle of shallow water, ten feet wide and fifty yards long, in the middle. The test, a land double, was formed by having two dead birds thrown for marked retrievers with a blind placed in the middle. All bird throwers were hidden; however, the throw for both birds could clearly be seen by the dog. Goose field decoys (25) were placed directly between both marked falls on line with the blind. The spread was completed with several duck



decoys in the shallow puddle. Handlers were advised that the test simulated a hunting situation in which three birds were gunned. The first bird, a blind, was dispatched by firing a blank popper load while the handler and dog remained concealed behind the dike. The blind represented a wing-tipped crippled bird that landed approximately ninety yards away, not an unusual distance with the wind factor. As the handler walked up, a duck call was blown three times by the hidden bird thrower on the right. This duck call was used to attract the dog's attention and suggest incoming birds. Blank shots were fired and two birds that were to be the marks, fell approximately 20-30 yards from the line.

The double, as short as it was, was not easy. The swamp and grass didn't help the dog. The blind was through grass where the dog could be seen but if he got slightly off course there was real trouble in the high grass. Most of the dogs got lost and followed the terrain down wind and then could not be forced up wind and up hill.

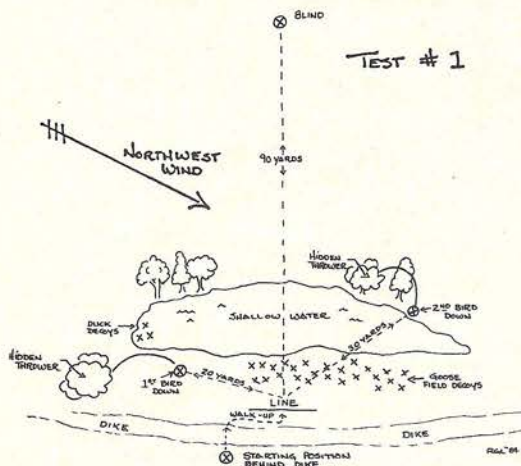
Test II: The following morning was clear with calm winds. The sheltered beaver pond, spotted with trees and deadfalls, chosen the day before for the water test, was quiet. It was a welcomed sight for judges and contestants after a day in the weather.

Our starting line was located in a cove on a point of land approximately 25 yards from two hidden guns instructed

to shoot a live duck for each dog. Fifteen yards from the line a large floating log was positioned in the path of the blind. Consideration for the safety of the dogs was given in the placement of the obstacle. We made sure the surface was smooth and the distance far enough from the line to insure that a dog would not be injured on entry. The log put an element of courage in the test and the shot duck on the left assured that all dogs would be handled. Two dozen goose decoys were set in front of the hidden guns and 18 duck decoys between the log and the blind.

During pre-test instructions handlers were advised that a hunting situation existed in which two ducks were shot at different times by two groups of hunters. The first duck would represent a strong cripple which was planted as a blind before the dog came to the line. Blank shots would be fired on line to simulate the kill. A second duck, a shot flyer, would land in the water on the left while the dog was on route to the point of origin. The crippled duck, or blind had to be retrieved first. Dogs switching would be disqualified. When the blind retrieve was completed, the second duck could be picked up.

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NAHRA FORUM

by Richard A. Wolters

I've now seen the first two NAHRA field tests. This is the beginning of something new that started twenty years ago. What are my reactions to all this? First I want to thank Ham Rowan of the AKC for pitching in as hard as he has. The best move that NAHRA could have made was to join forces with the AKC. You should know that it was only a year and a few months ago that the NAHRA concept was germinated and what has been accomplished in that year has been spectacular. We said in February last year that we would start in '84 and we did. But the most disastrous road we could take is being complacent and sit on our hands saying how great we are. My first editor on *Sports Illustrated* said something I never forgot, one day as I sat self-satisfied with the new issue just off the press, "We are only as good as next week's issue, not this one . . . that's already history!" So, now what about NAHRA? All along we have said our rules are not written in stone. We of the Board of Directors already see many changes to be made in our rules so there will be no confusion about what we have set down. I already have a fist full of changes I want to present to the NAHRA board . . . having already seen some judging errors in interpretation. I want to see those rules so tight that no judge will be able to slip away into non-hunting tests. We are in a period of sanctioned events. This is the time to iron out any language problems. When we get to the licensed event in a half year we are playing for the real stakes. At



