



**Willson Farm
Clear Lake, WI
June 9-11, 2016**



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INVITATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dan Hove, Chairperson

Paul Agranoff, Test Secretary

Larry Willson, Grounds Host

John Giudice, Field Captain

John Haugland, Head Marshall

Patsy Hove, Hospitality

Ray Esboldt, Hospitality

Chris Lambert, Marketing

Troy Callanan, Treasurer



A Note of Appreciation

The 2016 Invitational Committee wants to thank all those not mentioned here who dedicated their time and energy to make this event a success. This was truly a team effort and could not have been accomplished without the tireless dedication of so many NAHRA members.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome and congratulations to all of you whose dogs have not only qualified for the NAHRA Invitational, but especially to those attending this event. Thank you for taking the time to prepare, travel, and run your dog(s) while spending time with fellow NAHRA members. I appreciate watching you showcase some of NAHRA's best dogs that have achieved a level of title awarded to less than 1% of all hunting dogs! The prestigious titles of MHR, GMHR, and GMRHCH have already been earned through your hard work, dedication and partnering with good dog genetics resulting in being named. I urge you to be proud of these accomplishments with your dog regardless of your qualification or not at this test.

It is my pleasure to present the Larry and Fern Willson farm property for your use and enjoyment. The property has been in development as a hunting and nature for several years. This farm is hunted many, many times throughout the year and offers mallards, teal, wood ducks, Canada geese, widgeon, turkey, pheasant, whitetail deer, black bears, coyotes, fox, and Bald eagles, Trumpeter swans, Sandhill cranes, and badgers, gophers, and squirrels for observation. Several species of songbirds also call it home while the Willson's continually improve the farm as a home for all of the animals. While participating in this year's Invitational, it is their hope and mine to share just a slice of this beautiful place with you. As a "hunting property", I eagerly look forward to what our judges will see and develop for our tests. The grounds present as realistic settings as possible, especially since they actually are here for the primary purpose of hunting and training dogs. I'm confident the scenarios our dogs run will encourage them to believe they are sharing a hunt with the Willsons.

In an effort to improving our future through growth, there will be television coverage of this event by Northland Outdoors. This exposure should attract many viewers and provide opportunity for new members by watching you and your dogs at this event. If approached, please cooperate and show the pride you have in your dog. I'd also like to thank this year's Platinum Sponsor, Kinetic Performance Dog Food. Their ongoing partnership continues to enhance our mutual growth. Kinetic will also be entering the television world soon- look for it on the Pursuit channel while they also help NAHRA have a presence with many viewers. A personal thank you goes out to each and every one of our sponsors, advertisers and donors. A quality Invitational has no chance of happening without all of your help! Please remember our friends and do your best to return the favor and give them your business when possible.

Most of all, I encourage you to enjoy the tests and each other. I've had the unique experience through cancer to realize what is truly important in my life and this definitely qualifies. NAHRA affords the opportunity to participate in a clean fun activity we can share with our family and friends. Larry Willson, the 2016 Invitational Committee, and the Four Points Retriever Club members have done their best to welcome you and want to share the tests and comradery together as much as possible. We have some fun activities planned following conclusion of each day's series along with an evening meal. I look forward to sharing and reminiscing in the fun we are having and have had at our Awards Presentation.

Thanks for coming and remembers "Straight lines are best!"

Dan Hove, NAHRA President
2016 Invitational Chair



EVENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 8

9:00 am	Handler Orientation Meeting	Lucky's Banquet Hall, Clear Lake
10:30 am	Bitch Checks	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake
11:00 am	Training	Area Grounds
5:30 pm	Social Hour	The Orchard Event Center, Baldwin
6:30 pm	Banquet	The Orchard Event Center, Baldwin

Thursday, June 9

8:00 am	Late Check-in & Bitch Check	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake
9:00 am	Land Series	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake
6:00 pm	Pizza Party	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake

Friday, June 10

9:00 am	Upland and Trail Series	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake
6:00 pm	Worker Appreciation Cookout	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake

Saturday, June 11

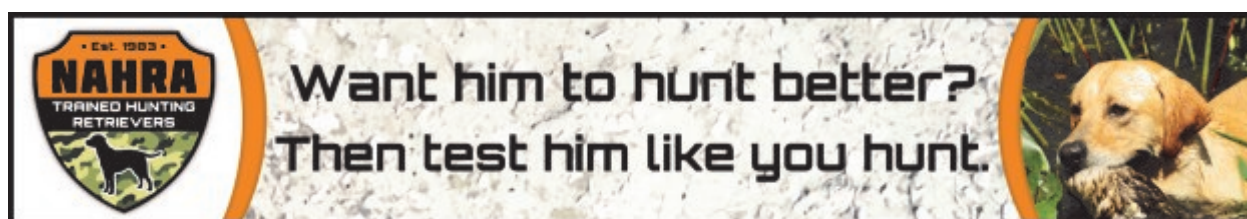
9:00 am	Water Series	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake
6:00 pm	Awards Ceremony & Dinner	Test Grounds, Willson Farm, Clear Lake

Sunday, June 12

Alternate Test Day

The Grounds

Larry & Fern Willson Farm Property
2366 Hwy. 63, Clear Lake, WI



INVITATIONAL JUDGES

Bob Boeh, Sandpoint, ID Spokane Bird Dog Association, West Region

I have been running NAHRA events since the late 1980's. I initially got involved to get help/advice with training my first hunting lab. Now 5 individual dogs have qualified at various levels including 3 MHR's, one of which (Holly) became a GMHRCH.

The two Invitationals I have participated in are etched in my memory forever. It is a great honor, privilege and dream come true for me to be selected to be one of the judges for the 2016 Invitational. Watching the teamwork between dog and handler at the elite level of the NAHRA program will be a treasured once in a lifetime experience for me.



My fellow judges and I will also use teamwork to set up a series of tests that will be challenging, within the rules /spirit of the program and memorable for all. I look forward to sharing this memorable experience with you.

