



# LAND OF LAKES HRC Retriever News

January 2001

Club Newsletter

Vol. 5 No. 1

## Calendar of Events 2001

(subject to change)

**Winter-** 1st & 3rd Saturday Mornings informal training 10 am start. On the lake at Jim Bowden's home in Forest Lake.

**January 20** - Potluck Game Feed & Club Mtg  
2:00 pm dog events & outdoor fun  
5:00 pm +/- hospitality / food

**February 6** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**March 6** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**April 3** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**May 1** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Preparations for Spring Hunt Tests. Site: tba

**May 12-13** - LLHRC Hunt Test - Kelley Farms, Marine on St. Croix

**June 5** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**August 7** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**August 10-11-12** - Game Fair

**August 17-18-19** - Game Fair  
Armstrong Ranch, Anoka MN

**Sept 4** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Preparations for Fall Hunt Tests. Site: tba

**September 8-9** - LLHRC Hunt Tests  
Kelley Farms, Marine on St. Croix

**October 2** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**November 6** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

**December 4** - Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. start  
Holiday House, White Bear Lake

LLHRC is available and updated on the web thanks to Chad Peterson. Visit the site at <http://www.pconline.com/~chad/llhrc>  
Our schedule of events during the year will be posted on the website, as best as possible.

## Saturday Morning Training Days

Just because it's winter doesn't mean that your training needs to stop. Jim Bowden, Norm Peterson, Mark Switzer and Wade Samson were present at the first training day at Jim's Lake.

"Lining drills were conducted of about 100 yards on plowed paths which encouraged straight lines. Handling in the pattern field showed that all of our dogs need handling work prior to spring Hunts," Jim Bowden reported.

An angled entry drill completed this training session with no dogs cheating.

Wade Samson is developing an itinerary for this winter's Training Days which will be held on the first and third Saturdays. Join LLHRC members on Jim Bowden's training field on the lake on Saturday 1-20-01, the fun starts at 10:00 and the cost is minimal to help cover Club insurance. Call Jim at 651-462-1324 for more information.

## Pot Luck Game Feed • January 20, 2001

On Saturday, 1-20-01, LLHRC will hold a potluck featuring game dishes at the home of Jim & Sharon Bowden, 8442 Itasca Court, Forest Lake, MN. This will be an opportunity to show off culinary talents featuring the prowess and successes of members trips afield.

Please RSVP with one of the event coordinators, Jim Bowden 651-462-1324, Tom Montez 651-731-0618 or Mark Switzer 651-429-7651.

Initial plans include a 2:00 pm start for outdoor activities including some dog events, broom ball on the lake, ice fishing and more. The potluck begins at 5:00 pm. Members not having a game dish to share could bring wine, bread, or a side dish. Bring out those recipes that show off the bounty in your freezer.

Cuisine will include: Norm- ducks or geese; Jim- elk chili; Mark- pheasant stew; Wade- elk kabob; Randy- venison stew; Tom- Mexican pheasant burritos!

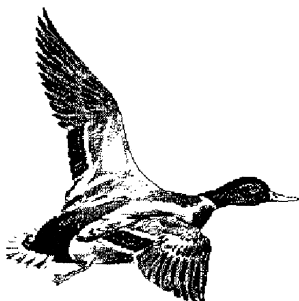
We'll be announcing the club election results at the Potluck Game Feed too. *Hopefully, the recount will be certified.*

## 2001 Hunt Test Dates Approved by HRC.

The LLHRC has been given approval to hold four HRC/UKC Licensed Hunt Tests in 2001.

We will hold two tests back to back on the weekends of May 12-13 and September 8-9. These dates were available from all the key

*continued on page seven*



## December 2000 Meeting Minutes

### Land of Lakes Hunting Retriever Club Information Officers - 2001-2002

President . . . . . Randy Gustafson 651-642-9694  
Vice-President . . . . . Jim Bowden 651-462-1324  
Secretary . . . . . Lana Gunsell 651-487-1203  
Treasurer . . . . . Mark Switzer 651-429-7651

### Board Members

Jamie Petersen 715-262-5074 . Tom Montez 651-731-0618  
Dinah Harlow 651-460-4008 Wade Samson 763-682-0960  
Hunt Test Chair . . . . . Wade Samson 763-682-0960

Training Day Coordinator . . . . .  
Website . . . . . <http://www.pconline.com/~chad/lohrc>  
Newsletter Editor . . . . . Randy Gustafson 651-642-9694  
. . . . . 1775 St. Marys, Falcon Heights MN 55113

## Raffle 2001 Update

Our fund-raising raffles have been a great feature of our Hunt Tests. Our raffles have been fun and they've raised the money necessary to help the club purchase equipment, which in turn has made our Tests and Training Days better.

The LLHRC is a great group where it seems great raffle prizes always show up. All we need is someone to step forward and be willing to coordinate the magic. If this sounds like a task you would like to take on please give Randy Gustafson a call. Work-651-642-9525 or home-651-642-9694, or email: [randy@copyrightofsnelling.com](mailto:randy@copyrightofsnelling.com).

If each member could come up with one item we would have a good raffle table – and if we all found two items it would be huge!

If you have an item sitting around the house or shop that seemed really nice at the time you acquired it but never made it far out of the box it could be perfect for the raffle table. If you could ask the sporting goods, dog, hunting, fishing businesses you frequent for a donated item, that would be great too! Look for more information from our Raffle 2001 Coordinator/s in the near future.

