

Region 13

Lee Ann Heldt

Arkansas Valley HRC – President, Bryce Hiigel, Lamar, CO, h2oknine@bresnan.net: There isn't much that goes on this time of the year. We think about and start to plan our hunt test that will be in July. We are having a meeting in January and we are looking for more input from members. We hope that they come with lots of ideas on how to make the test flow better and how to get more members.

Central Rockies HRC – President, Mandy Cieslinski, Arvada, CO, mandy_cieslinski@hotmail.com: www.CRHRC.com: Central Rockies members have been busy hunting and enjoying time with the dogs. We have our winter pheasant contest that will be coming up at the end of February. This is a very fun time for all. We are also in the progress of planning our back to back upland licensed hunt. This will take place on March 8th and 9th just north of Denver. This is a great place to get an upland title in one weekend! Hope to see you there!

Elkhorn Valley HRC – President, Keith Spader Norfolk, NE, keithspader@hotmail.com: It's a sad time of year for me personally, the end of duck season. It was a good season for me as well as many members that I spoke with and I hope it was a good season for everyone else. We still have a few weeks of Canada goose season then it's onto the spring snow goose conservation order (my personal favorite). Then it's on to hunt test season, where even if you didn't get out hunting much or didn't have a stellar year, there are plenty of birds and they always go down!

2008 marks an election year for Elkhorn Valley HRC, new officers, Keith Spader, President; Jim Ferguson, Vice Pres.; Janet Filipi, Sec/Tres. Huge thanks to outgoing Pres. Ken Newcomb and Tres. Mike Bentjen. We are currently putting together everything for our spring hunt test, which will be in April near Norfolk NE. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission have done a lot of work to the area and it is duckier than ever! We are also working on developing a club training schedule that works out for everyone.

Great Plains HRC – President, Jack Lindstrom, Kearney, NE, jlindstrom@barneyinsurance.net: The 2008 hunt test season will begin shortly for our Region. Our members are winding down the hunting season and getting ready for the upcoming hunt test year. Our first meeting is in January and we all excited about our Spring Test. It will be held at a new location so make sure to get a premium in early. We have a few new pups getting ready to run their first hunt tests. We also have a few new members who are excited about getting involved in the club. All of our members had some great hunting tales to share at our first meeting. Great memories we made in 2007. We hope to see you all at our Spring Hunt.

Hidden Pines HRC – President, Fred Lysinger, Cheyenne, WY medicinebeaukennels@yahoo.com: We will furnish dogs for the NWTF Jakes or youth pheasant hunt on February 9. We also plan to furnish dogs for another pheasant forever youth hunt this spring. This is a good way to get kids interested in dogs and hunting, and it is fun. Congratulations to Rich Cathcart and his dogs Ike and Ruby, and to Mike Pyle and his dog Checks for cleaning house at the National Upland Classic in Kansas, and to Darrell McMullen and his dog Abbey for winning the Colorado National Upland Classic open division. Fred Lysinger and his dog Bairne won amateur division. At the Wyoming State Pheasant Championship, Darrell McMullen and Abbey won open championship, Kevin Van Cleave and Trigger came in second, Terry Bridwell and Sooner came in second in open pointing, Darrell McMullen and Berkley tied with Fred Lysinger and Bairne for junior championship.

We have had an extended cold streak here in Cheyenne and the ice is thick. It may not be off until April. We plan to have

weekly training days starting in March. There will be a wild game feed and auction in late February,

Laramie Peak HRC – President Matt Kelley, Douglas, WY, lazkbirdogs@yahoo.com: Not much going on with Laramie Peak at this time. We are getting new interest in the club and will have our annual meeting in the next month or so. We set our new dates towards the end of April for 2008. I am looking forward to a fun year.

Panhandle HRC – President, Pat Johnson, Caputa, SD, prjohn@wescomm.com: No. Report Submitted.

Platte River HRC – President, Jay Dee Richards, North Platte, NE, jr-richards@pssd.com: Most members have been hunting...the duck and goose hunting has been good with a few pheasants around too. We will have our first meeting of the year and a party on Jan 12. We will be busy getting all the arrangements made for our spring hunt.

Happy hunting!

Platte Valley HRC – President, Don Williams, Loveland, CO, willid@lpbroadband.net: www.PVHRC.com: Club activities are pretty much in a hibernation mode this time of year. I hear rumors that individual club members actually get to go hunting now and then but I certainly wouldn't know. PVHRC will hold its annual general membership meeting January 16 so that will be old news by the time this goes to print. We will elect officers and set the calendar for the year's activities. January is also the time for sportsman shows in this part of the country so hopefully we will garner a few new members to join in on the fun.

Our club has some curiosity about the effect that ever rising gas prices is going to have on hunt test attendance. Our region is so spread out that a few cents change in fuel costs can make or break the feasibility of attending a test. It will be a challenge for Platte Valley HRC to host both our normal spring and fall hunt tests if attendance drops off. We would love to hear from other clubs that have ideas for controlling costs.