TEST LIKE YOU HUNT

INVITATIONAL JUDGES

Travis Lund, Duelm, MN Four Points Retriever Club, Central Region

Greetings from central Minnesota and congratulations to you and your canine companion on earning your ticket to the 2016 NAHRA Invitational! The NAHRA Invitational is always a very special event and the committee for this year's event to be held in Wisconsin will assuredly provide another outstanding pinnacle event for NAHRA. I offer my sincere thank you to the committee for inviting Roy, Bob and I to take the best seats in the field as we get the absolute honor of judging this test. Having participated in numerous events on this spectacular property, owned by Larry and Fern Willson, I can personally assure you that you will thoroughly enjoy your time in Wisconsin and I look very forward to our time afield together and the opportunity to "hunt" with all of you and your talented dogs.



My wife, Stacy, daughter, Paige, and sons, Bryce and Drew, are proudly owned by our five current Labradors which include GMHR Atlas MH, MHR-I Cane SH, SR Rayna, SR Kat and our newest addition, King. We live on 17 acres in central Minnesota in what many would consider a retriever mecca. From the end of April through the middle of September, there are dog events nearly every weekend and our family is found at many of them. To say that dogs are part of our life would be a major understatement. I could've never imagined the path I was headed down that day in 1996 when I bought my first "papered" retriever pup.

It's hard to believe that I ran in my first NAHRA test nearly 20 years ago now. Having never read a NAHRA rule book, nor even attended a NAHRA test, I took the plunge and entered my dog. The judges that day hooked me with their enthusiasm and the realism of the hunting flavored testing ignited a fire that burns deep in me today. I'm a founding member of the Four Points Retriever and have served 3 terms as club president. In that time, I'd like to think that I hopefully have been able to light a fire in others like those judges did in my first NAHRA experience. I truly believe that NAHRA offers the most complete testing venue for our hunting dogs and although I have run other venues, NAHRA is without question, the one I love and enjoy the most.

Congrats again to those that have earned their ticket to the event and best of luck to those that are working on earning theirs. I'm confident that Roy, Bob and I are going to do our best to provide you all fair, challenging, realistic and fun tests and we look forward to seeing you in Wisconsin!

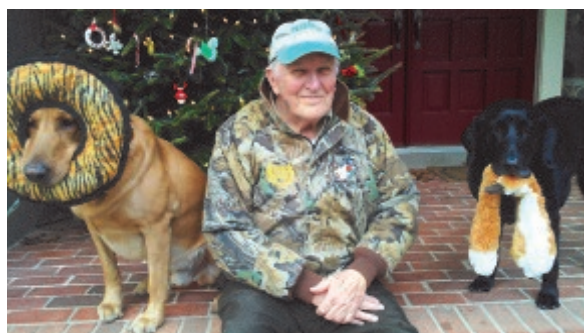
INVITATIONAL JUDGES

Roy Sheppard, Kilmarnock, VA Eastern Shore Retriever Club, East Region

Years ago we bought a black lab we named Smokey. He was big and beautiful but untrained and we didn't have a clue about training. When I took him hunting with our teenage sons if we were fortunate enough to shoot a pheasant we had to race Smokey to the bird. We usually lost the race. Smokey lived to be 16 and after he passed, we went several years without a dog.

We always wanted another and when I read an article in Connoisseur Magazine by Richard Wolters who advocated putting the hunting instincts back into Labradors we were hooked.

After some time, I found a breeder in southern Jersey who claimed to have "hunting Labs". He agreed to sell me one if I agreed to "do something" with her. Velvet was a Zip Code dog.



The breeder introduced us to Bill Thompson, a dog trainer from South Jersey. That "something" involved weekly four hour round trips to Bill's training grounds for Diane and Velvet. They learned together. We soon realized that to be successful in Field trials one had to go to a professional trainer or spend virtually full-time training and maybe both. We couldn't do either. We still went to Bill for advice and counsel and still do.

We soon met people from Navasink and discovered the NAHRA program. We also met people who were forming a new NAHRA club (Hudson Highlands Hunting Retriever Association) and had the good fortune to meet Richard Wolters who was also a founding member of HHHRA. Diane and I grew to a four-dog family and trained most weekends with one club or another. We never imagined that we could ever get to the senior level. We did though and Diane and I each had a 1000 point dog, and we learned to listen to our furry friends. Diane, two of our children, Kim and Mark, and our son-in-law Joe are all NAHRA judges. Joe and Diane have both judged at Invitationals.

Our family has run NAHRA tests and Invitationals all over the country from Virginia to Texas to California and Canada. We love going to Invitationals, re-greeting old NAHRA friends, and seeing marvelous dog work. In 2005 our family went to Alberta for the Invitational with 4 dogs and they all qualified. That made for a happy ride home. I'm honored to be invited to judge this year's Invitational. My advice to handlers is to reread our rulebook several times before the test, trust your dog, and most importantly, have a good time.

I wish you all Good Luck and a happy ride home. Let's go hunting!

INVITATIONAL DOGS

1. Call Name: Rookie

Registered Name: MHR Points South Red Rock Rookie

DOB: 4/12/2007

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Wendy Foster

Sire: 4XGMPR HRCH BLACK FOREST'S BEAR GRITS MH

Dam: 1.5XGMPR HR SCHWAR POINTS TURNIN TRIX JH

Handler: Troy Callanan

Owner: Troy Callanan

Additional Owner:

Address: 13981 Exley Way, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Phone: 651-398-7868



Rookie is the happiest dog I've ever known - he's never had a bad day in his life, and his constantly wagging tail is enough to knock you over. Rookie's great nose and incredible bird drive have made him into a fantastic upland hunter. Those same traits combined with his sometime "self-employed" attitude can also get him into trouble when playing the doggie games. His best friends are my 9 year old son and anyone willing to take him hunting or training. Rookie is looking forward to running in his first Invitational on the grounds where he ran his first NAHRA Started test as a puppy.

2. Call Name: Mist

Registered Name: Valhalla's Valkyrie Bay Mist

DOB: 04/13/2005

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Black

Breeder: Dan Storts & Dana Storts

Sire: FC AFC Carolinas Smoke on the Water

Dam: GMHR Hang on Sloopy II

Handler: James Hundemer

Owner: James Hundemer

Additional Owner:

Address: 9295 Mitchell Rd La Plata, Maryland 20646

Phone: 301-848-3235



Mist came into my life just over eleven years ago as a forty-five day old black ball of fur and intensity. She has grown to become an excellent retriever and companion, and her intensity has not waned with the passage of time. She is preeminent in the pheasant fields of North Dakota where speed and accuracy are required to ensure the recovery of downed birds, while on Maryland's Eastern Shore she has wowed our hunting companions by making marked retrieves on geese exceeding 350 yards. Running Mist in field tests is like the excitement of driving a Ferrari, you never have to be concerned about enough power but you are always on the razor's edge of control. Mist has become a "team player" in this latter stage of her life and is pure joy to hunt and handle. I am certain there will never be another dog like her in my life.

