

Region 13
Lee Ann Heldt

Arkansas Valley HRC – President, Bryce Hiigel, Lamar, CO, h2oknine@bresnan.net: Well it's a new year so we are starting to put the hunting season to bed and wake up to the hunt test season. We are starting to prepare for our annual hunt test in July with finding our judges etc. The snow has started to melt as we had a pretty heavy snow fall this year and we now have the mud to deal with.

Central Rockies HRC – President, Mandy Cieslinski, Arvada, CO, mandy_cieslinski@hotmail.com: www.CRHRC.com: Central Rockies had to cancel their back-to-back upland contest due to weather conditions. We are hoping next year to be able to have the hunt again as so many in our region rely on us putting this on. Hunting season is just winding down and many of our members are sharing stories from their exciting hunting season. We are now preparing and training for the upcoming hunt test season. We will be having our spring pheasant contest in April.

We would like to congratulate our newest Hunting Retriever Champion. HRCH Bo's Gator Pt. Cajun Roux obtained his HRCH title in Louisiana on March 4, 2007 at 22 months old. Way to go!



HRCH Bo's Gator Pt. Cajun

Elkhorn Valley HRC – President, Ken Newcomb, Norfolk, NE, romans2@telebeep.com: There is a small air of disappointment in our club as the decision was made to cancel our Spring Hunt Test this year. We just had too many problems to feel like we could pull off the quality hunt we wanted.

We have decided to replace this hunt with an Upland Test held at the end of August. We are putting a lot of effort in to this event since it is our prelim and we want it to represent us in a high quality manner. We hope that many of you will decide to join us for an August pheasant hunt with your companions.

It sure would be nice to see warm weather so all these dogs can see water again.

Elkhorn Valley looks to represent itself well again this year at all the local hunts. Here's looking forward to seeing all our old friends and making many new ones this year.

Great Plains HRC – President, Jack Lindstrom, Kearney, NE, jlindstrom@barneyinsurance.net: The duck, dark goose, and upland seasons have closed. A few members are still aggressively pursuing snow geese. Most members are turning attention to training and our upcoming Spring hunt test. The hunt will again be held on the Jeffrey property near Overton, Nebraska on the first weekend of May 2007.

Club members Dick Schumacher and Lance Bailey have new pups. We expect that the pups will be running in the puppy stake at our spring hunt test. You are all welcome to cheer the pups and enjoy our hunt test and the amenities we have to offer.

Our efforts to promote the club for new members have really shown. We have seven new members, with a couple of verbals.

A couple of our members participated in the One Box Hunts' spring Rocken' Rooster event in Broken Bow, NE. The retrievers received high marks from the owners of pointers.

Laramie Peak HRC – President Matt Kelley, Douglas, WY, lazkbirdogs@yahoo.com: We had a meeting in February with a pretty good turn out and interest. We are in the process of getting a memberships going, rounding up equipment, and looking for a hunt test date.

Panhandle HRC – President, Bill Spitzer, Rapid City, SD, dabullinbill@rushmore.com: Our annual winter meeting produced a slate of officers for 2007, which is strangely similar to the 2006 slate. I actually don't mind being reelected to serve as Panhandle's President. While we have only an extremely small membership, all are hard workers, and the majority are very active. That makes my job quite easy.

Our hard working V.P., Chris Jobman, the regions dog training pro, has been conducting seminars so more of our regions handlers can be better qualified trainers.

Our club is also home to our region's newest Field Rep...Pat Johnson, husband of our intrepid club secretary as well as our HTS, Rita Johnson.

Our treasurer, Kellye Riggs is the Mom of one of our young members, Chelsae, who trains one of the outstanding retrievers in our region, Riggs River Ranger, soon to be appearing in a Grand near you.

Our hunt test land owner, and head lunch chef, proud father of Chelsae and sometimes handler, Katti, as well as husband of Kellye is that well known trout farm entrepreneur, Tim Riggs. Tim provided some of the Region 13 judges with a free goose hunt on his grounds in February. We gathered around for a meal to toast our good fortune.

Speaking of Entrepreneurs, PHRC is also home club to Wade Carpenter, founder of Webfoot calls, in Idalia, CO., and our PHRC past president, as well as our HTC since we started up in 2001, Albert Hargreaves. Albert has made, and continues to make, many wingers that have become a staple of our hunt testing programs throughout Region 13.

Certainly our most under recognized but one of our hardest working members is Marijayne Fehringer. Marijayne is responsible for all our bird throwers that she rounds up from her hometown of Peetz CO. She also provides all the judges and test workers lunches, as well as hauling those throwers back and forth. She's a treasure.

While the majority of our members do reside in Nebraska's Panhandle, we are membered out of 3 states, over 300 miles apart. We have a couple others in addition to Wade and Marijayne from Colorado...namely the Region 13 Public Relations lady, Lee Ann Heldt and her main squeeze, Dave. Pat and Rita and I are from Sodak. Other Huskers include Donelle Rolle, Trevor Black, and one of Nebraska's Finest...State Trooper, Ron Kissler, the guy I love to see at our hunt tests, but not interested in meeting on the highway. ;-)

As you might expect with such a widely separated membership, we don't meet all that often, conducting most of our communications via email. Just a lean, mean hunt testin' mosheen. Join us for the fun.