### Poem for New Puppy Owners

Don't smell crotches, don't eat plants.  
Don't steal food or underpants.  
Don't eat my socks, don't grab my hair ...  
DON'T RIP THE STUFFING FROM THAT CHAIR!  
Don't eat those peas, don't touch that bush,  
Don't chew my shoes, what IS this mush?!?  
Eat your cookies, drink your drink,  
Outta the toilet! Outta the sink!  
AWAY FROM THE LITTER BOX, IT'S FOR THE CAT!  
(and must you kiss me after that?!?)  
Raising a puppy is not for the lazy,  
Those rugrats are funny but also quite crazy.  
Don't despair through the toil and strife,  
'Cause after three years you'll get back your life!  
So let's go for walkies, so you can do your "thing",  
And maybe I'll get back my good diamond ring!

–Author unknown

Abridged from Minutes to be submitted by Lana Gunsell, LLHRC Secretary  
Board Meeting, 12/5/2000 at Holiday House, White Bear Lake MN, called to order at 7:45 pm by Pres Jim Bowden.

Attendance: Jim Bowden, Mark Ekeroth, Lana Gunsell, Randy Gustafson, Tom Montez, David Nystrom, Chad Peterson, Norm Peterson, and Mark Switzer.

### OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report: Bank account balance \$1180.61. Club currently has 54 dues paying members.

Nominating Committee: No additional nominations received.

Game Fair 2001: Dates Aug 10-12 and Aug 17-19. Jim B submitted booth application. Club Chair needed.

Spring Hunt Test: Proposed & Approved: Secretary (Spring & Fall) Mark Switzer; Chair Sat Wade Samson, Sun Randy Gustafson Committee Members; Randy G, Wade S, Mark Ekeroth, Tom Montez and Norm Peterson. Jim B recommended Club Treasurer make motel reservations for judges and reserve American Legion in Forest Lake for hunt test dinner.

### NEW BUSINESS

Club Training Day: Every 1st & 3rd Saturdays during winter months beginning in January. Jim B offered his lake, which he plows for training. Can use starter gun or launcher but no poppers. After some discussion it was agreed to charge \$5/person to help pay for club insurance and birds. Club needs training birds. Club needs new Training Day Coordinator since Chad is moving to Duluth.

Club Banquet: Saturday, January 20, 2001, at Jim Bowden's. Start at 2 pm, Dog Games, election of officers, awards, etc. 3-5. Wild Game Fare Potluck starting at 5 pm. Committee of Jim B, Tom M and Mark S will finalize details.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Shane Olean, former officer and member, via email, in addition to reactivating offered to contribute fully guided 2-3 day Goose Hunt in South Dakota as a fund raiser.

Rob Abears and Jim Wills contacted Jim B regarding start up of a new HRC Club in the Brainerd MN area. Jim Wills has purchased a 610 acre game preserve with private hunt club and has given Rob access to land for HRC activities. Lana to contact them regarding new club formation. Chad will forward necessary forms to Rob. Jim and Lana may visit the area and meet with interested people.

Adjourn: 9:45 pm

## October 2000 Meeting Minutes

Club Meeting, 10/3/2000 at Holiday House, White Bear Lake MN, called to order at 7:05 pm by Pres Jim Bowden.

Attendance: Jim Bowden, Pat Gysbers, Randy Gustafson, Rick Hogan, Tom Montez, Scott Morneau, Dave Nystrom, Wade Samson, Mark Switzer and Ed Victory

### OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: Balance in account about \$1,400. Early analysis of Fall Hunt generated over \$2,000 with expenses of \$1,400 and a profit of around \$700.

Nominating Committee (Ed V, Wade S, Dave N) reported following willing to serve on the Board of Directors for the term of January 2001 through December 2002: Tom Montez, Wade Samson, Jamie Petersen, Dinah Harlow. And Officer Nominations: President - Randy Gustafson; VicePres - Jim Bowden; Treasurer - Mark Switzer; Secretary - Lana Gunsell. A ballot will be mailed to all members.

Equipment Trailer: The trailer purchase from Northern Flytes HRC was explained and approved by the group. Wade S will put shelves into trailer and keep in storage at his place.

Hunt Committee: Spring Hunt date of May 13-14 agreed upon to

*Meeting Minutes continued on page seven*



LLHRC members at Bong State Rec Area (IL) for the Fox River Valley HRC and WISILL HRC Hunt Tests in April 2000. Left to right: David Nye (Tyra), Greg Larson (Brave Heart), Lana Gunsell (Java & Ty), Norm Peterson & Sharan Connell (Brook), Chad Peterson (Jaeger)



LLHRC members taking a break at WISILL HRC test April 2000. L-R: Greg Larson, Lana Gunsell, Sharan Connell, David Nye, Chad Peterson

## LLHRC Members at Fox River Valley & WISILL HRC Hunt Tests – April 2000

In the realm of a picture is worth a thousand words here are some that prove that our members do get out of town to attend Hunt Tests!

Land Of Lakes handlers had a good weekend at the WISILL and FRV Hunts. Norm Peterson and Brook earned two Seasoned Passes at the WISILL and Fox River Valley Tests to earn the HR title. Chad Peterson and Meister Jaeger had two seasoned passes (though reports that the first day could have been a lot better!). Lana Gunsell handled Java (N-WR Mocha's Carpe Diem Java CD SH OA WC CGC WCX) to two seasoned passes and Ty (Crofters Loch Taylor Maid) to two started passes. Dave Nye and Tyra (Wintoba's Tyra) one started and one seasoned. Greg Larson and Braveheart (Sir William Wallace) two started passes.