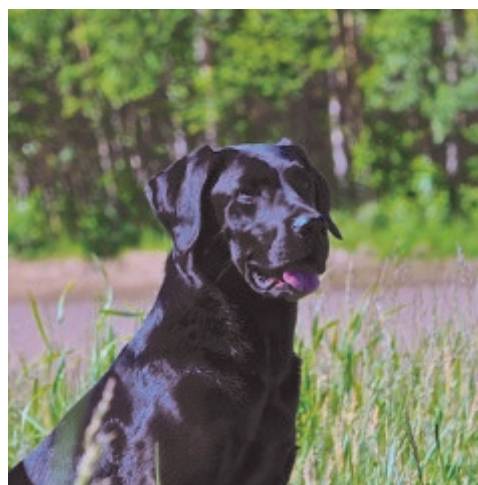
INVITATIONAL DOGS

3. Call Name: Pepper
Registered Name: MHR Stony Brook Black Pepper
DOB: 4/17/2011
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: Travis J Lund
Sire: Stony Brook High Octane Cane
Dam: TTF Kodiak's Tikka of Garendon
Handler: Ray Esboldt
Owner: Ray Esboldt
Address: 15440 Irish Ave. N, Hugo, MN 55038
Phone: 651-206-6184



In February of 2012, a work associate and Four Points member pointed me at another Four Points member who just happened to have a 9 month started dog named Pepper. It was pretty easy to tell that Pepper was a good fit for our household and our hunting passion. The by-product of this was those two Four Point members encouraged me to join the Four Points training group. I participated in my first NAHRA test in 2013 and have since titled Pepper all the way through Senior.

4. Call Name: Gee
Registered Name: GMHR-III Dakota Creek's Royal Navigator MH
DOB: 12/18/2007
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: Lisa Hartman
Sire: Waterdog's Sure Shot Turbojet MH
Dam: HRCH Scoop's Little Scout
Handler: Sue Snow
Owner: Sue Snow
Address: 5561 Erin 2nd Line, Acton, ON, CA L7J 2L9
Phone: 519-855-6366



When we started into the NAHRA program many years ago, we were amazed in watching the Senior dogs and the level of training needed to successfully run at that level. We realized we were hooked and our "bucket list" now had a new objective To have a dog capable of running in NAHRA's Invitational event! In 2007, Gee joined our family and became the dog that made that dream come true.

Quiet and intense on the line, Gee has proven herself to be a very driven competitor in NAHRA field tests as well as successfully running AKC & CKC hunt tests and field trials. Her pups have followed in her footsteps and are currently running NAHRA Senior, CKC / AKC Master tests and CKC field trials in Open, Amateur, Qualified and Derby.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

The NAHRA program developed Gee into an all-around retriever who is as comfortable hunting waterfowl in Ontario as she is upland hunting in South Dakota. She has taken us on many adventures from Alabama to Alaska and many places in between allowing us to make new friends and catch up with many old friends along the way!

5. Call Name: Bear

Registered Name: GMHR HRCH Brezee Oak's Brother Bear MH

DOB: 4/8/2010

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder:

Sire: GMPR Spiocop Christos Magic Baker SH

Dam: CPR Double Shot and a Miss Hailey JH

Handler: Jeff Brezee

Owner: Jeff Brezee

Additional Owner:

Address: 1218 70th Ave SW, Byron, MN 55920

Phone:



For my entire life Labradors have played an important role. As a child, my father was a field trailer (making me a bird boy!), as a teenager I started training and testing. That all took a back seat once I started college, got married and started raising a family, although I've never been without a lab! Once my children became more independent and my coaching career halted, it freed up some time to get back in the game! Enter Brother Bear! Bear is 6 years old now, when he was a puppy I became involve with a club (Southern MN Hunting Retriever Association) of which I am now the President. Running around the countryside and meeting new friends with Bear as my wingman has been an absolute blast! His passion and desire match mine and that can be hard to harness sometimes! An emotional event occurred recently when Bear earned his Grand title in NAHRA! I held out entering him in this Invitational because I wanted him to have that "G" included. In Southern Iowa he came through with an incredible water series during an absolute downpour of rain! I couldn't have been a prouder handler as the rain hid my tears!

I'm looking forward to running the Invitational and meeting new people this week! Good luck to all!

6. Call Name: Target

Registered Name: GMHR II Fowl Weather's Dead On Center

DOB: 5/10/2011

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Don Morgan

Sire: GMHRCH-II MFR Fowl Weather's Cornfield Commando

Dam: MHR Hi Hopes Autumn Surprise

Handler: Frank Plewa

Owner: Frank Plewa

Additional Owner: Valerie Plewa

Address: 1479 Hanover Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Phone: 717-334-7135



INVITATIONAL DOGS

The ultimate hunter, ever searching for something to pursue whether it has feather or fur. I have not been around many dogs with the zeal for hunting like this guy. He is as intense as they come regardless of the pursuit that day totally exhausting himself by days end. While Canada Geese seem to be his favorite, he won't pass up a chukar if the opportunity presents itself. We call him "Bubba" sometimes as he is that big baby boy that seems to destroy everything in his road. Many other handlers have often remarked they would like to run after him for a clear path to the bird.

Even at home he searches the woodpiles and anything else he can stick his head into as long as he has breath. While I won't say that training is fun for him, he never misses the bus! His 90 pound frame powers him to make any retrieve and make it look easy.

He has also been a steady performer for me at our NAHRA events. While we are not pushing him as hard to get to a 1000, he will eventually get there in time. While all of that extra energy and enthusiasm sometimes make him a bit of a hair trigger, he has been a reliable test dog in our program. Good luck to all!