the moment it is just fun and games as we learn. The dog that passes the standard gets a ribbon and told that he is good. In the licensed event he'll get the ribbon and real points toward his title. That is going to be well worth working for. But to get this standard uniform and produced the same way around the country is our next aim. Our judges have to think like hunters and putting people in camouflage is not the only answer. Once we have the rules they must . . . that is they *must* be followed to the letter or we will deviate from our basic idea. Judging will make or break NAHRA. When the rules say a dog must be tested on five items . . . they must be tested on all five . . . none left out. But, the spirit of NAHRA is that all must have a good time . . . dogs and wives included. I would like to see, if time permits all dogs run all events. The only dogs that should be dropped are those that are out-classed and not coming near the work level required. Of course, if the entry is too big

that may not be possible . . . but we should make the effort to give as much work as possible to the dogs . . . in licensed events too. The handler should be told if it is evident to the judge that his dog is not going to make it . . . then he continues running for the work.

We have come up with an idea to produce video tapes to show people what a NAHRA trial is, how to judge and set up tests. This concept of using video and shipping them to your club is a new and very appealing one. Harvey Sanderson, a TV producer, and I have shot eight hours of tape on that first James River field test. I've learned that editing is a long delicate job but the tape is ready now. We expect to produce a number of these tapes. We of NAHRA know we have a big educational job ahead.

This magazine will grow in size . . . you wait and see. Then we will want you to sit down and write reports, thoughts, and ideas so we can get a feel about NAHRA from all over the country. That's what the section BARK BACK is about. Don't expect an answer to your letters unless make this column. Remember, we need ideas to get things done—not a rehash of old stuff.

My last plea is always money . . . we can't do this without the same stuff that keeps your dog in food. Make sure your club joins and get all your buddies to send in their \$18.00 for membership and don't forget the NAHRA hat pin for \$10.00 . . . it's a beauty!

Special Guest Report



by Jerome B. Robinson
Gundog Editor, *Sports Afield*

On the weekend of March 10, I had the pleasure of attending the second NAHRA-AKC sanctioned hunting retriever field test. It was sponsored by the Tidewater Retriever Club, and took place on the fantastic grounds of Kings Dominion near Doswell, Virginia. The enthusiasm among those participating was contagious. At last they had a field test that judges the actual hunting skills of their retrievers. I will never forget the scene at one of the Senior tests. The judges, Dick Wolters and Jack Jagoda, were seated in traditional lawn chairs, note pad in hand.

At first glance this looked just like the traditional trial, but there was no "line" to bring dogs to. A duck boat was drawn up on the shore, and there was a spread of decoys out in front of it. The handler was

told to take his dog into the boat. There were no guns and no bird boys out there for the dog to see. The dog had no idea where his marks would fall. A duck call announced that a bird had taken off. The bird was in the air and a popper was fired from the boat. Guns went off down the pond and a flier dropped into the water. This gave the dog every advantage, but most important, it closely resembled a hunting situation.

The dogs worked hard at these tasks and most succeeded. You can be sure that a dog that repeatedly masters test situations like these is going to be a dog that best suits the needs of most hunters. NAHRA tests will provide a proving ground determining the breeding stock that will produce the great gun dogs of tomorrow.

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Questions for the Doctor

by Phyllis Giroux McCloud, D.V.M.

Q. Every spring my Golden Retriever gets these smelly wet looking sores that he scratches and scratches until they get raw. What are they?

A. These areas you describe are most likely "hot spots", also known as moist eczema. A hot spot is a painful, moist inflammation that results from the dog scratching or biting at himself, with secondary bacterial infection. These sores have a very rapid onset following an irritation resulting from earlier infection, insect bites, or other skin inflammations. To best treat these areas, the hair should be clipped or shaved away from the affected region and washed thoroughly with an antibacterial soap. (Deodorant soaps are antibacterial.) Then an astringent such as Listerine should be applied to help dry the area. If this is not sufficient, your dog may require antibiotics or stronger anti-inflammatory medication, as prescribed by your veterinarian. Prevention? Good grooming procedure, such as regular (daily) brushing out of dead hair, bathing, and good flea control.

