



January 10th, 2013

President's Message

Happy 2013 to all MHGDC members and our four-legged hunting companions! I would like to thank the Board of Directors who volunteered their time and energy in 2012 in meeting bi-monthly to deal with club business and issues. I would also like to thank the club members who volunteered to make the many training sessions, tests and trials very successful. Good fortune to all in 2013!

This New Year will bring several changes in club officers for 2013. The slate of officers that will be voted on at our annual banquet are: President - Mike Heard, Vice President – Al Gadoury, Treasurer – Kerri Payne, Secretary – Javan Druckenmiller, Pointers – Sam Robinson and Peter Bakun, Spaniels – Ed Woods and Cheryl Johnson, Retrievers – David French and Ron Adlington.

With training just around the corner, this is a good time to remind everyone that before you start using pen-raised game birds (pheasants and chukars) in your training sessions, you will need to submit a Permit to Use Captive-Reared Upland Game Birds for Dog Training to a regional FWP office and get signed approval. Permits are available on our MHGDC.org website. On the MHGDC home page, click on your favorite breed, then click on 'About Us.' Scroll down to the downloadable permit. The legal description for the Horse Pasture and Blackbird FAS are:

Horse Pasture: Township T2N, Range R2E, Sections 20 & 21

Blackbird: Township T2N, Range R2E, Section 19.

Hope to see everyone at the MHGDC annual banquet on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at the Best Western Gran Tree starting at 6 PM. The dinner cost will be covered by the MHGDC. Installation of new officers and a raffle/auction will follow the dinner. We are looking for items for the raffle/auction. If you have an item or items to donate, please contact Sam Robinson or one of the other Board members listed in the newsletter.

Greg Johnson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Greg Johnson 586-6323

VICE PRESIDENT

David French 600-8428

SECRETARY

Jack Weiss 586-6365

Treasurer

Steve Fink 581-0841

SPANIELS

Cheryl Johnson 586-6323

Jeff Squire 581-9055

RETRIEVERS

Mike Heard 490-6298

Al Gadoury 586-3806

POINTERS

Peter Bakun 388-6829

Sam Robinson 388-1346

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Board Meeting Minutes December 20, 2011

Members Present: Al Gadoury, Jack Weiss, Greg Johnson, Mike Heard, Kerri Payne, Sam Robinson, Cheryl Johnson, David French and Peter Bakun.

Minutes from the August meeting were read and approved. There was no October board meeting minutes. The meeting did not have a quorum in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: The Nastra event chairman, Jim Witela, is still looking for \$1000 in outstanding checks. We have not received a final income statement as well. This would add to the profit from the Nastra. Kerri will contact Jim ASAP for a final accounting. Greg reported that we will not have to make a down payment on birds for the Spaniel trial.

Retriever Report: Al reported that the HRC national committee is studying additional upland tests and rules. The final meeting has been set. They have a new source for pigeons.

Pointer Report: They are finalizing which supplier will be used for quail in 2013.

Spaniel Report: Spring 2013 trial is April 6-7. Judges will be Jerry Light and Randy Bartsch. A new bird supplier has been set and birds reserved for the trial. Greg will be chairman.

Unfinished Business: 1. Greg ask Kerri to contact Mr. Frank Keyes (Previous Setzer property) and provide a check for \$600 for using the bird pens in 2012. Kerri will also ask for an invoice for 2013. 2. Final nomination list for club officers to be presented to club for approval are: President- Mike Heard, VP- Al Gadoury, Secretary- Javan Druckenmiller, Spaniel: Cheryl Johnson Ed Woods, Pointer: Peter Bakun Sam Robinson, Retrievers: David French Ron Adlington

New Business: 1. Twelve eager volunteers led by Kyle Barner cleaned and repaired the bird

pens. Over 1600 lbs of junk was taken to the dump. Final repair and rebuilding of pens will be done in the spring with Kyle again leading the work. 2. Banquet has been finalized for 6PM February 9, 2013 at the Gran Tree. Sam will head up donations for raffle items. Please contact Sam with any donations. 3 The board members for each training group will give to Jack their calendar of events for 2013. Jack will compile and give the information to Dan Marsh for the web site. 4. Board wishes to remind all members using game birds for training to get the 2013 FWP permit ASAP. 5 Greg and Mike are working on the FWP permit for 2013 for the training grounds. 6 The dues notice for 2013 will be sent to all members with the invitation to the club banquet on 2/9. An RSVP will be included in the notice. 7. Jack made motion, second by Al to make Ray Bradley an honorary member for his many years of service to the club. This would be presented to Ray at the banquet on 2/9. Jack will send to the board members a formal nomination. Motion approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7 PM FOR THE CLUB
POTLUCK. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

