



May 2023

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Web: www.rainierhrc.com

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President's Message

Jean Fowler, Editor (425-483-6476) fernhaven@comcast.net

Hello everybody!

The month of May didn't disappoint, with a mix of some cooler days and many days of sunshine, reaching record highs. The weekend of Rainier's Spring Hunt test, May 13 & 14, started out warm, and ended hot; with temperatures reaching the low 90's. The heat, in combination with tall grass, (the grass almost growing before your eyes) and the mix of pheasants and ducks in all stakes, made for a challenging and exciting Spring Hunt Test.

Although we encountered some logistical challenges in hosting Rainier's Spring Test, they were met and overcome by amazing support from our local dog community and club members. Words can't describe the appreciation we have for those who stepped up to assist with bird logistics, (our bird order was cancelled at short notice), judge reassignments, workers, lunches, equipment set ups, and shade canopies.

Other happenings include the upkeep of the Club Equipment Trailer, Equipment Inventory and the success of Club members that attended the Master Amateur Invitational in Giddings, Texas.

A warm "Welcome" to Katy and Cory Miller, our newest members of the Rainier Hunting Retriever Club.

Your Board is always available and encourages your ideas, feedback or other suggestions to keep our club strong. You can send feedback via our Facebook page or email me directly @ bnb_reali@msn.com. We can also arrange to meet in person. Thank you for your continued participation and club support!

Cheers, *Betsy*



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

RHRC Spring Hunt Test Wrap-Up

Well—Its In The Books!

In spite of a very HOT weekend, we had a good turn out for our spring hunt test. The Master Stake, judged by Michelle Love and John Kinnard was full with 66 dogs competing. The Junior and Senior Stakes were judged by Rhonda Reed and Doug Gallucci. The tests were challenging as many young dogs had not retrieved a pheasant before. Rhonda and Doug were last minute fill-ins as was John Kinnard. We are so appreciative of their flexibility and ability to help us out.

Contestants and their dogs had to adjust to live-flyer PHEASANTS as our Duck Order was cancelled at the last minute. We were able to purchase the pheasants from Linda and Jerry Collingham at Northwest Gamebirds. After we received a dispensation from the AKC to use frozen ducks in our water series, several professionals helped us out. HUGE thank you to Andy Fontenot (Waterdog University) for the loan of duck crates, Bucko Van De Brake (Conway Kennels) for frozen ducks and Boyd Ulsh (Cascade HRC) for both frozen ducks and bird crates.

The biggest THANK YOU of all goes to BEN REALI who drove to Idaho TWICE!! Not only for Rainier’s pheasants but also, the week before to secure pheasants for the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Club’s event.

We are Blessed by this Dog Community and Volunteers who stepped up to “Make It Happen”!

THANK YOU to all who pulled together to make the weekend a success. We couldn’t have done it without YOU!

In This Issue

Hunt Test Wrap-Up
Page 2

Dealing with Pheasants
Congratulations to MAI
Winners
Page 3

MAI Photos
Page 4

Equipment Trailer News
Welcome New Members
Page 5

K9s For Warriors
Page 6

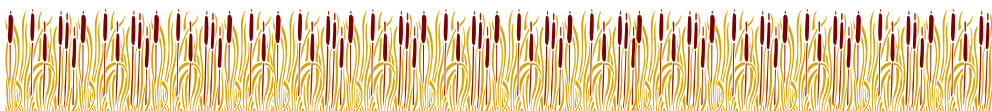
Allergy Frustrations
Page 7

RHRC May Board
Minutes
Page 8

Master Amateur Info
Master National Info
Page 9

Chase Away Cancer
Page 10

Do a Pup
Check
Page 11



RHRC HRT—May 13 & 14—Memories

Pheasant Accommodations were quite nice. Susan Bell, Gary Abbott and Rhonda Reed figured out how to set the dang tent up!



