



# LAND OF LAKES HRC Retriever News



February 2003

Club Newsletter

Vol. 7 No. 2

## Calendar of Events 2003

(subject to change)

- February 2** - Training for Upland 9am-Noon  
Four Brooks Trial Grounds, Milaca, MN
- February 4** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- February 8** - HRC Judges Seminar  
Forest Ridge Hunt Club, Glenwood City, WI
- February 9** - Upland Hunt Tests  
Forest Ridge Hunt Club, Glenwood City, WI
- March 4** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- April 1** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- May 6** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Preparations for Spring Hunt Tests. Site: tba
- May 9-11** - Hunt Tests Kelley Farms  
Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota
- June 3** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- July 1** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- August 5** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- Sept 2** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Preparations for Fall Hunt Tests. Site: tba
- September 5-7** - Hunt Tests Kelley Farms  
Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota
- October 7** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- November 4** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake
- December 2** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**Training Days** - First & Third Saturdays  
Various Locations around the area.

**Game Fair** - Two weekends in August  
details to follow closer to event

**Fun Hunt** - sometime during the summer  
details to follow closer to event

LLHRC information is available and updated on the web thanks to Chad Peterson. Visit the club web site at: [www.llhrc.org](http://www.llhrc.org)  
Our schedule of events during the year will posted on the web site, as best as possible.

## Judges & Handlers Seminar Saturday, February 8, 2003 - BE THERE!!

Ever wondered just what those folks with the notebook were looking for when your dog left the line? To help you find those answers you can attend an HRC Seminar and experience first hand the educational training of all Hunting Retriever Club Judges.

LLHRC is hosting an HRC Judges and Handlers Seminar on Saturday, Feb 8, 2003. The location is Forest Ridge Hunt Club in Glenwood City, Wisconsin (between New Richmond and Menomonie). The Seminar will start at 8:00 am and will last all day. We are pleased to have HRC Region 8 Field Representative Mike Witt as the moderator! The only cost for attending is a nominal \$10 for lunch and snacks.

The Seminar covers the HRC Running Rules and Philosophies. All judges are required to attend a Seminar every three years to maintain their license status. The Seminar is also helpful to handlers to get a better understanding of the HRC hunt test program.

Purina, HRC and UKC underwrite the cost of the PowerPoint Presentation in order to make the information available to all HRC members. An effort is made to offer a Seminar once or twice a year in each Region, the LLHRC was chosen as a host club for our Region 8.

All are encouraged and welcomed to attend!

To find Forest Ridge Hunt Club, 2930 Co Rd S, Glenwood City: IF you're coming from Stillwater MN - Take Hwy 64 through Somerset and New Richmond and then staying on 64 toward Forest (about 15 miles) then east of Forest look for 290th, go South on 290 one mile, then East on Cty Rd S about 1/2 mile.

## Upland Hunt Tests! Sunday, February 9, 2003

LLHRC is holding our first Upland Hunt Tests!!! The tests will be held on Sunday, Feb 9, 2003, with registration starting at 8:00 a.m. The location is Forest Ridge Hunt Club in Glenwood City, Wisconsin (between New Richmond and Menomonie). Since an Upland Test moves quickly a club is able to offer two hunts in one day. Our Preliminary Upland Hunt Test will start at 9:00 am and the Licensed Upland Test will start at 9:45 am.

News Notes are continued on page three

## Land of Lakes Hunting Retriever Club Information Officers - 2003-2004 (proposed)

President .....Wade Samson 763-682-0960  
Vice-President .....Mark Switzer 651-429-7651  
Secretary .....Pat Gysbers 651-773-9734  
Treasurer .....Randy Gustafson 651-642-9694

### Board Members

Susan Scherber 715-246-2467 Tom Montez 651-731-0618  
Greg Larson 651-458-5160 . .Jim Bowden 651-462-1324  
Hunt Test Chair, Upland .Randy Gustafson 651-642-9694  
Training Day Coordinator . .Wade Samson 763-682-0960

**Web site** .....www.llhrc.org

Newsletter Editor . . . . .Randy Gustafson 651-642-9694  
. . . . .1775 St. Marys, Falcon Heights MN 55113

## Club Hats

Club hats are still available for only \$15.

Contact Mark Switzer at the next Club Meeting.

All proceeds go into Equipment Acquisition Fund.

### Newsletter Items Wanted!

Share your hunting or training experiences! Your reports can be as simple as announcing a new puppy has joined the family. Send in your stories and they'll get published.