Please keep your newsletter editor informed of your dog's successes!



Lana Gunsell collecting her ribbon and Championship Point Receipt from FRVHRC and WISILL Judges: Carol Rombauer, Scott LePenske, Beverly Amelung and Rod Rombauer

## Game Recipes Column

A great day outdoors, when your dog has found the hiding places of wily birds, flushed them in range for your accurate shot and returned the bird to hand is made complete when you share the bounty of the field with family and friends.

Share your favorite game recipes by sending them to Randy Gustafson, 1775 St. Marys St, Falcon Heights MN 55113 or via email to: [randy@copyrightofsnelling.com](mailto:randy@copyrightofsnelling.com).

Pheasant hunting has been a favorite activity of the Gustafson family since my father was a boy roaming the countryside around Alexandria on fall afternoons with his cocker spaniel after school. To start this new feature of the newsletter I offer recipes from my mother and mother-in-law that transform this regal bird into an evening meal to be enjoyed by all.

### Ginny's Pheasant Recipe

Brown the pieces in butter, seasoning with salt and pepper while browning, put them in a casserole, slice an onion on and in it, and pour half and half to cover. Mom's used either regular or Land O Lakes fat free half and half. Bake at 325 for about two hours, covered.



### Loretta's Creamed Pheasant

Brown the pieces in the bottom of a pan (2 quart +/-). Cover with water and cook it to make a soup like stock (you can add a can of chicken broth with the water). Season this stock while cooking with an onion and some spices, salt & pepper to taste. After the pheasant is cooked, remove it from the pan **RESERVING THE STOCK**. Remove the bones and cut up the meat into decent size pieces that you can stab with your fork. Then make a cream sauce, add that and evaporated milk (not the sweet kind) to the reserved stock. To make a cream sauce you may want to check with your Betty Crocker or Joy of Cooking books for hints on the right way to do it. Add more chicken stock if you need liquid, and maybe some flour/water mix for thickening. Once you've got that cream sauce gravy right add in cut-up pheasant. *Serve this over boiled potatoes and you've got a meal!*

Accompany these dishes with family, friends and conversation to make the hunting experience complete.

# Campaigning or Running A Circuit

by Lana Gunsell

In pro-trainer/handler parlance, campaigning or circuiting means an extended road trip whereby the potential worthiness (capturing points, earning titles) of a dog(s) is exhibited. What often comes to mind and some of you may attest to, is a pro-trainer appearing with a multi-hole trailer at hunt tests or trials, there to handle each dog at one or all event levels (and for a rather attractive fee paid by the dog's owner).

While not my intent, my travel for several weeks this past fall certainly did become a 'running of the Hunt Test circuit' in AKC, HRC and NAHRA with two of my flat coat girls: young Ty (2+ years) and Java (7+ years). As most of you know, my summer of 2000 was fully committed to teaching field classes, judging hunt events and preparing for agility competitions. At season's end I realized my dogs hadn't been run in hunt test, especially Ty. Though close to readiness for Seasoned/Senior level testing I though I could at least run some test and bring her home with an AKC Junior Hunter. But, devoted as I am to dog games in the hunting arena it turned into much more. Here are some tales of my travels.

I began my trip by purposely not sending in entries for the first two weekends. This would allow for delays in travel or vehicle breakdowns, getting a personal "lay of the land" in a different region of the country and observing how Java and Ty adapted to the much hotter and more humid climate. I visited and trained a few days just outside Atlanta, GA with some Flat Coat friends who are breeders as well as trainers in conformation, obedience, agility and field. They own nearly 10,000 acres so finding land for practice was not a problem. I quickly learned not to sit on the small mounds of dirt that were everywhere- the evidence of fire ants and the reason birds were not left lying on the ground for long. I had never seen chestnut trees but they were everywhere. I found myself eating quite a few of them right from the trees. I also picked and ate many pears. Peaches were out of season but we did have those sweet Vandalia onions at dinner one night.

My first test weekend out was a two day NAHRA hunt in Highpoint, NO. Carolina. A disappointing start as gate entries reached the max so were closed. Yet, I was glad to be there. Since NAHRA's roots are along the eastern coast, my primary interest was to see if events were substantially different from those in the Midwest. As a NAHRA judge I found the test set-ups more challenging and technical. Distances were often extended to the maximum and judging calls were strict according to rulebook standards.

My first actual handling was on a Sunday: an AKC test near Athens, TN.

The grounds were beautiful lush hilly fields. Ty picked up her first JH leg here. In the AM she retrieved her water marks without cheating the bank on entry and return. In the afternoon she overshot a 90+ yd. mark whose apex was at the apex of a hill. Full steam ahead, over the hill she went, out of sight for several minutes. She returned to the area of the fall, worked the tall cover thoroughly and brought the bird into me. In MAsters, Java went out in the land series unable to locate the last multiple mark; there was zero wind, bright morning sun and as the second dog to run little scent or disturbed cover to help her out.