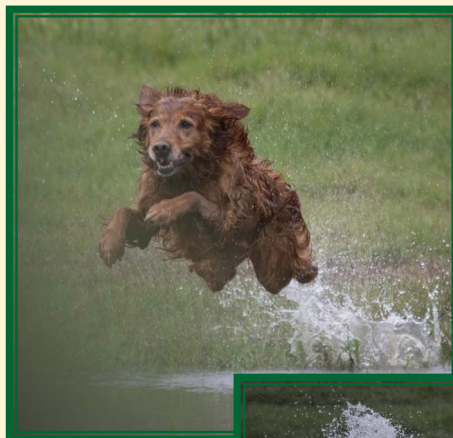
Congratulations!



The 2023 Master Amateur Invitational came to a close in Giddings Texas on April 30, 2023. 188 dogs entered the event and 86 qualified. Among the qualifiers were our own RHRC members.

Dianne Clark with Tripp, Randy Clark with Alice, Chris Braswell with Topsy and Bill Woll with Faith and Maddie. Their judges for the event were Pattie Polish and Fred Collins.

Chris Braswell and Topsy at the Master Amateur



Bill Woll shared these great photos of Faith (#58) and Maddie (#16) that were taken after they qualified at the Master Amateur.

Equipment Trailer has a New Temporary Home



First off—Many Thanks and Kudos to Dianne and Randy Clark for housing our Equipment Trailer on their property in Snohomish for several years. Not only did they take care of the trailer, but also Randy valiantly moved the trailer back and forth across the valley for all of our Spring and Fall Hunt tests as well as those for PSLRA and EGRC. It was a huge commitment and we are appreciative!

And Now...Huge Bouquets of Gratitude to Nancy Light who has offered her property as a place for our Equipment Trailer to live. Nancy lives fairly close to the Snoqualmie Valley Retriever grounds and that makes moving the trailer for our events very convenient.

This year the trailer underwent some much needed new repairs. The brakes have been fixed and new tires all around make moving the trailer much safer. Thanks to Lee Redd, Bill Woll and Betsy Reali for getting the repairs done and preparing the storage site at Nancy's.

It has been an interesting journey to get up and running full time after Covid interrupted our usual work-flow. Many club members have stepped up to ensure that we can continue to offer a first class experience to hunt test participants.

We hope to see you in August!



Welcome

*We extend a warm RHRC welcome
to our New Members:
Katy and Cory Miller*

K9s For Warriors

In recognition of Memorial Day which honors military personnel who died in service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle (both seen and unseen), we honor our fallen hero's.

Determined to end veteran suicide, K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest provider of trained Service Dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma. Every day in the United States, 22 veterans succumb to suicide—losing their personal battle to invisible wounds of war. Here is one veteran's story.

"I think I'm pretty lucky.

I get to wake up every morning, roll over and see my adoring husband, Josh, snuggled up to a cute, chubby blonde named Cabo. I met Josh about eight years ago, and he was very open about the fact that he had PTSD, TBI, and all the things that go along with that.

Honestly, looking back, I had no idea what that meant. Sure, I'd seen the shows and movies, but it wasn't something I really understood, and certainly not the nuances of what that can mean in day-to-day life.

At first, the excitement of a new relationship hid the harder parts of his life. Small excuses to not go places didn't seem like anything I needed to concern myself with; his inability to sleep was chalked up to just being "too wound up" to sleep... you know the drill.

But over time, and really, without me noticing, our life together started to resemble something I didn't really recognize. I went most "fun" places alone or with "my" friends; I shopped alone while Josh waited in the car; I made excuses for him not joining me at events. I'm fairly independent, so it was okay, but it certainly wasn't ideal. My world was crumbling.

After a lot of therapy, soul-searching, tears, and work, Josh decided that he didn't want to lose what we had,

and he began looking for new tools to arm himself with. Traditional talk therapy obviously hadn't cleared all the obstacles in his way, nor had the medication, so it was time to adjust and try something new.

That's when he found K9s For Warriors. I remember discussing the program, the process, the responsibilities with him; pros and cons, realistic expectations, what it would mean for him, for us, for our existing fur babies. I also remember thinking something along the lines of "I don't care how much more poop there is; I NEED him to do this!"
Josh Applied.