7. Call Name: Hux

Registered Name: MHR HRCH Great Plains Earl of Huxley MH

DOB: 11/29/2007

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: GREAT PLAINS LABRADORS

Sire: GMPR SPIONCOP CHRISTOS MAGIC BAKER SH

Dam: WR HR SR SHR GREAT PLAINS ARMED & DANGEROUS

Handler: William Jahn

Owner: William Jahn

Additional Owner:

Address: 506 Gruenther Street, Papillion, NE 68046

Phone: 402-686-0917

Circa 2008, Hux resulted from the first of many joint ventures between the nationally famous Holzinger Kennels and the Midwest Region's notorious Trapper Jahn of Great Plains Labradors & JTF-Phez Hunting Club. Beyond his titles & mixed British / American stunning confirmation, his resume is packed with numerous adventures and distinctions afield including three time JTF-Phez Dog of the Year.

His exploits with Tim Ziola's Platte River Goose Crushers coined the phrase "release the linebacker" stemming from his tackling Large Canadians "doing the Karate Kid" and in one instance, taking down a Turkey Vulture who was feasting on a duck that all in the blind thought was long gone. This was in conjunction with a 200 yard blind retrieve through pine trees. Hux is a joy to own and hunt; he never fails to entertain a hunt test gallery. Currently on the short list for "The World's Most Interesting Dog".



INVITATIONAL DOGS

8. Call Name: Barbie
Registered Name: MHR Wyngmaster Playmate Barbie
DOB: 3/17/2013
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: Susan Christiansen
Sire: Walker's Hurricane Alley
Dam: Wyngmaster K-9 Super Sue
Handler: Neil "Bingo" Norman
Owner: Neil "Bingo" Norman
Additional Owner:
Address: 620 2nd St, Kellogg, ID 83837
Phone:



We are the "Wyngmaster B team". Barbie's breeder was Sue Christinson at Wyngmaster Labradors of Tulsa OK. Barbie like me has been a resident of North Idaho most of her life. We mostly hunt water fowl, but if it flies and is legal we are willing to try it.

We live in Kellogg Idaho and since my retirement from Dentistry, Barbie has kind of become my "retirement project" and is my fishing, hunting, camping, ATV riding, buddy. After a few years of family involvement in NAHRA 25 years ago we are finally back and running with the Spokane Bird Dog Association club in Washington.

This is my first dog to get past the intermediate level. My wife Jean and I are very proud and excited to be bringing Playmate Barbie to the 2016 invitational.

Thanks to the whole NAHRA family for all of the great times and fun.

9. Call Name: Halo
Registered Name: MHR HR Strege's High Flying Halo SH
DOB: 8/19/2006
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Chocolate
Breeder: Lowell Mollenhauer
Sire: FC Nan Dool Elwood Blues
Dam: Crossroads Creme De' Cocoa
Handler: Terry Strege
Owner: Terry Strege
Additional Owner:
Address: 804 Myrtle Street, Buffalo, MN 55313
Phone: 763-682-5624



HALO is my second chocolate Labrador Retriever. HALO broke away from the rest of the litter to follow my wife to the truck. She was fearless and in a way chose us. HALO is named in honor of the US Army Rangers High Altitude Low Opening jumpers. She had big paws to fill. Her half sister was MHR-I Strege's Strutting Blue Angel. HALO came at a time in my bird hunting career I needed a work horse.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

As a conservation tool HALO has made well over 1,000 retrieves on snow geese in Saskatchewan. HALO is all business and lives to retrieve. HALO believes in going fast or not at all. The idea of "drive it like you stole it" sums it up. HALO's perseverance is everything a hunter could ask for. I knew she was something special when she hunted North Dakota to the point of hypothermia and I carried her to the truck. We look forward to participating and putting on a show at the 2016 NAHRA Invitational. Sit down, buckle up, and hold on, were going for a ride!

10. Call Name: Lucy
Registered Name: MHR TNT's Gold Rush Lucille QAA MH
DOB: 4/18/2010
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Yellow
Breeder: Troy and Niki Tilleraas
Sire: FC AFC Close Hauled to Windward
Dam: MHR TNT Vermillion Struk it Rich MH
Handler: Mike Matson
Owner: Mike Matson
Additional Owner:
Address: 473 Lake Dr, Winsted, MN 55395
Phone: 320-485-2405



My name is Mike Matson and this is Lucy and I's first NAHRA invitational. My wife, Jill and I, live in Winsted, MN with our 3 year-old twins Jacob and Chloe. I got my first hunting lab 10 years ago and have been active in training my dogs for the past 7 years. My second lab Lucy has been great to have as a member of the family, train, run in hunt tests/field trials and hunt with in the fall. Our fall hunts include waterfowl and pheasants from Minnesota to North and South Dakota. I have always enjoyed NAHRA and am looking forward to meeting all the NAHRA folks from other parts of the country. Participating and passing a NAHRA invitational has always been a goal for Lucy and me. We are looking forward to the challenge!

11. Call Name: Teddy
Registered Name: GMHR II Colonel Roosevelt's Rough Rider
DOB: 08/06/2010
Sex: M
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: Tim Galeazzi
Sire: Texas Pointing Labs Nitro High Caliber
Dam: Stillwater's Maggie Red Rock
Handler: Tony Carlo
Owner: Tony Carlo
Additional Owner:
Address: 2381 Noble Rd Clyde, New York 14433
Phone: 315-256-5809



Teddy has become one of my best buddies. He knows just how to fit in with whatever I have going on. He can be perfectly content snuggling in bed or "motivating" me to get up and at 'em. Thanks for everything Ted!

INVITATIONAL DOGS

12. Call Name: Blade

Registered Name:

GMHR II HRCH O's Delta Marsh Blade Runner MH

DOB: 11/20/2009

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Dan Hove

Sire: GMHR HRCH Delta Marsh Firestorm Chase SH

Dam: GMHRCH Holzinger Chai Latte MH

Handler: Dick Ofstedal

Owner: Dick Ofstedal

Additional Owner: Kathy Ofstedal

Address: 1148 E 161st, South Haven, MN 55382

Phone: 320-241-0559



This Delta Marsh dog did not get to run last year since his handlers had tax payments to make instead of making the Invitational trip. Needless to say that did not go over too well in the Ofstedal household or kennels. Blade is hoping to return to the form that helped him earn the coveted NAHRA Invitational ribbon twice before. Since the Alaskan Invitational adventure, Blade has spent two wonderful falls helping Dick guide at the Lindskov Family Firesteel Creek Lodge near Isabel, South Dakota. Chasing birds for about 40 days a year is an ideal fit for this fun dog. As we NAHRA handlers know, the skills our dogs develop through our favorite venue produces the WOW dog that hunters love to watch. Blade did not disappoint the hunters.