My next AKC test wasn't for two weeks, so I checked the HRC hunt schedule and was able to enter TY in Seasoned and Java in Finished at the Southern Illinois HRC. These were definitely 'big dog' tests and were held on reclaimed mining lands. At both levels in both land and water series, distances were out to the max. I believed this compensated for the lack of cover and natural landmarks on the grounds. For both Ty and Java in both land and water multiples, had marks coming out of a winger from behind the running line, short birds dumped right in front of the line and hand thrown diversions to the other end of the line. These were set-ups I was not expecting to encounter and made a mental note to include in future practice. Ty's blind was set slightly angled to a cross wind. She drove hard requiring one whistle/cast to the bird. Java's land blind angled along the side of a hill partially into a head wind. The are the two most difficult elements in a land blind. As many of you know, Java can often be very willful: I was unable to read her face for attitude. She required several whistles/casts but was on the money, taking my handles and driving to the bird.

By afternoon the wind picked up significantly: all dogs had labored swims out and back from the marks. Ty was steady on the jump shoot for a walk-up. On return from the last retrieve she took a bit of bank, I think due to fatigue. AS for Java's water series, I walked to the line thinking "no way". To complicate an already technical test, it started to rain. I grabbed my rain gear and waders and went quickly to the line-it was calf deep muck. One of the judges, Bob Huschle said something about being careful so as to not fall in the muck. I thought to myself, this is a typical Huschle comment-he'd like nothing more than to be entertained by a handler's splash into the green slime. Next to the Grand Hunt, this was the most technical test I'd ever witnessed and the highlight of my HRC tests. I hope the editor will include a picture on the pond so the reader can put my description with it.

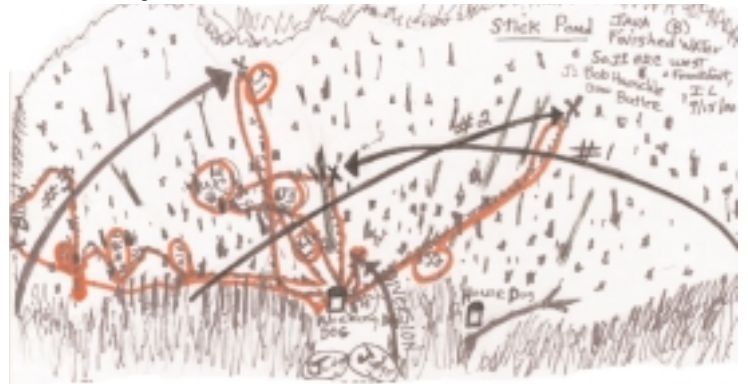
Now, I've seen stick ponds before, but this pond had more sticks than water or so it seemed. The surface was a coating of thick green scum which even the blowing winds didn't disturb. The scenario: To the right of the Working Dog was the Honor Dog with handler on a bucket. Both handlers

called and shot twice for the first mark coming out far to the right of the Honor Dog with a long trajectory in front of both dogs and landing about 40 yds out and jest to the left of the Working Dog. The second mark came out from the shore 50 yds. from the left of the Working Dog-another long trajectory crossing the area of the first fall, going deeper into the pond about 60 yds. out. Two shots were required for the second bird. The third mark also came out from the shore about 80 yds from the left of the Working Dog, falling straight out into the pond approximately 100 yds from the running line. A diversion was thrown from behind the running line and required two shots. The blind followed retrieve of all the marks. It was a true swim-by the gunners and under the arcs of the #2 and #3 falls, set in the shore adjacent to the #3 fall.

Java picked up the birds in the following order: #3, #1, #2, Diversion. I selected the #3 bird to be picked up first. I planned to line her up for the #2 bird next but she self selected (primary) throw #1 fall so I sent her off. Given the rain, sticks, trucks and muck, the birds were barely visible; a tip or wing was the most you'd see if you were lucky, had eagle vision or an impeccably trained reliable tractable dog. I was relying on sheer luck that afternoon though Java was giving a sterling performance thus far. The #2 bird was no where in my view but Java pivoted nicely into the position I wanted and strongly took an initial line. Not knowing exactly where that duck was put me into a most dangerous position. I decided to let Java drift to the left to a point I was certain was far outside the possible area of the fall. Java has a great nose and was showing no indication of a scent. I gave her a loud whistle followed by a strong vocal/right over cast. She hooked hard to the right, committed and kept going. I was relieved by that since I had no idea where I would cast her next. Suddenly her swimming slowed as I watched her head pushed higher out of the water. She had gotten a scent; I only hoped it was the duck. She circled the immediate area and reworked her path, looking again and again over the water's surface. I do not know if she saw anything, but her head took a shallow dive and soon resurfaced with a duck. This was one time I wished the party was over but we still had the blind to go.

On the blind, Java took and carried the initial line for better than half the total distance negotiating sticks and stumps along the way. Is this my dog? Am I dreaming? Fortunately (speaking about the past) Java has been very honest in her swim-by work but she hadn't been on one for over two years! Eventually she started to drift left to the shore and promptly took the right angle 'back' I gave her. About 20 yds further she drifted left again but took my right angle 'back' once more. On the third drift left to the shore I gave a right 'over' that was refused. I repeated the handle and she took it for quite a distance then straightened herself to the shore ahead. Once there, she followed her nose a few yards to snatch up the duck. Except for the last 20 yds her return to me was in the water. She was steady on the Honor as I called and shot with the next Working Dog's handler. I knew for Java it was the best she had ever worked. Too wet, muddy and miserable to watch the remaining Finished Dogs run, I headed back to my trailer for a shower and dry clothing. About four hours later at my campground I received Java's ribbon and Finished Pass Point slip.

