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Web: www.rainierhrc.com

2025 RHRC Officers

President

Bill Woll

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Vice President

Liz Gibson

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Secretary

Misalyn Armstrong

sngdog9@msn.com

Treasurer

Lee Redd

leeredd3@gmail.com

Past President

Betsy Reali

Members at Large

Susan Bell

Chris Braswell

Scott Corley

Jean Fowler

Leighton Harder

Katie Mearns

Welcome 2026

This is **YOUR** year to shine with your dog
The Rainier Hunting Retriever Club is here to
support you.

We plan two Training days—
The first will be on March 14 at the Snoqualmie
Valley Retriever Grounds. Fall Date TBD

Two AKC Sanctioned Hunt Tests
May 16/17 and August 8/9

Mark your calendars **NOW!**



There is still time to renew Your RHRC Membership

Do It TODAY!

go to: <https://rainierhrc.com/join-rhrc/>

Message from the Prez...

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope 2025 was a successful year for you and your dog(s), whether that be running hunt tests or in the field hunting. Whatever the outcome, now is a great time to think about your goals and plans for 2026. Although the weather can be unpredictable this time of the year, it's not too early to start your training routine again! Just be careful about doing water training this early in the year given the cold-water temps, this is especially true for young dogs. Forcing a young dog to do water work in cold water temps can ruin their attitude towards water for the rest of their career (**It's just NOT worth the risk!**). There's nicer weather ahead, so focus your early season training on land and delay the water training for warmer weather. If your dog does get wet during training when the air temp is cold, be sure to run them around after exiting the water to increase their core body temp and dry them off before putting them back in their kennel to preserve their body heat.

On January 31st we held our Annual Meeting/Banquet at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett. For those that did not attend you missed a great evening of fun and celebration of our dogs' accomplishments in 2025. The business portion of the night was minimal, primarily to elect club officers for 2026. Majority of the evening was spent socializing and enjoying some great food with fellow club members and recognizing and celebrating each dog and their Owners/Handlers accomplishments over the past year. We also had a special guest Speaker, Dr. Anders Thoreson DVM, who gave a great presentation on preventative care and treatment for dogs dealing with Heat and Cold stress/trauma which was excellent information. He also took questions from the audience on various topics. The club appreciates and thanks Dr. Thoreson for his attendance and his time in preparing slides & presenting at the Banquet. I would strongly encourage everyone to attend next year's Banquet, you do not want to miss this special event dedicated to our club members and their dogs!!!

Here are a few key RHRC dates to mark on your calendars:

Club Training Day on March 14 at the Snoqualmie Valley Retriever Grounds. Watch for an email with more info.

Spring Hunt Test – May 16 & 17 at SVRG

Summer Hunt Test – August 8 & 9 at SVRG

Club Fall Training Day – TBD

Wishing everyone success and fun with your dog(s) in 2026, make the most of it! All the best, hope to see you out training!!!

Bill Woll

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* * * * * RHRC News * * * * *

2026 RHRC Officers

Congratulations to the following RHRC Board members elected at the Annual Meeting

President: Bill Woll
Vice President: Liz Gibson
Secretary: Misalyn Armstrong
Treasurer: Lee Redd
Past President: Betsy Reali

Members at Large: Susan Bell, Chris Braswell,
Scott Corley, Jean Fowler, Leighton Harder,
Katie Mearns

RHRC members recommend 2026 Master National Judges

14 RHRC Club members made suggestions for individuals that they would like to see judge the 2026 Master National. The event will be held in Roseburg, OR. Names were submitted to Ed Ryska, Master National, Region IV Director

Names that garnered the most votes were:
Mark Schlender
Jason Lee
Betsy Reali

Thank you for participating.



**Betsy Reali and Liz Gibson have been selected to judge
the 2026 Master National in Roseburg, Oregon**

“Congratulations”



RHRC 2025 Financials

2025 Financials(as of Dec. 31st)

Total Income	\$25,958
• 2 Hunt Tests	\$23,122
• Member Dues	\$1,470
• Annual Banquet/Meeting	\$1,080
• Donations	\$286
Total Expenses	(\$25,747)
• Hunt Tests (2)	(\$21,208)
• Annual Banquet	(\$1,294)
• Awards	(\$630)
• Trailer Storage	(\$400)
• Other Operating Exp. (Insur., Supplies, Dues, Donations, etc.)	(\$2,215)
Net Profit / (Loss):	\$211
Balance Sheet - Total Assets:	\$15,785

Could you be wondering about the financial health of RHRC? Here is the information shared at the Annual Meeting.

Remember, what looks like a huge cash balance is deceptive because almost all of it is used to prepay hunt test expenses that include live birds, grounds rental and paid workers.