We look forward to enjoying the Invitational week with our wonderful NAHRA two and four legged friends. The pic is of Blade waiting for ducks on a Battle Lake, MN slough.

13. Call Name: Smoke

Registered Name:

GMHRCH IV Silverbrooks Smoke on the Water SH

DOB: 04/15/2006

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Trish Jagoda

Sire:

GMHRCH HRCH UH Silverbrooks Amazing Sparkle Boy MH

Dam: Silverbrooks High Hopes

Handler: David Mellender

Owner: David Mellender

Additional Owner: Ann Mellender

Address: 14492 Sentry Rd, Nokesville, VA 20181

Phone: 571-393-8677



Smoke's excitement for the game has not faded, his tail wags constantly, whether we are doing bumpers in the yard, training, hunting adventures or for the grandkids rubbing his ears; with all this excitement we never know when the next "break" is going to happen.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

Our biggest accomplishment this besides passing our 5th Invitational was running in and placing first in the Maryland Gundog Championship, we competed against 16 other dogs, with 3 "NAHRA" placing in the top 5.

We have met so many wonderful people and dogs along the way, some that have become dear friends thru the NAHRA family. The hunt tests and Invitational give us time to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones. We are excited to continue this journey with our NAHRA family.

14. Call Name: Ti

Registered Name: MHR Tiberius of Prairie Rose SH

DOB: 8/4/2009

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Black

Breeder: Scott E. Vance

Sire: Proud Timothy of Roeglen

Dam: Humbershot Charm

Handler: Paul Agranoff

Owner: Paul Agranoff

Address: 28797 Navajo St NW, Isanti, MN 55040

Phone: 763-444-4769



In the fall of 2009 I told my wife... I think it's time to get our retirement dog. I will have time to do the training with this dog I never had time for when I was working full time. Ti came home with us in October of 2009 to begin this journey.

I started throwing birds in a training group during the summer of 2010, and began learning the skills of training working retrievers. A year later, in August of 2011, I decided to try a NAHRA Started Hunt Test. We ran two days, and failed both days in the land series never making it to water. I was ready to give up, but one of the judges, Travis Lund, sat me down and we had a talk. He saw the potential, and encouraged me to stay with it.

In the spring of 2012 I started training in a group including Travis, and things started to get better... much better. We ran a Started test and passed! Then we worked through Intermediate to a WR title. Next, we moved up to Senior and completed Ti's MHR. In 2015, Ti was the NAHRA High Point Senior Dog in the Central Region.

Ti is our "retirement dog". We train and travel to hunt tests together all summer. In the fall we travel to Saskatchewan, make several trips to South Dakota, and spend many fall mornings locally in the blind hunting waterfowl as well as walking local fields for pheasants.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

15. Call Name: Ruby

Registered Name: Dakota Creek's Royal Gem

DOB: 02/01/2013

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Black

Breeder: Chris & Sue Snow

Sire: NAFTCH AFTCH Mjolnir Bluebill of Allanport

Dam: GMHR-III Dakota Creek's Royal Navigator MH

Handler: Sue Snow

Owner: Sue Snow

Additional Owner:

Address: 5561 Erin 2nd Line, Acton, ON, CA L7J 2L9

Phone: 519-855-6366



With our success in running tests, trials and hunting with then MHR-I Dakota Creek's Royal Navigator, Gee was bred to Blue, the winner of the 2011 Canadian National Amateur Field Trial. With that breeding we found our "pick of the litter" ... as the female with the red collar remained at the center of our attention and "Ruby" was chosen as our next NAHRA candidate!

Ruby definitely follows in her Mother's footsteps, a team player whether she is running marks or blinds. Very intense on the line, you better be ready when the judge calls "dog" as she only knows one speed and that is FAST!

We are looking forward to heading west to the 2016 Invitational!

16. Call Name: Brewer

Registered Name: GMHR I HRCH UH Cedarwood's Brewmaster MH

DOB: 04/16/2007

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Black

Breeder: Nancy R. Brandow

Sire: CH Ransom Armbrook's Hole in One CD MH

Dam: Cedarwood's Timberline CDX RN SH

Handler: Kim Smith

Owner: Kim Smith

Additional Owner:

Address: 7 Upland Drive, No. Chittenden, Vermont 05763

Phone: 802-483-6158



Recently turning 9 years of age, one wonders what Brewer has left in his tank ahead, which is a very compelling reason to be in Wisconsin for his 3rd Invitational. Aside from his enthusiasm for the real thing each fall, there's not much more he'd rather be doing than running in a Field Test. Brewer has become our "once in lifetime" hunter, competitor, devoted companion and bed hog with a personality only us Lab owners can appreciate. Attending another Invitational is something we're excited about and look forward to another memorable and hopefully successful journey. Best of luck to all of this year's competitors.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

17. Call Name: Max
Registered Name:
GMHR HRCH UH Maxwell Edison of Liverpool MH
DOB: 06/05/07
Sex: M
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: Peter & Melissa Biolchini
Sire: Buxbury Barnaby
Dam: Princess Callie of Smokin Barrels
Handler: Karen Loh
Owner: Karen Loh
Additional Owner: Javier Perez
Address: 166 Duane St 4A, NY, NY 10013
Phone: 646-234-6688



Max was 4 when we started doing our Southern quail hunting road trips to escape the cold Northern winters. We hunt on preserves, at first just in the East but now ranging as far west as Texas, hunting 3-4 times a week mostly at small, often family owned, farms where the people take great pride in their property. We call to make arrangements: self-guided, only one gun, our own dog, the wife will handle. Some places still require that we go with a guide.

One of our earliest experiences was in SC. The owner greeted us and asked us if we had brought our gun dog. We opened the door to the SUV and showed him Maxie stretched out in the backseat. "I want you to have a good hunt", he said, "so I'll have my guide put out 1/2 the birds and he'll use his gun dog if it doesn't work out". "No problem", we replied. Sometimes less is better, we thought. Didn't know that Labs weren't considered gun dogs in the South and that they didn't hunt quail!