Q. Since there has been such an increase in the incident of rabies in certain areas of the country, do I need to get my dogs revaccinated?

A. Most Rabies vaccines currently in use in this country are approved for 3 years duration of immunity. This means that the company that produces the vaccine has satisfied the FDA that the vaccine produces a high enough level of protection in the individual to protect him from contracting rabies should he be bitten by a rabid animal. When your dog was last vaccinated for rabies, he should have received a certificate from your veterinarian indicating the date of vaccination and the length of time the vaccination was considered valid. One exception to this would be a puppy under one year of age. All vaccines require that the first vaccination for rabies, if the individual is less than one year of age, be boosted one year later. One other instance might be in certain areas where the rabies vaccine is not required to be given by a licensed veterinarian, but may be purchased at a local feed or dog supply store, or through a mail order catalog. As rabies vaccine, as well as other types of vaccines, are biological products, the proper handling of these materials with respect to temperature is essential to the efficacy of the



product. Therefore, I would advise that you have your rabies (and other vaccinations as well) administered by a veterinarian, who is sure to have handled the vaccine properly prior to administration to your dog.

Q. Is it really necessary to have my dog checked for heartworms before I put him back on heartworm preventative in the spring? I've had him checked every year and he's never had them before?

A. YES! YES! YES! It takes 6-8 months for heartworm infestation to develop to the point where adult heartworms in the heart produce live young (called microfilaria) that circulate in the bloodstream. If you missed a few days of preventative last summer, your dog may have contracted heartworms and now has the young in the bloodstream. These young and the preventative medication can cause an

IMMEDIATE AND FATAL allergic type reaction in the dog. Don't take the chance. Either have your dog blood tested every spring, or never take him off the preventative. This latter is certainly the best approach in areas that don't really have a hard freeze in the winter, and are therefore never really mosquito free.

Q. How old does a pup need to be before it can get shots?

A. Most puppies need to be vaccinated starting at 5 weeks of age. That is assuming that the mother dog is in good health, is current on her vaccinations (within one year), and the pups nursed until they were 3 or 4 weeks old, and then started on puppy food. The 6 week old pup needs to be vaccinated for distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza (kennel cough). At the time of that vaccination it is a good idea to have your pup checked for intestinal worms, and examined for overall health. Ideally, pups are wormed starting at about 3 weeks of age (occasionally pups need to be wormed at 2 weeks if the dam has heavy hookworm infestation or there is a history of hookworms in the kennel), and every 2-3 weeks thereafter until a negative stool sample is achieved. Boosters on these vaccinations should be given every 2-4 weeks until the pups are 12 weeks of age, and a final parvovirus booster given at 15 weeks. Rabies vaccinations should be given at 12 weeks of age, and boosted one year later. For specific recommendations where you live, consult your veterinarian.

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Wing "Tips"

by Ned Spear

1. Gluing waterproof outdoor carpet to the bow seat of your waterfowl boat provides a warm and secure seat as well as excellent traction for your retriever.

2. A handy and flexible retriever ramp can be constructed for a deepwater stake blind by securing back to back with stainless screws two pieces of 1/2" thick x

18" wide x the desired length (depending on the height of the blind) marine plywood to which has been glued waterproof outdoor carpet. Four holes are then drilled an equal distance apart approximately two inches from one end. That end is then securely fastened with wire or nylon rope to the edge of the dog platform or blind floor. The other end is weighted with a cement

block so it rests on the bottom. The flexible hinge at the top allows the ramp to move with wave action which ordinarily would pull driven stakes from the lake bed. In two trips up your dog will readily accept the device and you'll avoid leaving the blind to help him in after each retrieve.