Here's a diagram of Java's Water Series.



The next week was spent at the HRC Fall Grand Hunt in Rend Lake, IL. There I met familiar faces-John Riggles, Carol and Rod Rombauer, Don St. Clair and Bill Brennan to name a few. I was also fortunate to meet the Gibsons, Glen Stelly, Pete Strizinger and Claudene Christopher. I watched many great dogs and handlers work through very challenging, seemingly impossible test scenarios; truly a showcase of the best of HRC and absolutely a highlight in my field training career. To everyone: if the opportunity presents its self to attend a Grand Hunt, without question, "GO!" The current HRC website has many terrific photographs that will give you the flavor of the Grand Hunt event. All in all, I consider my week at the Grand as one full (and virtually cost free) week of learning.

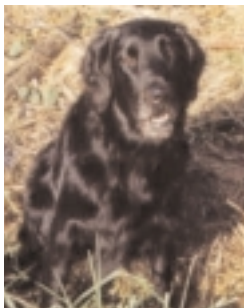
I was next on my way to the Bootheel Retriever Club AKC tests in Daisy, MO. I have run my dogs in several tests in Missouri throughout the years and every site has had magnificent grounds and water. By far, my favorite state for running dogs. Ty picked up two more JH legs at Bootheel. Java ran in Master and did poorly in the first series on land. It was a land triple with a short and a long blind in between the marks. This made both blinds 'hot' as the marks were run. She was doing well up until the last blind- the long one. She failed by returning to the areas of the middle mark and short blind. I was unable to get her to drive deep to the long blind where the bird was also set close the area of the first mark.

It was here in Missouri that I began to notice a distinct pattern that prevailed in all tests the further south we went. This was the marked occurrence of steadiness testing. We began to see short marks falling close to the running line and diversions landing only a few feet from the dog. This was also evident in walk-up situations. On two occasions, the walk-up itself was unusually long, even 50+ yds before the bird came out. Of course, this more closely approximates true to life hunting situations for as upland hunters know, walking great distances between birds is not uncommon. In addition to evaluating steadiness, the judges were also looking at obedience-was the dog able to remain in heel position for more than a few paces without constant commands from the handler. Overall a greater attention was also given to the dog as it approached and left the running line.



**Ty earns 2 Junior Hunter Passes at Bootheel HRC Tests**

We then went to Central Kentucky Retriever Club's two day AKC tests at Peabody Coal Mines. I had previously run tests on these thousands of acres of reclaimed strip mining land. The land is barren with unforgiving winds and sand. Few bodies of water exist at Peabody. Nearly all are treacherous to reach and everywhere a motley assortment of machinery and parts litters the ground. A Junior dog on its way to the line stepped on some scrap metal, sliced open a pad and had to withdraw from the test. On Sunday some friends from Indiana who own a Flat-Coat from a Minneapolis breeder came to Peabody to help out. They cooled and exercised the dog in the same water where Ty ran her water series the day before. Sadie flew into the water, wailed, panicked and had to be dragged up onto shore by Bryan and Katie. A rusty hunk of metal had pierced through a front foot. It took 7 or 8 people to hold the muzzled Sadie down while the metal was twisted out. She went into shock and was rushed to the closest vet nearly an hour away. Luckily, Sadie is doing fine now though the healing is slow. Ty passed her tests both days without incident and earned her AKC Junior Hunter title. The tests were unremarkable though there was a strong element in all series on steadiness.



**Java@ Southern IL HRC**

A drive of several hundred miles took us down into Mississippi and over to the Central Alabama HRC. I was able to enter Ty in Seasoned both days and Java in Finished on Sunday. The test was held on a state owned farm where minimum security offenders were housed. They maintained the grounds and were the primary source of workers at the tests. The entrance grounds were picturesque, beautifully manicured. There were several clean aerated ponds with a band shell and benches scattered throughout the park. It appeared not a blade of grass was out of place. Pecan trees dotted the landscape and the nuts were harvested daily. I had never seen a pecan tree. I was told the nuts could be eaten so tried a half dozen right from the tree. Indeed sweet and full of flavor.

The Central Alabama HRC folks were great. They looked forward to having a member from so far north come to run their tests. Ty earned another 10 points toward her HR on Saturday. A pass on Sunday would be her title. I must say, by my standards and the comments of judges and spectators Ty had an impeccable performance. In the morning was the land that started off with an extended walk (easily 50 yds) into a walk-up. The bird was hand thrown landing within 10 FEET of us! Ty remained steady as a rock on my whistle sit. The blind was next and to my surprise it looked as if she would line it so I gave her a whistle sit/'back' cast and the bird was in my hand in no time. The double marks followed. They were widely spread requiring Ty to mark off the muzzle of the gun as I swung far right to the last bird. Both marks were hand thrown; Ty easily went the long distances to retrieve them. The diversion came out over my head from behind me. Another evaluation of steadiness that Ty passed. We attended a cookout dinner and awards that night followed by a small raffle. Ty received her Seasoned Pass Point slip, a blue and white CAHRC ribbon and her first duck band. Maybe I partied too much that night because the next day-Sunday was an absolute disaster for all three of us.