Then COVID-19 hit, and we buckled up for a long, long wait. We were incredibly lucky to have the support of family, friends, therapists, physicians, and another veteran program that kept us strong until Josh got THAT call.

End of August 2022 and Josh gets the call that they have an opening in their Florida class that starts on Labor Day weekend; does he want to go? Then the last-minute panic and questions started: "Do we REALLY want this?" "How can a dog ACTUALLY help anything?" "Won't this just be another THING to take care of in addition to our two tiny humans and the two dogs?"

But all of this was overshadowed by the desperation to find, if not a solution, a major improvement to what we were experiencing.

Continued on page 7

K9s For Warriors—continued

With the loving words of, “Get your rear in gear!” I sent Josh off to Florida to go meet his new Service Dog. Josh met Cabo on Labor Day of 2022, and life has not been the same since.

I instantly could tell that he was much more at ease existing in the world. Our relationship is better for so many reasons I can't even begin to understand. Josh is

more settled: he goes grocery shopping alone, he sleeps through the night, he suggests going out to the fun places together — as a couple! This isn't to say that everything is perfect every day, but every day is remarkable and wonderful.

And I am, and will remain, so grateful to that cute, chubby blonde that stole my husband's heart.”

~~~Robin , Josh's wife

## Allergy Frustrations by Dr. Ben J. Character



Canine allergies are a bothersome problem and, in some cases, can be difficult to get under control. One reason for this is something called the itch threshold – an imaginary line that determines if your dog will be itchy or not.

The three main types of allergies are inhalant (called "atopy"), insect bite hypersensitivities (flea, tick, etc.), and food allergies. It is frequently the case that an allergic dog will have more than one type of allergy. It is also the case that each type of allergy may have different degrees of "activation" at different times due to the fluctuation of exposure. This is where the "itch threshold" comes into play.

The best way to explain the itch threshold is to provide some examples. Let's say you have a dog with both atopy and flea allergy, and that the atopy is due to an allergy to ryegrass. This dog might have a low grade flea problem all year long but only itch excessively in the spring because that is when the ryegrass allergens are available, and it takes both of these together to push this dog over his itch threshold.

This same situation can also play out another way. In some cases, the combination of the allergens never

goes away because they are both in the environment year-round. But when you treat for one of them (i.e., only do good flea control so that you eliminate the flea bites), the symptoms resolve. This happens because removing the flea allergy was enough to lower the allergic stimulation below the itch

threshold even though the atopy is still ongoing but not producing a visible effect.

One of the harder examples might play out like this. You have a dog that lives inside and has atopy due to dust mites (always around in the house) and has a food allergy. This dog is put on the appropriate food to alleviate the allergens, but he never quite gets better. This is very

frustrating. But then additional medications to work on the atopy (which seldom have any effect on a food allergy) are included, and all of a sudden the allergic symptoms are gone. In this case, the dog has a very low itch threshold such that the atopy alone (and/or the food alone) is enough to "trigger" the allergy symptoms. However, when both of the allergies are addressed, symptoms resolve.



~~ Retriever Journal May 2023

## RHRC Board Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2023



Attendance: President Betsy Reali, Jean Fowler, Lee Redd, Susan Bell, Liz Gibson, Bill Woll, Jim Olson, Kevin Medved, Sue Meyring. Absent: Doug Gallucci

President Betsy convened the meeting at 6:34 PM. Minutes from the April board meeting were approved as printed. New members Robert and Kaylee Bowen, Scott Corley, Leighton Harder and Wayne Wenzel were recognized.

**Treasurer's Report** (Lee Redd): RHRC March bank balance: \$13,806.34. Lee went over current expenses for the upcoming HRT event on May 13/14. He also reported that he has distributed an account balance sheet to the Tri-Club members.

### **Old/New Business**

#### Hunt Test Planning (May 13/14)

#### Committee assignments/update:

Liz Gibson continues to secure workers for the event. Bill Woll has recruited the needed live gunners. Holly Krohn and Julie Chaykin will be making the lunches. Lee Redd is securing the Judges Gifts. Judges Dinner will be held on the test grounds (Friday night). Judge assignments are currently as follows: Master - John Kinnard/Michelle Love. Senior/Junior - Rhonda Reed/Doug Gallucci. We have been fortunate to be able to fill these positions as most of our original judges have had to cancel. Susan has ordered special title ribbons from Kim Dodson. The equipment trailer will be stored at SVRG between PSLRA and RHRC hunt tests. Betsy will send thank you notes to all who assisted in organizing, managing and supporting logistics for procuring live ducks for our test.

