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March/April 2026

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Web: www.rainierhrc.com

2025 RHRC Officers

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Bill Woll
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Liz Gibson
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Secretary

Misalyn Armstrong
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Treasurer

Lee Redd
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Past President

Betsy Reali

Members at Large

Susan Bell
Chris Braswell
Scott Corley
Jean Fowler
Leighton Harder
Katie Meams

Rainier Hunting Retriever Club

Spring Hunt Test

May 16/17 2026

Snoqualmie Valley Retriever Grounds

Master Judges: Jeff Bundy and Charles Freeman

Master Tests will be held on Saturday and Sunday

Senior/Junior Judges: John Gammon and Liz Gibson

Junior will begin on Saturday at 8:30 AM

**Senior will begin upon completion of the Junior Stake
but not before 11 AM on Saturday**

You can sign up for the event by going to Entry Express:

www.entryexpress.net

Amateur/Worker sign up—Tuesday April 21—8 PM

General sign-up—Wednesday April 22—8 PM

Entries close Monday, May 4, 2026

JUNIOR AND SENIOR STAKES will be held on SATURDAY—May 16



Message from the Prez...

Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter Holiday! Spring is officially here and the weather is slowly warming up so I hope you have been getting out with your dog(s) to do some training. Hunt tests are already being held in the PNW so it's a good time to plan which events you're interested in running this year and get them marked on your calendars.

Our Spring Hunt Test is approaching and will be held at SVRG on May 16th and 17th. This year we will hold both our Junior and Senior Stakes on Saturday, August 8th. Junior will begin at 8:30 AM with Senior to follow after the Junior Stake has concluded (but not before 11:30 AM). We are able to do this because of low entries in these stakes. Additional details about the test are posted on the Entry Express website.

We always need help with putting on these Hunt Tests so if you're willing to volunteer, we greatly appreciate your support for the club. You can contact me or any of the RHRC board members to volunteer.

Our Summer Hunt Test will be held at the same location on August 8th and 9th. Again, check the Entry Express website for additional details and get that registration date marked on your calendar so you can sign-up!

If you ever had the desire to run your dog in the Master Nationals, and your dog is ready (must qualify with 6 Master passes between Aug. 1, 2025 thru Jul. 31, 2026), it will likely never be closer than Roseburg, Oregon this October! There are lots of hunt tests coming up between now and July 31st to get qualified, so get your calendar out and start signing up to run your dog! The Master National is the largest Sporting dog event in the USA, likely over 1,000+ of the best retrievers from all over the USA. It's a great adventure and learning experience for you as a handler and your dog!

Whatever your goals are for you and your dog this year, I wish you success. Make it fun for the dogs and you will both grow as a team! All the best, hope to see you out training!!!

Bill

Bill Woll (WOLLWB@AOL.com)
425-736-9071



Quote for the Day

"Dogs have a way of finding the people who need them, and filling an emptiness we didn't ever know we had." ~~Thom Jones

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Photo Gallery



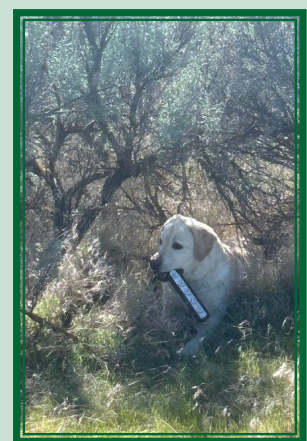
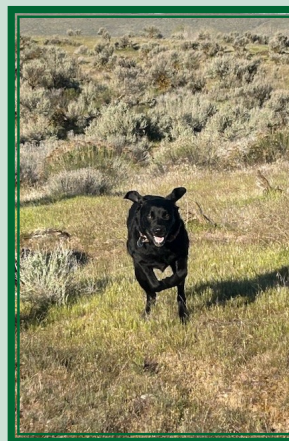
Rhonda Forman and Willow/Mike Forman and BB received their Finished Titles at the Cascade Hunt Test



Heather Glenwood celebrates Gemma's Senior pass and Kona's Junior Title in Eastern Washington



Astro Reali earned this Master Ribbon in Medford, Oregon on April 10th



The Hastings "kids" had a blast playing in the eastern Washington sagebrush!