3. While hunting over decoys in deep water with a retriever try to avoid stringing more than one decoy to an anchor. While stringing decoys together saves time, it is dangerous for your retriever. Most dogs learn to cut behind the tail of a decoy to avoid the anchor at the front and if more than one are strung together, the dog can become tangled in the connecting line, messing up your spread and putting him in serious danger of drowning.

4. When hunting from a field or shore blind try setting your retriever up outside where he can see the action. An immobile dog is ignored by waterfowl and it sure cuts down on blind retrieves and makes for a more efficient hunt.

5. When handling your retriever on a blind retrieve, take off your gloves. The contrast of your light hand against your dark clothes will aid him in taking your hand signals.

6. Try training your dog to recognize a release command such as "Hunt them up" so that when hunting dead or completing a blind in an area (such as high grass) where you cannot see him, he knows he is released to use his nose and natural ability to find the game.

7. Many dogs respond better to soft voice commands while working close to their handler while quartering. Too much or too loud talk spooks game, but the human voice unlike whistles can be moderated so as to be unobtrusive, yet commanding to the dog.

8. Everyone carries a goose load or two in the event a shot at the big birds affords itself. Try pocketing a few low brass eights or nines for easing your retriever's work and quickly bringing hard swimming but low lying cripples to bag. Their vulnerable spot is the head and the numerous small pellets provide a dense pattern.

NAHRA Proudly Presents . . . "TWO DAYS ON THE JAMES RIVER" Full-color Videotape Coverage of the First NAHRA Field Test Sanctioned by the American Kennel Club

For two days in February, 1984, the magnificent Curles Neck Farm near Richmond, Virginia was bustling with people and retrievers. Cars, vans, and four-wheeled trucks scurried everywhere as hundreds of people moved from test site to test site. This was a historic event. There can be only one "first" and this was it . . . It takes a lot of work to mount the largest retriever event in history and the members of the host James River Retriever Club did themselves proud.

How did they do it? What does it take to run a NAHRA Field Test? What do some of the tests look like? What is the judging philosophy? The answers to these questions and more are on this 35-minute videotape. We encourage each member club or prospective NAHRA club group to view this timely and informative production.

Reserve your date to rent this VHS format videotape now. USE THE FORM BELOW.

----- detach here -----

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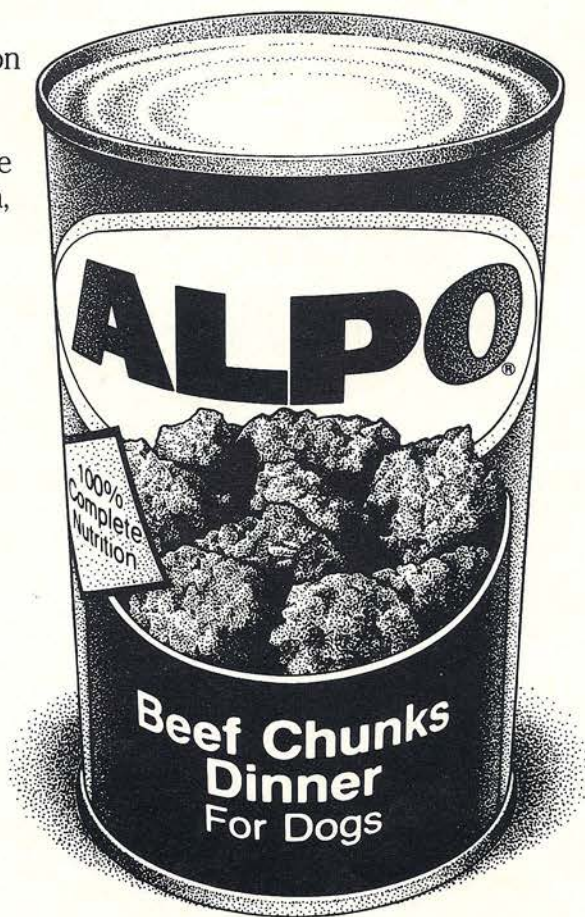
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Schedule of Plan A Sanctioned Hunting Retriever Field Tests

Southern Louisiana Retriever Club

May 5, 1984

Westchester Retriever Club

June 2, 1984

*Central Savannah River Area Retriever Club

June 9-10, 1984

Jayhawk Retriever Club

June 9-10, 1984

*Finger Lakes Retriever Club

July 14-15, 1984

Western New York Retriever Club

July 21-22, 1984

Lake Champlain Retriever Club

July 28-29, 1984

*Alaska Retriever Club

August 25-26, 1984

*Dates are tentative—Not yet applied for.

