



Presented by:
Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association
Palmer, Alaska

July 11-13, 2019

Sponsors



Mike and Sue Hemmer



EASTERN SHORE
RETRIEVER CLUB
Onancock, Virginia



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The 2019 Invitational Committee would like to thank all the people that have helped to make this event special. First, a big “thank you” goes to the handler's for their participation their time to attend and support this event. We could not provide such a special week without of the support of the advertisers and sponsors for all their donations: whether they have donated items to sponsor stakes, handler and judges gifts, or raffle items. The NAHRA membership and or clubs that bought or sold tickets for this year's Invitational have been a tremendous help. Additionally, we must not forget the volunteers that will work a gun station, throw birds, or help in some other fashion. We have a great organization to use as a springboard, but without everyone working together we would not have this type of marquee event to promote and validate the NAHRA hunting retriever concept.

THANK YOU,
from the
2019 Invitational Committee!

Test Committee Members

Test Chairman

Bob Gray

Secretary

Kody Bull

Budget Coordinator

Bob Maloney

Bird Steward

Kent Bull

Gun Captain

Pat Clark

Head Marshall

Sally Foo

Grounds

Jeff Olson

Hospitality Lead

Mike Hemmer



Chairman Letter

On behalf of the Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association and the 2019 Invitational Committee;

Welcome to the 2019 NAHRA Invitational!

The Invitational is NAHRA's annual event showcasing the skills of NAHRA's finest retrievers and handlers. Participation is open to all NAHRA dogs who have earned their MHR title or above. It is a three day test incorporating all of the elements of the NAHRA testing program.

Bob Gray

2019 NAHRA Invitational Chair

A special Thank you to Adam Boyd and his family for giving us the use of his property for this event.

The Boyd family has supported the local Sporting Dog Community, and their events for years, and we appreciate it very much!



NAHRA President Letter

I am very proud of the Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association for hosting the 2019 NAHRA Invitational. Thank you for your time and effort on making this year's Invitational a special time for the participants and their dogs. The Invitational is a time when all of the regions come together as one and represent the organization with the best hunting retrievers in the world. The NAHRA Invitational honors, celebrates, and showcases the organizations Master Hunting Retriever.

It is always an exciting time preparing for an event like this. We run what weekend events we can, finalize travel arraignments, and figure out training groups. Once you read this letter, pre training is over, and soon you will be walking to the line. Take a moment to take it all in, enjoy the experience, and have some fun.

On behalf of NAHRA, I would also like to thank all this year's Invitational and corporate sponsors. Without your support, events like this would not be possible. I also ask the NAHRA members to support our sponsors and thank them for their support.

Congratulations and best of luck to this year's participants!

Kody Bull
NAHRA President



Schedule of Events

(Times and locations will be updated as needed)

July 5-10th

Designated training grounds available

July 10, 2019 10am

Handler Orientation meeting at Boyd's Farm

July 10, 2019 10:30am

Female dog Check at Boyd's Farm (Dr. Bert Gore DVM & Dr. Steve Mersh DVM)

July 10, 2019 6pm

Opening Banquet (Palmer American Legion Post 15)

July 11, 2019 9am

Land Series at Boyd's Farm

July 12, 2019 9am

Upland and Trail at Boyd's Farm

July 12, 2019 1pm

Workers Appreciation Dinner




July 13, 2019 9am

Water Series at Boyd's Farm

July 13, 2019 6pm

Awards Banquet (Palmer American Legion Post 15)





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2019 Invitational Judges

David Mellender, Nokesville, Virginia



Both my father and grandfather were avid outdoorsmen and passed that heritage on to me. I got serious about retrievers and NAHRA in 2006 and ran my first Invitational in 2009 in New York with Silverbrook's Smoke on the Water "Smoke". Smoke went on to achieve NAHRA's highest honor, GMHRCH, and qualified at five Invitationals. The next best thing to the GMHRCH was winning the 2015 Maryland Gun Dog Championship, where three of the top five dogs were NAHRA dogs. We have had many great adventures and many great hunts that will never be forgotten.

Most of this spring was dedicated to my young dog to get qualified for the Invitational hosted by my home club, the Eastern Shore Retriever Club. It has been a labor of love to be in on the ground floor of starting the Eastern Shore Retriever Club from scratch and add a new club to NAHRA's largest region. MHR-1 Stony Brooks Take it to the Limit SH "Maxx", not only earned his Master Hunting Retriever title to allow us to go to the Invitational, we also qualified!

I am very humbled and honored to be selected to Judge the 2019 Invitational in Palmer, Alaska.

As most know from playing in these dog games, you cannot do it all by yourself. Many thanks to my wife Ann for enduring the many hours away from home for training and running events and the frustration I vented. Also, thanks to the many judges and fellow dog handlers for the subtle hints and guidance over the years as an upcoming handler. I look forward to working with the other judges during this event and know that we will provide challenging, but fair and fun tests. Those that have the opportunity to attend, remember to have fun and I want your dog to pass as much as you do.