Brisket Townly says "HI!!!"

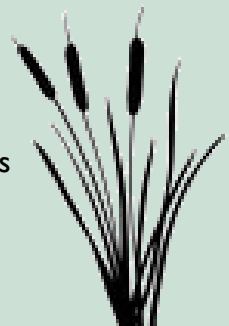
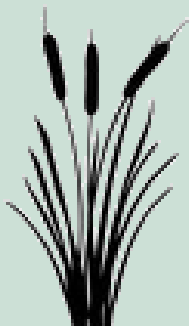




Photo Gallery



Mike Hasting with Caper on Honor at the Samish double header. Two passes for this old girl!



"Fabulous start to the hunt test season, our young boy, McCormick, passed his first master test at the Samish Hunt Test. We are so proud of him and his bright future? Oliver and Liz also passed! They have one more to qualify for this years' Master National."



Newest member of the Braswell Family
"Brassfire's Pour Decisions"



"This is what happens when you are noisy at the line!"



Rainy Armstrong experiences the joys of "MUD DIGGING"





Photo Gallery



Lisa Hastings and Misalyn Armstrong keeping company at the Samaish HRT in Eastern Washington.



Scott Corley's Bullet. She is waiting for a cast while running a training blind.



Gemma Glenwood earned her Senior Title at the recent Sand and Sage HRT!



Something to Think About—Do you Agree or Disagree?

When is it TIME?

Most handlers don't stall out because their dog isn't talented enough.

They stall because they wait.

***They wait to fix a training issue before progressing other skills.

***They wait to feel more confident in their handling

***They wait until their dog is older, the weather is better, or life slows down.

NOW is the time—make a plan and take the next step.

The handlers who reach their goals aren't the ones who waited until everything was perfect. They're the ones who started ...and kept going.

~~The Retriever Coach

How to Use your Whistle Effectively

It's surprising how many things you need to think about when it comes to using your whistle. The tone and strength of a whistle can speak volumes. The weather can dramatically affect how well the sound of your whistle travels, and field conditions can make it difficult for your dog to hear your whistle.

Communicating with Tone and Volume

The whistle can be used to communicate much more than just *sit* and *here*. It can change the way your dog feels and generate different reactions.

These might include concern, fear, relaxation, reassurance, control, loss of control, and precision. Keeping these things in mind when you're handling can help get the results you're looking for.

The Sit-Whistle. Generally, blow your whistle as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. Teach your dog to listen for the whistle. It is essentially saying "Everything is good"; "You're doing a good job"; "There's nothing to be concerned about."

However, if you have gotten a couple of undisciplined casts or your dog is making a bad decision, a loud, sharp whistle can say, "Be careful"; "You could get into trouble if you persist"; "Stop doing what you're doing"; "A correction is imminent" A whistle like this increases the level of concern in your dog and should only be used at the appropriate times.

The Come-In Whistle. The volume, tempo, and duration of the tweets need to be considered in order to produce the desired results. Perhaps you want maximum control or perhaps you just wish to steer your dog a little without taking full control. For instance, if you want your dog to come straight

toward you and focus completely on you or if you want maximum control and cause some concern, three loud, slightly prolonged blasts with clear, short pauses in between can be effective. **Beep! Beep! Beep!**

Perhaps you simply want your dog to work towards you, you want to retain some control over decision-making, or if you want your dog to stay relaxed, three or four tight, short tweets of moderate volume are appropriate: *tweet-tweet-tweet-tweet*. This type of whistle might be appropriate if

your dog has overrun a mark and you simply want him to hunt back toward you.

Weather Conditions

There are certain atmospheric conditions that limit how well sound travels through the air. Pay attention on cold, high-pressure, blue-sky days. Here a whistle can have less than half the power it does on other days. Locations that have flat,

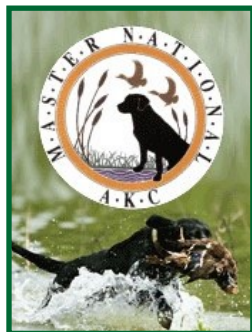
large open fields without tree lines nearby to reflect sound waves are especially prone to these problems. In these circumstances you will need loud, firm whistles. Watch for patterns of behavior from other dogs that indicate the dogs are having difficulty hearing the whistle.