The following list of clubs have already contacted the American Kennel Club expressing an interest in NAHRA Field Tests. Those marked with an (M) are members of NAHRA.

CANADA

Ducks Unlimited Canada

1190 Waverley Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2E2 Canada

Kamloops Gun Dog Club

1766 Inglewood Avenue
Kamloops, BC V2B 1W1 Canada

Langley Labrador Club of BC

15268—24th Avenue
Surrey, BC V4A 2J9 Canada

Moncton Retriever Club

12 Brewster
Riverview, NB

(M) Westwind Sporting Dog Club

P.O. Box 6162, Station A
Calgary, Alberta T2H 2L3

ALASKA

Alaska Retriever Club, Ltd.

88 Echo Street
Eagle River, AK 99577

ALABAMA

Hatchchubbee Retriever Club

Route -2, Box 271
Opelika, AL 36801

ARIZONA

Rillito Valley Retriever Club, Inc.

851 W. Calle Ranunculo
Tucson, AZ 85704

CALIFORNIA

(M) American Chesapeake Club

140 Del Casa Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941

California South Coast Retriever Club

3792 Carmel
Irvine, CA 92714
Sue Colson

Central Valley Retriever Club

3140 Hillsdale Drive
Visalia, CA 93291

(M) Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club

81 Haven Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94546

Golden Retriever Club of America

1434 Lincoln
Pamona, CA 91767
N.J. Hammond

Redwood Empire Retriever Club

2055 Sutter Road
McKinleyville, CA 95521
Julie Cairns

Sacramento Valley Retriever Club

Route 1, Box 205
Woodland, CA 95695? Mary Williams

Southern California Retriever Club

25272 Yacht Drive
Dana Point, CA 92629
Darlene Corona

COLORADO

Pikes Peake Retriever Club

Vessey Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
Lori Dixon

Rocky Mountain Retriever Club

5945 Ward Road
Arvada, CO 80004

CONNECTICUT

Aspetuck Retriever Club

18 West Rocks Road
Norwalk, CT 06850

Shoreline Retriever Club

76 Moose Hill Road
Oxford, CT 06483
Mrs. Warren Stowe

FLORIDA

Jacksonville Retriever Club

P.O. Box 801
Citra, FL 32627
Pamela Kadlec

Labrador Retriever Club

Route 7, Box 912
Tallahassee, FL 32308
John McAssey

Suncoast Retriever Club

7703—10th Avenue, NW
Bradenton, FL 33529

GEORGIA

Atlanta Retriever Club c/o United Maintenance

3162 Oakcliff Ind. St.
Atlanta, GA 30340
Pat Parker

Central Savannah River Area Retriever Club

P.O. Box 351
Waynesboro, GA 30830
David Wallace

IOWA

(M) Northwest Iowa Retriever Club

P.O. Box 311
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

IDAHO

Idaho Retriever Club

7566 Stirrup Avenue
Boise, ID 83709
Bob Anderson

(M) Snake River Gun Dog and Sportsman Club

208 N. Hayes
Moscow, ID 83843

ILLINOIS

American Chesapeake Club

25720 W. Lehmann Blvd.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
Mrs. Andre Havens

Gypsy Glen Hunt Club

24125 Lily Lake
McHenry, IL 60050

Michiana Retriever Club

5121 W. 99th Street
Oaklawn, IL 60453
Terry Veach

Richmond Hunting Club, Inc.