To be included in the next issue mail your item to Randy or via email: news@llhrc.org.



### Test Results!

Your name could be here!

Keep your editor informed on how your work has paid off in ribbons! Get your share of fame and glory, or at least see your name in the newsletter!

## Puppy News

Three Land of Lakes members are expecting! (little retrievers that is) Susan Scherber has two litters of field Goldens arriving in February. Julie Johnson is awaiting Labs, one Yellow and one Chocolate. In early March Lana Gunsell will have a litter of Flat Coats. All these pups will have hunting and testing prowess in their veins so if you're looking here's some to view!

## Club Meeting Minutes

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES Jan. 7, 03 at Holiday House, White Bear Lake, MN, called to order by President Randy Gustafson 6:55 pm. Attending: Steve & Susan Scherber, Pat Gysbers, Wade Samson, Jim Bowden, Tom Montez, Mark Switzer, Greg Larson, Linda Kiey, Dennis & Yvonne Riebe, Randy Cook, Lana Gunsell & Mike Kuehne

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**-Motion to accept the Dec. 3, 02 minutes was made by Lana, second by Tom. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**-Balance on 1-07-03 is \$2983.55. No deposits or expenses for the month of December.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**-Randy has enjoyed being president, but he is looking forward to handing over the reins to a new president.

**VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**- Jim thought we should look over our expired membership list and see if we can get some of them to rejoin the club.

Jim found jackets for the two past presidents, which he purchased and donated to the club. While he was in Florida he met with Brian Maxwell and looked at a winger that Brian has designed. Jim liked the design so well that he convinced us to order one at a cost of \$315.00 with a manual release. Jim also informed us that Norm Peterson is moving to New Hampshire.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**-Wade got approval to use the Milaca training grounds on Feb. 2, 03 to practice for the Upland Hunt. The MFFTA annual meeting will be Jan. 21, 03 at 6:00 pm in Brooklyn Park. We need to send a representative. Lana volunteered to go and to bring our check for \$25.00 for annual dues.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS-

**JUDGES & HANDLERS SEMINAR**- FEB. 8, 03, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mike Witt will present the seminar. Susan S. & Yvonne R. are planning the lunch for the seminar. Please let Susan know at least a week before if you will be attending so they know how much food to get.

**UPLAND HUNTS**- The initial mailing of premiums is out and the second mailing will be out shortly. Randy Gustafson is the hunt marshal. Mark Switzer is the hunt secretary. Judges will be Wade Samson, Jim Bowden, Bill Kehoe & Roger Davis. We will need two gunners per hunt, two or three bird technicians per hunt. Thank You Lana and Linda for letting us use your bird launchers. We still need two more launchers. Any volunteers should call Randy G. We will be selling plate lunches at the Upland Hunts.

Randy G. will try and find out why our fall hunt report was not in the latest Hunting Retriever magazine and why our spring hunt is not in upcoming events.

### SPRING HUNT MAY 10, 11, 2003 FALL HUNT SEPT 6, 7, 2003

Judges are being finalized by Wade, has Fall in place and almost all for Spring. Site Marshalls and Chairs in place.

**TRAINING DAYS**-We will be training at Loch Ness Park on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month for now. About a dozen people showed up on Jan. 4th. Thanks to Pat Daly for finding a place for us to train. We need someone to step forward and be Training Day Coordinator.

**GAME FAIR**- The paperwork is in, we are good to go for now.

**FUN HUNT**- Saturday August 2, 2003 Susan Scherber & Jim Bowden will coordinate.

**ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK** will be at the Scherber's Jan. 11, 2003 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. New officers will be announced at the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**-John Pilz from Typo Lake Kennels in Stacy, MN has ducks for sale at \$9.00 ea if more than 100 at a time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim, second by Steve, Motion carried Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM Submitted Jan. 26, 2003, Pat Gysbers, LLHRC Secretary

The Upland Game Test consists of a simulated walk-up hunt, a quartering test, and an optional tracking test. The Upland hunting dog must be steady to wing and shot. Honoring of another hunting game dog is required. During this test the hunting game dog will be required to locate and retrieve game as the Judges shall direct.

Come on out and give it a try OR just come to watch.

## Membership Renewals

Membership in the Land of Lakes HRC runs the calendar year. Local dues remain at \$20 per year. Thank you to all who have sent in their renewal!