It didn't take long for Max to flush his first bird. He sat, Javier shot, Karen called "Max", Max retrieved, heeled, sat, and Karen took the bird. Javier looked at the guide and asked if he thought Max would work out. "Yep". As I remember, it was a really short hunt and it took longer to put out the other half of the birds. The owner was super warm and chatty when we got back to the house, and he remembered us when we returned the following year.

Max has given us so many memorable experiences: traveling, meeting people, family time. We are incredibly lucky to have him, our first dog, in our lives. We love you Mr. Max! Max and his family are looking forward to meeting new people and dogs at this year's Invitational.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

18. Call Name: Peggy
Registered Name: MHR Hartsoe's Peggy Walnuts
DOB: 6/9/2012
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Yellow
Breeder: Susan Hartsoe
Sire: My Captain Fantastic MH
Dam: Silverbrook Joey's Girl MH
Handler: Tony Carlo
Owner: Tony Carlo
Additional Owner:
Address: 2381 Noble Rd, Clyde, NY 14433
Phone: 315-256-5809

Peggy is one of those dogs that lives to please. She is happiest when she is hard at work. Peggy also has the amazing ability to catch some shut eye during the slow times of the hunt.



19. Call Name: Bry
Registered Name: GMHRCH-IV Silverbrook's Life of Brian MH CC
DOB: 05/14/2009
Sex: M
Breed: Lab
Color: Yellow
Breeder: Patricia L. Jagoda
Sire: GMHR HRCH UH Silverbrook's Amazing Sparkle Boy MH
Dam: MHR Silverbrook's Mustang Sally
Handler: Larry Housman
Owner: Victoria Pepper
Additional Owner: Larry Housman
Address: 1278 Battery Ave, Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-269-4610



This will be Bry's sixth Invitational and young Hank's first, although Hank did a passable job as test dog last year so he's had a bit of experience at the big dance. Hank is in the midst of his "terrible twos" and can be more than a little exasperating, both to me as well as Bry, as is evident from their team photo above. But he's trying his best and getting better as time goes on and he's been a wonderful addition to our family, no matter what Bry says!

INVITATIONAL DOGS

20. Call Name: Radar
Registered Name: GMHRCH - II Fowl Weather's Final Approach
DOB: 11/06/2008
Sex: M
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: John A. Fincher
Sire: GMHRCH-I MFR Fowl Weathers Token Trouble
Dam: GMHR Kelly Ann Fincher
Handler: Frank Plewa
Owner: Frank Plewa
Additional Owner: Valerie Plewa
Address: 1479 Hanover Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-7135



He is above all things my buddy. He has carried me on days when I am not such a good handler, he has always found a way to make an impossible retrieve and he is always happy to see me regardless of how the day went for either of us. Radar has grown into one fine retriever and one of the steadiest performers I have ever been around. Never flashy but always true to the mark, sharp on cast and nose to wind, just plain steady and dependable.

In NAHRA, he has been spectacular in his performance as evidenced in a perfect run to a 1000. He is like all the great dogs we have known, they seem to know your every move and are always in sync with your plan. For the most part, he has been retired from testing for several years except when the Invitational is within reach for us but he goes along and trains to avoid getting the pear shape of his owner. He still gives it his all and seems to enjoy it as much as when we were in pursuit of titles.

As with most retrievers, the hunt is still tops but I believe Radar would be just comfortable doing anything as long as it is with me. He is comfortable waiting patiently in the goose fields, sitting on a stand in the timber or busting cover for upland birds. He has done it all and can't wait to do it again and again.

As with his dad, he has given me hope for the future with some great offspring who I hope will make it to this event down the road. Maybe even performing together in the same event. But for now, he will do his best in our first trip to Wisconsin. We are truly honored to be here with so many other great dogs and handlers and wish everyone the best of luck!

21. Call Name: Bumper
Registered Name: GMHR III Maggie's Perfect Throw
DOB: 11/12/2008
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Yellow
Breeder: James M. Tracy
Sire: FC/AFC/CFC/CNAFC TNT's Mr. Peabody Prairiemarsh
Dam: GMHRCH-IV Silverbrook Mag Autumn Gold MH
Handler: James Tracy
Owner: James Tracy
Address: PO Box 360, Burley, WA 98322
Phone: 253-686-0250



INVITATIONAL DOGS

Bumper is just about the most loyal buddy one could ever ask for. While her passion is wild roosters and her crazy is pond ducks, her 1st love is me. Most people wouldn't ever understand that concept, but dog people sure do. I am blessed with a friend that longs for my company, affection and time, even when I don't deserve that kind of friend. Thanks Bump, you make me a better human.

22. Call Name: Chase

Registered Name:

GMHR II HRCH Delta Marsh Firestorm Chase SH

DOB: 1/24/2007

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Dan & Patsy Hove

Sire: GMHR I Ramers Instant Cash Machine MH

Dam: GMHR II HRCH UH Firestorm Belle's Amazing Grace SH

Handler: Dan Hove

Owner: Dan Hove

Address: 6210 Gopher Blvd. N., Oakdale, MN 55128

Phone: 651-738-0822



We knew when he was just a few weeks old he was truly special. His drive and attention were clearly at the elite level. When Dick and Kathy were selecting a pup, we said if you're looking for high end performance and are up for the challenge he'll present, pick Chase. That was more than 9 ½ years ago and I don't think he has disappointed.

To say Chase is a bird maniac is actually understated. He has retrieved thousands of pheasants from the fields of the Dakotas, and truly thousands of ducks and geese from ponds, pits, lakes, rivers, and fields of the entire Central and Mississippi Flyway. His blind manners are impressively impeccable and he hasn't seen a pheasant go down he isn't sure he can retrieve.

I have watched him impressively show hunters from across the country he can get sent on a blind for a snow goose blind over 300 yards away on a line despite not being able to hear from more than 30 yds. away, running hard on a straight line as sent. They were wondering where he was going as he nearly went out of sight only to see the bird retrieved straight back through a 12' deep, steep canal spinning into heel, delivering perfectly to hand, looking for the next one to be sent on. Amazed they were!

Chase came home to be with his mother, Grace, and sister, Hope, a little over two years ago. While I was battling pancreas cancer at the time, Chase and I had no idea he would be taking the place of Grace as my personal therapy dog, devoted to making me comfortable by never leaving me alone. Even though he's now clearly aging and can barely hear more than 40 yards away now, he is willing to mark birds all day, on land, on water from not mattering whether it is from a layout blind, canoe, floating blind platform or chasing them down in the field or cattails. What many people are surprised to realize is how much of an endearing clown he can be when he is at rest just being a dog, not a hunter.

