

NAHRA NEWS

NORTH AMERICAN HUNTING RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

Volume 1/Number 3

February, 1985



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President's Bark

It's either the psychiatrists and clinical psychologists or my mother, I can't remember, who have a name for a column like this—scattered thoughts. Much has happened in the last few weeks and scattered or not I thought you'd be interested in a bit of a run-down on the most interesting, or at least the ones I can put into a few words so as to escape the red pencil of "Ye Old White Haired Editor."

Dozens of members have written requesting production and shipping information on the Special Edition NAHRA Gunning Canoe. Yes, they are available. We ship within ten days of receipt of an order and guarantee freight costs. The response has been tremendous. Look closely at the next water craft you see in the marsh, chances are it'll be a NAHRA Gunning Canoe.

This next anecdote fits nicely in the "it's a small world" category. While en route to the recent Director's Meeting in Maryland I stopped to fill up the trusty Bronco on the Jersey Turnpike. Up drives a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pickup and the occupant sticks out his hand with the comment, "I noticed your plates (the Bronco sports NAHRA license plates). You got anything to do with that hunting retriever association I read about in *Ducks Unlimited*?" After a brief conversation another member was signed up, all in front of a somewhat bewildered gas station attendant.



Not strange enough? Well try this one. While traveling down busy U.S. Route 301 I passed, going in the opposite direction a pickup with a NAHRA Gunning Canoe on top. The driver was in camo and had two dog crates in the back. Delaware's goose season opened that weekend, so I know where he was going—I just don't know who he was!

Membership is skyrocketing. Already the largest working retriever organization in the world, NAHRA will soon sport the title of world's largest retriever organization period! Several clubs have completed the sanctioning process. Plans are already underway for the first license field test in February, 1985 at the James River (Virginia) Retriever Club. *Three Days on the James River* is going to be a colossal, once in a lifetime, not to be missed event!

One of the principal matters resolved at the June, September and October meeting of our Board of Directors was the new Judges Guidelines and licensed regulations. Little was changed from the well-

known sanctioned regulations but language has been clarified, regulations streamlined, and some changes instituted in the light of our experience in the 1984 sanctioned season.

By the time you read these words you'll be aware of two important changes. First, we skipped an issue, and second, we're no longer associated with the American Kennel Club. The detailed reasons for the latter have already been provided to you by direct mail. It wasn't a pleasant or easy decision, but it was necessary.

In an effort to keep you apprised of the latest information, we held the NAHRA News presses. Nothing of importance ever occurs at a convenient time. Such was the case with this crisis. Days became weeks and it became apparent we were not going to be able to skip a step and catch up. As a consequence, you're now reading the February issue. We'll make it up to you somehow, so please don't be upset and write and tell me I'm overpaid. What you can do is redouble your efforts in NAHRA's behalf. There're lots of big bad wolves out there and most of them want what NAHRA's got — strong motivated membership, knowledgeable experienced staff, and a quality workable program that's compatible with existing events. Let's redouble our efforts to see that every club adopts NAHRA Hunting Retriever Field Tests! Scattered enough? Penny Rose just reminded me that it's still goose season in Maryland and Jack Jagoda needs some help adjusting his decoys!

Ned Spear
Ned Spear

NAHRA

The Official Publication of the North American Hunting Retriever Association.

NAHRA NEWS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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.

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Cover Photo — Jack Jagoda and Bomber attend an informal seminar for DU and NAHRA in Fredricksburg, Va. During the first weekend of February a formal NAHRA seminar and clinic will be held there. . . see the story in this issue. Photo credit Norm Shafer, Free Lance-Star.

Bark Back

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

Dear Editor:

I'm a longtime female. Please NAHRA be concerned about all having a good time. . . husbands too. —M.T.

What does a guy have to do to prove to the ladies that he likes them? —Ed.

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a copy of an article in the *Grand Rapids Herald Review* that tells what is going on in the Black Water Gun Dog Association. —M.D.

What a good article John Paulson wrote.

It's good for two reasons. One, he is either a retriever man or two he is a good reporter and got the story straight. From what he says you folks in Black Water are doing a great job with NAHRA. —Ed.

Dear Editor:

If you know of any folks in or around Houston, TX who are seriously interested in getting a NAHRA moving on the Texas Gulf Coast, give them my name and ask them to get in touch. —B.S.S.

OK, Bruce Snyder, here goes. Folks, call (703) 431-1910 at home and the office is (703) 431-0296. Bruce you are in a big dog and hunting area. I'm sure this will get response. . . let me know! —Ed.

Dear Editor:

Emelise Baughman, Editor of the *American Chesapeake Bulletin*, has informed me that beginning with the next issue, the *Bulletin* will publish the Chesapeake qualifying scores from NAHRA events.

This is part of our campaign to overcome resistance within the club by members who can be as stubborn as their dogs. (Editor's note: his words not mine.) Information on dogs that pass the standard should be sent to Emelise Baughman, Ed., *American Chesapeake Bulletin*, Rt. 5, 43 Trail West, Columbia, MO 65201. The information they want is: Name of club, division (Started, Intermediate, Licensed), type of test (Club, Sanctioned, Licensed), dog's registered

name, owner, and handler if different. —M.J.N.

I'm afraid to make comment, but love the good sense of humor of you Chessie folks. Editor's Note. . . while on the subject of sending things, this editor of NAHRA News is always looking for pictures for this rag. We need black and white shots of your events. Snap shots won't make the grade. Good 35mm stuff that "tells" a story would be sensational. Pay? Of course, in the form of credit! —Ed.

Dear Editor:

I must confess that I approached the NAHRA tests with some suspicion and misgiving having been burned more times than I care to remember in field trials. I'm pleased to say that not only have my Chesapeakes been welcome at NAHRA events, but they have been competitive. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to admit that my initial misgivings were wrong and it looks like there's a home in NAHRA for dogs that aren't black. —M.J.N.

It's so nice to find someone who admits he was wrong. . . but have you tried black shoe polish? —Ed.

. . . a post script on M.J.N.'s letter to Ned Spear:

P.S. If you promise not to tell Mr. Wolters, given his anti-Chessie bias, I'll tell you a little anecdote. Canada law requires that all field trial birds be dead but unfortunately it does not specify how long. The birds were uh ripe; I couldn't get within six feet of them without retching. On the third godawful bird, a water retrieve, my big red didn't merely refuse. . . he refused with what everyone except the judges thought was class. He hauled the bird's remains out of the water, dragged it to shore, buried it under some grass and lifted his leg on it. The laughter from the gallery almost made his failing the test worthwhile. —M.J.N.

