

## **Region 14 July 2009**

Kate Szilard

Late breaking news; Oregon has it's 2nd club. Welcome to Lower Columbia HRC, Deer Island, Oregon - Elroy Olson, President

### **Interior Alaska Gun Dog Association – President Wes Willson**

Interior Alaska Gun Dog Association completed a busy and successful May featuring a demonstration of hunting retriever skills for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, a picnic test, upland picnic test, and a double header hunt test. A big thanks to the members of the Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association who made the 6 hour drives to Fairbanks for the Memorial Day Hunt. We had one of our largest fields yet and are looking forward to an even larger turnout for our Hunt in July. June has been filled with training days as we try to catch up from the long winter and take advantage of nearly 24 hours of daylight.

### **Salt Chuck HRC – President Bill Pearson**

Each year our club members train and compete on a large piece of coastal property called Swallowfield, at the Chemainus Estuary. It has standing water, a river, and a large shoreline on the ocean. It also has several acres of land with various types of cover and terrain – scrub grass, small bushes, dikes, hills, flat fields, and trees.

This property has changed hands several times over the years, and therefore continued access to this prime piece of real estate has been a constant concern. In March of this year the land was sold to Ducks Unlimited of Canada (DUC).

DUC is willing to enter into an arrangement for the long-term use of the property in cooperation with the retriever clubs on Vancouver Island given our legacy use and good track record of previous management and use of the site. Eventually (at least one year away) DUC will turn over administration of the Farm to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

This is great news for retriever clubs on Vancouver Island, as it is getting more difficult to find land to train and compete on as each year goes by.

Our Spring Hunt was a success this year. Mike Botts travelled all the way from Iowa to give a very informative judge's seminar on Friday. Saturday and Sunday hunts were blessed with good weather, and the handlers & dogs were introduced to some interesting scenarios.

Our Fall Hunt (August) is being held at a new site in the Comox Valley. The judges will have lots of land and some very technical water at their disposal, so there should be some interesting tests for those who attend – so mark it on your calendars!!

## **Whistling Wings HRC – President Cindy Bowers**

Report by Secretary Bev Gettling

Summer is in full swing and we are getting ready for our August Hunt. We have had many well attended practices and are looking forward to a well attended Hunt. We especially want to thank Lynn and Spence Saunders for those well organized practices. They set up each practice with well thought out hunt scenarios and we even got in some Upland practice.

Our weather has been wonderful with very little rain and we hope this continues. We plan on having a tailgate party at our Hunt and the new location has beautiful water and land.

With the Northwest growing rapidly with hunt clubs our members have had many hunt tests to choose from. Congratulations to all of our members who have earned titles!

Our club continues to gain new members. Chris Rotell will be drumming up even more local interest in HRC at the Lacey Washington Cabela's store during their summer event where an estimated 1500 people a day will be attending. We welcome all of the new Region 14 clubs and hope they will come and participate in our August Hunt.

## **Missouri Headwaters HRC – President David L. French**

Well, July is upon us and our Preliminary hunt is fast approaching. It has been a lot of working getting everything together, but alas our judges are booked, our ribbons are in hand, and the birds are ready to "fly". We have secured the use of some great grounds for our inaugural event, and we are confident that all that attend will have a GREAT time.

I'd like to put a quick thank you out there to all those that have helped us along the way; most notably, Kerri Payne, Margo Ellis, and Joe Braverman along with everyone from the HRC Executive committee. All of whom have worked long and hard to see that this club becomes a reality.

We continue to train every Wednesday evenings as well as most weekends. If you are in the area and would like to join us, please let us know

## **Olympic Rainshadow HRC – Bob Gunther President**

Report by Secretary Jane Burkey

Well, it finally happened. ORHRC had its Preliminary and Inaugural hunts. They were held out at Sunnydell Shooting Grounds & Kennels in Sequim, Washington. While primarily the premier Sporting Clay location in the country, for this weekend, Sunnydell slipped over to the "Dog Side". Even with the limited shooting available, (restricted to 8 of 25 stations) there was some "music" in the background for the dogs to enjoy. The

weather was perfect in that there was filtered sunlight keeping it very comfortable and great working temperatures for the dogs.

The weekend actually started with the Judges Seminar on Friday with over 20 people present. David Cousineau gave the seminar. There was a problem with the DVD so he had to talk through the whole presentation. A lot of questions were asked and answered.

On Saturday people were arriving by 6 am. The place was busy and buzzing pretty quickly after that. The main workhorses of the weekend were Bob and Evelyn Gunther and their family. But it was most definitely a collaborative effort from many people. Cindy Bowers and Pam Duncan from Whistling Wings HRC helped Evelyn learn the paperwork ropes. With the learning process and the craziness of the first ever Hunt it was a bit hectic. Rose Reagan, Bob and Evelyn's daughter, helped out with the paperwork and helped direct traffic to the appropriate fields. Rose's daughter, Ruby, was a big help, also. Other members of ORHRC helped out too – Scott Dalglish ordered up the beautiful maroon ribbons; David McCrorie purchased the poppers and marshalled at Started. Darlene was in charge of food preparation; Boyd Ulsh was the bird steward. Many others, too numerous to name, pitched in where ever needed.