(Bank Cash
Balance: \$14,896)

❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ *Leighton Harder—RHRC 2025 Member of the Year* ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁



Leighton Harder was selected by the RHRC members to receive the “Member of the Year” award. Leighton was recognized for his many contributions to the club especially during our events where he has found his calling—Cuisinier Par Excellence! Between Leighton and his wife, Rhonda, no one went hungry at the judges dinners, training days and event workers’ lunches. Their hard work is greatly appreciated by all. Additionally, Leighton is always ready to lend a helping hand for any task. Here is a little about Leighton in his own words:

Our family has always had pets, but my world with dogs changed about three years ago when I brought home my first Field Golden Retriever, Toba. When I flew to Minnesota to pick her up, the breeder told me something simple that turned out to be the key: if you want a dog to reach her potential, find a community and learn from them. The problem was, I was not a hunter, and I had no idea how to train a hunting dog.

I found the Rainier Hunting Retriever Club online, reached out, and joined. Jean invited me to a training day, and I met a group of friendly, knowledgeable people who were serious about

dogs and generous with their time. I will admit it, I was intimidated enough that I left Toba at home the first time so I could watch, learn, and not feel like I was in the spotlight.



That day, I met Lee Redd, who coached and helped me understand what training looks like in real life, not just on paper. At a later training day, he asked if Toba had ever been introduced to a duck. She had not. We found one, and he coached me through the introduction and how to build excitement the right way.

Since then, I have volunteered at hunt tests, tested across the PNW, and watched Toba grow. She earned her Junior title and later her HRC Seasoned title, complete with the traditional bucket-of-water celebration.

This year, Toba also had her first litter, and several puppy buyers are planning to come out to train and join the club. That is the part I love most. This club helped my dog and me, and now I get to help bring in new people.



❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ *Misalyn Armstrong—RHRC 2025 President's Award* ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

Bill Woll, RHRC President, awarded the President's Award to Misalyn Armstrong. Misalyn has been not only the Club Secretary but also the Hunt Test Secretary for the past 2 years. She has had lots of experience working with both field and show dogs. Her first hunt test experience happened in the spring of 1997 and she has been involved ever since. In addition to running her own dogs in both field events and hunt tests, she is also a hunt test judge. She always makes a special effort to welcome new comers to the sport.



While presenting the award, Bill remarked, *"This person has provided me tremendous support over the past year! She always volunteers to help me or the club and has a great Get It Done attitude! She also leads our Judges selection committee and helps with Hospitality at our events and so many other things during the year, like organizing this event tonight!"*

Congratulations Misalyn!



The Marin Retriever Club will be holding a Basic and Advanced AKC Judges Seminar in California in May.

Date: May 15 – 17

Basic Seminar – Friday, May 15; Advanced Seminar – Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17

Additional details: www.entryexpress.net under "Seminars". Classroom work will be at the Holiday Inn Express in nearby Suisun City, CA. Field work will be at the CRTA Denverton, CA property. This promises to be a very informative seminar with in-depth discussions on the many rule changes recently announced by AKC. Sign up through Entry Express.

Blind Work

Danny Farmer, respected trainer of over 80 Field Champions has an article in the February 2026 issue of Retriever Journal regarding blind work. Here is a short sample from that article. You may be able to pick up a few good tips from reading the entire piece.

When running blinds, Danny recommends that if your dog takes a bad line, just handles; don't call your dog back. One of the most important things in running blinds, if not *the* most important, is your first cast. It should always be a literal cast toward the location of the blind.

If your dog consistently takes a bad line, he is telling you that he needs more wagon wheel work, so just blow the whistle and use a nick but don't pock on him. You want your dog comfortable running blinds, not dreading them.

When running a water blind, it's crucial to be quick on the whistle the instant he tries to cheat

or get out of the water. Your dog should hold his line in the water until you stop and cast him to get out. A whistle-stop means "change direction to where I want you to go with my cast."

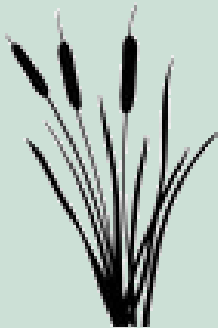
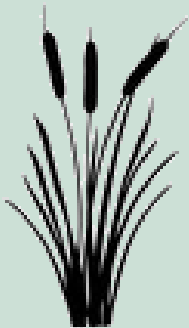
If the dog gives a change but scallops back to where he wants to go, then give more cast so it's clear which way you want him to go; then if he doesn't take it again, blow the whistle and give a correction on a sit-whistle. In training, run the dog, not the blind. If it takes a few whistles to get the cast you wanted, then let your dog keep going in that direction for a while, even if it's off line. Let your dog feel good about the direction he is going then stop and get a big cast toward the blind.

Blinds should be fun and improve the work with your dog.



***** *Banquet Candids* *****

*Special thanks to photographers: Nancy Woll, Scott Corley,
Mike & Lisa Hastings, Chuck Fowler*



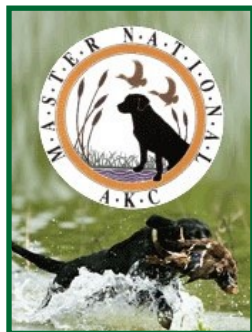
❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ Banquet Candids ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

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Mike & Lisa Hastings, Chuck Fowler



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Mike & Lisa Hastings, Chuck Fowler





Master National Retriever Club

2026 Master National
Roseburg, Oregon
October 1—11, 2026

2026 Master National Entries Unlimited

The **Umpqua Valley Retriever Club** is pleased to announce they will host the **2026 Master National in Roseburg, Oregon October 1-11**. In response to the recent Master National Annual meeting and Bylaw changes, Umpqua Valley Retriever Club will remove their request for a cap of dogs entered into the event. The event will NOT have a limit on the qualified dogs entered into the event.