MADISON RIVER KENNELS

Madison River Kennels is now under the ownership and operation of Brian and Chivonne Anderson. Give them a call if you are leaving town and looking for a place to keep your four-legged companion(s). They are located at 16360 Madison Frontage Rd, Three Forks, (formerly Randy and Tracey Setzer's place) and can be reached at 285-6724.



MADISON RIVER KENNELS
Boarding for your furry family member
Overnight and Daycare \$10 per dog

Brian and Chivonne Anderson
Owners/Operators

16360 Madison Frontage Rd
Three Forks, MT 59752
406-285-6724
madisonriverkennels@gmail.com

**2013 Annual Dues Notice.
Please fill out and mail today!**

Missouri Headwaters Gun Dog Club

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____ **E-mail** _____

Breed Pointer _____ Retriever _____ Spaniel _____

Annual dues \$35. Please make check payable to MHGDC. Send payment with this form to:

MHGDC, P. O. Box 1094, Belgrade, 59714

Please answer the following:

I plan on attending the MHGDC Annual Banquet on February 9, 2013 at the GranTree Inn, 1325 No. 7th, Bozeman.

____ Yes. How many will be in your party ____

____ No

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS

Bird Pen Collapse

Just before Thanksgiving, high winds caused substantial damage to the bird holding/flight pens at Madison River Kennels. Some of the posts broke off at ground level and a domino effect collapsed the east side where the quail and chukars were kept during the training season.

On the first Saturday in December, several of us got together and cleaned up the area and salvaged what we could for re-building the pens in the Spring. I would like to thank Kyle Barner, Kerri Payne and her young friend Michael, Al Gadoury, Gibson Gaylord, Javan Druckenmiller, Ed Woods, Shannon Taylor, Peter Bakun, and Wil Avril for their help on a cold, snowy Saturday. We will be re-building the pens in February or March and will be soliciting volunteers at that time.



Tri Tronics Influential Members

Several members of the retriever group of MHGDC are influential members for Tri-Tronics.

We can get you e-collars, transmitters, electronic remote releasers etc. for a discounted price.

We can beat the local sporting good stores price on the basic "Sport Combo G3 exp" to the "Pro 500 G3 exp" to the "Upland G3 beeper".

Member to contact emails:

- Mike Heard
wxmheard@hotmail.com
- John & Kerri Payne
jckpayne1@aol.com
- Margo Ellis
huntswlabs@live.com



UPLAND

TRANSMITTER

- Always easy one-hand operation without taking your eyes off your dog
- Compact, tough, and dependable
- 2-1/2" Easy-Adjustable antenna with 18 levels of momentary and 6 levels of continuous adjustment
- Accurate timing to avoid accidental adjustments
- Consistent 1 mile range
- Waterproof Transmitter & Receiver
- Interchangeable control points for variable performance in wet conditions
- Large & small control points for different hand sizes
- Headless about control points minimize stress on the dog
- Beeper includes: 30-day money-back guarantee, 1 year warranty, 2 year beeper
- Multi-Tag receiver system makes multi-dog training simple and easy

RECEIVER

- Same as the one on Transmitter but with an LED indicator that is 1" diameter and flashing, and features:
 - Interchangeable LED Beeper
 - Programmable frequency
 - Charge indicator without damage and fully charged in 10 hours
 - Charging Adapter available for use in other countries
- Battery life indicator on Transmitter and the receiver so you know when to charge the system
- Transmitter and Receiver are Long-lasting waterproof, user adjustable, multi-frequency for Transmitter and Receiver
- Easy to access Receiver control switch
- Durable Long-Lasting case with Dry Bag for use in "Wetlands" and making outdoor use safe from mud, moisture, salt, etc.
- 30-day money-back guarantee
- 2-year comprehensive warranty

PRODUCT FEATURES

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UPLAND SP G3 BEEPER

The Upland SP G3 BEEPER is designed for the upland hunter and bird dog trainer. The design is both functional and beautiful and both almost instantly gives you plenty of flexibility in every situation without requiring your bird dog. One word in search of something better, you've just found it.