Field Conditions

Running water, lunging water, tall cover, a stiff wind and heavy breathing caused by a dog's exhaustion or overheating can all affect how well your dog is able to hear and respond to whistles. Be aware and make adjustments both in training and when running tests.

By Kevin Cheff. Entire article can be found in the April/May 2024 Retriever Journal





Master National Retriever Club

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

Dear member clubs, delegates and participants of Master National,

During the winter board meeting, the topic of club engagement was discussed. During the discussion, club voting history was looked at. Some board members questioned the data presented knowing they had carried their club's proxy to the 2025 meeting.

To ensure every vote was counted accurately, a committee was made up of Jeff Bundy, Charles Pugh, and Mike Woodbury. The committee was charged with the task of meticulously recounting and ratifying the vote. Not all ballots contained a vote for each initiative. After a thorough review, one by-law proposal previously announced as passed had, in fact, failed to meet the required threshold.

The committee reported the following results. The proposal to merge regions three and four did not receive the required two-thirds majority and therefore did not pass. Final vote: 73 in favor, 40 opposed.

The proposal to allow pros to judge the event received the required two-thirds majority and passed. Final vote: 89 in favor, 24 opposed. The proposal prohibiting limits on qualifiers who can enter the national and requiring the MNRC to find suitable grounds that can handle all

entries received the required two-thirds majority and passed. Final vote: 79 in favor, 35 opposed.

- Jeff Henderson won the vote as director for region one.
- Scott Corley won the vote as vice president of region four.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN

We are not making excuses: the Master National Board as a whole failed in its handling of the vote tabulation this year. This was the largest voter turnout Master National has ever experienced, and we were not prepared to tabulate the volume of ballots.

Vote counting does not start until the annual meeting begins. There were nearly 500 ballot measures to be tabulated due to the high voter turnout. In an effort to have results ready to be announced at the end of the annual meeting, some votes were counted incorrectly; the count was rushed.

These mistakes were not intentional or malicious, but the result of trying to do too much, too quickly, with inadequate checks and balances. The board is truly sorry for the mistake and owns this.



Master National Retriever Club

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN

1. Roseburg will remain the event site for 2026. There are no limits on the number of qualified dogs a handler can enter or handle.
2. The MNRC structure remains unchanged, with four regions, each represented by a director and vice president. The annual event also remains unchanged and will continue to rotate among four regions.
3. Professionals will be eligible to judge the event.
4. The by-laws will be updated to reflect the two approved amendments.

MOVING FORWARD

This experience has made it clear that improvements are necessary. We are actively exploring the implementation of electronic ballot counting and other modern systems to improve accuracy, efficiency, and transparency.

Our not-for-profit organization needs to operate like a business. The board recognizes that we have been complacent for too long and have fallen behind the curve.

In summary, we identified an error, addressed it, and corrected the outcome. However, we also recognize that there is more work to be done to better serve our membership. We appreciate your patience and support as we take the necessary steps to strengthen our processes and move forward.

Sincerely,

Anette Pacheco, President MNRC



The Rainier Hunting Retriever Club cast it's vote to maintain the four regions, each represented by a director and vice president. Your board is pleased that the annual Master National Event will continue to rotate among four regions.

*****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>

RHRC Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2026



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

Welcome: President Bill opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed Board Members. The minutes from January 6, 2026, meeting were approved with one correction to the start time of the March 3 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Balance \$13,188.39

YTD profit of \$208,967 as of 3/2/2026

**\$250 Chase Away K9 Cancer Donation for 2025

**Filed 2025 Tax Card filed with IRS

**\$35 AKC Fee for Spring Test

**Ribbon Purchase \$1,916.18 (250 Qualifying Ribbons, 75 Title Ribbons, Stake Tabs)

Annual Banquet Summary

Good turnout 28 members

Good food

Would like to see more members attend

Research other venues and suggestions to doing a Potluck

Start thinking about Guest Speaker for next year

Spring Training Day

March 14th – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: SVRG fee \$15 per dog; members \$10 per dog; non members \$20 per dog