*****Scott Corley, Region IV Vice President, is always available to respond to any questions or concerns you might have regarding the Master National.**

Scott Corley <Whidbeyscott@gmail.com>

Two Interesting Websites for you:

10 Tips to Make a Hunt Test Judge Happy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cERpirqwBJ0>

Updates to AKC hunt test rules

While the new AKC Rules and Regulations Books are not printed, here is a link to the new rules that will apply to all of us. Scroll to Hunting Tests for Retrievers Regulations & Guidelines on the Menu

There is always something new.....

<https://www.akc.org/sports/retrievers/hunting-tests/news-updates/>



RHRC Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2026



Attendance: Bill Woll, Leighton Harder, Susan Bell, Betsy Reali, Scott Corley, Katie Mearns, Jean Fowler, Liz Gibson, Lee Redd, Misalyn Armstrong

Welcome: President Bill opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and welcomed Board Members. The minutes from December 2, 2025, meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Balance \$14,895.60

Annual Banquet:

January 31st at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett
\$58 per person

-Prefer members to pre-pay; will set up on-line payment option

The Board will divide membership and personally call members to invite them to the Banquet

Jean will send another email reminder

Final headcount is due to restaurant January 28th

Guest Speaker: Dr. Anders Thoreson, DVM

Jean & Bill will prepare slideshow & PowerPoint

Door prizes Misalyn, Bill, Susan will put together for members attending banquet

Membership:

50% of members have renewed their membership

Renewal payment available on RHRC website

Honorary Membership

Brian & Elsa Hawley

Gary Abbott

Jean will make certificates

Nomination Committee for 2026 Officers:

Katie Mearns will put together ballots for banquet

Hunt Test Ribbons:

Order 250 generic qualifying ribbons

All orange, double ruffle, 3-12" streamers

125 - Jr. tabs

100 - Sr. tabs

100 - Mr. tabs

Order 75 title ribbons

Orange and white, double ruffle, 3-15" streamers

Judges Committee for 2026:

Judges set for Spring Test (May 16th & 17th)

Master Judges: Jeff Bundy & Charles Freeman

Jr/Sr Judges: John Gammon & Liz Gibson

Judges for Fall Test (August 8th & 9th)

Master Judges: Mark Schlender & Betsy Reali

Jr/Sr Judges: TBA

Spring Training Day:

Tentative date March 14th or March 21st

Will discuss date at Banquet

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

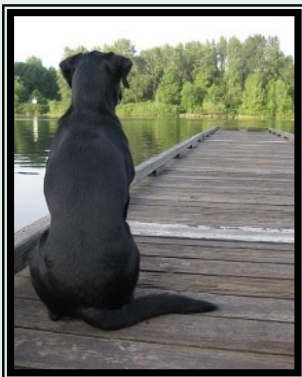
Next Meeting Tuesday, January 31 @ 6:00 pm

Submitted by:

Misalyn Armstrong, RHRC Secretary



Chase Away K9 Cancer



Many of us have lost our four legged companions to canine cancer and many are currently fighting this disease. One in Three Dogs will get Cancer!

ChaseAway K9 Cancer has partnered with The National Canine Cancer Foundation (NCCF). ChaseAway is a designated fund within the NCCF. There, researchers are working to save lives, find cures, better treatments and accurate, cost effective diagnostic methods in dealing with canine Cancer.

In Honor of the many RHRC dogs who have had and are dealing with Canine Cancer, Rainier Hunting Retriever Club has made it's Annual Donation of \$250 in support of this research.

Make your donation today: Donate On-line at www.chaseawayk9cancer.org
OR

Write A Check Payable To: Chase Away K9 Cancer

Mail to : Chase Away K9 Cancer C/O Cera Reusser,
PO Box 65456, Port Ludlow, WA 98365

You will receive a tax deductible donation card as your receipt.



A Ray of Sunshine In Times of Need

The Rainier Hunting Retriever Club is a community of support and love for anyone who is ill, who may have lost a beloved relative, pet, or is in need in any other way.

Please contact Katie Mearns
(sonkinas.mearns@gmail.com) if you, or someone you know, could use a helping hand, phone call or other support.



Rainier Hunting Retriever Club Newsletter

Editor: Jean Fowler
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Visit our website
www.rainierhrc.com

The **Rainier Hunting Retriever Club** seeks

A- To encourage and promote quality in purebred dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection

B—To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breeds by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at hunting retriever tests

C—To conduct licensed hunting retriever tests under the rules of the AKC, NAHRA or any other associations or clubs that may sponsor these tests.



Rainier Constitution, Article I, Section 2



*"Before you get a dog,
you can't quite
imagine what living
with one might be like;
afterward, you can't
imagine living any
other way."*

-Caroline Knapp



Harder Puppies