5016 Route 173
Richmond, IL 60655

River King Retriever Club

26 Fenwood Drive
Belleville, IL 62221
Jackie Stroh

INDIANA

Central Indiana Retriever Club

303 Jeffrey Lane
Anderson, IN 46011

Southwestern Indiana Retriever Club

Route 4, Box 289B
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

KANSAS

(M) Jayhawk Retriever Club

P.O. Box 242
Goddard, KS 67052
Donn Bader

Topeka Retriever Club

Rt. 2, Box 59A
Valley Falls, KS 66088
Mary Steckline

KENTUCKY

Bluegrass Retriever Club

P.O. Box 85, Scruggs Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
Jenny Carroll

Lincoln Trail Amateur Retriever Club

760 Morningside Drive
Henderson, KY 42420
John Jenkins

LOUISIANA

Calcasieu Retriever Club
12 Wayside Drive
West Lake, LA 70669
Clyde Watson

Ouachita Retriever Club
211 Newberry
Monroe, LA 71203
Kim Marie Tolson

(M) South Louisiana Retriever Club
408 E. Plater
Thibodaux, LA 70301
Susan Fraser

MASSACHUSETTS

Colonial Retriever Field Trial Club
14 St. Charles St.
Boston, MA 02116
Ellen Christie

MARYLAND

Talbot Retriever Club
RD -1, Box 73
Hurlock, MD 21643

MAINE

Maine Retriever Trial Club
R.F.D. -1, Box 759
Fairfield, ME 04937
Patricia Gerrie

MICHIGAN

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.
2304 Marston
Pontiac, MI 48054

(M) Marquette Retriever Club
P.O. Box 315
Marquette, MI 49855

Wolverine Retriever Club
413 Main Street
Fenton, MI 48430
Mark Bowers

MINNESOTA

(M) Duck Pass Hunter's Association
13670 Isleton Ave, North
Hugo, MN 55038

Duluth Retriever Club
P.O. Box 375
Duluth, MN 55802

Minnesota Field Trial Association
Bird Song, 455 Game Farm
Maple Plain, MN 55359
Elizabeth Reed

(M) Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association
Box 262
Avon, MN 56310

State Hunting Dog Association
R 1, Box 64
Minnesota City, MN 55959
Orest Ochrymowycz

Zumbro Valley Retriever Club
1989 Nelson Lane SE
Rochester, MN 55904

MISSOURI

Bootheel Retriever Club
Route 4, Box 20-D
Jackson, MO 63755

MISSISSIPPI

(M) Natachez Trace Retriever Club
Route 1, Box 431
West Point, MS 39773

Tenn—Tom Retriever Club, Columbus Women's Clinic
425 Hospital Drive
Columbus, MS 39701

MONTANA

(M) Montana Retriever Club
P.O. Box 13
Billings, MT 59103

Western Montana Retriever Club
NW 5712 Old Highway 93
Florence, MT 59801
Cay Kendrick

NORTH CAROLINA

Tar Heel Retriever Club
2903 Graham Drive
Kinston, NC 28051

NORTH DAKOTA

James River Retriever Club
1415 - 9th Ave., NE
Jamestown, ND 58401

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Dog & Hunt Club
3423 Main Street
Lincoln, NE 68505

(M) Platte River Hunting Retriever Club
1514 West Second
North Platte, NE 69101

NEW JERSEY

(M) Navesink River Hunting Retriever Club
90 Statesir Place
Red Bank, NJ 07701

South Jersey Retriever Club
77 Kendall Road
Kendall Park, NJ 08824
Julie Smart

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Retriever Club
6120 Downey NE
Albuquerque, NM 88001

NEVADA

Sierra Nevada Retriever Club
P.O. Box 624
Verdi, NV 89439

NEW YORK

(M) Black Creek Retriever Club
82A Elliot Road
East Greenbush, NY 12061

English Springer Spaniel Club of Long Island, Inc.
128 Burt Avenue
Northport, NY 11768

(M) Finger Lakes Retriever Club
849 Route 21
Shortsville, NY 14548

(M) Long Island Golden Retriever Club, Inc.
693 Meadow Road
Smithtown, NY 11787

(M) Westchester Retriever Club
P.O. Box 203, North Ave.
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
Christina Maynard