I decided that story was so rank that I would not touch it with a ten foot pole, so I asked Ned to reply. "Your Chessie showed great restraint. . . Penny Rose, my yellow lab probably would have added insult to injury by rolling in it." —Ed.

Dear Editor:

I have done enough hunting to have had the pleasure of watching many

purebred dogs work who can consistently outhunt the couple of "breeds whose primary purpose is retrieving." Every indicator I've read pointed to "open" als such as in the obedience ring. Therefore, I strongly suggest to you and your board to immediately proceed to change the rules to truly permit any pure bred hunting dog to compete. —S.P.G.

Sorry Stephen, I know this is your second letter to us, but your Airedales are not classed as a hunting breed and can not be entered. There are two points to make. . . would you like to sit down and write rules for a field event to test the ability of all hunting dogs, pointers, retrievers, flushers, the hounds too? . . . all running at the same time? You do that so it'll work and I'll help you start the organization. The point many people seem to miss is that NAHRA is not just a place for you to have fun and test your dogs on a weekend. . . NAHRA is a gene pool for the hunter's retriever. If we want to grow apples, our job is not to mix apples and oranges to find the best, but to develop the best apple. —Ed.

Dear Editor:

I have had unhappy experiences with the hereditary problems, hip dysplasia, and central progressive retinal atrophy. I once had a derby dog place third in a sixty-dog stake and soon found he had only 20% vision in one eye and 40% in the other. As a dog he could handle and I'm sure could have passed the NAHRA tests.

The field dog Labrador lines have been infiltrated with the show dog lines in recent years in an attempt to produce yellow and chocolate field dogs. This has largely been successful in color, but has produced an increase of C.P.R.A. and other hereditary problems.

I am told that England issues annual conditionally normal eye certificates starting at age one and at age five a permanent certificate is issued.

I would like to see some special recognition given to the five-year-old retriever with normal hips, normal eyes and a recent passing of the NAHRA Senior field test. —R.J.B. (D.V.M.)

HEAR! HEAR!

This is your space to "Bark Back!" Please address your "short" letters to: Ye Ole White-Haired Editor-in-Chief, 122 Susquehanna Road, Ossining, NY 10562.

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...YOUR FIRST NAHRA FIELD TEST

You've just received an entry form in the mail advertising an upcoming NAHRA field test. You and your dog have worked diligently to achieve the training program in your borrowed copy of "Game Dog." You would love to participate but you're not sure you or the pup are ready.

Well, perhaps I can help you. If your dog can retrieve up to 75 yards on land and 50 yards in water, you are ready to run.

I would suggest, however, that you begin by entering the Started event and visit the Intermediate and Senior Tests. By watching, you will have an opportunity to evaluate your dog's level of accomplishment. You may find that your dog is more advanced and wish to step up a level at the next event.

If at all possible, try to join a club or train with knowledgeable dog people in your area. Dogs react quite differently at home than they do at training areas or

test grounds. Distractions by people and other dogs can only be overcome by exposure.

Remember—NAHRA tests are run against a standard and not dog against dog. The NAHRA Rulebook, "Regulations and Field Procedures" outlines specific distances and requirements. Tests will remain uniform throughout the country. You will be required to maintain an average of 80% on all retrieves to become qualified. NAHRA will award 2.5 points each time you qualify on the started level. After you have achieved a total of 5 points, at licensed events, NAHRA will send you a certificate to verify that your dog is a qualified Started Hunting Retriever.

On the Intermediate level you will be awarded 5 points each time you qualify and after you accumulate 20 points, you will receive a Qualifying Certificate from the NAHRA.

Now that I've given you the basic

scoop, here are a few points to consider. The Started rules will require that your dog remain at the point of origin until released by the Judges to retrieve. The dog may be hand held or run on a leash. I like to run my young dogs on a slip cord. I prefer a short piece of flexible nylon clothesline. One end is fastened around my wrist and the opposite end is run through the dog's collar and back up into my hand. When the dog is released to retrieve, the line will pass through the collar as he leaves. Some dogs have a tendency to throw their head about and need to be hand held to achieve steadiness. You will have to be the judge of which method works the best for your dog.

I mentioned earlier that your dog will be required to retrieve up to 75 yards on land and 50 yards in water. It is a good idea to vary retrieving distances and types of terrain and cover to prepare for the test. I like to start young gun dogs with

SECRETARY'S

Meetings, meetings, meeting! Throughout the year special committees of the NAHRA Board have met and discussed everything from our administrative makeup to the new Judging Guidelines. On September 29, 30, 1984, this committee activity culminated in a Board meeting in Northern Vermont. The Directors experienced glorious weather with the fall foliage just starting to reach its peak in this northern zone. Though the ruffed grouse season was in full swing and the birch covers beckoned, much had to be accomplished and the dogs remained in their runs.

NAHRA President Ned Spear brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 29th and proceeded to guide the NAHRA Board through a marathon two-day business meeting.

Highlighting the issues which were discussed was a complete review of NAHRA Field Regulations for all three (3) levels of field testing. It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that based upon our first full year of field testing experience, it was quite apparent that many areas of the Field Regulations needed fine tuning or outright change. It was the intention of the NAHRA Board that these modifications would result in increased quality and would better fit the purpose

BARK

of the NAHRA field testing program.

While reviewing and adjusting the Field Regulations, it became apparent to the Board that a proper job also required a complete review of the General Rules guided by President Spear it was soon accomplished.

Long hours of discussion based upon the experience gained in the field this past season preceded each important vote. During the little free time President Spear allowed, the Board found itself talking shop on an informal basis. Experiences were shared and everyone present gained a healthy respect for the dedication displayed by everyone involved in the NAHRA movement.

During the two-day marathon, NAHRA Vice-President and "Ye Old White Haired Editor" Richard A. Wolters was attired in one of his usual Halloween costumes. Knickers, polka dot tie and a deer stalker hat! The Board noted that Dick's trusty canine companion, Tar, was seen to snatch a doughnut from the table during a morning coffee break! Being unable to determine whether Tar simply had bad manners or was suffering from malnutrition it was determined to keep the matter on file for future reference.

Shirley Krupp did yeoman duty by providing fine food and beverages. To aid

our digestion Wolters put us through several "overs" and "backs" on the fro lawn. Fortunately, the pea blew out of his whistle and we escaped without indigestion. The September meeting was shortly followed by another Board business meeting in Galina, Maryland, on October 28, 29, 30, 1984 called for the express purpose of taking final action on the work accomplished in the June and September meetings and to carry out more thorough discussions with AKC representatives.