Good luck and hope to see you there.



Valerie Plewa, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Frank and I grew up in a small mountain top town about two hours east of Pittsburgh in the Alleghany Mountains, but have lived our married life in South Central Pennsylvania, just outside a quaint little town called Gettysburg. You might recognize the name.



I grew up in a non-hunting household and all our dogs were family pets who never really behaved as well as they probably could have if we had done a little training. When Frank and I started to train our first lab I was tickled to death with what we could get her to do and was a very proud momma. Now that we have trained and owned multiple labs, have helped numerous others and trained dogs for clients I am still amazed at what we can teach these animals to accomplish. I am most enamored at the fun and love they have doing it.

To think this all started over a Great Dane.....I wanted a big dog to keep our cocker spaniel company and saw an ad for Dane puppies in the paper, so I called the number. Unfortunately, or should I say fortunately they were all sold by the time I called. So, a friend of ours suggested a lab knowing Frank liked to hunt. If you would have told me over 26 years ago that in a few years that my wardrobe would consist of camouflage, a lot of green and brown, the occasional fluorescent orange, that I would be trudging through mud and muck, standing in the hot sun or rain, getting eaten alive by mosquitoes and best of all throwing demised training aids, I would have told you were crazy and not in this lifetime. Now fast forward..... that is exactly what I have done and continue to do. Frank and I have been involved in retriever training since 1991 when our first lab came home with us. Who would have known how such a cute cuddly little yellow fur ball was going to change our lifestyle. A few years into this game after sitting at home when Frank was at a field test running that fur ball, I decided to become a judge as a way to participate. We have traveled across the country, to Alaska and up and down the Mid-Atlantic meeting some incredible people and watching some wonderful dog work.

The NAHRA program has brought much more to my life beyond having well trained dogs. It has given me opportunities to travel places and see some amazing things. It has brought new friendships and has become a second family to me. I have met some of the most welcoming and sincere people on this journey all because of the common thread known as "man's best friend".

One of the greatest honors is to be recognized by a group of peers and to be nominated as an Invitational Judge. I am humbled to accept this assignment for the 2019 NAHRA Invitational. I hope that you all have fun, find the things we ask you to do as a team a challenge, but fair. You are considered some of the top dogs in NAHRA and I find it a privilege and honor to be watching you and your best friend, buddy, knuckle head, goofball, sweetie, babe or whatever you may call them. My only advice is to take a deep breath, enjoy the beautiful scenery, enjoy the moment, enjoy the ride and most of all have fun.

May your lines be straight, your whistles be limited, and your dog kisses be many.

Good luck and..... Dog to the line!!



Terry Strege, Buffalo Minnesota



I remember my first dog Angel. I just wanted a good hunting companion. As I trained and went to hunting training classes everyone told me how "Great" she was and that I needed to run hunt tests. The classes were not as realistic toward hunting as I had hoped. I joined the Four Points Retriever Club as a founding member with no clue what I was getting into. I would not trade the journey for anything. I have served several positions within the club including two terms as President. With the help of the club we earned a MHR and passed our first RAW

Invitational. I was blessed with a "Great" dog and knowledgeable friends around me. That was sixteen years ago and I remember it as if it were yesterday. I have been fortunate since then to have shared time with several special dogs. I take pride in training my own dogs and running them from the ground up in the NAHRA program. I could not have done it without the support and help of the club. I took the judges test and was mentored by too many judges to list many of which have judged previous Invitational events.

My hobbies include hunting anything I can afford all across the North American Continent. I have been lucky enough to hunt thirteen states and two Canadian provinces. I usually spend a week chasing snow geese across Saskatchewan, deer hunting in Minnesota and Iowa, and turkeys all spring wherever I can find them. I hunt ducks in the field and boat. I chase pheasants in South Dakota and Minnesota. The rest of the time I work to pay for the adventures. I'm fortunate to have a lovely wife that lets me play with the dogs and hunt.

It is humbling to have been nominated by my peers to be a judge at the 2019 NAHRA Invitational. It is one of the greatest honors to be bestowed upon a member when selected to judge at the NAHRA Invitational. I thank the committee and board for placing their trust in me to be fair and set up a test in the NAHRA standard and tradition. I take this responsibility very seriously and look forward to the privilege of judging you and your K-9 partner. In my job as a Deputy Sheriff the truth is, I often like the dogs I come in contact with better than the idiots I'm forced to deal with. I may not remember the handlers name, but I remember the dog. I truly do this for the love of the dogs no matter the breed. I look forward to seeing old friends and new at the NAHRA Invitational in Palmer Alaska. Those that know me are aware we will have to cut back on decoys, I am limited to one checked bag on the plane, but we will make do.

Let's have fun!