The Upland SP G3 BEEPER includes the Tri-Tronics Beeper as you'll always know where your bird dog is and when he's out there. From your beeper you can get right down your transmitter so you only hear it when you want to. A wide choice of controls keep control of your game and your dog's health safe. Beeper the ultimate tool for the upland hunter.

The Upland SP G3 BEEPER is field adjustable to control up to three bird dogs (Additional Collar and Beeper purchased separately).

HRC Hunt Test Calendar 2013

CLUB	FIRST HUNT	SECOND HUNT
PRADO BASIN HRC	MARCH 2/3 2013	MAY 18/ 19 2013
INTER. GRAND	4/20 THRU 4/24	10/12 THRU 10/15
WHISTLING WINGS	APRIL 20/ 21	AUG. 17/18
SAC RIVER	CANCELLED	NOV. 16/17
BITTERROOT HRC	MAY 18/ 19 2013	JULY 13/14
NATIONAL MEETING	JUNE 7/8/9 NO HUNTS ALLOWED THIS WEEKEND	
LOWER COLUMBIA	JUNE 22 /23	
MISSOURI HEADWATER	MAY 4/5 upland	JULY 27/28
OLYMPIC RAIN SHDW	JUNE 1/2	AUG. 3/4
TREASURE STATE RC	AUG. 10/11	
SALT CHUCK HRC	JUNE 15/16	AUG. 24/25
NEWGDC	MAY 11/ 12	SEPT. 21/22
DUSKY	MAY 4/5	JULY 27/28

New HRC rule books were sent out and for those of you that judge need to re-take your online judges exam if you want to judge.

Here is a link to the judges exam: <http://www.huntingretrieverclub.org/JudgeTEST2013.shtml>

Twenty minute gun dog training

Training a gundog for hunting is not as difficult or time consuming as most people think. The key is to have a plan and work at it consistently. In this issue we will show you how to turn your retriever into a solid gun dog before next hunting season working just twenty minutes a day during the week and a little extra on weekends.

Dogs are very similar to children in a couple of ways. Just like small children, young or untrained dogs tend to have very short attention spans, and they learn better in a structured environment. Therefore, the quality of a training session is much more important than its length. To ensure that you get the most out of as little training time as possible it is important that you have and follow a step by step training plan.

The following outline is based on the training plan that we utilize everyday in our professional retriever training program. It has been adapted for the individual trainer who wants a solid gun dog and not necessarily a competitive retriever:

This plan is designed for a puppy or young dog that has a well developed desire to retrieve, good socialization skills, and is ready for formal training to begin.

Foundation Training

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Obedience 2. Heel 3. Sit 4. Here 5. Collar Conditioning 6. Force Fetch | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Advanced Yard Work 8. Steadying 9. Introduction to Multiple Marks 10. Introduction to gun fire 11. Swinging with the gun 12. Pile work 13. Baseball 14. Run/Force to pile | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Single T 16. Double T 17. Swim-by 18. Field Work 19. Pattern Blinds 20. Cold Blinds 21. Acclimation to Hunting |
|--|---|--|

Additionally, each step of this plan builds on the previous step. While it is certainly possible to vary the order in which some of the minor steps are taught, for best results the plan should be followed in the order that it appears.

Foundation Training – Heel, Sit, Here, Collar Conditioning, and Force Fetch

Just as in constructing a house, training a solid gun dog starts with building a good foundation. Foundation training includes basic obedience, collar conditioning, and force-fetch. The goal of this early work is to set the stage for later training by turning him into a polite and cooperative citizen.

While the length of time that it will take to complete the foundation training process will vary from dog to dog, your goal should be to complete this phase of training in about ten to twelve weeks. The first four weeks should be devoted primarily to obedience training and collar conditioning, and the last six to eight should concentrate on the force fetch process.