The necessary ground work relative to the licensed field testing of hunting retrievers is now finished. It is anticipated that publication and distribution will be accomplished by December 31, 1985. NAHRA is the finest and largest Hunting Retriever Testing movement in the world. All NAHRA clubs and members should be delighted with the progress made during the past few months, progress that will be available for all to see once the licensed program begins in February, 1985.

On another item of interest, the Board did note that Vice-President Wolters was much less vocal once he had been gagged and his hands tied behind his back. Even Tar looked relieved!

the bird thrower in open view. Have the thrower blow a game bird call or fire an attention getting shot to attract the pups attention. Once the dog understands the game, you can begin to conceal the thrower behind cover and the dog will key off the bird call on gun shot. Always hold a shot gun in hand and point it in the direction of the thrown bird, as though you were firing at the bird. Your pup will soon learn to follow the direction of the gun and locate birds by your movement. After your dog is properly introduced to guns, a shot can be fired near your dog to simulate a shot originating from your hunting party.

Be sure to introduce your dog to decoys. Most waterfowl hunting requires the use of decoys to attract birds. Likewise, you will find numerous decoys in NAHRA field tests on land and water. You can start by placing a few decoys in a field and walking your dog through them. If the dog happens to try and pick one up, tell him "no" and continue to walk. After he gets accustomed to the decoys, you can begin sending him on retrieves through the spread.

Early in 1985, you will receive the new NAHRA running rules and a copy of the

Editor's Note

Only moments before this issue went to press, the Board of Directors of the North American Hunting Retriever Association made an important decision. Here is a letter that was mailed to all clubs from the NAHRA Board . . .

Subject: The American Kennel Club

The North American Hunting Retriever Association Board of Directors has moved to suspend its current relationship with the American Kennel Club. This move may prove to be permanent and has been necessitated by the AKC's inflexibility and refusal to accommodate NAHRA regarding a hunting retriever advisory committee, the licensed field regulations, and other elements of the hunting retriever program important to NAHRA and its member clubs. This move does not in any way affect their on-going NAHRA sanctioned and licensed field testing program. This program, together with all other NAHRA programs, will continue and will be expanded.

NAHRA alone will continue to sanction and license field tests and will provide club seminars and award all titles. Details will follow in the very near future.

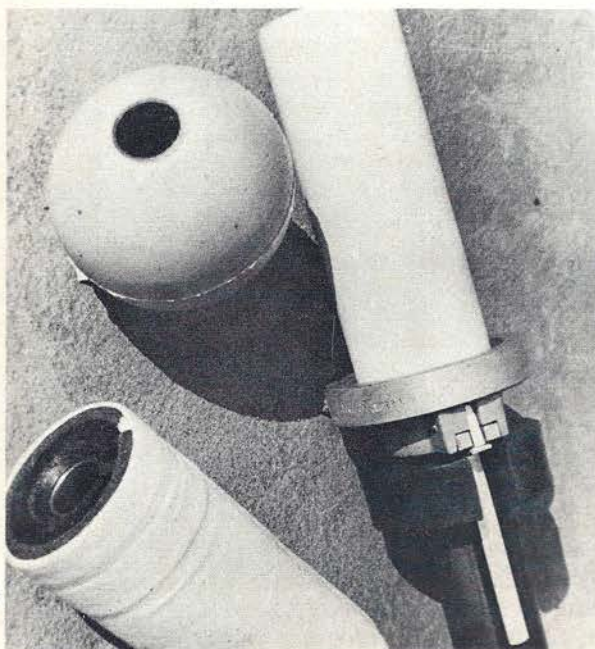
Sincerely,
The NAHRA Board of Directors

"Judges Guidelines." The new material will give you an in-depth description of the NAHRA testing program and judging theories.

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WHAT THE PROS THINK

by John J. Swezey

Everyone calls him "J." J. Swezey has been and is one of the country's outstanding professional retriever trainers. Very much respected by his colleagues, one said, "What J. doesn't know about dogs need not be known." His kennel is in Chestertown, Maryland, but he spends much time on the road campaigning on the licensed field trial circuit. Needless to say, his dogs are very successful. Like many of the pros on the circuit, J is very well like and easy to talk to. He has had a distinguished career.

The editor of *Nahra News* asked that I put a few thoughts on paper in reference to the significance of the North American Hunting Retriever Association. While new concepts often need realignment, the inception of a competitive retriever program for the avid hunter and his companion who are unable to meet the requirements of today's retriever field trials is a solid step in the right direction.

Field trials have been good to me throughout the years. But some of the changes made, primarily to increase the level of difficulty in competition, have

approached the ridiculous and deviated from the authenticity of the sport. The American Kennel Club rule states that field trials should follow "what is encountered in a normal day's hunt or shoot." Some of the most obvious changes to increase the difficulty factor are: 1. The distance from the water edge. 2. Angles into the water. 3. The distance in marking tests. 4. Length of blind retrievers. Also the guns formerly wore brown, not the white butcher/laboratory coats of today's trials. Dogs were meant to mark the birds not the guns. The fact that the handler is allowed to point out the guns prior to being ready to perform illustrates the artificiality of today's trials.

NAHRA prohibits these. Furthermore the ground rules make for a sensible game. The individual can participate and also enjoy friendships one establishes attending trials. It will also enable participants to gain a better understanding of how to handle a dog and why certain weather, wind and terrain conditions affect the dog's performance. Gathering hunting people together during the off season has to lead itself to the success of

a very effective program. I am confident that NAHRA will succeed and prosper.

Appealing to the one-man, one-dog hunter who enjoys working his retriever for development and exposure to more experience, while aiming for the hunting season, is what field trials were meant to do. The NAHRA organization needs support from all because it is important that a hunter use retrievers to gather and prevent the loss of crippled, downed game. The pleasures of watching one's dog mature and develop some of the instinctive traits are tremendously gratifying.

I started field trials in 1951 and have made a life of the game. I love the competition and enjoy every trial I attend. Many fine retrievers have been sent to me for training. One hundred and twenty five licensed open all-age stakes have been won by the best of those dogs. I have qualified dogs for and competed in twenty-two National Championships, the first in 1956. But an important part of my business has been training hunting retrievers. Living on the eastern shore of Maryland, there has always been a need for training retrievers and NAHRA is sure going to help that cause.