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GMHRCH-II MFR Fowl Weather's Cornfield Commando / GMHRCH -IV Fowl Weather's Final Approach /
GMHRCH - III Fowl Weather's Dead on Center



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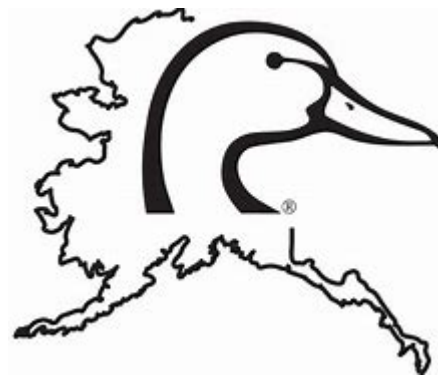
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2019 Invitational Test Dog

GMH OTCH ZANIRI'S FULL TILT RA TD WCX Am MH RA UD WCX

Handler: Susan Highton



2019 Invitational Official Photographers

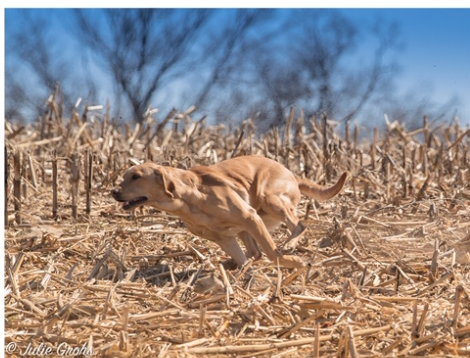
Cris Skinner and Julie Grohs are looking forward to capturing memories of the

2019 NAHRA Invitational

For information and packages contact the photographers or check in with us at the event.



Phone: 907.315.1791
Email: contact@thejourneyphotos.com
Website: thejourneyphotos.com



dPhone: 907-244-1069
Email: juliegrohs@aesah.com
Website: juliegrohs.smugmug.com

Note: When photos are posted on websites they will have basic editing. If you choose photos to purchase, final editing will be done prior to delivery. Please allow 2-3 weeks for all photos to appear on websites. Contact the photographer for additional information.



*Pictured from left to right:
Chanti, Lacy, Pulco, and Caballero*

Lars and Lenda Barker with **Lolenda Labs** has been in the **NAHRA** program since the 2nd year of NAHRA's existence as both participants and judges. Lenda was the first 100 point woman judge and Lars and Lenda started the first NAHRA club in both Phoenix, Arizona and Kalispell, Montana. When NAHRA dropped the Invitational (National event) for several years, Lars and Lenda Barker were the ones to instigate it again by organizing the Invitational at Scenic Mesa Ranch in Hotchkiss, Colorado in 2006 and it has been strong again ever since.

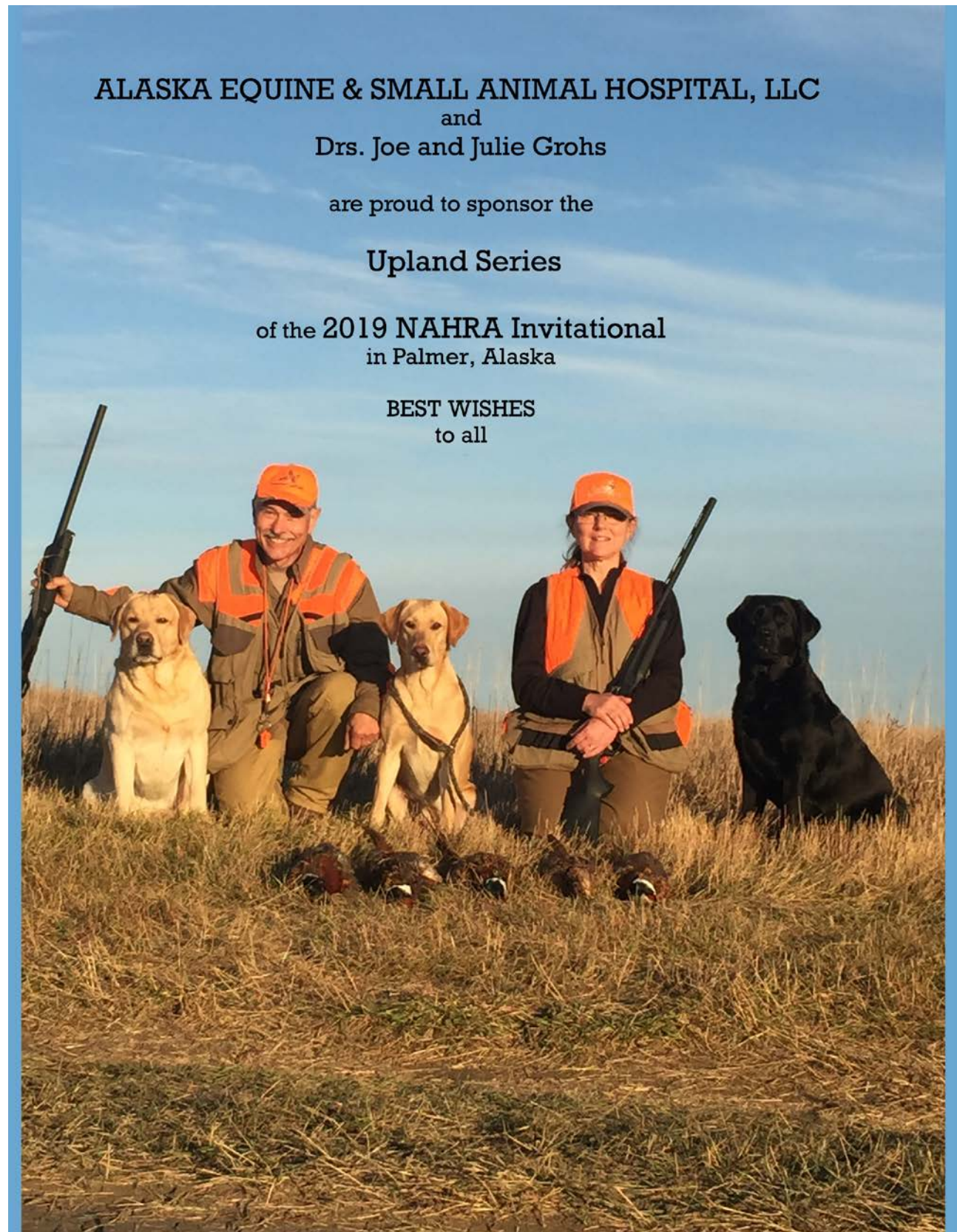
In 1996 **Lolenda Labs** made "Hunting Dog History" when their Dam (GMHRCH Lacy Lee of Lolenda) and her three pups (Lolenda's GMHR Caballero Blanco, MHR Chantilly Lace of Lolenda and MHR Lolenda's Pulco Negro) all qualified and competed at the Invitational (National Hunting Event). For three years in a row, **Lacy**, was one of the top 40 dogs in the country to be invited to the Invitational, where NAHRA paid travel, hotel and transportation for handlers and dogs. What an experience and honor that was!