Your timeline for foundation training should look something like this:

- Week 1: Walk at heel once or twice for 10 to 20 minutes a day throughout the week, and take a couple of longer walks on the weekend.
- Week 2: Work on the sit and here command during each weekday training session, and have at least one extended session of up to one hour on the weekend.
- Week 3: Collar condition the dog to sit throughout the week, and take a long walk without collar pressure on the weekend.
- Week 4: Collar condition the dog to heel and here during the week, and take a long walk with minimal collar pressure on the weekend.
- Weeks 5 thru 8: Force fetch training on the table during the week combined with long walks with little pressure on the weekend;
- Weeks 9 & 10: Force fetch training on the ground throughout the week, and a long walk on the weekend.
- Week 11: Throw marks in the yard each day using both ducks and dummies and demand hand delivery. On the weekend introduce the dog to marks in the field with someone else throwing if possible.
- Week 12: Work on walking fetch daily, and throw lots of marks on the weekend.

At the end of the first twelve weeks take a good look at the overall foundation that you have built for your dog. Should you feel that any element is weak, spend a few extra days working on it before moving on to advanced work in the yard.

Advanced Yard Work – Steadiness, Retrieving, and Working with the Gun

As the title implies, during this stage of training most (but not all) of your work will be done in your yard. Referring to the training plan you will see that this phase of training consists of five major parts. With most dogs the first four will take about one week each to cover. The amount of time required to complete the final and most complex portion, pile work, will vary. In most cases all aspects of pile work in the yard can be completed in 6 to 12 weeks.

An example timeline would be as follows:

- Week 13: Using a long leash work on steadying the dog in the yard each day throughout the week. Control all breaks with the lead and do not let the dog complete any retrieve that he does not remain steady for. Go to the field on the weekend and demand steadiness on field marks.
- Week 14: Work once or twice daily for ten to fifteen minutes throughout the week on multiple marks. Start short and simple and increase complexity as the dog becomes more adept at counting. Go to the field on weekends and continue with multiples.
- Week 15: During this week you should introduce the dog to gun fire in conjunction with marks in the yard. On the weekend throw numerous single marks while firing at them in the field. Demand steadiness.
- Week 16: Combine multiple marks in the yard with gunfire each day to teach your dog to swing with the gun. Spend a day in the field on the weekend throwing singles and multiples while firing at them.
- Weeks 17 thru 24: Pile work in the yard should be covered on a daily basis, starting with simple baseball (three handed casting) and ending with the swim-by procedure on water. Work on multiple and single marks with and without gunfire in the field on weekends.

At this point your work in the yard is essentially over, and it is time to move to the field. However, going to the field may not always be possible on a daily basis. On those days when it is not practical or possible to go to the field try to avoid more pile work. Instead play casting, counting or steadiness games in the yard to help sharpen your dog's skills.

Field Work – Blinds and Acclimation to hunting

During this phase of training almost all of your dog's work will be done in the field. This stage is often more practical in nature and should focus to a large degree upon the situations in which your dog will hunt. For instance, if most of your hunting is done in water filled with logs and dead timber you should not do all of your water work in a pond devoid of cover.

About six weeks should be devoted to this training prior to taking your dog hunting with the following timeline:

- Weeks 25 & 26: Work on pattern blinds on land during the week, and marks on the weekend.
- Weeks 27 & 28: Work mainly on pattern blinds on water with a few pattern blinds on land throughout the week. On the weekend intersperse marks within the pattern blinds.
- Week 29: Concentrate on a few cold blinds throughout the week. Mix these up with known pattern blinds and a few marks. On the weekend go to a new place and run marks with cold blinds.
- Week 30: Each day try to introduce the dog to an element that it may encounter while hunting. For instance, if you hunt out of a boat work the dog out of it on a daily basis in the yard. On the weekend take you dog to your favorite hunting spot and work on marks and cold blinds in that atmosphere.

The prospect of building a decent gun dog from scratch can seem to be an incredibly difficult and time consuming task. However, with a good plan and twenty to thirty minutes each day it can be done. Many of the best gun dogs I have seen, including the first Grand Hunting Retriever Champion and Master Hunter I ever trained, were built by an amateur trainer with a little time, a good plan, and a whole lot of desire.

J. Paul Jackson is, along with his wife Melanie, the owner of Lone Oak Retrievers. He has been training dogs for more than 20 years, full time for more than a decade. J. Paul has been the gun dog editor of Delta Waterfowl magazine since 2005.