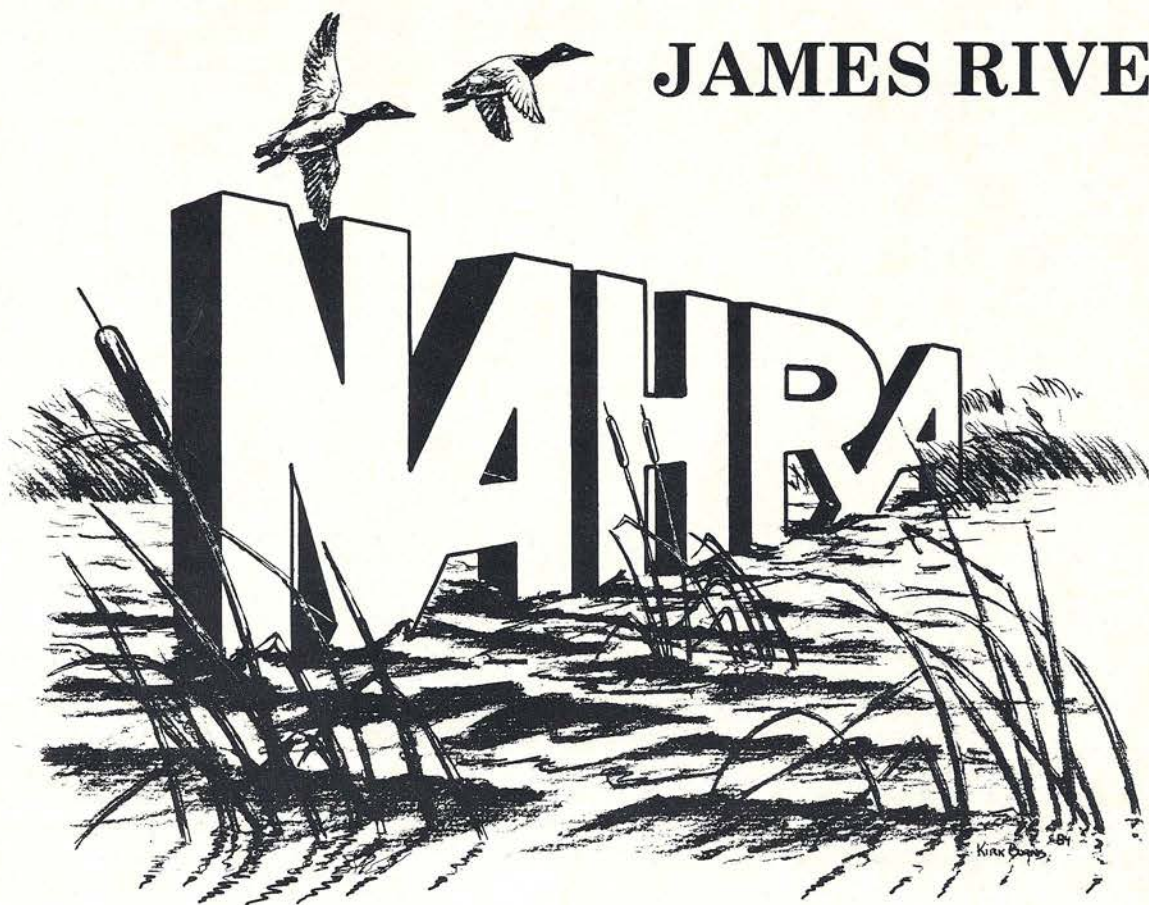
SOME GOOD IDEAS IF YOU HAVE SOME SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR

Sooner or later we all get into the situation where your dog needs first aid in the field. Help is usually far away and the need could be immediate. Greg Bever with the help of two experienced veterinarians, Fritz and Brian Hunter, both avid hunters, (no pun intended), have put this sturdy, waterproof, camouflage pouch together. The purpose of the contents of the kit is to stabilize the dog for transportation to the vet and not do something that could cause more damage. But supplies are not enough. Dog owners should know how to administer treatment. In the pouch is a fast reading, quick and simple manual covering thirty-one emergency situations... just about anything you might encounter in the field. \$24.95, **Skookumchuck Products, Inc.**, P.O. Box 9516, Spokane, Washington. Or call Greg Bever, (509) 328-6150.



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CHOCOLATES

SIRE: Piper's Chocolate Jake
by FC-AFC Raider's Piper Cub X daughter of FC Ginger's Chocolate August

DAM: Whiskey Bottom's Double Shot
by FC-AFC Snake Eyes Double or Nothing X FC Air Express daughter
* Photo of first "Shooter" litter out of FC-AFC Raider's Piper Cub—Looking good!

YELLOWS

SIRE: FC Cock of the Walk
by Royal Oaks Super Sleuth X Pagan's Libby Sue

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NAHRA CLINIC AND JUDGES' SEMINAR

There have been a number of clinics and seminars that we have reported on in the first two issues of the NAHRA NEWS. They have been grass-roots functions and very successful affairs. Now NAHRA is ready to sponsor these functions. As you will read in the Secretary's Report and the Forum in this issue all the paperwork is ready. The running rules and judges' guidelines have been worked out. The first clinic will be held in Fredricksburg, VA. on Saturday the 2nd of February, 1985. It will be at the Kaywood Best Western Motel and the contact for information will be Diana Jagoda at her home (703) 752-7591.

Ned Spear, the president of NAHRA, will be leading the seminar. Who is this for? Actually, everyone who is interested in running dogs in NAHRA events. The seminar is really a judge's clinic, but we do not wish to bill it as only for potential judges. To be successful and to understand just what NAHRA is about and how to run in the three categories

of Started, Intermediate and Senior the handler is going to have to know what the judges must know. Therefore, the seminar is for all. Eventually, all judges will have had to attend one of these clinics, pass a test and be certified by a NAHRA judge's board. Our program has started. Those who wish to apply as judges for NAHRA events should write to the NAHRA office for an application form.

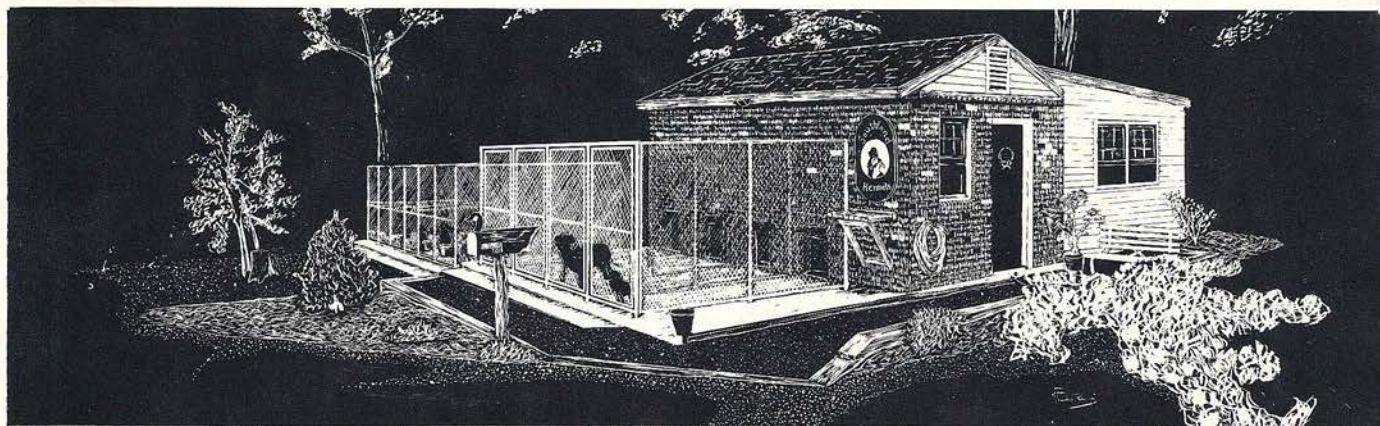
The Judge's Board will be headed by John Krupp of Vermont. He'll work with Kent Repka of New York and Louis Brothers of Virginia. We have recognized the need for a "Grandfather clause" so that field tests in progress can proceed with judges who have not been able to attend a seminar.