Lolenda Labs had four Grandmaster Hunting Retriever Champions in their line and countless Started Retrievers, Hunters, Working Retrievers and Master Hunter Retrievers. Their line has also extended into HRC and AKC events including additional Junior Hunters, Senior Hunters and Master Hunters.

The **Barker's** contribution of \$10,000 to help with the 'start up fee' for clubs to host the Invitational for the next 20 years is an effort to keep **NAHRA** the best "Hunting Dog Organization in the country!"



Lars and Lenda Barker of Lolenda Labs



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in Palmer, Alaska

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907-861-6620
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907-688-9303 - www.aesah.com/
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Far Country Animal Hospital

2701 N Liahona Dr, Palmer, AK 99645
907-746-7297 - farcountrypets.com/

Directions: From Test Grounds: Take right on Palmer Fishhook Road, Take right on Trunk Road. Go through Roundabout to 3rd exit on Colony School Road. Far Country is on the left across from High School.

From Palmer: Take the Palmer-Wasilla (Evergreen) Highway to the Second Light, Turn right on to 49th State Street, Turn Left on Colony School Road, Far Country is the second drive on the right.

“The Working Man’s Retriever

Dan Hosford



Sadly, the North American Hunting Retriever Association has lost one of its true champions. Dan Hosford has been promoting, supporting and influencing the hunting retriever for a long time. He trained hunting retrievers in North Idaho (Silver Valley, Hayden Lake) and the Spokane area (Medical Lake, Espanola) for himself and for others. He has had direct influence on many, many outstanding retrievers. He has had the same influence on thousands of retriever owners. He traveled and had clientele from Edmonton, AB to Yuma, AZ providing services of training, teaching and entering hunting retriever tests.

Dan was somewhat of a dog behaviorist. He knew what made them tick. But his talent of dealing with inexperienced, not knowing owners/handlers was fantastic. It's difficult to say if he was better at training dogs or better at training people. Training a team was his forte. His TV show "Working Man's Retriever" provide basic common methods that was beneficial to many viewers. Dan was very proud of that series. He also has training programs on video.

Personally I always had the utmost respect for Dan. As a dog trainer, as a handler and as a person. He was very professional, direct, humorous and completely likeable. He had the most positive influence on the hunting retriever movement throughout the West and was one of NAHRA's staunchest advocates.

A lot of people are going to miss Dan. But the ones than will miss him most are the four-legged ones whether they know it or not.

Registered Name: MHR WINCHESTER'S YELLOW BOY MH

Registration Number: SR84005604

Owner: Baron Rea

Date of Birth: 07/29/2014

Color: Yellow **Sex:** Male

Sire: FC Blackwaters Last Resort

Dam: Lone Willow Paris

Call Name: Henry

Handler: Baron Rea

Breed: Labrador retriever

Breeder: Steve Blythe

1

I'm fortunate to train and run retrievers in the beautiful state of Alaska. After the training season I get to hunt with my clients and their dogs. During hunting season waterfowl is my main focus in fresh water ponds and late season sea duck hunting. I believe the retrievers find hunting just as rewarding as I do.



