

Region 13

Lee Ann Heldt

We have lost another great family member, John Tillema. He was very dedicated to HRC and helped with developing of Western Colorado HRC. I had the opportunity to Judge with John in started. It was such a wonderful experience. He believed in the dogs and giving the benefit to the dogs. John passed away on after a short term illness.



Arkansas Valley HRC – President, Bill Kisamore, Lamar, CO,

arkvalleyhrc@bresnan.net: We really don't have anything to report at this time. Since our back-to-back blizzards in south eastern Colorado at the end of 2006, we have just been having fun shoveling lots of snow so we can get out to go hunting.

Central Rockies HRC – President, Mandy Cieslinski, Arvada, CO, www.CRHRC.com: No report submitted.

Elkhorn Valley HRC – President, Ken Newcomb, Norfolk, NE, hrclabs@cableone.net: No report submitted.

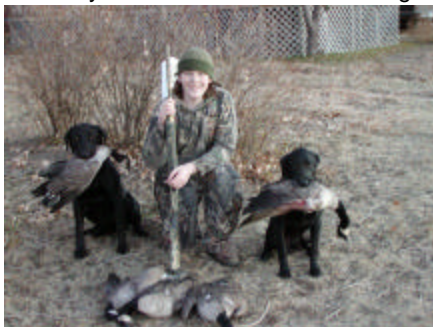
Great Plains HRC – President, Jack Lindstrom, Kearney, NE. No report submitted.

Laramie Peak HRC – President Matt Kelley, Douglas, WY, lazkbirdogs@yahoo.com: Merry Christmas! We have posted flyers and are contacting people who have expressed an interest in joining Laramie Peak HRC. We have scheduled a meeting for Jan. 25. At that time we will set a hunt test date and work on other plans for our hunt test.

Panhandle HRC – President, Bill Spitzer, Rapid City, SD, dabullnbill@rushmore.com: Most members of PHRC are still in full hunting mode, as I write this. But let me shamelessly invite any willing judges that would like to participate in our June HT to contact me, as it is the season for limiting out on those birds also.

Come February, I will once again be attending our Region 13 Judge's/Handler's seminar in North Platte, Nebraska and I hope to see many of you in attendance. Even if you aren't planning to become a judge immediately, it's good to know what us 'wascally pencil holders' are up to, so you can be fully prepared.

Goose hunting has once again returned to the area of Sodak I hunt in, and my Grandson Michael and I have been taking advantage of it as often as his school allows. We've had lots of good pheasant hunting also, although not what we were anticipating last spring. The drought almost totaled the hatch this year, so we've been chasing some mighty wily 2 year old birds. Certainly makes for some interesting dog training, teaching my



guy's the fine art of tracking and retrieving birds that are far from ready to relinquish their freedom. It's what we in HRC refer to as "seasoning", and the young Tank has had an abundance of that this year.

I had a good time hosting the famous Bill Watson and company for a few days of pheasant hunting in November. Wish we'd had a better count of birds to throw at them, but we did run into a couple of occasions where they were mildly surprised by the numbers.

Back to making preps for another HT season. Tank will be moving on up to the big boys game this year, so it will be interesting to see if his real hunting has better prepared him and his handler for the 'Finished' games.

Picture is Club member, Shane Marsh with his young dog Roe on her first duck hunt!



Platte River HRC – President, Ted Brewer, North Platte, NE:

The holidays have been snowy with lots of ducks and geese moving ahead of the storms. Those that have been out hunting have had good luck. We will begin our preparations for our April hunt and are looking forward to the continued hunting season and the "opening" of hunt test season. Members have been busy shoveling out of the snow and ice.

Platte Valley HRC – President, Don Williams, Loveland, Colorado, www.PVHRC.com Platte Valley members continue to split time between digging out from a series of blizzards and hunting. The hunting has been pretty darned good this year for those that have understanding bosses and spouses. Several club members had good hunt test seasons this summer.

Highlights for 2006:

- In January, Barb Newsome announced her retirement from the Public Relations position to focus on training PJ. Thanks Barb for all you have done for Platte Valley.
- In March, Flatlander Kennel Seminar held at the Heldt's place hosted by Platte Valley
- Lee Ann Heldt became the new Public Relations person for Region 13
- May we held our Spring Hunt Test at Indian Meadows
- July we had our annual fundraiser picnic that almost got rained out so was held in the garage at the Heldt's residence. One of the highlights at the auction was the hand made duck call by Rich Carpenter – Thanks Rich!



Joe Olson' dog retrieving a "hotdog" of all things at PV's picnic in July.

August we held our 20th anniversary test at Teal Lodge and the highlight was two sets of duck and goose calls made by WEBFoot Custom Calls, Wade Carpenter and hand made wooden cases made by our own Mike Baker that commemorated our 20th anniversary.

- Lee Ann Heldt's dog Striker earned membership in the 500 point club at the August Anniversary test
- Mike Brockman's Ozzie earned his HRCH and UH titles on the same weekend at the Southern Colorado Hunt Test.
- The passing of two great men in our region that we will not forget, Don Spaulding and John Tillema.

We just held our annual general membership meeting, electing new officers and planning for a busy 2007. New officers are Don Williams President; Mike Brockman, Vice President; Justin Skoda, Treasurer; and Tom Herman, Secretary. We will have lots of training days including a new members and started dog class. There are some new clubs in Region 13 and we can't wait to welcome them by supporting their hunt tests. We hope to see many of you at the PVHRC May back to back hunt test.

Roadrunner HRC – President, Hugh Simpson, Los Lunas, NM: Last year there was zero snow in New Mexico. Well, this year has made up for it with two storms that left nearly a foot of snow in northern New Mexico, and another one due tomorrow. Unfortunately, it happened at the height of waterfowl season! Pretty hard to hunt when you can't get out of the driveway. Oh well, we desperately need the water.

RHRC would like to express our condolences for the passing of John Tillema. He has supported this club from the early days, judging many of our hunt tests. John was fun to have around and added character to tests through out Region 13. He and Nimrod will be missed.

The waterfowl season is rapidly coming to a close here, so it must be time to start training dogs again! Good luck to everyone in the coming year.

Salt Valley HRC – President, Robert Campbell, Lincoln, NE, Robert.Campbell@nelnet.net: No Report Submitted.

Southern Colorado HRC – President, Ron Ross, Pueblo West, CO, ross.ronald@comcast.net: No Report Submitted.

Western Colorado HRC – President Rick Hunter, New Castle, CO, rick1735@hotmail.com: Happy New Year to all! Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Club members have all been out hunting. We have also been mourning the loss of John Tillema. John was the force behind the founding of WCHRC. For every obstacle I could through out there for not starting a club, John was there to knock them down. In the beginning John would travel from Pueblo to New Castle just to help me train my dog. Then later he would come up to assist with training days. He was truly devoted to the organization and will be missed.

On a more positive note, many of our club member's dogs have been out getting their first wild birds.

I look forward to seeing you all at the hunt tests this spring.



Sam's dog Joe got the goose thing figured out



Travis's dog Hoyt got his first duck!