We feel that the dog handler who wants to learn the ins-and-outs of a field test will gain a lot of information by understanding how a judge will set up the events and what they will be looking for in our dogs.

We have had a number of members write that they were interested in becoming judges. This is the announcement of that procedure to become eligible. Get into the act today and write Ned Spear, Box 154, Swanton, VT 05488. We have all recognized that good judging will be the keystone of NAHRA. In the Forum we spell out how to get a seminar in your area. If you can get to the northern Virginia area on the 2nd of February . . . we will see you there.

Three AKC Black Lab Males (littermates). Trieven Thunderhead, Trumarc breeding. (Sire has Intermediate NAHRA points.) Will be one year old 11-5-84. Steady, land and water doubles. Have been run in NAHRA Started and AKC Puppy Stakes past spring. All are excellent prospects for NAHRA Tests and hunting companions. \$800⁰⁰ ea.

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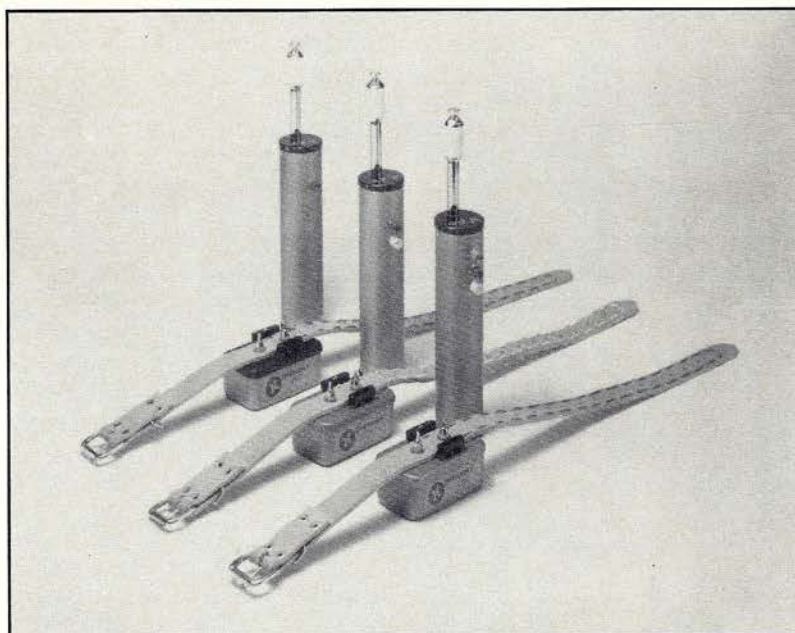
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FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW. . .

by Pete Fisher

The Start Of A Hunting Retriever Club

This story should be an inspiration to young clubs and all of us who are working for our retrievers. We of NAHRA have watched this group from conception, through birth and on into young adulthood. I asked for this report for you. I'm not going to edit one word of it. Pete Fisher, a professional dog trainer has been the president of MHRA since its beginning—Editor

The Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association was formed in February 1983 by a group of sportsmen with one single goal. That goal was to have an organization that would give its members the opportunity to train and compete in retriever field tests, directly related to one thing: hunting!

After corresponding with Ned Spear and Richard Wolters, our first organizational meeting was held with twenty-five

people in attendance. Our main priority was to elect officers—President: Pete Fischer, Secretary: Dave Knoll, and Treasurer: Mike Hanan. These three would be the backbone of the organization. The first duties carried out by the officers included writing bylaws, finding club insurance, setting up a bank account, corresponding and continually looking for new members. Along with holding our monthly meetings, the MHRA also ran training sessions. We felt we had to evaluate and then educate our members and their dogs before we ran any field tests. One problem we didn't think of was money. It cost money to put on a field test. You can't put game farm mallards on your VISA card. The only income the club had was membership dues and that just barely covered our insurance. So, our 1st annual MHRA fundraiser was planned. The fundraiser would be a social event for outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen. After an evening of raffling and auctioning, the MHRA was now financially secure.

While our club was being organized, we stayed in touch with Ned and Richard. They kept us posted on the development of the North American Hunting Retriever Association.

Our first field test was quite an occasion. The participants really enjoyed it. We used the NAHRA running rules and worked the dogs against the standard. We offered three classes: Puppy, Started, and Intermediate. We felt we didn't have enough good dogs for a Senior event. There was an average of fifteen dogs per class, which doesn't seem like many, but we had our hands full!

We have never quit looking for new ideas to promote and refine the organization. Some of the benefits we offer club members are: lower entry fees than nonmembers at our field tests, training sessions for MHRA members, a bi-monthly newsletter, and access to the James River video which the club purchased. The MHRA also has hats, jackets and decals available for members.

Over the past two years we have a total of five field tests. We are constantly looking for better ways to improve the testing events. One of the unique tests we have come up with includes our simu-



Rowdy (Sprucegrove's Ruff 'N' Rowdy CDX WDX) leaves the blind in a started dog test.



Intermediate and senior tests require retrievers to do upland bird work. Rowdy flushes a pigeon nicely within range of the gun in near Abercrombie and Fitch sporting print form. In senior tests, the dog should be steady to wing and shot.

lated snow goose hunt. The birds we use are large domestic white ducks which are seen in farm yards across the country. The test is run through goose decoys, a goose call is used as the attention-getter. We feel any waterfowl dog worth his salt should be able to handle these large birds.