2

Registered Name: GMHR I HRCH O'S DELTA MARSH BLADE RUNNER MH

Registration Number: SR59960408 **Call Name:** Blade

Owner: Dick & Kathy Ofstedal

Handler: Dan Hove

Date of Birth: 11/20/2009

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Color: Yellow

Sex: Male **Breeder:** Dan & Patsy

Hove

Sire: GMHR-II HRCH DELTA MARSH FIRESTORM CHASE SH

Dam: GMHRCH-II HOLZINGER CHAI LATTE MH



Blade has been a phenomenal hunting companion and hunt test dog. We are going to see if he still has what it takes to qualify at the prestigious NAHRA Invitational as he approaches 10 years of age. Because of the training my dogs receive to participate in NAHRA events, they have become sought after hunting companions with my non-NAHRA hunting friends. Their skills also provide me with the fun experience of guiding pheasant hunters at the Lindskov Family Firesteel Creek Lodge in South Dakota. What a great life!

Kathy and I are looking forward to sharing this adventure with our NAHRA friends in the beautiful state of Alaska. Good luck to all the handlers and dogs!

Registered Name: MHR THREE SISTERS MOUNTAIN BLACK BART MH

Registration Number: SR90889301

Owner: Michael Hemmer

Date of Birth: 12/15/2015

Color: Black **Sex:** Male

Sire: MHR Lewis River Rocket

Dam: GMHRIV Waylon's Little Girl SH

Call Name: Bart

Handler: Michael Hemmer

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Michael Hemmer

3



"Black Betty had a child...The damn thing gone wild," ... so we wanted to name the firstborn of the litter our girl Betty whelped' Black Bart, the outlaw of the litter.' Unfortunately, the AKC was completely opposed to that idea. We countered by claiming the "Three Sisters Mountain" litter name for our Black Bart and his 7 siblings. This was my first (and last) experience, raising a litter of puppies. I was just amazed to watch both of the parent Labradors personalities appear from the 8 pups as they grew bigger and older. I am looking forward to participating in this 2019 Invitational, seeing old friends and watching all of our dogs do what they love best!

Registered Name: MHR SAGE'S ALASKAN PARKER MH

4

Registration Number: SR80788504

Owner: Mike Sage

Date of Birth: 12/06/2013

Color: Black **Sex:** Female

Sire: FC Merlyn IV

Dam: WBF's Full Tilt Boogie

Call Name: Parker

Handler: Mike Sage

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Terry Claycamp

I came to Alaska almost 50 years ago as a young Air Force dentist. I practiced dentistry in Anchorage for 44 years. My wife Cathy and I have 3 sons and 4 granddaughters.

I stay busy hunting, fishing, flying, as a Boy Scout leader and of course training Labradors.

Parker is my current love affair. She is the best dog I've had. She earned her AKC Master Hunter title last year and a NAHRA Master Hunter Retriever title just this summer. She is a great hunter and a wonderful companion. I would like to offer a special nod of appreciation to Baron Rea and all the members of the Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association for helping me and Parker progress to our current level.



Registered Name: MHR THREE SISTERS MOUNTAIN LUCILLE

Registration Number: SR90889305

Owner: Robert Maloney

Date of Birth: 12/15/2015

Color: Black Sex: Male

Sire: MHR Lewis River Rocket

Dam: GMHR Waylon's Little Girl

Call Name: Lucy

Handler: Bob Maloney

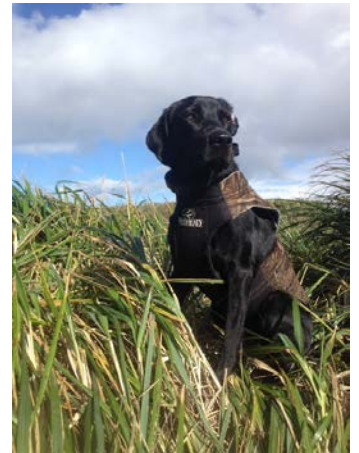
Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Michael Hemmer

5

Lucy was born in Palmer, Alaska on December 15, 2015. She spent her first winter in Surprise, Arizona then returned to Alaska for the summer of 2016. We trained that first summer with Mike Hemmer and Larry Arens. Baron Rea also helped us out a lot with force fetch and handling drills.

The past two years we have been alternating our time between Alaska, Arizona, and Ohio. I believe Lucy has travelled over 40,000 miles by air during the past three and a half years. With all of the travel our training has been sporadic but I have a good group of friends in Alaska to train with and we met a very experienced group of Arizona handlers last winter who helped us out a lot. We are looking forward to running in the invitational.