It would never have gone so smoothly if not for the wonderful help provided by the whole Whistling Wings HRC. They brought their equipment and, since they have 10 years of experience putting on Hunts, everything was set up quickly and things started on time. Salt Chuck HRC members were also there, getting us started right. Friends of Sunnyside helped in any way asked and even Paul & Sherilyn Seyler, Olympic National Park staff, came to help out and learn about HRC. Like I said, collaborative effort.

At the awards dinner, everyone ate until stuffed, and there was a really comfortable atmosphere as all sat and visited while waiting for the paperwork to be done and for the ribbons to be given out. There was a great raffle that had been going on throughout the day, with Bob & Evelyn's granddaughter Kelsey as the ticket salesman. There were boxes of decoys, donated by ORHRC; an e-collar donated by HRC; paintings and personalized woodburning donated by Jane Burkey; a home dog training donated by BD Enterprises and many other items. With Kelsey's work as a ticket pusher, ORHRC netted over \$300!

The first ever title awarded at an ORHRC event was a Started Hunting Retriever title earned by "Kia", a beautiful Golden Retriever owned, trained and handled by WWHRC member Bev Gettling. She had the traditional bucket of water treatment. She had come prepared though, and after getting her ribbon, she was in dry clothes. Andy Fontenot received many maroon ribbons for his successes. Judy Depree, of Grouse Mountain Kennels, had her first ever HRC experience and walked away with multiple ribbons as well. There were three 21 week-old English Springer pups competing and all three passed at Started. There were many other ribbons handed out and many smiles were seen that evening.

Sunday went even smoother, what with one day's experience under our belts. We got all long distance competitors to the front of the line so they could hit the trail as soon as possible after their last performance of the day. Judy Depree and friend Julie Herridge contributed to ORHRC by providing an absolutely scrumptious BBQ lunch. The "cravings and ravings" were very complimentary.

At the end of the competition day, once again ribbons were handed out and it was all counted as a great success. One of the English Springer Spaniels, Mike Carpinito's "Jack", (Mike's Jack O'Lantern) came within 2 weeks of being the youngest dog ever titled in a performance event. Born on December 30, 2008, he earned his first pass at the Salt Chuck Hunt on May 30<sup>th</sup>, his 20<sup>th</sup> week birthday, passing the next day, too. He earned his third and fourth passes at 21 weeks right here at Sunnyside, earning his Started Hunting Retriever title. He is trained by Chuck Dryke and Jane Burkey, and handled by Jane for all four passes.

In conclusion, I think ORHRC's first Hunts were a huge success. The first of many weekends to come, I'm sure.

### **Northeast Washington Gun Dog Club – Thomas Blakeney President**

Report by Secretary Doc Ericson

Northeast Washington Gun Dog Club had our Inaugural (preliminary on Saturday & regular on Sunday) HRC Hunts. There were a few glitches, but all in all, things went smoother than expected. Unfortunately, the weather was very hot each afternoon. We had about 80 dogs run for the two days, a really fun tailgate party and a lot of new friends were made. There were handlers from WA, ID, MT, OR, BC. Even as far as Vancouver Island == an 11 hour trip! We felt very fortunate to have not only the Regional Rep attend and judge, but also the HRC President, who also judged on both days.

We had exceptional support from other HRC Clubs -- particularly Whistling Wings HRC from the west side of WA. Not only did a lot of WW members run dogs, but WW brought their fully stocked equipment trailer. We could never have pulled this off without the exceptional help and support that we got from Whistling Wings.

I think our Judges did an excellent job, and many of them also brought equipment that we used. A large number of companies helped sponsor our tailgate party (food, raffle, and auction). Our "big items" were a Gunners Up remote Winger and a Tri Tronics G3 collar.

Our birds were exceptional. Virtually full grown and because the birds are raised outdoors with plenty of water, they were pretty waterproof and stayed in super good shape.

All of the participants and all of the judges said that our grounds at Burlington Ranch were the finest that they had ever seen. There was even some talk that it would be a super place for the Grand in 4 or 5 years.

It was an amazing amount of work getting our Club associated with HRC and setting up our first Hunt, but it was worth every minute of it. We learned a lot and it's going to be a lot easier the next time we have a Hunt. We are already planning for next year, and hope to hold our Hunt around the first of June (when the weather should be excellent). We hope to have two HRC Tests next year and will add in Upland Hunts as well.

I could go on and on, but to keep from boring you, I'll end in saying, "HRC is family".