We put a lot of emphasis on upland tests. In the Midwest, our retrievers are used on pheasants as much as they are waterfowl. One particular test that worked exceptionally well was a tracking test set up by judges Dave Noll and Roger Weller. The field that was used was a quarter mile by a quarter mile. The cover was knee-high grass and ringneck pheasants were used. The test simulated a crippled pheasant shot without the dog seeing it go down. After a shot was fired, a pheasant with its flight feathers pulled was released in the grass. The dog was heeled to the spot where the bird had been released and told to hunt it up. Most of the birds were caught within fifty yards, some made it further. After each dog, the judges moved to a new area within the field. The move allowed each dog to have fresh ground and fresh scent for the test. This test illustrates that competent retrievers can be a conservation tool.

The MHRA's membership currently stands at ninety. We have found that a large membership doesn't guarantee a successful organization. To have an efficient club, you must have active members. A newspaper article about the MHRA written by Dennis Anderson for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, brought peo-



In intermediate and senior tests, dogs may be required to retrieve from a boat or canoe. Here Pete Fisher's dog Jet (Pete's Hustlin' Jet Airliner) leaves the boat to retrieve a goose (actually a very large white duck). Fisher is president of the Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association.

ple out of the woodwork from all over Minnesota. We found the type of members the MHRA was lacking. Many of these people had played the traditional trial game. Some were active in the obedience and show ring. All of them had one thing in common, they loved to hunt and wanted a better hunting retriever. We feel having more dog-oriented people involved in the MHRA has strengthened our club. The hunting retriever movement has received much exposure on a national level but very little local publicity. Our club has become involved with organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Waterfowl Association and Pheasants Forever. We feel this is an excellent opportunity to gain recognition

for the MHRA and promote a concerned membership.

We feel the future looks bright for the MHRA and NAHRA. Within the next year, the MHRA would like to hold a NAHRA seminar and run a sanctioned field test. These two events will be the biggest projects the MHRA has undertaken. Everything we have accomplished over the past two years has been a great deal of work. But after seeing the dogs improve with each event, there is no doubt that all the work has been worthwhile. The bottom line is providing people with a retriever club that makes a difference in the quality of their hunting dog. That's the Minnesota Hunting Retriever Association.



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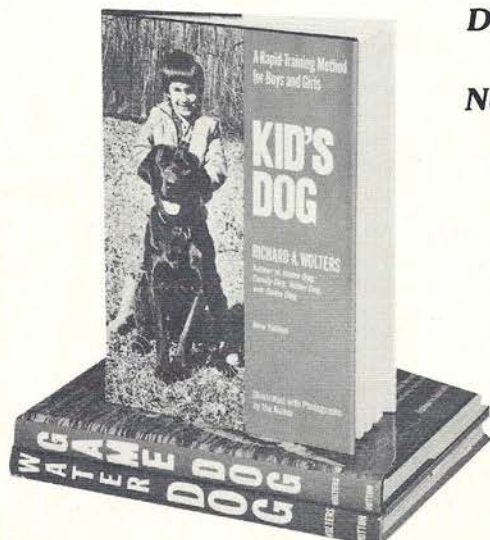
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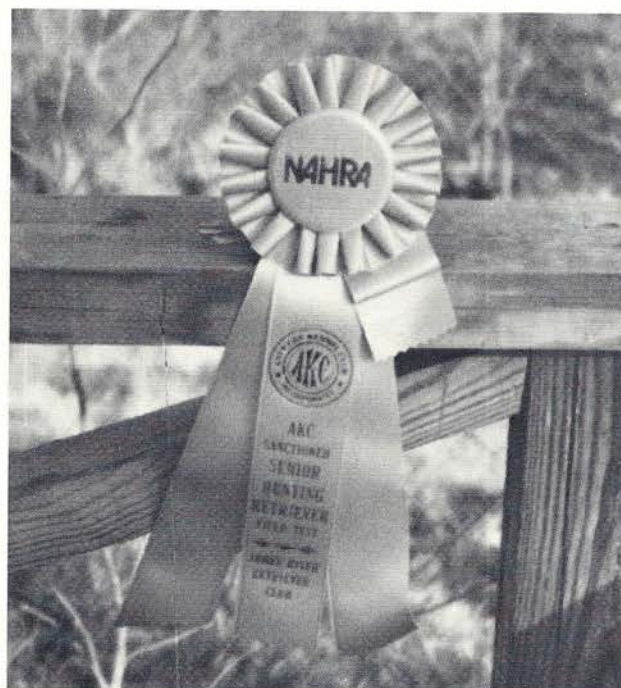
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NAHRA FORUM

by Richard A. Wolters

The Board of Directors of NAHRA has been hard at work producing two very important documents. The first is the licensed running rules for the field tests. The second is a great document covering guidelines for the judges. . . which all handlers should read. These should be in print and in your hands by the first of the year.

Things are happening so fast that the board has been the carrot held in front of the hare. As you see by the ad here in the news the first licensed field test is just around the corner. The James River Retriever Club, of Richmond, Virginia, has scheduled this event for February 22nd, 23rd and 24th. The three-day event will be held at the beautiful Curles Neck Farm and it will be a historic event. Hunting retrievers will run for the first time for points towards their title of Master Hunting Retriever. That will be followed by other clubs running their first license in 1985. So many dogs are expected at James River that they will be ready with batteries of judging teams to make the event flow without long wait periods between tests. The dozens of sanctioned field tests that were run all over the country in 1984 proved to be very valuable to us at NAHRA. It was not only a learning process for clubs but for the NAHRA organization too. We have made some important minor changes in the sanctioned rules. Interestingly, for the first eight or ten years, no one is sure how long it was, the AKC licensed trials ran without any written rules. Here we are in our first year writing, first the sanctioned rules and now the honed licensed rules. . . this was accomplished without one member of our board of directors getting as much as a bloody nose. As I write this that opus is being sent to the printer.

The second document is just as important. Believe me when I say that the Judges' Guidelines was the toughest document I ever worked on. It was produced by our entire board. Each man was asked to write his own document. We took all the documents and took out of each the best. Anyone who reads it will sure come away with a good feeling as to what we of NAHRA are trying to accomplish in the field.

We all agree that judging is going to make or break this whole movement. Some of you have been a little impatient



wanting to know when we are going to have judges clinics. There was no way we could hold them by just winging off the top of our head. We needed something on paper for you. It had to be organized and set down. . . yet we needed the experience of the sanctioned events to be able to do a professional job. It all became a function of which came first. . . the chicken or the egg. Well the job is finished and we have concocted hard boiled chickens. I would like to remind some of you who have been impatient that it took the licensed field trial folks over 30 years to come up with their yellow book, which is their judges guidelines and the obedience people over 40 years before they produced such a document. Ours is ready in less than a year.