Registered Name: GMHR II NPRC's BASKING IN THE GLOW OF GOOD ENOUGH

6

Registration Number: SR80045707

Owners: Victoria Pepper & Larry Housman

Date of Birth: 11/03/2013

Color: Yello Sex: Male

Sire: AFC Rebel Ridge Brace for Impact

Dam: Wyn-Ne-Woods Avada Kedavra JH

Call Name: Hank

Handler: Larry Housman

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Jeff Brown



It's been a really bad year so far and I pray things will get better in Alaska. Bry went to the vet and never came back. I thought I caught a break when that black monster Newman went away for three months, but then he showed up again more annoying than ever; I hate him with a passion. I spent those 3 months with pins holding my leg together and had no fun whatsoever. The boss got sick and even when he wasn't hanging around the hospital and hastening the bankruptcy of Medicare he was more useless than usual and I've mostly had to fend for myself, which is not easy on the mean streets of Baltimore with Newman lurking around all the time. Did I mention that I hate him? And then the boss made some sort of deal with the devil and I came out looking pretty scary. I really wish Judy Knope hadn't taken a picture of me in that state.

Oh well, I hope things go well at the Invitational, and mostly I hope that Newman doesn't make it on the plane back home with we proper people.

Registered Name: MHR WETLANDS WINSOME LADY MH

Registration Number: SR83730812

Owner: Baron Rea

Date of Birth: 6/25/2014

Color: Yellow **Sex:** Male

Sire: NFC FC Watermarks Running Back

Dam: Double Gs Common Cents

Call Name: Ada

Handler: Baron Rea

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Lee Amundson

7

I'm fortunate to train and run retrievers in the beautiful state of Alaska. After the training season I get to hunt with my clients and their dogs. During hunting season waterfowl is my main focus in fresh water ponds and late season sea duck hunting. I believe the retrievers find hunting just as rewarding as I do.



8

Registered Name: MHR RAZOR'S ENCHANTED MIDNIGHT SUN QAA

Registration Number: SR86443901 **Call Name:** Gypsy

Owner: Kody Bull

Handler: Kody Bull

Date of Birth: 11/17/2014

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Color: Black **Sex:** Female **Breeder:** Scott Anderson

Sire: FC AFC Fen Wizzard

Dam: Razor's Da Cuttin Edge QAA SH



This will be Gypsy's first Invitational. It's an honor and a privilege to be running with our friends from MSGDA, as well as those traveling from the other regions. Gypsy has been a joy to own and train most importantly hunt with. Best of luck to everyone!



Registered Name: HRCH GMHR MILLIE TRIPLE "D" WETLANDER HUNTER MH

9

Registration Number: SR53669204

Owner: Patrick & LouAnn Clark

Date of Birth: 12/01/2008

Color: Black Sex: Female

Sire: Shoemakers Radar

Dam: Nothwinds Sassy Little Girl

Call Name: Millie

Handler: Patrick Clark

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Jim Portch

We are not sure how ten years have gone by, or how many retrieves have been made in that time, but Millie is now a ten year old Alaska bred Lab that clearly picked us out to be her humans when we first saw the litter of pups at Jim Portch's house in Eagle River Alaska. She is a NAHRA Grand Master Hunter Retriever, UKC Finished Hunter, and AKC Master Hunter. She really enjoys "the game". Most importantly, she is a big part of our family, and truly loves to hunt. Like many Alaska dogs, she travels around the United States hunting with us and probably has more Cub and 207 time than most people. She is very proud to be running in the invitational and says she will do her best. In her off time she enjoys sitting on Mom's lap and making sure the fireplace is well guarded during the winter.



Registered Name: GMHR-V MAGGIE'S PERFECT THROW

10

Registration Number: SR53284101

Owner: James Tracy

Date of Birth: 11/12/2008

Color: Yellow Sex: Female

Sire: FC-AFC TNT's Mr Peabody Prairie Marsh, MH

Dam: GMHRCH-IV Silverbrook Mag Autumn Gold, MH

Call Name: Bumper

Handler: Jim Tracy

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Jim Tracy



Bumper has aged very gracefully and bunches of the telltale white hair is beginning to emerge. But make no mistake, there is still a pretty big puppy left in her heart. Perhaps this will be her last test, but we will let her decide! So many memories begin to flood back, but I think that Bumper and I better just live a little for the moment and enjoy this Invitational as its own spectacular event. We are thrilled to be here and consider ourselves to be in the best company on the planet!

Registered Name: MHR Windy Matanuska Midnight Abigal MHR QAA

11

Registration Number: SR84946103

Owner: Peter & Ellen Probasco

Date of Birth: 10/07/2014

Color: Black **Sex:** Female

Sire: Twin Lakes Bandersnatch

Dam: Twin Lakes Anna Paquin

Call Name: Abby

Handler: Peter Probasco

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Woody Thurman

First, I want to give a big **“Thank You”** to the Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association for once again hosting the NAHRA Invitational. A lot of hard work goes into hosting an event like this. I would like to thank the members of this club for their efforts in making this event possible and successful. I believe I would be speaking for all us that we are really grateful for your commitment.