At the Finished land in the morning, Java had long distance triples, hand thrown. The #1 bird came out of a tree line on the right. The #2 bird was the shortest. It was the middle bird thrown inward from one grove of trees into another grove. The #3 fall came out at the far left. It was also thrown from a small grove of trees and landed in medium cover. Java easily retrieved the marks in the reverse order they were thrown. The diversion came on the return of the last retrieve and it was a poisoned bird. The judges instruction was to run the blind before picking up the diversion. Java gave me two refusals as I tried to pull her off the diversion to run the blind that was under the arc of the #1 bird and through the tree line. It took three more whistles and casts to get her to the duck set for the blind; her intent was still on retrieving that 'hot' diversion. Once back to me from the blind she easily and joyfully picked up the diversion duck. Phew! I checked with the judges and found Java did well enough on land to remain in contention for points in the afternoon water series.

As for Ty, there was no way for me to settle her down as we walked to the water series Sunday morning. I knew what I had done differently from all the other mornings on the circuit. I was lackadaisical. I skipped throwing the dozens of bumpers and hour long romp in the fields. I was seeing the effect immediately as Ty was requiring far too many obedience reminders as we walked to the line. She wasn't blowing me off; my presence just wasn't a factor in 'her' landscape. Her energy, drive and desire were just spilling out all over the place. Too bad that the first test of the day was the water blind which requires the highest level of control in the Seasoned test. For the entire trip Ty had taken lovely initial lines. As I set her up she could hardly sit still. I shot the blind and sent her at instant when I thought I had an eye's blink of attention. She proceed to run the bank toward the set which was in a bushy area. She eventually got into the water. After numerous CR & WRs I switched to my Plan B-forget about the blind just get her back in to the line. After more puttering she finally came up to me on land. She was getting the exercise I had deprived her of that morning...it was the "Jetta" performance. Named after a Flat-Coat in LaCrosse, WI. Particularly at tests, Jetta will go out for a bird then runs wildly about in the field as she pleases. She won't come in with or without a bird and she knows full well that handler, judges and helpers can do little about it. Sure Jetta knows there is an audience and that's part of her fun too. As Ty swam in the judges sought to ask "Is this the same dog who ran so perfectly yesterday?" Tempted I was to say "no" but didn't and qualified my "Yes" with today's performance being due to handler induced error.

Once Ty was back at the line I noticed a bit of her energy worn down and decided to call for the marks. Ty remained steady until the second mark. When it came out she broke going for the #1 bird then changed her mind turning into the second mark just as I was shooting it. Luckily my eye caught her hook into the turn and I managed to shoot up high over the arc of the bird not tracking it at all. Ty changed her mind



**Ty earns AKC JH Title, Central Kentucky HRC**

again and decided to retrieve the #1 duck first. The helper threw the diversion by mistake; it didn't matter to Ty as she was willing to go get it. Once on land I took the duck from Ty holding her firmly by the collar. I turned to the judges behind me asking if they had a pick-up dog. They didn't have one yet but sure would get one (and oh how embarrassing for me. It was Pete Strizinger, ex-HRC INC President handling his dog for pick-ups! But my embarrassment quickly faded in light of Ty's utter frustration at not getting to retrieve any more ducks! Worse yet, I took Ty a short distance down the shore away from the running line. She barked, whined and unleashed every torque of her power watching Pete's dog retrieve 'her' birds. Wow, was I ever holding on to her collar with both hands, holding on for life!

I immediately left the test and went back to the campground to fold down my tent trailer and pack up to leave. It was just after twelve noon; checkout was 2 PM. This was the last test of the trip and I wanted to start home as soon as possible. This is where a 'show schmo' the person who helps with everything as you run the dogs would have been handy. I returned to the Finished test after 3 PM only to find the workers tearing down the equipment. The test was over. Apparently several dogs did poorly in the morning so their handlers headed back home. Unfortunately, I didn't get to run Java. The day turned out to be a very humbling experience not to be soon forgotten.

I look forward to getting Ty's HR Title in 2001. Eventually I will train and run her at the Finished level for an HRCH. This may come a while later on as I want to focus on finishing her breed championship and then of course having a litter of puppies. That means I need to keep her out of the field so her coat looks good and her head is free from scratches and nicks. As for Java, she may run a few Finished tests here or there but rather than pursue and HRCH title I will continue working toward her Master Agility title.

There are so many more experiences I could share about 'running the circuit'. I attended a couple of AKC and UKC night coon hunts-very different and noisy though interesting events. I sketched out (always have) every test Ty and Java ran on the circuit-some pretty unusual and creative aspects I didn't get around to discuss. There are of course, certain travel logistics I would improve upon too. For anyone interested in chatting about the details of my circuit riding, I am most willing to do so, especially with anyone thinking they might like to try a temporary career as a 'circuit rider'. All in all it was a great experience I wouldn't miss doing again. **As the saying goes, "we did alright for a couple of girls!"**

## Are We Having Fun Yet?

(The following is an excerpt from Are We Having Fun Yet?, Hunting Retriever June/July 2000, by Rich Carpenter of Longmont, Colorado. Mr. Carpenter eloquently wrote of the many challenges of training and running HRC hunt tests through the levels, the need for keeping a realistic view and for including fun in the whole process. It was a great read scattered with "inside" information / jokes at the Finished level. For this editor, these paragraphs were worth borrowing for their succinct explanation of why we might train the way we do.)