### New Style of Winger Purchased by Club

Jim Bowden discovered a new winger designed by an HRC Judge and used at last fall's Grand Hunt, and his enthusiasm for this safer and more reliable product prompted the club to buy one. We'll be testing it out at the Upland and at Training Days - come out and see it!

## Spring Hunt - May 10-11

## Fall Hunt - Sept 6 & 7

Once again the Land of Lakes HRC will be offering Regular Hunts to be held back to back on the weekend of May 10 & 11, and two back to back on the weekend of September 6 & 7, 2003, at Kelley Land and Cattle Company in Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota.

Plan now to register to run your dog/s in a test on one or both weekends.

There are many volunteer opportunities at a Hunt Test. The action filled weekend starts Friday at noon when we start setting up the tests and continues through Sunday when it all gets cleaned up and packed up.

Your Hunt Committee will be calling on members to pitch in and make these events work. The more hands the easier the work.

It is amazing how all the details seem to be overwhelming one day and then minor the next when this great group of folks pitches in and simply gets the job done. Our past Hunts have been great because of the contributions of many people who volunteered their time and talents to make it work.

Thanks for your time and efforts to make the LLHRC a great retriever club!



## DFT's in UKC/HRC? COMMENTARY by Greg Larson

It seems a new Acronym has entered our world of retriever training and trials that should be welcomed with the same enthusiasm as the likes of PETA and ALF, it is 'DFT' and it's usage is sure to be talked about in the near future at upcoming retriever hunt tests. What is it you ask? It is a recent training aid that many of us are familiar with otherwise known as a "Dead Fowl Trainer" or Dokken dummy and as of January 2002 the NAHRA (North American Hunting Retriever Association) board of directors unanimously voted to introduce the option of using imitation birds at sanctioned NAHRA tests. A Pilot test was conducted in Virginia in June of last year and was met with numerous and various degrees of responses in fact so many (not so nice) were sent to the Board of Directors they shut down the server. After reading several reports from handlers and Judges on the use of DFT's in the test it was clear that many pitfalls in judging certain aspects of a dog running the tests were reported. Most commonly was dogs not familiar with the DFT wouldn't pick them up immediately as they were looking for real birds requiring more handling on marks than normal. This was made evident on the ESPN "Great Outdoor Games" Retriever trials that used DFT's, many of which were professionally trained and handled. It was also virtually impossible to judge dogs on hardmouth or stickiness (maybe a good thing for some of us).

The underlying question is why? Are we not supposed to be training and breeding our dogs to hunt and retrieve real birds? Many requests had been made to NAHRA to implement the use of DFT's in licensed tests because of the difficulty and price in obtaining live birds in some parts of the country (mostly the East coast), Insurance risks from the use of live ammunition, increasing pressure from governmental agencies on the use of live birds and my personal favorite; It was becoming a conservation issue because hundreds of migratory birds were being harvested each year for clubs to host trials.

You may be saying "Who cares" that's NAHRA not UKC/HRC but fact is that once one group participating in the same hobby's and profession decides to cave to the pressures applied by anti-hunting groups and government bureaucracies it becomes a slippery slope we all end up on. My opinion in the use of DFT's in hunt tests is it would over time destroy the breed standard that us hunters need to continue our sport in much the same way that it has in Europe. I do not believe the reasoning for NAHRA to use DFT's has any merit or justification The use of dead-fowl trainers could only be justified if the State the club was in Outlawed the use of Game birds for hunt tests and with NARHA now caving in on the issue this will only lead more animal rights activists to declare victory and put more pressure on UKC/HRC and AKC.

Where the faults are in their reasoning: The conservation argument; These are all farm raised birds and do not have any effect on the actual migratory bird population, That is like saying cows raised on a farm reduce the amount of cows in the wild. Clubs having a hard time finding birds should look for alternatives, Raising their own birds, or setting up accounts to by a large quantity of birds over a certain period to reduce cost. I am sure if the retriever clubs got the word out to local farmers that they needed birds it would be easy to find and purchase them at a reasonable price; after all isn't every farmer looking for more money. The cost to raise 100-200 ducks is miniscule.

Why "Deadfowl" trainers? Why not bumpers and sticks and plastic bottles? We are training Retrievers to retrieve wild game and hunt live birds. How many dogs have you seen in your life that will pick up tennis balls and bumpers but not Dead/Live birds? This process could only lead to people training dogs for hunt tests, building points and titles on dogs that never have or need to pick up real birds. What kind of bloodlines will be available to sportsman and trainers then? We are supposed to be in the business and hobby of training Hunting Retrievers to hunt game birds not plastic toys! If NARHA wants to use fake birds, I say, "let them", their hunt tests don't simulate any type of actual hunting condition anyway, they might as well use fake birds! But this attitude only leads us to the aforementioned slippery slope.