My lovely bride Eileen and I live in Palmer, Alaska with our home quietly nestled in the thick timber along the Matanuska River. We both grew up in Alaska and have enjoyed raising 3 great kids who now have brought us 11 grandkids. With both agree that being Grandparents is one of the greatest blessings a person could ask for. We also love the outdoors and Alaska provides us with many great opportunities to fish, hunt and explore.

Labrador retrievers have always played a big role in our family. Our Abby, like her big sister Good Golly Matanuska Midnight Molly (GMHR), came to Alaska via Twin Lakes Kennel in North Carolina. Unlike her sister Molly, who is low key, smart, very affectionate and a great hunter and retriever, Abby brought the personality into our home of a high octane, intelligent, enthusiastic, retrieving machine. With the help of our retrieving group and especially Baron Rea from Wetland Retrievers, we have managed to turn these natural and challenging abilities into an enjoyable companion and retriever. I have to admit we have had our challenges and at times I wonder who is calling the shots but hey, that's why we love this sport. Woody Thurman said it very well, ***“Hunting without a retriever, is like going on a honeymoon without a bride”***. Both Molly and Abby really don't care what type of hunting we do together. They are always at our side from harvesting moose and caribou to fill the family freezer, to their passion of retrieving the waterfowl we pursue along the endless miles of Alaska's rivers and lakes shores.



The 2019 Invitational Committee would like to thank Kim Dial for redesigning the Invitational logo for this year's event. The design is a wonderful combination of the host club colors and design, adapted for the 2019 NAHRA Invitational in the proud state of Alaska.

12

Registered Name: GMHR II HRCH UH O's DELTA MARSH YELLOW TAIL SUSHI MH QAA

Registration Number: SR70644306

Call Name: Sushi

Owner: Dick & Kathy Ofstedal

Handler: Dick Ofstedal

Date of Birth: 11/21/2011

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Color: Yellow **Sex:** Female

Breeder: Travis Lund

Sire: MHR Cedarbrook Sureshot Atlas MH

Dam: MHR OGF Black Chrome MH



Since Sushi last qualified for the Invitational two years ago, she has reached the 500-point club and has qualified at the AKC Master Amateur. With about 30 passes in AKC master and 30 passes in NAHRA senior, she has nothing to prove. She still loves the game and will keep on running until she decides she doesn't want to do it anymore. It is fun to watch several of her puppies do so well in a variety of dog game venues and the hunting field.

From the beginning, this journey has been focused on getting better as a handler, trainer, and judge. Sushi has been a phenomenal companion to work with.

As with all NAHRA folks, we love our dogs and the fantastic people of our NAHRA family. We will continue to add to the positive memories of those partnerships while we enjoy the hospitality of Northern Lights Retriever Club.

Good luck to each dog and handler as they participate in the 2019 NAHRA Invitational!

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Registered Name: GMHR IV WAYLON'S LITTLE GIRL SH

Registration Number: SR61520105

Call Name: Betty

Owner: Michael Hemmer

Handler: Michael Hemmer

Date of Birth: 03/31/2010

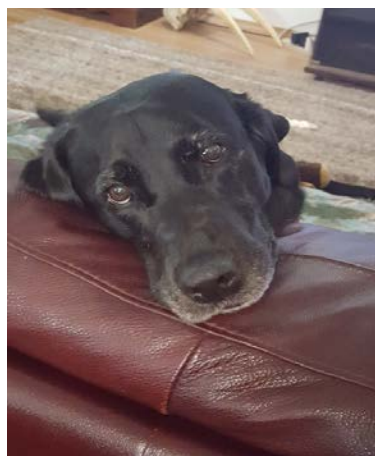
Breed: Labrador Retriever

Color: Black **Sex:** Female

Breeder: Jeff Bye

Sire: MHR Finger Lakes Ramblin Man

Dam: Midnight Ria De Negro



This year the Invitational has special meaning to me because Betty will be running with 2 of the pups she whelped in Dec 2015. She is getting to be quite an 'old lady' of 9 years with all of her 'gray hairs' popping up in all the funniest places. Betty shows her age when she gets up & down from her favorite couch, much slower than the 'other black lab' in the house. She may move a little slower, but, that doesn't stop her...

I believe that Betty loves the game more than I do.

Registered Name: GMHR MUR TOUCHED BY THE SUN'S SUMMER BREEZE SH

14

Registration Number: SR84877107

Call Name: Summer

Owner: Joe & Julie Grohs

Handler: Joe Grohs

Date of Birth: 09/30/2014

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Color: Yellow

Sex: Female

Breeder: Phil Hines

Sire: Rik's Risky Raider

Dam: Special K's Good Golly Miss Molly

Summer is a wonderful hunter, competitor and family companion. There is such a beautiful spirit embodied in this beautiful yellow Labrador bitch. Like an African lioness, she lives for the instinctual thrill of the hunt but equally the satisfaction of returning to share the prize with her human family.

In hunt trial competitions, she revels in the complexity of the challenge presented by the judges but in returning one is always greeted by her eyes asking but one question, was that good enough to please you my human friend?