Chase still wants to train as hard as ever, jumps up and down when he thinks it is his turn to hunt, and waits absolutely quietly in my truck, dog trailer, or his kennel. I have nearly stopped training him as it's hard to train a dog at distance that can't hear anymore, but we'll give this a go as an honor to each other. Chase will always be my pal, by my side nearly every minute of every day, and despite the results of this Invitational I know he'll remain devoted to me as my lifelong buddy!

INVITATIONAL DOGS

23. Call Name: Blaze

Registered Name: MHR Firestorms Blaze of Glory

DOB: 11/20/2009

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Dan Hove

Sire: GMHR HRCH Delta Marsh Firestorm Chase SH

Dam: GMHRCH Holzinger Chai Latte MH

Handler: Chris Lambert

Owner: Chris Lambert

Address: 1827 45th Ave., Osceola, WI 54020



I received this WONDERFUL, GREAT, LOYAL, LOVING, SMART LABRADOR RETRIEVER from two of my dearest friends and relatives; Dan and Patsy Hove. They shared with me that she was quality from observing the litter as they cared and nurtured the breeding.

I believe Blaze is my once in a lifetime canine partner. She has made it easy to be a handler. All the shine in this team is hers. A dog can make this wonderful hunting exercise a recreation that can change one's life. Working with a polished canine partner in an effort to retrieve quarry is a joy to experience. Your dog does that to me also. Thanks to ALL of you NAHRA people, this has become a great lifestyle, loving dogs and sharing company. See you out there!

24. Call Name: Jasmine

Registered Name:

MHR HRCH UH Brezee Oak's Keep To The Code MH

DOB: 6/7/2013

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Black

Sire: NAFC FC AFC Cody Cut A Lean Grade

Dam: Granite Ledge's Betty Ann MH

Handler: Jeff Brezee

Owner: Jeff Brezee

Address: 1218 70th Ave SW, Byron, MN 55920



Little Jasmine will turn three years old at the Invitational this year! She has accomplished a great deal in her short life! When the family went to pick her up as a puppy my wife could tell that I was NOT very happy. Jasmine was the last pick, looked unkempt, was smelly and didn't have a much interest in people. I bought her on paper (great pedigree). I almost backed out and my wife could read it on my face. Bringing her home was one of the best decisions I ever made! Jasmine's courage, style and intelligence are truly a phenomenon! She earned her Master title in AKC at 23 months old. Her HRCH title came shortly thereafter along with her MHR. She learns quickly, she studies the field and her surroundings and she is very compliant. I couldn't ask for a better Team mate and every time I leave the line with her I can't help but smile.

When it comes to pheasant hunting, Jasmine will be the first dog to hit the heavy cover. When hunting waterfowl, she will have every bird marked. When it comes to the homestead, every chipmunk lives in fear! If she wants to give you a kiss, you just better let her do it. She is a little dog with a huge heart! I'm pretty sure that I am holding her back from greater accomplishments. I can't wait to run the Invitational with her!

INVITATIONAL DOGS

25. Call Name: Tank

Registered Name: GMHR The Sagacious Ground Force QFTR MH

DOB: 11/27/2008

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: HP Williams

Sire: NAFC FC Cody Cut A Lean Grade

Dam: GMHR Wishful Thinking QAA

Handler: Harry Williams

Owner: Harry Williams

Address: 11600 Wicks Lake Rd SW, Port Orchard, WA 98367

Phone: 360-876-4860



The precocious little "red" puppy was an eye catcher and also kinda tugged at the heart string. He quickly showed potential, drew attention, and solidified himself as a stylish performer. All the while, he is a perfect gentleman with pups and kids and all the others that surrounded him. I'm very proud of being on the same team whether chasing roosters into the cattails, laying in a wheat field, pass shooting along a willow row, or walking up to the line in a test or a trial. One thing is for sure: when the birds start dropping, Tank has got his eyes on 'em.

26. Call Name: Sushi

Registered Name:

GMHR I HRCH UH O's Delta Marsh Yellow Tail Sushi MH

DOB: 11/21/2011

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Travis Lund

Sire: GMHR Cedarbrook Sureshot Atlas MH

Dam: GMHR OGF Black Chrome MH

Handler: Dick Ofstedal

Owner: Dick Ofstedal

Additional Owner: Kathy Ofstedal

Address: 1148 E 161st, South Haven, MN 55382

Phone: 320-241-0559



Sushi was a bit disappointed that her owner/handlers had to skip last year's NAHRA adventure. She sulked around the house all week during the 2015 Invitational. Luckily, Sushi delivered enough quality puppies in October 2015 to finance her entry in the 2016 Invitational. As current NAHRA members and NAHRA Future Retriever Program folks purchased her puppies, I believe we'll see Sushi/Cannon pups at future Invitationals.

Sushi was also busy showing her skills as a guide dog at the Lindskov Family Firesteel Creek Lodge near Isabel, South Dakota. Although her skills come in a small package, she does a fantastic job showing her NAHRA training in all aspects of the guiding responsibilities.

Enjoying the week with NAHRA friends and great dogs in Wisconsin will be a highlight of the summer for us. We plan to make up for the fun we missed last year. The pic is of Sushi enjoying a Florida marsh snipe hunt.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

27. Call Name: Ty
Registered Name: GMHR Chance Tyd One On SH
DOB: 03/10/2007
Sex: M
Breed: Lab
Color: Black
Breeder: Michael L Cameron
Sire: GMHR1 Diamond Brooks Lucky Chance
Dam: Michaels Taboo Irick I Huntr
Handler: Wayne Goodrich
Owner: Wayne Goodrich
Additional Owner: Dale Goodrich
Address: 706 Bridge Rd, North Hero, VT 05474
Phone: 802-372-6077



Ty is a nine year old Black Labrador Retriever that has been a loyal canine and hunting partner. He has earned his GMHR1 and continues to run NAHRA field test. He is always eager to retrieve, has a great temperament and is very quiet. He is fun to train, test and hunt with. Ty and I would like to thank NAHRA for all of the fun field tests. Ty and I wish all of the participant's good luck at the 2016 Invitational and thank Four Points Retriever Club for hosting the 2016 Invitational.