"Judging your own success. Only you can decide what you really want or how you are doing. And success is a measure we must each take of ourselves and our dogs. If you always hunt alone for ducks and never shoot more than one duck at a time and have shallow water you can wade when the dog doesn't see a fall, who's to say that you can't be satisfied never training beyond Started and just keeping your dog tied up until the shooting is over. Truly a solid Seasoned dog is all the hunting dog anyone needs for 99 percent of waterfowl hunting, and depending upon your attitude toward steady to wing and shot on upland birds, could be all you need there. If you are satisfied, don't feel pressured to go to Finished. The HRCH is not, and should

not be, a cheap title. That dog owns bragging rights on the swamp come hunting season and can account for that one percent of birds that otherwise could not be brought to bag. But you will spend a lot of time and give up other things you normally do if you will train to that level. Meet your needs, not someone else's.

But have fun and be sure the dog has fun. Retrieving and hunting are what they are bred for and what most of them live for. Control is a must, but don't screw life up for them by taking all the fun out.

Don't forget, even if you are a Started handler and never want to go further, you can sign up for whining lessons at the Finished gallery. Our tuition is not too steep – at least not in cash!"

## Game Fair 2000 LLHRC Style

Once again the LLHRC was a presence at Game Fair, Minnesota's largest outdoor event focused on hunting.

Ed Victory did a great job coordinating the volunteer effort that this event requires. Our booth in the Dog Club Tent was decorated with style, stocked with materials and manned by club members who spread the word about HRC to anyone willing to listen.

Nine new members joined LLHRC at Game Fair.

Highlights of the event included our demonstrations of the Hunting Retriever at the Seminar Area, in addition to shooting guns, throwing dummies, whistles, casts, blinds and telling the HRC story, we

dazzled the crowd by having a volunteer child come forward from the audience to demonstrate that a well trained retriever handles handlers, and that the HRCH title could be a family dog too.

**A Big THANK YOU to all members who volunteered to work at Game Fair.** The event is a great opportunity to share the HRC program with hunters and other interested people.

Planning is underway for Game Fair 2001. The dates are the second and third weekends of August, 10-12 and 17-19. Mark your calendars so you can be available to volunteer!



Game Fair Booth manned in expert style on the first weekend by Craig Switzer, Mark Switzer and Norm Peterson.

Photos courtesy of Sharan Connell



Norm Peterson and HR Brooksidess Featherquest are steady for the mark.



HR Brooksidess Featherquest returns with the prey.

players – the site (Kelley Farms), UKC/HRC, local tourism events for hotel space – though the May date does coincide with Mother's Day and Minnesota Fishing Opener.

Spring Hunt Test Chairman Wade Samson has secured all but one or two judges, but still has calls being returned.

Hunt Test Committee: Wade Samson (Chair on Sat, Judge on Sun), Randy Gustafson (Chair on Sun), Norm Peterson, Mark Ekeroth, Tom Montez and Mark Switzer will serve as Hunt Test Secretary. Please consider stepping forward to volunteer in some capacity to help make this event as successful as our previous Hunt Tests. The mantra "many hands make light work" still holds true.

## **Demonstrators needed to help start up new HRC Club in Brainerd • January 27, 2001**

On Saturday, 1-27-01, LLHRC will help the Marsh and Meadows HRC at their organizational meeting. Started, Seasoned and Finished Test will be demonstrated at Noon that day. We need to find dogs and handlers to help them put on the demo. After the demo LLHRC Officers will help the new club conduct their first official meeting. Call Jim Bowden, 651-462-1324, for map on how to get to event.

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## *Meeting Minutes continued from page two*

get approved by HRC. Also to secure Sept 8-9 for Fall Hunt. Motion by Ed Victory, second by Dave Nystrom. Approved.

Training Days: People should bring their own poppers. This notice should be given to all members and included in printing of invites.

Running Rules Changes: Must be submitted by April 1, 2001 to National UKC.

Game Fair: Nine new members joined at Game Fair. Was a good event. See story.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Youth Involvement: Ed Victory started discussion that more kid and family involvement is needed and would be very beneficial for club. Agreement by group. At Hunts run a fun test for kids and non-competing spouses. This would need a coordinator.

Club Food Trailer: Mark Switzer has a donation available for a fully functioning concession trailer for club events in trade for storage. Cooperative arrangements have been made with Northern Flytes. LLHRC will need someone to run the food wagon on Test Days.

Judges: We need judges from within the membership of our club for the long term stability and health of the organization.

Training Days: Need to have a schedule made and members notified.

Banquet: Recognize titles earned by members, etc. Need to see if members would be willing to attend and held in January. Tom Montez, Jim B and Mark S volunteered to co-chair.

Adjourn: 8:20 pm

## **Member Reports from the Fields & Swamps**

### **Grouse in Minnesota -**

Pres Jim Bowden found birds during September and October in the Virginia and Hibbing areas, with slimmer results around Grand Rapids. His group brought home over 20 birds.

Treas Mark Switzer had decent hunting in mid-October around McCarthy Beach. Dino did well though the old bones needed help back into the truck as the afternoon wound down. His Isuzu Trooper Conversion Unit clearly passed the test.

### **Waterfowl -**

Chad Peterson returned from Canada with a full game bag - - Jaeger worked hard and well throughout the trip. The new duck boat made things a bit easier.