(M) Western New York Retriever Club
9841 Larkin Road
Eden, NY 14057
Jeanette Mc Hugh

(Cont. on page 18)

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(M) Beaver Creek Hunting Retriever Club
11415 U.S. 24
Grand Rapids, OH 43522

Buckeye Retriever Club
465 Catlan Road
Richmond Heights, OH 44143
Lynn Kittredge

Nothorn Ohio Labrador Retriever Club
2202 Pickle Road
Akron, OH 44312

OREGON

(M) Land & Water Retriever Service & Club
1702 Jefferson Avenue
LaGrande, OR 97850

Oregon Retriever Trial Club
18805 NW Lapine St.
Portland, OR 97229
Regina Poer

PENNSYLVANIA

(M) Central Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club
P.O. Box 4043
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Swamp Dog Club
R.D. -5, Stump Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
Elissa Kirkegard-Bush

(M) Waterland Retriever Club
P.O. Box 368
Spring House, PA 19477

SOUTH CAROLINA

Carolina Boykin Spaniel Retriever Club
P.O. Box 1223
Florence, SC 29504

Palmetto Retriever Club, Inc.
346 See Wee Circle
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

South Carolina Hunting Retriever Association
1212 Augusta Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

TENNESSEE

Memphis Amateur Retriever Club
4457 Walden Glen Cove
Memphis, TN 38128
Lee Ann Hann

TEXAS

(M) Alamo Retriever Club
7418 Meadow Breeze
San Antonio, TX 78227

Lone Star Retriever Club
8522 Riptide
Houston, TX 77072
Gail Zwick

Texas Panhandle Retriever Club
6913 Devonshire
Amarillo, TX 79109
Patti Green

Wichita Falls Retriever Club
4621 Harbor Road
Wichita Falls, TX 76310
Sherri Hitchcock (817) 691-5175

UTAH

Great Salt Lake Retriever Club
7087 W. 5500 S.
Hooper, UT 84315

Northern Utah Retriever Club
7590 S, 1900 E
South Weber, UT 84405
Deborah Bohnsack (801) 691-5175

VIRGINIA

(M) James River Retriever Club, Inc.
Route 1, Box 461G
Stafford, VA 22554

(M) Tidewater Retriever Club
P.O. Box 9718
Richmond, VA 23227

VERMONT

(M) Lake Champlain Retriever Club
262 Sunset Hill Road
Williston, VT 05495

WASHINGTON

Northwest Retriever Trial Club
19707—40th Place South
Seattle, WA 98188
Nancy Hayes (206) 878-7249

Puget Sound Retriever Club
P.O. Box 403
Bremerton, WA 98310

Southeast Washington Retriever Club
703 Abbott
Richland, WA 99352
Mary Baird (509) 946-4009

(M) Spokane Bird Dog Association
Box 16
Spokane, WA 99210

Tacoma Retriever Club
7604—52nd Avenue, West
Tacoma, WA 98467
Don Hutt (206) 472-3782

WISCONSIN

(M) Badger Golden Retriever Club, Inc.
4480 N. 144th Street
Brookfield, WI 53005

Fox Valley Retriever Club
W250 N8815 Hillside Road
Sussex, WI 53089

Lake Superior Gun Dog Association
Bydand Kennels
Maple, WI 54854
Diane Klumb

Madison Retriever Club
17 Walworth Court
Madison, WI 53705
Kenneth Rindt (608) 238-7165

Advertising

Ads are the stuff that pay for the magazine paper, presses, type, postage and all. This issue is only 20 pages because I had to learn how to work all the parts. Next issue will be at least twice this size or bigger. It depends on how much advertising we get. Here are the costs:

Classified ads will be 50 cents per word with a 20 word minimum (\$10.00). The little guy who is a NAHRA member can advertise his pups, kids or wife.

The following display ads (ads enclosed in a box) will be available. We'll design the ad for you if you want us to at no charge. Send us what you want to say and any illustrations. "My staff" will do the rest.

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NAHRA News will be published quarterly and will be mailed in May, August, November and February. All ads must be received six weeks in advance of the mail date.