Now we are ready to have judges' clinics. The number is not certain. Actually it will depend on how much staffing we of NAHRA can provide. Remember we are all volunteers. We are going to set up certain ground rules. The NAHRA office in Swanton, Vermont, will coordinate this seminar and clinic program. Specific plans will be worked out through Ned Spear and the NAHRA office. People who attend these clinics must be paid-up members of NAHRA. The purpose of these clinics is not to sell NAHRA. That information has been around. These meetings are for people who are committed to this hunting dog movement and need the best thinking our Board of Directors can provide. We have had some experience with such symposiums. The hosting group must assemble the participants and we would hope this would be from a broad area around them. All this costs money. We will suggest that a fee for such a weekend function be set according to the necessary

costs involved. A dinner meeting would certainly seem to be a function to be included, especially for the out-of-town members. A profit should be figured into the seminar fee. The profit should be split: 25% for the club and 75% for the NAHRA. The speaker will be free to the club, but since NAHRA is providing the personnel to run these seminars they should make their share. Remember it takes a lot of money even for volunteers to run a national organization.

My suggestion is to contact other groups and get a judge's clinic started in your area. Remember this is not only for potential judges. This is where the average handler will learn the ins-and-outs of the hunting retriever field test game.

This is a very exciting forum for me to write. We are really making strides. Here we have announced the first licensed field tests. . . the completed running rules that are at the printer. . . and the formation of judges' clinics from coast to coast to serve our more than eighty member clubs.

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Black and one additional color (blue) is available on Cover IV at no additional cost. All other ads are black and white only.

Copy should be camera-ready. NAHRA assumes no responsibility for errors.

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.

NAHRA CLUB LIST

The following list of clubs has already expressed an interest in NAHRA Field Tests. Those marked with an (M) are members of NAHRA.

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, New Brunswick, Canada
(M) Vancouver Island Retriever Club
1348 Mills, Rd, Rt. #2
Sidney, British Columbia V8L 3S1 Canada
(M) Westwind Sporting Dog Club
P.O. Box 6162, Station A
Calgary, Alberta T2H 2L3 Canada

ALASKA

(M) Alaska Retriever Club, Ltd.
P.O. Box 100703
Anchorage, AK 99510
(M) Fairbanks Retriever Club
P.O. Box 60463
Fairbanks, AK 99706

ALABAMA

Hatchchubbee Retriever Club
Route #2, Box 271
Opelika, AL 36801
(M) North Alabama Retriever Club
P.O. Box 855
Huntsville, AL 35804

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
(M) Antelope Valley Sportsman's Club
45408 160th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
California South Coast Retriever Club
3792 Carmel
Irving, CA 92714
Sue Colson
Central Valley Retriever Club
3140 Hillsdale Drive
Visalia, CA 93291
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81 Haven Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(M) Golden Retriever Club of America
1434 Lincoln
Pamona, CA 91767
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(M) Kern Retriever Club
704 S. Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
Mr. Kent J. Ernst
(M) Marin Retriever Club
25 Commercial Blvd.
Novato, CA 94947

(M) Norcal Golden Retriever Club
417-B Mellus St.
Martinez, CA 94553
(M) Redwood Empire Retriever Club
2055 Sutter O Road
McKinleyville, CA 95521
Julie Cairns
(M) Sacramento Valley Retriever Club
Route 1, Box 205
Woodland, CA 95695
Mary Williams
Santa Barbara Retriever Club
322 Piedmont Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Mr. Edward Thompson
Southern California Retriever Club
25272 Yacht Drive
Dana Point, CA 92629
Darlene Corona

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Colorado Springs, CO 80908
Lori Dixon
(M) Pikes Peak Retriever Club
7025 Templeton Gap
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(M) Rocky Mountain Retriever Club
5945 Ward Road
Arvada, CO 80004
(M) The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Denver
11282 W. Swarthmore Place
Littleton, CO 80127

CONNECTICUT

Aspetuck Retriever Club
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Norwalk, CT 06850
Shoreline Retriever Club
76 Moose Hill Road
Oxford, CT 06483
Mrs. Warren Stowe

FLORIDA

(M) 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

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Atlanta, GA 30327
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Atlanta, GA 30340
Pat Parker

Central Savannah River Area Retriever Club

P.O. Box 351
Waynesboro, GA 30830
David Wallace
(M) North Georgia Retriever Club
Route 2, Haygood Road
Canton, GA 30114

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
(M) Golden Retriever Club of Illinois, Inc.
1121-Goodview
McHenry, IL 60050
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

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Garden Plain, KS 67052
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(M) Topeka Retriever Club
Route 2, Box 85
Washington, KS 66968
Karl K. Karrow
Topeka Retriever Club
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Valley Falls, KS 66088
Mary Steckline

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Frankfort, KY 40601
Jenny Carroll
Lincoln Trail Amateur Retriever Club
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Henderson, KY 42420
John Jenkins

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West Lake, LA 70669
Clude Watson

North Louisiana Retriever Club

Comm. Nat. Bank Bldg.
Shreveport, LA 71101

Oachita Retriever Club

211 Newberry
Monroe, LA 71203
Kim Marie Tolson

(M) South Louisiana Retriever Club

408 E. Plater
Thibodaux, LA 70301
Susan Fraser

MASSACHUSETTS

(M) Colonial Retriever Field Trial Club

14 St. Charles St.
Boston, MA 02116
Ellen Christie

(M) Yankee Golden Retriever Club

66 Cross Street
Ashland, MA 01712
Robin Fay

Yankee Golden Retriever Club

425 South Main St.
Andover, MA 01810
Ms. Susan Foster

MARYLAND

(M) Maryland Retriever Club

4525 Piney Grove Road
Reisterstown, MD 21136

(M) National Capitol Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club

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Highland, MD 20777

mac Valley Golden Retriever Club

14 Lynn Crest Road
Monrovia, MD 21770
Roger B. Armstrong
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

(M) Alpena Retriever Association

221 Hamilton
Alpena, MI 49707

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.

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Pontiac, MI 48054

(M) Fort Detroit Golden Retriever Club

11626 Diehl
Sterling Heights, MI 48078

(M) Huron River Labrador Retriever Club

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For additional information contact Marty Kohler, **Kohler Awning, Inc.**, 1767 Kenmore Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14217.

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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.

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A Look at NAHRA

by James B. Spencer

Jim Spencer is no newcomer to retrievers. For many years he has been training goldens for field trials and hunting. Jim has written for *Retriever International*, *Gun Dog* magazine and is the field trial editor for the *Golden Retriever News*. His book, **RETRIEVER TRAINING TESTS** is a new concept and an excellent working manual to teach the beginner or the experienced handler how to set up training tests in the field. It is done with diagrams and is easy to comprehend. Jim is a good thinker and writer and was one of the first to see the full potential of NAHRA.