I am curious to know how much effort the manufacturers of the "Deadfowl" trainers are putting into this, at an average price of \$17.00 per DFT it would be a good chunk of profit to have the only sanctioned and patented (US patent 5,706'762) product on the market. Lets not be fooled into going down this path, We must stay vigilant and make sure the boards of directors of our local clubs and the national organization are made aware of our feelings toward the use of DFT's in sanctioned tests.

Thanks to Lana Gunsell for bring it to LLHRC, s attention.

Greg Larson

Land Of Lakes Hunting Retriever Club  
Randy Gustafson, Newsletter Editor  
1775 Saint Marys Street  
Falcon Heights MN 55113

**Upland Training at Milaca  
Sunday, February 2, 2003  
Judges & Handler Seminar  
Saturday, February 8, 2003  
Preliminary Upland Hunt - Sun 2-9-03**

**Membership Status Update**

- Thanks for renewing!
- Another chance to renew enclosed!

**Area Dog Event Calendar**

Here's listing of events that your newsletter editor has been made aware of:

UKC/HRC Licensed Hunts Upland:

2-9-03 Land of Lakes HRC,  
Preliminary, Forest Ridge Hunt Club,  
Glenwood City WI, Mark Switzer, 651-  
429-7651, switzerllhrc@hotmail.com  
2-23/24-03 WISILL HRC Upland Tests  
(4), Bong Rec, Kansasville WI, Roger  
Davis, 262-694-5989  
3-2-03 Illinois River HRC, Banner  
Marsh IL, Patty Munson, 309-263-7892,  
chain@mtco.com  
3-8/9-03 Eastern Iowa HRA, loc tba,  
steve-bullard@uiowa.edu  
3-15-03 Badger State HRC, Eagle  
WI, Bruce Bolivar, 414-744-6217,  
thatdogcanhunt@aol.com

UKC/HRC Licensed Hunts Regular:

3-29/30-03 Gun Creek HRC, Benton IL,  
srcutsinger@hcis.net  
4- 5/6-03 Retrievers Unlimited HRC,  
New Athens IL, 618-939-8486,

debwest@htc.net  
4-12/13-03 Mississippi Flyway HRC, tba  
IL, ackmans@hcil.net  
5-3/4-03 Mississippi Valley HRC,  
Victoria IL, Mike Peal, 309-792-5659,  
mgbotts@aol.com  
5-10/11-03 LLHRC, Kelley Farms, Marine  
onSt Croix, MN. Hunt Sec: Mark Switzer  
5-17/18-03 Eastern Iowa HRA, tba IA,  
steven-bullard@uiowa.edu  
5-24/25-03 Big Wapsie HRC, Tripoli IA,  
319-833-7878, slim1@mchsi.com  
5-31/6-01-03 Illinois River HRC, Banner  
Marsh IL, Patty Monson, 309-263-7892,  
munspaa@mortonpotters.org  
9-6/7-03 LLHRC, Kelley Farms, Marine  
onSt Croix, MN. Hunt Sec: Mark Switzer

AKC Hunt Tests:

5-3/4-03 Lake Country Ret Club,  
Prior Lake MN, Randy Herman / Julie  
Orr, 507-744-4207

5-31/6-1-03 Northern Flight, Kelley L&C,  
MN Steve Scherber 715-246-2467  
8-23/24-03 Northern Flight, Kelley  
Farms, Steve Scherber 715-246-2467

NAHRA Hunt Tests:

AKC Informal Trials :

Third Sunday each month, Sauk Rapids,  
MN

AKC Licensed Field Trials:

Other:

2-8-03 HRC Judge & Handler  
Seminar LLHRC, Forest Ridge Hunt  
Club, Glenwood City WI 9 am Start

Check [www.llhrc.org](http://www.llhrc.org) for additional links  
and schedules of events of interest.

**FOR SALE- WANT TO BUY?!**

If you have something for sale, for trade, or want to buy, this newsletter offers free space to get it done! Send your items, description and phone number (or way to have buyers contact you) to Randy Gustafson, Editor, email: [news@llhrc.org](mailto:news@llhrc.org).