As the saying goes, size ain't everything, eh?

Platte River HRC – President, Jay Dee Richards, North Platte, NE, jrichards@pssd.com: Platte River HRC is busy

getting things prepared for their spring hunt. This year's hunt will be held in April again. The winter has been unusually cold and wet. We should have plenty of water and we hope for plenty of sunshine as well.

Members will be attending several of the regions hunts both as judges and as participants. We are excited about the upcoming testing season and are anxious to see old friends again.

Platte Valley HRC – President, Don Williams, Loveland, CO, willid@lpbroadband.net: www.PVHRC.com: The training and hunt test season kicked off at the end of February with a training day at the great new 4H facility at the local fairgrounds. Never mind Old Man Winter, this facility gives us a large indoor venue to work with the young dogs. Lots of new and enthusiastic members showed up as well as some old hands to help them out. There is nothing like a crop of puppies to get you thinking K9.

Several more training days are planned and small training groups are forming as I speak. The PVHRC spring hunt test is May 19th and 20th so we are busy recruiting judges and help for that. We have some members training for the Grand which is exciting for the rest of us that are a little too intimidated to give it a try. Good luck to the Grand bound dogs. Please forgive your handlers for their shortcomings and have a great run at the coveted GRHRCH.



HR Bailey's Irish Crème on the Rocks
owned by Kate and Justin Green.

Roadrunner HRC – President, Bill Archer, Los Alamos, NM, darcher123@comcast.net: This is a quiet time of year. Hunting season is time off now! Thanks again over but the training grounds are too snowy to use. We are getting ready to start club training days in March. About time, the dogs are getting stir-crazy! We did have our annual meeting and have a new set of officers. Thanks to Melissa Page and Hugh Simpson who have been officers in some position for the last eight years. They get some time off.

Salt Valley HRC – President, Robert Campbell, Lincoln, NE, Robert.Campbell@nelnet.net: Spring 2007 has started to slowly venture into Nebraska's Salt Valley Rainwater Basins bringing with it a large migration of waterfowl, mainly snow geese, heading back to their summer breeding grounds. A good majority of Salt Valley HRC members and their dogs will be out logging the vehicle miles and chasing snow geese for the next couple of weeks.

However, the decoys will be pulled in for off season storage just in time for the SVHRC Preliminary Hunt Test weekend at the end of March.

Weekend logistics have been finalized and continue to be refined in the hopes both judges and handlers enjoy their time here with us.

To give all handlers a sneak peak Famous Dave's Barbeque will be catering in our banquet dinner. If you like good barbeque don't miss it! Raffle items continue to pour in and everyone will have the opportunity to take home items ranging from framed outdoor artwork, to waterfowl calls, training equipment, and other outdoor oriented items.

Already, a huge thank you goes out to the numerous folks that have called with offers of assistance, committed to judging, and will be providing equipment for our hunt test. This type of support is truly why many of us keep training dogs and support the mission of the Hunting Retriever Club.

Please feel free to contact any of the SVHRC members personally with any questions or needed support. Drive safe and I look forward to shaking many new and old familiar hands.

Southern Colorado HRC – President, Mike Jordan, Pueblo, CO. The hunt committee is determining ground cost for spring hunt. Bird boys have been scheduled for the spring hunt as well. Training days have begun. They are every other Saturday, 8:00am at Grant Hurley's place off Overton Rd. On February 17th the session was held by Don Ley and Tim Boise.

With hunting season coming to an end, let's get on top of getting our companions refined for this springs events. Take advantage of our training days for all levels of handling.

Western Colorado HRC – President Rick Hunter, New Castle, CO, rick1735@hotmail.com: Another hunt test season is upon us. As hunting season winds down I have been amazed at the momentum that WCHRC continues to gain. I guess we should never under estimate the power of fun, fellowship and dogs.

WCHRC has just completed our inaugural upland fun hunt. It was a huge success thanks to the hard work of our hunt chair Nate Berhow. His exceptional attention to detail coupled with his ability to clear out a lingering storm front made for a stellar hunt under a clear blue Western Colorado sky. It is always a great day when you can shoot a few pheasants and witness some exceptional dog work. I would like to thank all those who participated in and helped with the hunt. I also want to give special thanks to Sam Wall, Melody Berhow, Jim McLaughlin, Rick Gotschalk, and Barbara Gotschalk for so generously donating their time. Preparations are well under way for our regular licensed hunt to be held on July 28-29 in Rifle Colorado. It is our hope as a club to build on what was started at our inaugural hunt last year. We want to make this event something people will look forward to year after year.

Interest in our club as well as our membership on the Western Slope continues to grow. I look forward to another summer of fun and fellowship with a vision of what we can do as volunteers to help establish this sport for the betterment of hunting retrievers in Western Colorado.

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



Willie Williams and Gunner, first place winning retriever on level 1 field at WCHRC's fun hunt.



The Hunt Chair in the hunt chair, Nate Berhow and Imus.