PVHRC is trying a couple of new ideas in marketing the club and HRC. For the first time we have a marketing and education committee headed by Dave Palmstein. They are building relationships with retail venues and other places we can put on demonstrations and get the word out. On another front one of our members, Tom Herman, has volunteered to head up an "ask a trainer" page on our website. If a member, or really anyone accessing the webpage, needs help or advice Tom will either answer the question himself or help find the answer somewhere else. Sharing of tips and experience is a big part of what makes HRC so great so I have high hopes for Tom's efforts.

Roadrunner HRC – President, Bill Archer, Los Alamos, NM, darcher123@comcast.net: 2007 was a mixed year for the Roadrunner. We had several good fun hunts early in the year and the club sponsored many training sessions during the summer and fall. Our 2007 hunt test was the most successful in several years with good attendance, drawing new attendees to HRC from Arizona, and several handlers from Texas. From the point of view of dog handling this has been a very good year.

Unfortunately, much of the energy of the club officers has been channeled into fighting the closure of our hunt test site, Bosque del Apache NWR, to dog events. Although we are continuing to fight this along with the other New Mexico retriever clubs, it is quite likely that we have had our last hunt test at Bosque del Apache. It is quite unfortunate that a left-coast manager can make arbitrary decisions without any input from the local community.

However it turns out with Bosque del Apache we intend to put on our annual hunt test in September 2008. The bright side to having to find a new location is that it will likely be closer to Colorado and/or Texas. Any suggestions for new locations are welcome.

Salt Valley HRC – President, President, Troy Bailey, Lincoln, NE, troyb@averyoutdoors.com: 2007 was a very busy but productive year for SVHRC and its members. We held

our first hunt test in March and feel it was very successful. Several members did well in the area tests and titled dogs. Our membership has steadily grown and we are working towards a great 2008.

Our first big change will be in January when RJ Campbell steps down as president and I take the helm. RJ did an outstanding job in his term and kept a steady hand moving the club forward. I'd like to thank him for all he has done for the club thus far and let him know that just because the title is gone doesn't mean he won't be counted on still as being a leader in the club. Kirk Steffensen and Mark McElroy retained their positions as Vice President and Treasurer while Jeff Broughton was elected to be the clubs Secretary.

We are in the midst of planning our 2008 hunt test which will be held at the end of March again at Wagontrain Lake. The social will be held at the American Legion Hall in Hickman as it was last year. A premium will be available shortly.

Prior to our test, we will be hosting a judges and handlers seminar on Saturday, March 8th. It will start at 0800 AM and be held at the LaVista (Omaha) Cabelas. If anyone is interested in attending please let me know so I can keep an accurate headcount.

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. Have fun and be safe as the hunting season winds down and we get ready for the spring thaw and training time to come.



Jason Zerrer's (Midway HRC) Moose and Troy Bailey's (Salt Valley HRC) Roxy after a great Missouri hunt.

Southern Colorado HRC – President, Karen Davis, Pueblo, CO: trailsendtaxi@hotmail.com: We had a wonderful Christmas party at the Spanglers. Good Food, Good Friends and Fun were had by all. Pete played dual role and was Santa for the kids and then was Alex Trebek for entertainment. We had to dig deep into our brains/memory to answer some of his trivia questions. We thank Pete and Glenna for opening up their home. New Officers: President Karen Davis; VP Faron Eddy; secretary, Bob Moreschini; Treasurer Ron Ross.

Some of our members are not getting in the routine trainings related to the cold weather and short days. And most members are not getting in as many ducks and geese as they would like. They all have excuses, the ducks are few, Christmas Holidays, can't get out hunting, etc.... So the Club is finalizing plans for training days that will start in Feb and run until Late March-Early April.

We are busy working on the upcoming April back to back Hunt Test. We are putting in a lot of effort to make this a spectacular successful hunt.

We welcomed a few new members to our club, with the start of the new year; Tom Hants, Rodney West, and Richard Reinhardt.

Western Colorado HRC – President Rick Hunter, New Castle, CO, rick1735@hotmail.com: Hi one and all! I hope all of you have been enjoying the rewards of hunting over well trained retrievers we see each year at the hunt tests.

Western Colorado Hunting Retriever Club will be switching our hunt test date to weekend in August. This year the club will be hosting an upland hunt test. It is our hope that folks will be interested in training for an upland event which would be right before the upland seasons open. We also hope that by doing an upland hunt it will provide an opportunity for all of us to support the newer clubs in the region by attending their regular hunts.

By the time this comes to press, our club will have elected our board of officers for the next two years. Please welcome any new faces that may come into office into the HRC family with the same warmth I received. I look forward to seeing you all at the many quality events throughout the region this coming hunt test season. Till then let's hunt'em up!



Gunner Hoyt and Buddy