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**Inside this issue:**

Presidents Message	1
DU Pacific Flyway Waterfowl	1
Board Minutes Aug. 16, 2011	2
Retriever Report	4
Pointer Report	7
Spaniel Report	8
Why We Love Labs	6

**September 1st, 2011**

**President's Message**

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Hopefully everyone had a successful summer training and conditioning their dogs. There were certainly a number of opportunities to judge the progress of our efforts through training evaluations for pointers and flushing dogs, HRC tests, hunt tests and weekly training sessions. It was good to see the Horse Pasture and Blackbird being put to good use by many training groups during the course of the spring and summer.

In case you haven't seen the latest Montana FWP bird forecast, go to [http://fwp.mt.gov/news/newsReleases/hunting/nr\\_1491.html](http://fwp.mt.gov/news/newsReleases/hunting/nr_1491.html) for a regional summary. According to the report, some of the cool wet weather in May and June occurred at the peak of the hatch in some regions and likely affected the early broods of pheasants and prairie grouse. Later broods had better weather (warmer and not as wet) and may result in decent hunting in some areas of the state.

Enjoy the fall and good hunting!

Greg Johnson

**DU Pacific Flyway Forecast 2011:**

**Pacific Flyway**

The majority of Pacific Flyway waterfowl are raised on the prairies of the United States and Canada, as well as in Alaska, northwestern Canada, and other western states. Alberta is a vital breeding area for continental waterfowl populations, but is especially important to Pacific Flyway waterfowl. In 2011, an estimated 4.3 million breeding ducks were surveyed across the Prairie Pothole Region of this province. This year's breeding duck population in southern Alberta was up 66 percent from last year and was similar to the long-term average. Several species posted significant increases, including pintails (+171 percent), green-winged teal (+112 percent), redheads (+85 percent), scaup (+80 percent), American wigeon (+61 percent), blue-winged teal (+60 percent), and mallards (+57 percent).

DU Canada biologist Ian McFar-

lane reports that habitat conditions were excellent for breeding waterfowl across the grasslands of southern Alberta, a highly productive breeding area for pintails, mallards, and many other ducks when wetland conditions are favorable. In addition, heavy rainfall in late May and June recharged wetland basins across much of Alberta's aspen parkland region. "Upland nesting habitat was in good to excellent condition across Alberta's agricultural zone, and wet weather delayed haying activity, which likely enhanced nesting success," McFarlane says. "Our field staff observed increasing numbers of duck broods as the season progressed, and Canada goose goslings were almost fully feathered by mid-July. Overall, the waterfowl production forecast is above average on the prairie and average in the aspen parkland."

When the prairies are dry, as they often are, many breeding ducks simply bypass the parched pothole country and settle farther north in the boreal forest and Arctic, where wetland conditions are less variable. The opposite occurs when the prairies are wet, as this year's waterfowl surveys likely indicated. Across central and northern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories, total breeding ducks decreased 19 percent in 2011. Fewer waterfowl were also surveyed in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, where duck numbers were down by roughly one-third from the previous year's estimate. Nevertheless, these northern survey areas were hardly devoid of waterfowl, collectively supporting almost 11 million breeding ducks, or nearly one-quarter of the total population in the traditional survey area.

[Full Story Click Here](#)

## Board Meeting Minutes August 16, 2011

**Members present:** Greg Johnson, Peter Bakun, Steve Fink, Al Gadoury Mike Heard, Jeff Squire, Cheryl Johnson. Members absent: David French, Sam Robinson, Jack Weiss.

**Minutes** from the June 21, 2001 meeting read and approved with minor corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve presented income statements for recent club events. HRC upland event held in May made a profit of \$80.58; HRC event held in July made a profit of \$557.70; NSTRA held in March made a profit of \$644.80; Pointer Training made a profit of \$688.75 from bird sales; Snake Break Clinic made a profit of \$260; Spaniel Hunt Test made a profit ~\$221; TEDs are holding their own.

**Retriever Report:** HRC went well; made a profit (see above).

**Pointer Report:** Training on Thursday evenings has been hampered by rain. The last PDE will be held Aug. 20. They had to limit the number of entries. There will be 17 braces for which they purchased 41 birds @ \$6/bird.