NAHRA: WORLD'S GREATEST CLUB BUILDER

To train a retriever, you have to be a real friendly sort.

Not so with pointing dogs. An individual with only one friend in the world can train a pointer, setter, or any of the continental pointing breeds quite nicely. They actually need that one friend rarely. When it comes time to break the dog (steady to wing, shot, and kill), that solitary sympatico can do the shooting; when it is time to teach the dog to honor, the buddy's dog has to do the bird finding. Except for those times, a hermit could train a pointing dog. Nor does it take many people to put on a pointing breed field trial. A marshal, a bird planter, a couple of guns, and a pair of judges can handle the typical single course trial.

But to train a retriever—wow! Just to run a triple mark and blind with an honor—a not unusual test—requires a marshal, two judges, three bird throwers, two poppers, two live guns, a blind planter, and someone to handle the honoring dog. Twelve people, in all. Granted, in training you will usually do without the marshal and the judges, but that still leaves nine assistants, one with a dog. To run a field trial or NAHRA Test means running two or three field tests at once. You can see that we are talking about a pretty big crowd of people. That is why I say that retriever trainers have to be friendly folks.

The retriever field trial clubs that have appeared all over the country in the past forty years have been brought into being

primarily to staff the annual or semi-annual licensed trial. It takes an army of dedicated, self-sacrificing bird throwers, poppers, live guns, blind planters, marshals, and general purpose go-fers to keep the licensed trial moving for the three days (Friday through Sunday) normally allowed for its completion. Ideally, the host club has such troops.

However, many clubs have found that they just cannot maintain a large enough membership to run a licensed trial the way it should be run.

The reason for this is obvious: Only a very few people in any community can afford the time and money required for serious field trialing. Look at the time factor first. To trial seriously requires running twenty to thirty trials a year—you just cannot keep your dogs sharp with anything less. Field trials run from Friday through Sunday, three days. Allow another day on either end for travel, and you are talking about five days per trial. How many folks in this country today can take off for five-day weekends twenty or thirty times a year? When you consider the costs involved—entry fees, travel, lodgings, meals, training expenses, and so forth—retriever field trialing is seen to be a "country club" activity, beyond the means of most Americans.

Now, along comes NAHRA with its wonderful program for middle class America, culminating in the non-competitive, no-nonsense Master Hunting Retriever title. This title, while it is certainly not an easy one to win, should take the average hunter and his good retriever fewer trials than the annual average of those who participate seriously in licensed trials. The MHR has been designed for middle class people; it fits their pocketbooks; it fits their time limitations, and it fits their need for a good hunting retriever breeding program.

One obvious fact about the middle class—at least in this country—is that there are lots of us everywhere. Therein is the solution to all the problems of the typical retriever field trial club: People—people to plant the blinds, people to toss the birds, people to shoot the birds, people to marshall the stakes, people to handle the paperwork, in short, people to do all the things the club needs done. And all the club has to do to get these people is embrace the NAHRA program, not to the exclusion of the licensed field

trial, but in addition to it.

An example of what NAHRA can do for a retriever club is what it has done for the Jayhawk Retriever Club here in Kansas.

One year ago the club was down to four or five members. Help had to be hired for the annual licensed trial every year for the past several years. The club lease had been given up, for lack of use, a few years ago. There were no club activities other than the annual license trial—and that was only continued because a couple of the members were too stubborn to give it up. There hadn't been a general membership meeting for years—because there weren't any "general" members; all four or five members were on the board of directors. In short, other than for the licensed trial, the club was dead.

Today, as a result of embracing the NAHRA program, Jayhawk has 35 members, has leased grounds suitable for training and trialing, has initiated an ambitious program of training classes, has had several very successful club social activities, and is planning for judges' clinics and pro clinics this winter. Jayhawk has already conducted their two Plan A Sanctioned NAHRA Tests (plus one NAHRA fun trial) and will hold their first licensed Trial next June.

Jayhawk's Spring traditional licensed trial was held during a three-day down-pour—miserable weather. However, those new NAHRA members pitched in through it all and got the club through the trial without hired help, which hasn't happened before in recent years.

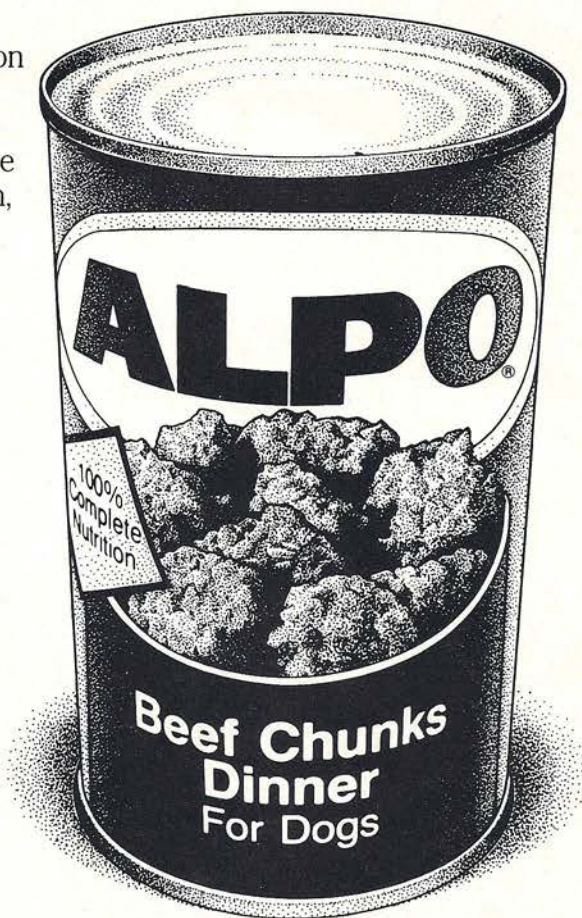
AND...the licensed trialers in the club have worked even harder during the NAHRA Tests. We are truly one club, not a licensed trial club with a NAHRA sub-group. One club, and everyone is working hard to see that every member is getting what he wants from his membership.

If this all sounds a little Pollyanna-ish, remember that it takes a friendly sort to train a retriever. He needs a lot of help, and the only way he can get it is to help a lot of other people. Before NAHRA, this was not really possible within the typical retriever club. Now it is.

Autographed copies of Jim Spencer's book, *Retriever Training Tests* can be obtained by writing to James B. Spencer, Dept N. 923 Vallyview Lane, Wichita, KS 67212. Enclose \$16.95 to include shipping.

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