As athletic, intelligent and energetic as this little yellow lightning bolt is in the field, she is the perfect companion at home. Sitting in total contentment at my feet or snuggling as close as possible on the couch, she brings adventure, peace and warmth to Julie's and my life as only one of God's gentle Summer Breezes can.

To my friends and their equally wonderful companions, I wish you all fun and success in the comradery of this 2019 NAHRA Invitational.



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE
PARTICIPANTS,
From the
2019 Invitational Committee!**

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Registered Name: WILDFIRE RUSHING RIVER MHR, QA-2, MH, SH, WCX

Registration Number: SR55902907
Owner: Robert & Rosanne Gray
Date of Birth: 04/27/2009
Color: Red & Gold **Sex:** Male
Sire: Irishman's Autumn Treasure
Dam: Wildfire Tee for Trouble

Call Name: River
Handler: Bob Gray
Breed: Golden Retriever
Breeder: Roselyn R Wilson



River was born April 26, 2009 in Montgomery, Minnesota out of Wildfire Kennels. At 7-weeks old, I brought River back to Alaska to begin a new life in the world of a working retriever and companion. At 10-months old, River began advanced training with pro trainer Baron Rea. As River matured he participated in field tests in Alaska, Washington, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Virginia, and North Carolina. Some serious fun for both of us came when we hunted ducks every year in the fall. In 2014 River participated in the Golden Retriever Nationals in Cheraw, North Carolina with Baron. River took first place in the Qualifying Field Trial, out of a field of 58 golden retrievers from across the U.S. Eventually River and I found the hunting field tests presented with NAHRA that provided a way to stay active and achieve a stronger hunting retriever. The excitement and challenges for both of us existed but the drive of River kept us in the game. With River's MHR he is able to compete in the 2019 NAHRA Invitational.

River is my buddy, and both of us will enjoy participating in this event.

Registered Name: MHR Stony Brook Hot Handling Habanero

Registration Number: SR88026801
Owner: Ray & Lisa Esboldt
Date of Birth: 05/23/2015
Color: Black **Sex:** Female
Sire: Stony Brook High Octane Cane
Dam: Stony Brook Crowned Royal

Call Name: Hobby
Handler: Ray Esboldt
Breed: Labrador Retriever
Breeder: Travis Lund

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Dog tests and dogs have become the focal point of most of our summers. The people are good, the events are fun, and the dogs are constantly refined. It all makes for great friendships, fun events, and great hunting dogs. If any of us are not doing it for those reasons, we need to find another hobby.

Speaking of hobbies, Hobby is the second dog we have entered in the NAHRA Invitational. She's one of those dogs that always leaves me breathless. The tenacity that she brings to the training and testing field as well as the hunting fields is unmatched. But, as many of you know, tenacity can get a dog and handler in trouble quick. That right there makes it exciting to run her. As much as I think I would want it another way, I know I don't.



Had a pro spent some time with her (and I), she might be a once in a lifetime dog. But, NAHRA is all about amateur trainers that are hardcore hunters who love improving their dogs. That's why I enjoy it. That's why you enjoy it. The 2019 NAHRA Invitational will be all about enjoyment. (And, telling Hobby to sit for the 5th time at the line).

Registered Name: HR MHR Jack MH

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Registration Number: PAL252176

Owner: Jeffrey Olsen

Date of Birth: 4/13/2008

Color: Black **Sex:** Male

Call Name: Jack

Handler: Jeffrey Olsen/Baron Rea

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Breeder: Tim Galeazzi



I turned 11 this year and I sleep a lot more. Last winter I joined a geriatric training group with my friends' River and Millie to get in shape for the Invitational. I can't believe it's almost here. After the Invitational I plan to spend more time with my new little buddy, Riley. He just arrived and he's got potential and a lot of energy.

Did I mention I sleep a lot more?

2020 NAHRA Invitational

June 17-20, 2020

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA



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Bill and Mary Hillman

Much loved...much missed.

GMHRCH VII Silverbrook's Life of Brian MH CC



"Bry"

May 14, 2009 - March 8, 2019

Image by: Judy Knope

NOTES:

2019 Invitational Running Order

July 11-13, 2019 Palmer, AK

NUMBER	CALL NAME	HANDLER	Series 1	Series 2	Series 3	Series 4	Series 5	Series 6
1.	Henry	Baron Rea						
2	Blade	Dick Ofstedal						
3	Bart	Mike Hemmer						
4	Parker	Mike Sage						
5	Lucy	Bob Maloney						
6	Hank	Larry Housman						
7	Ada	Baron Rea						
8	Gypsy	Kody Bull						
9	Millie	Pat Clark						
10	Bumper	Jim Tracy						
11	Abby	Pete Probasco						
12	Sushi	Dick Ofstedal						
13	Betty	Mike Hemmer						
14	Summer	Joe Grohs						
15	River	Bob Gray						
16	Hobby	Ray Esboldt						
17	Jack	Jeff Olson						



