

MINUTES OF ANNUAL HRC MEETING June 8-10, 2006

Submitted by

Field Representative John Klomp and Public Relations Representative Lee Ann Heldt

The annual meeting of the Hunting Retriever Club was held June 8, 9, and 10 in Memphis. Region 13 was represented by Field Representative John Klomp, Public Relations (PR) Representative Lee Ann Heldt, David Heldt, National Public Relations Coordinator Barbara Newsome, Ed Newsome, and Panhandle Club President Bill Spitzer.

Friday, June 9 was devoted to committee meetings. Saturday, June 10, was the National Business Meeting.

The Field Reps' meeting included a detailed review of the Judges' Seminar, a meeting with UKC President, Mike Cavanaugh, HRC President Mark Lanier, and a review of testing and judging issues throughout the U. S. and Canada. One significant change is that the Judging Seminar will be updated to include more video and more inter-active discussion and participation with our judges and members.

At last Public Relations Committee meeting in 2004 PRs were unclear just what their scope of work was outside of the regional reports. Guidelines were put in place and written up. These guidelines were accepted at the 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

Besides the regional report, the PR also:

- Liaison between the Field Rep and the clubs and help facilitate communication in which ever way possible;
- helps new clubs and travels to assist if need be;
- assist existing clubs as much as possible who are struggling [ideas of fund raisers, gaining membership, perhaps go to the region for ideas, etc];
- co-ordinate and organize a regional meeting [teleconferencing is being studied by the PR Chair]; and
- Oversees that region's website.

PRs were asked to remind Club Presidents that there is a lot of information on their club CD which they will be receiving in the mail soon. After copying the CD to their hard drive, be sure to get it to the Hunt Secretary as all the hunt forms are on there including a new form for Point Receipts

Items the committee is asking the Executive Committee for:

- PRs need to be included on mailings/emails which are sent to all Club Presidents.
- Suggest that PRs have a copy of what is in the new club packet so we can better assist our new clubs.

Mark Lanier and the Executive Committee came into the PR meeting to announce several new programs they hoped the PRs would be very involved in:

- Pass It On – a program where you bring a youngster to a hunt test where they otherwise would not have the exposure;
- The Youth Program – each region would host a Youth Hunt which is identical to the regular hunt test except the child advances each level rather than the dog;
- Partners – we are partnering up and working hand-in-hand to promote each other with Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

All of these are new and are ideas in the making. We will get more information to you as soon as we receive it.

The rest of the afternoon was spent teaching the PRs how to get a website up and running. We had 'hands-on' lesson with one small mishap... Region 9 wrote over the HRC website... oooooops!

Following are some of the significant issues that were discussed and resolved at the annual business meeting:

Running Rules Proposals were acted on by the membership.

Rule #1 SEASONED: A diversionary shot or diversionary bird with shot will be used after the walk-up, blind or on the return from the last mark. Proposal FAILED. Rule will remain the same as is.

Rule #2 SEASONED: (ref. pg. 39 VII) If a Seasoned hunting retriever switches to the diversionary bird, it will fail the test. Proposal FAILED. Rule will remain the same as is.

Rule #3 SEASONED: (ref. pg. 38I) The land blind maximum test distance will not exceed 60 yards. Proposal PASSED. Rule will be revised to reflect the change.

Rule #4 FINISHED: (ref. pg. 42 DESCRIPTION) Part of the test must include a diversion as the dog returns from a blind, walk-up or the return from a marked retrieve. Proposal PASSED. Rule will be revised to reflect the change

Rule #5 GRAND (ref. pg. 6 HUNTS) At the International Grand Hunt test a handler will be allowed to run an unlimited number of dogs. Proposal FAILED. Rule will remain the same as is.

Rule #6 GRAND (ref. pg. 47 DESCRIPTION, pg. 9 CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS)
Remove upland/quarterming test from Grand test and require UH Title to be earned as part of points required to earn GRHRCH Title. Proposal FAILED. Rule will remain the same as is.

NOTE: Changes that were approved will not take effect until Jan 1, 2007; therefore, none of the approved changes can be incorporated into the current testing season.

The Grand Hunt Chair stated that the Fall Grand will be October 21-25, 2006 in Stillmore, Georgia. The Four States Tex will host the Spring Grand in 2007. Libby Milroy stated that she would be interested in doing the Fall Grand for 2007 in Nebraska.

- A Young Handler Program received great support from the HRC Board of Directors, and was enthusiastically approved. Essentially, it is a program to get young people in our organization involved in actual hunt test scenarios. Please review the Young Handler Program with your club membership. It is an opportunity that we may want to discuss at a Regional Meeting.
- HRC adopted a Firearms Safety Policy that is the policy of the International Hunter Safety Association. The policy does not change our current guidelines for gun safety, but gives the entire organization greater liability protection. Please review the policy with your club.
- HRC announced another major sponsor, ZINK calls. Like the bark collar that Tri-Tronics gives at each hunt event, ZINK will also be giving a top quality call to be raffled at each hunt event.
- The Field Representatives clarified that "blind" distances will be measured as the dog runs, not as the crow flies. All judges should be sure to measure running distance effectively immediately.
- HRC President Mark Lanier gave approval to Region 13 to add an additional Field Representative. We have the option of splitting the Region or simply adding a Field Rep to cover part of the Region. Most Regions split when they have 7-8 clubs. We discussed this issue at some length at our Regional Meeting. Since then, two members have expressed an interest in the position, Pat Johnson and Dennis Rosenbach. The part of the Region that a new Field Rep would cover would include current clubs in Nebraska and Wyoming.

If you have any questions regarding the National Meeting or reorganization, please contact Field Rep John or PR Rep Lee Ann Heldt.