#### Duck Update:

Ducks arrive from Montana on Friday, May 5 in

time for the PSLRA event. Final logistics have not been worked out. We are borrowing 12 crates from Andy Fontenot and they should arrive on Thursday. Ducks will be housed between tests at Carlson's Farm in Carnation. Assignments were made to feed and water the ducks daily during the week they are "boarded". The Board discussed securing ducks from Brad Herman in California for the Fall test.

#### Equipment Trailer:

Trailer Maintenance is underway. The brake box has been repaired and the brakes are now working. Tires are still needed. Test Date for the Labrador Specialty is October 7, 8 & 9 in Centralia, WA (Andy Fontenot's property). Bryan & Cindy Meyer have offered to pick-up and return trailer as needed. No decision was made regarding loaning the trailer but concerns were raised about the safety of towing the trailer to Centralia. One option may be to loan the equipment but not the entire trailer. Future discussions will resolve this issue.

#### Avian Flu Study:

Dr Adam Black (dogsandavianflu@gmail.com 360-348-5199) has confirmed his attendance at our Hunt Test on Saturday, May 13. He is offering the opportunity for dogs/owners to participate in a voluntary study to determine what, if any, impacts there could be from the Avian Flu on hunting dogs. A small blood sample would be collected from each participating dog.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM  
Next meeting will be held on June 6 at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by, *Jean Fowler*, RHRC Secretary





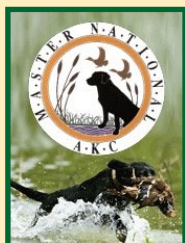
## 2024 MASTER AMATEUR INVITATIONAL



CARNATION, WASHINGTON

OPENING CEREMONY JUNE 8TH

RUNNING DOGS JUNE 9TH-16TH



## Master National Retriever Club

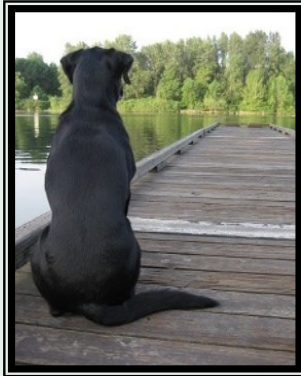
**Reminder of Change to the Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests**  
**There are two changes to the Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers that became effective on November 1, 2022.**

Here is some clarification on these two items:

The first item is to adjust the length of time an amateur handler must not receive compensation prior to handling as an amateur in a hunt test. Currently, in retriever field trials the length of time is one year per the rules and in hunt tests is two years. This change will adjust the hunt test regulations to match the field trial rules so that amateur handlers in hunt tests must not have received compensation for one year prior to the trial they are entered as an amateur handler.

The second item is to clarify what is considered to be a serious fault when judging a dog's performance on a blind retrieve. A blind retrieve is when a dog must retrieve the bird without being allowed to see the fall. A blind retrieve requires the handler to send the dog out with a gentle guide to the line of the fall at the time of being sent. The change would provide consistency across both hunt tests and field trials so it is clear to judges and handlers, that once the dog is sent on a blind retrieve, he shall at once proceed in the general direction of the line given by the handler. If the dog fails to do so, he will fail the test unless there are some extenuating circumstances.

## 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, a nationwide, contribution funded, 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to eliminating Cancer as a major health issue in dogs by funding grants directly to Cancer researchers who are working to save lives, find cures, better treatments and accurate, cost effective diagnostic methods in dealing with canine Cancer.

**We raised \$1,474,518.37 by the end of 2022**

Make your donation today: Donate On-line at [www.chaseawayk9cancer.org](http://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 Dianne Clark if you, or someone you know, could use a helping hand, phone call or other support. You can reach Dianne at: 360-568-3368 (home), 425-299-4252 (cell) or [dianneclark@comcast.net](mailto:dianneclark@comcast.net)












My dog at a test thinking about that next cast refusal.



@retrievermemes

*Look for the joy in life and be a great pet parent to your-footed companion.  
Remember to Do A Pup Check to Chase Away K9 Cancer.  