Jack Jagoda is our Ad Manager. Contact him for space reservations and send your ads directly to him at Rt. 1, Box 461G, Stafford, VA 22554. Telephone: Days — (703) 221-4171, evenings — (703) 752-7591.

WYOMING

Central Wyoming Retriever Club
771 West 58th
Casper, WY 82601
Sue Stewart (307) 235-5100

This list is being updated on a daily basis. To find out the address of the club nearest you, write John Carroll, Field Trial Department, American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010 or call (212) 696-8286.

A Look at NAHRA

by Gene Hill

Last summer when I was one of the judges in the Senior stakes I spent a lot of time thinking about that fine line between fun and seriousness that ought to be there in a field trial. For both the handler and the dog.

I guess, on balance, the dogs had more fun because they understand the point of such outings as this and the handlers—well, they're just ordinary human beings. Retrievers understand that this is just sort of a complicated game of hide and seek and that there's always tomorrow. People tend to brood and sulk and sometimes get angry—which isn't the point. The people are there because most retrievers can't drive or go shopping for dog food or throw dummies for each other. A really expert wing shot will take about 12 ducks with a box of shells over a season, providing he's not over optimistic about distances or over cautious about taking fair but hard chances. And even all but the most dim-witted retriever will come up with a lot better average than that. You have to keep all these things in perspective.



Years ago I had a black Labrador that would have loved these NAHRA hunting retriever tests. Like most dogs, she saw a trial as a marvelous outing—a chance to see her old friends, show off a little, ride around in the car and get more than ordinary attention. Maybe that's a female trait across the board, but whatever, Tippy really liked to get dressed up and go out. She and I spent a lot of time chatting when we hunted or trained. She would have understood just what kind of party the

whole thing was. I don't know how well she would have done, having a tendency, I think, to make something look harder than it really was just to aggravate me. But she'd have liked being allowed to run the bank a little—the straight back and forth never really made a lot of sense to her—or to me either, for that matter.

Looking back over the old trial days I have to admit that most of the time when we didn't do as well as I'd hoped, it was my fault. But she never got angry or despaired of me. When I got nervous or flustered, she'd do her best to tell me to take it easy—that it was all just a matter of swimming or taking a little run to bring back a bird and that she was certainly able to do that, Lord knows. If the rules were a bit bizarre, well, there wasn't much she could do about that, but that wasn't her doing.

As a hunting retriever, she was, most of the time, fine. I didn't know if I can, in all honesty, say that much about myself as a hunter. But we were a pretty fair team in the field. I can't really remember losing a bird with her except once and that was because she let one of the puppies see what he could do with a wing-tipped pheasant and by the time we had all that unraveled, it was too much for even her to patch up. For as long as we gunned together, it was her basic charge to make me look good, and any dog that can do that has got to be something special!

She liked to do anything I liked to do — except she drew the line at bourbon whiskey. (I don't remember if she liked martini's, but probably not. She did, however, enjoy a sip or two of beer after a hard workout.) The concept of hunting situation trials came a lot too late for her and I can't help but think how lucky you all are to have such a group now. It's a fun pastime—like gunning is supposed to be. When it stops being that, we ought to stop doing it and take up something else. Of course, anything that you and your dog work so hard at together, deserves a little public recognition; sometimes it's in the form of a ribbon and sometimes just a pat on the back from a friend saying he's sorry. But, at the very bottom, it's all wrapped up in that magic split second when you and your dog know that this minute or two is perfect. It won't always be—I think that's why Tippy used to try so hard to smile.

GOOD LUCK in the upcoming NAHRA tests. Wag Ag offers you an extremely reliable and affordable **ELECTRONIC BIRD LAUNCHER** to assist you in training **SIT TO FLUSH**. You, the trainer, are given precise timing, complete control of the field situation and the freedom to handle your dog. Birds appear to be naturally flushed.



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Available upon request: Brochure — **TIPS** for training; lining, field search, etc. — Names of users near you.

We look forward to an exciting future for NAHRA —
Sincerely, Wag. Ag.

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