Norm Peterson was in the right place at the right time opening weekend in Ortonville. His party of ten harvested 75 ducks, Brook retrieved 27 ducks opening morning herself with Norm shooting 24 in 2 hours off the right platform to be set up on. Doug Gysbers was really pleased with Coal and how their training efforts worked in the field. Coal brought in all that were shot, and a bonus crippled goose too. Brian (age 12) shot a beautiful Mallard Drake with bright green head and double curls. Dave Nystrom had some enjoyable mornings in the swamp with his young lab, Bessy.

### **Pheasants -**

Norm & Chad Peterson hunted Ortonville and the group brought down 12 pheasants opening day in Minnesota.

South Dakota was the traditional scene for many members this fall seeking this wily game bird and sharing the camaraderie of the hunt once again.

Tom Montez and his group limited out west of Mitchell in the early season. Buddy and Max had a great time, though Max was cut by barbed wire while chasing a bird and required a few stitches at a local vet and some rest before heading back afield. Jeff Wilson says the hunting was great. By the second day Jack (his young Chessie) had it figured out – quartering and working in close. Jack retrieved every rooster that he marked, including one that finally dropped over 200 yards away.

Pat Gysbers had a great time with Coal working in close and staying steady in cover alive with birds. They brought home 20 of 21 for the group.

### **Whitetail Deer**

Pat Gysbers got to watch his son Brian (12) harvest his first deer on his first opening morning as a licensed hunter. The doe came in 25 yards away about 30 minutes after Brian had thought he should return to the truck to rest up a bit, learning that patience is the name of the game. Pat got his buck Sunday morning, after spending Sat helping his son and father, and another friend get their deer into camp. Pat also got a nice buck and a fawn in WI. Randy Gustafson filled his doe tag Sat morning, and early Sun harvested what is likely to be the buck of his hunting lifetime. A 200 lb nine pointer in the prime of his six years in Itasca County. Son Jared said opening weekend required eight points if dad wanted to use his tag, knowing Randy only sees spikes if he sees any deer at all with horns.

### **Elk in Colorado**

Jim Bowden and his group of eight brought in three cows and two muleys to help fill the freezers.

Pat Gysbers, Brian and Pat's dad were once again successful in Colorado. They had three cow calf tags that they filled within the first three days of their hunt.

### **Ice Fishing**

12/3/00 Chad Peterson caught his first fish of the season through the ice.



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

**In this issue:**  
Club Meeting Minutes  
Hunt Test Stories  
Photos - Field Reports  
News Notes And More!  
*Next Meeting SAT 1-20*

## Four Hunt Tests Scheduled for 2000

LLHRC will be holding four licensed HRC Hunt Tests this year.

In May we will offer two tests back to back on the weekend of May 12 and 13 at Kelley Farms, Marine on St. Croix. The club will also hold licensed back to back hunts on Sat/Sun. Sept 8 & 9, 2001.

Planning for these events is under way and volunteers are being sought to help make these hunts as successful as our past ones. Please step forward and contact a Hunt Committee member (Wade Samson, Chair 763-682-0960) or a Club Officer and volunteer your talents.

## Area Dog Event Calendar

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

### UKC/HRC Licensed Hunts:

3-\_\_\_-01 Gun Creek HRC, DuQuoin IL  
4-\_\_\_-01 Central Michigan HRC, Flint MI, Kurt Dunn, 517-625-5478  
4-\_\_\_-01 St. Clair Flats HRC, Davidson MI, Don Williams, 810-792-2141  
4-\_\_\_-01 Fox River Valley HRC, WISILL HRC, Burlington WI, Tony Reeves, 815-337-8540  
5-\_\_\_-01 Big Wapsie HRC, Tripoli IA, Mike Judas, 319-233-1158  
5-12/13-01 Land of Lakes HRC, Kelley Farms, Marine on St. Croix, MN, Mark Switzer 651-429-7651

9-8/9-01 LLHRC, Kelley Farms, Marine on St. Croix, MN. Hunt Sec: Mark Switzer

### AKC Hunt Tests:

### AKC Informal Trials / \*=pointed trials:

### AKC Licensed Field Trials:

### Other:

Check the website for additional links and schedules of events of interest.

## *Test Results*

Please keep your newsletter editor informed of your dog's successes! Get your share of fame and glory, or at least see your name in the newsletter!

## *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 Gustafson, 1775 St. Marys St., Falcon Heights MN 55113, or via email: randy@copyrightofsnelling.com.

## *A Word About Newsletter Articles*

This issue of LLHRC Retriever News features an article by Lana Gunsell about her adventures in this past fall "running the circuit" with her dogs Ty and Java. Her travels took her to Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama as they participated in HRC, AKC and NAHRA Hunts. Complete with photos.

We try to pack our newsletter with fun stuff. Send your stories in! Don't miss any future issues of the Retriever News - renew your LLHRC Membership today!

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

**FOR SALE** - "Max" - Black Labrador Male, 6yrs old, Good hunter. Almost ready for Seasoned level. Contact Tom Montez, 651-731-0618

**WANTED** - Used Snow Goose Decoys. Contact Chad Peterson, 218-525-9237

**WANTED** - Used Remington 870 12 ga shotguns in serviceable condition, could use 3 to 5 for LLHRC Hunt Tests. Up to \$100.

**WANTED** - Training area. 20 acres plus within an hour of metro area for LLHRC, lease with purchase option potential.

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.