Set Up – 8:00 am

Bill will set up and coordinate for masters
Betsy & Misalyn set up and coordinate for junior/senior

Puppies will be at the junior/senior set up
Jean and Katie will donate ducks

Lunch - Leighton & Misalyn

\$5 donation will be requested

Master National Retriever Club

Bill Woll will be the new Master National Delegate and Contact for the Club

Newsletter Software Transition

Current publishing software is being phased out

Exploring free alternatives and checking with admin for possible tools included in GoDaddy package

Next Meeting Tuesday, April 7 @ 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Submitted by: *Misalyn Armstrong*, RHRC Secretary

Judges Committee for 2026

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

Jeff Bundy & Charles Freeman – Master Judges

John Gammon & Liz Gibson – Junior & Senior Judges

Contracts have been sent out

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

Mark Schlender & Betsy Reali – Master Judges

Reached out to candidates for Jr/Sr Judges waiting for their response



RHRC Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026



Attendance: Bill Woll (Pres), Lee Redd, Jean Fowler, Leighton Harder, Susan Bell, Chris Braswell, Katie Mearns, Betsy Reali, and Scott Corley

Bill began the meeting at 7:02 PM. Jean will take notes for Misalyn who is unable to attend.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Lee provided an update on the budget. There is \$11,192.51 in the account. Much of it will be used to support the upcoming hunt test (birds/grounds/hospitality/etc.).

****New members:** Four new members have joined and two others renewed their memberships.

****RHRC** received a charge from our website host,

****GoDaddy**, that Lee plans to dispute.

****There** have been no Tri-Club expenses.

Spring HRT – May 16/17

Judges: Master (Jeff Bundy/Charles Freeman Jr.),
Junior/Senior (John Gmmon/Liz Gibson).

Chair: Lee Redd

HT Committee: Misalyn Armstrong, Betsy Reali,
Lee Redd, Chris Braswell, Scott Corley, Bill Woll

Chief Marshall: Susan Bell – Jean will provide
faceplates for Judge Books as well as running order
tags for all stakes.

Gunners: Bill Woll

Workers: Lee Redd

Judge Gifts: Lee will secure gift cards

Hospitality: Leighton Harder/Misalyn Armstrong/
Jean Fowler

Additional: Katie Mearns will assist Lee with
rounding up the birds for the tests. Other help is
requested.

Free Entry Requested: Umpqua Valley RC has requested a free entry to RHRC tests. Motion made and seconded to approve this request. Misalyn is contact to UVRC.

Trailer Inventory/Equipment Check: April 21 at SVRG, 1:30 PM. Help from Bill, Susan, Katie, Betsy. Lee will go another day and power-wash the outside of the trailer as well as remove the swimming pools that are not needed in the spring.

AED Lease: Bill has signed up the club to lease the AED for 4 years. This will cost the club \$600/year (vs currently spending \$900/year). RHRC will rent the AED to other clubs for a nominal amount between \$75 - \$80/weekend.

Open Discussion:

****Tri-Club** – no immediate need for a joint Tri-Club meeting.

****Newsletter** – Jean has been investigating options for platforms that will support the Rainier Newsletter since MS Publisher will no longer be available after October 2026. Canva is the most likely program she will recommend.

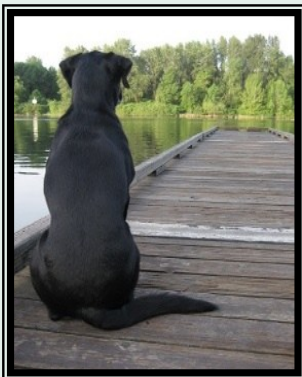
****Master National Region 4** – Due to a miscount of voting ballots during the 2025 Master National Delegate meeting, it was announced that Regions 3 and 4 would merge into one Region. The miscount was discovered, rectified and there will continue to be both a Region 3 and a Region 4 for purposes of the Master National.

Next meeting on May 5, 7:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by *Jean Fowler*

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

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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