28. Call Name: Lacy
Registered Name:
MHR HRCH 4X GMPR Baier's Lady Legacy of Tru Point MH
DOB: 7/27/2010
Sex: F
Breed: Lab
Color: Yellow
Breeder: Steve Pearson
Sire: GMHRCH II MPR Baier's Mighty Waldimar
Dam: TPK's White Toes Tillie
Handler: Dan Hove / Fritz Baier
Owner: Fritz Baier
Additional Owner:
Address: 1501 Miller Ave, Red Oak, IA 51566
Phone: 712-621-7944



When I first brought Lacy home, a training buddy asked me, What game are you going to play with her? My response was simple, straightforward, and ambitious.. All of them. Shortly before her fifth birthday she became the only living dog to earn master titles in APLA, NAHRA, HRC, and AKC. When people ask me about it, I tell them that it is a tribute to her greatest asset. Her desire to please and work as a team. While I know there are dogs with more talent and drive running in each venue, Lacy's willingness and ability to respond to cues to perform the task at hand, even if it is contrary to the task she was asked to do last week, allows her to shine. In addition to her Hunt Test titles, she also spent a year as a certified therapy dog and volunteer "Tiger Reader" at our children's school and has been a fabulous mother to three litters. In the coming year, we hope to see several of her puppies start to show up in the NAHRA world, add a "G", and then as I did with Gabby, I'll hand the leash to Paige who is looking forward to running Intermediate with her. I expect, as she has always done, Lacy will do anything we ask her to.

INVITATIONAL DOGS

Special thanks to Dan Hove for running Lacy this week for me. Moving my office, building a house, and having a baby in this same 6-8 week time frame made my being here not possible for more than just a day (I hope). Hopefully she will do justice to Belle's spot next to Dan, the only other female to earn all four master titles.

29. Call Name: Hank

Registered Name: NPRC's Basking in the Glow of Good Enough

DOB: 11/03/2013

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Breeder: Jeff Brown

Sire: Rebel Ridge Brace for Impact

Dam: Wyn-Ne-Woods Avada Kedavra JH

Handler: Larry Housman

Owner: Victoria Pepper

Additional Owner: Larry Housman

Phone: 410-269-4610



This will be Bry's sixth Invitational and young Hank's first, although Hank did a passable job as test dog last year so he's had a bit of experience at the big dance. Hank is in the midst of his "terrible twos" and can be more than a little exasperating, both to me as well as Bry. But he's trying his best and getting better as time goes on and he's been a wonderful addition to our family, no matter what Bry says!

Forrest Inn Motel



Thank You for Your Support

TEST DOGS

Thursday - Call Name: Shyne

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Handler: John Blackbird

John Blackbird is an accomplished handler, judge and all round dog whisperer from Mora, MN. In the early 1990's, after hunting with his son and losing birds, John decided that it was time to get a Lab. He was over 40 years old at this time and decided that it might be fun to join a couple of dog clubs, do some training and run some NAHRA and AKC hunt tests. Well as they say the rest is history.



John has gone on to title his dogs at the highest levels, mainly in AKC. His dog, Shyne is a MNH4 in the AKC game out of an impressive pedigree, Sire was FC Cosmo Concerto Charlie and the Dam was Blackbirds Blu-Moon River, MH, with many AFC's and FC's in the bloodlines. Shyne is John's # 1 dog and stud. Shyne is a stylish, good looking who can hunt as good as he looks and according to John he hunts a lot! When Shyne is not playing hunt test games, working as a stud dog or hunting, he is traveling in style and comfort with John and Karen.

Friday - Call Name: Hope

Sex: F

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Handler: Patsy or Dan Hove

Hope is a sweet dog that loves to please. She is also a multiple time hard luck dog that just couldn't catch a break, but doesn't let it bother her a bit- she's always our "Happy Hopey". At the age of three, and within a week of being ready to start running NAHRA Senior and AKC Master tests, she needed to have emergency abdominal surgery to remove a baby hacky sack toy ball from her stomach. She was touch and go for survival minus a couple feet of intestines, but she pulled through and was still the eternally happy dog. Unfortunately, it took a lot out of her physically and she needed over a year to recover. A bit over a year later, she needed emergency surgery again for an abdominal irritation and same story after that. The best thing was though, she was completely healed each year for hunting season!



Hope also shares the distinction of being a cancer survivor. She has had three significant mammary surgeries that also interrupted her training and a few pheasant hunts, too. Hope and Dan are in that club nobody wants to be in, but she doesn't let it bother her in the least and Dan understands that.

Hope continues to happily train and has become a Certified Therapy Dog with both Patsy and Dan. She now has her brother, Chase, living with her and loves to lay together with him. Her calm and happy personality naturally befriends people, both adults and kids. Her testing days may have been prematurely ended, but she still loves to hunt, is so eager to please, and partners so well I rarely even need to speak to her during entire hunts. Best thing is- she still loves birds!

TEST DOGS

Saturday - Call Name: Willie

Sex: M

Breed: Lab

Color: Yellow

Handler: Terry Holzinger

Willie, a 4-year-old yellow Labrador that is an AKC MH is shown here with Terry Holzinger of Holzinger Kennels. Terry has been professionally raising and training gun dogs since 1982. Terry has been a Senior and a Master judge for AKC and has been involved with AKC and NAHRA since the beginning of the hunt tests. He was a judging instructor for NSTRA from 1994 until 1999. Terry is one of the founding members of LCRC. It was established in 1985 and is one of the largest retriever clubs in the Midwest.



Holzinger Kennels is located on 600 acres of at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club in Prior Lake. The Club is located 30 minutes south of Minneapolis, MN.


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We thank our loved and departed Invitational dogs for all the ways they have enriched our lives! We know there will truly never be another Belle, Chai demonstrated commitment at an extraordinary level and Grace helped us grow and learn about ourselves while immediately transforming into the most dedicated cancer partner anyone could ever imagine, let alone ask for.

Thank you for all you have given us girls!

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Photo of Speaker (AFC AFTCH Rosehill's Mr Speaker MH OS CCA FDHF) and Hudson (Meralegstar Turning Point UD DM1 MH AX AXJ CCA VCK WCK) by Sandra Haigler.

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