Early detection may affect prognosis and treatment!*



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>CANINE CANCER CHECK</b><br/>Use these pictures to help you check every area. Start with the tip of their nose, and work your way to the tip of their tail. For the greatest potential for success, conduct the exam in a familiar environment where your pet is not easily distracted. For example, avoid the time of day the UPS gal makes deliveries, or at dinner time. It might be a good idea to make a body chart: Using a simple outline, note any points of concern in each area. This will help identify when something changes. <b>*Please be sure to do a K9 cancer check of your dog once a month.</b></p>                            |                                                                                       |
| <p><b>NOSE/MUZZLE:</b> Check the nose for lesions, debris or excessive drainage and take note of whether it is wet or dry. (Your pet's nose will not always be wet, it will typically vary from moist to dry throughout the day.) Check for symmetry of the nose and note any differences from one side to the other.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |      |
| <p><b>EYES:</b> Take a look to see whether there is abnormal eye discharge (each pet has different eye weeping. Pay attention to what is normal for your pet and make note when it increases or decreases.) Check the symmetry between both eyes - consider shape, color, discharge, and active movement. Observe all parts of the eye including the whites of their eyes. Note any change in color including increased redness or graying.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |    |
| <p><b>MOUTH:</b> Check inside the pet's mouth for lesions, swelling, and bad breath. Their gums should be pink, their teeth free of tartar and plaque. Check the tongue and underneath it. Pay special attention to the gums and the roof of the mouth for symmetry or any obvious masses. Pay attention to the normal ridges and ensure that there is no difference from one side from the other. Not all animals are comfortable with checking their mouth. Take it slow if this is the first time working in their mouth (and while you are there, go ahead and give their teeth their weekly brushing - a healthy mouth ensures a healthy pet!)</p> |     |
| <p><b>JAWLINE:</b> checking outside the mouth, the jaw line should maintains a consistent texture along the entire length of the jaw with no sensitivity to touch and is the same on both sides of the mouth.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   |
| <p><b>SKIN:</b> Brush back the hair and look at the skin and coat. Check for excessive flakiness, lumps and bumps. Pay special attention to either side of the spinal cord. Make note of the normal color of the skin. Note any changes in skin color including darker or red spots.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |
| <p><b>EARS:</b> Check the ears for any abnormal swellings, debris, and odor.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| <p><b>LEGS:</b> Check for heat, bumps and swelling and test the range of motion of the joints. All joints should move freely with no discomfort to the pet.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |    |
| <p><b>TORSO:</b> Evaluate muscle tone and weight. Note any changes. If your animal is overweight, work to address the issue. Carrying excessive weight can be very harmful to their overall health.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <p><b>UNDERBELLY:</b> Gently palpate the belly to look for lumps and notice if your pet seems to experience discomfort or pain. Note any bumps, lumps and sensitive areas over the skin. Examine your pet regularly to determine what is normal so you can determine when there are changes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |    |
| <p><b>FEET:</b> Look at the claws and the pads of their feet, there should be no debris between their toes and should be fairly symmetrical to the alternate side. Examine the nail bed for any abnormal masses or discoloration. Note excessive heat in the paws. Take note to determine what is normal for your pet.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <p><b>ANUS:</b> Also examine your pet's anus for cleanliness, uniformity and a consistent color.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |



Chase Away K9 Cancer is a proud partner of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Information and demonstrations provided by  
Dr. Shay Bracha, Clinical Oncologist at the OSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital



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Rainier Constitution, Article I, Section 2



*Rikki, Elsie Mae and Olie Remembering the Fallen*

*~~ Photo by Cera Reusser*