**Spaniel Report:** Training has been sporadic. The group trained near Big Sky. The grounds there are great; lush grasses and miniscule weeds. Hunt Test held June 25 and 26 had low number of entries, but still made a profit (see above). The final TED hosted by the Spaniel Group, was held Aug. 13. There were ~12 dogs entered. The evaluations were made on categories (i.e. best performance by a senior dog, best performance for the day, etc.). Since the Spaniel Group loses two training Saturdays per month, it was mentioned

that the TEDs may be moved to Sundays.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**  
**2012 Bird Purchases:** Steve informed the Board that Take Flight was not offering the \$1 off price for purchasing and paying up front as they did last year. The cost for birds will be \$14 for rooster pheasants and \$7 for chuckars. The Retriever Group will need 50 rooster pheasants and 125 chuckars for the HRC Upland test to be held May 5 & 6, 2012 at the training grounds and the HRC Hunt Test to be held July 28 & 29, 2012 at Totten's. That is figuring 3.5 birds/dog to get two flushes.

**Compensation for Setzer's:** At the Spaniel Hunt Test, the Spaniel Group presented Randy with a check for \$600 for the use of his property to store club items, house the birds, and offer of a small token of the club's appreciation for all they do for the club.

**Banquet Arrangements:** The banquet will be held Saturday, February 11, 2012. Jeff Squire is firming up arrangements with Johnnie Carino's to again hold the banquet at their facility. It was suggested that RSVPs be sent at the same time the renewal notices go out to members to pay their dues.

**Weed Spraying at Training Grounds:** It looks good where Randy sprayed. However, there is still a lot of foxtail barley and needle-and-thread on the remaining training grounds.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
**Treasurer's Resignation Letter:** Steve sent Greg a letter of resignation effective February 2012. The Board discussed possible candidates for replacement and thanked Steve for the

great job he did while occupying that position on the Board.

**Great Rockies Sports Show:** Mike had applications available should the Board vote to participate again as they had last year. This time it will be held at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse on February 24, 25 & 26, 2012. The Board felt that it would be a better place than the fairgrounds and that more people would attend. The Board voted to pay the \$320 entry fee + \$5 electrical fee which allows for 12 worker badges. Those working the event will not have to pay an entry fee to attend the Sports Show. The possibility of splitting the cost with Pheasants Forever was mentioned and Greg will check with Scott Benowitz on that.

**Storage Trailer for Retrieve Events:** A motion was made to sell the trailer and give Randy 20% commission on the sale. Motion approved. Sam Robinson has a lead on a newer trailer that the club could purchase. Wayne Fredrickson was mentioned as someone who could possibly look at the trailer and assess its value before the club commits to purchasing it.

**Road Fill – Training Grounds and Setzer's Property:** A motion was made to purchase gravel to fill in the road at the training grounds and low areas of Setzer's yard. Motion approved.

**Nominating Committee:** Greg mentioned that at the October 18 meeting we need to form a nominating committee to identify possible candidates for the positions on the Board that will be vacated in February.

### Other Business:

A motion was made that the Board set a budget for next year. This would help members when planning events know what their spending limit it for that event. Motion approved. Mike mentioned that Margo Ellis will be attending an event in Canada. He said that the Canadians purchase remote controlled wingers for their event and afterwards sell the wingers for a reduced cost. Wingers cost ~\$500/winger and are sold for ~\$250 each. A motion was made to allow Margo to spend up to \$500 for the purchase of two of the discounted wingers. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be held October 18, 2011.

## Look for us at the Great Rockies Sport Show

MHGDC will have an informational booth again at the Great Rockies sports Show.

The show will be February 24-26th 2012. The event has moved to the MSU Brick Breeden Fieldhouse and should be bigger and better.

The event runs Friday Feb. 24th from 1pm to 8pm, Saturday Feb 25th from 10am to 6pm and Sunday the 26th from 10am to 4pm.

We need volunteers to work the club booth and we recommend one person from each group be at the booth at all times.

We paid for 12 workers passes and I recommend 4 members from each group to get a free pass deadline is January 1st. If you would like to help out at this event please contact Mike Heard at 406.490.6298 This will be the third year we have been at this event and in the past we have earned new members and spread the word out to sports enthusiasts who we are and what we do. The club will also have the opportunity to do a hands on seminar or demonstration. I am looking for ideas please.

The club booth is #535 which is on the right side of the field house and very close to the entrance.

This year there will be a kids fishing pond and a flycasting pond in the field house. There will be more vendors at this event than in the past and should draw folks from all over SW Montana that.

This will be a good opportunity to advertise the club and what we offer.

**GREAT ROCKIES**  
SPORT SHOW

Welcome to the Great Outdoors

**BOZEMAN, MT**  
Feb. 24 - 26, 2012  
Gallatin County Fairgrounds

**Back in MSU Fieldhouse!**

## Retriever Report

I am compiling a CD of Club Members photos for 2011. This will be displayed at club meetings, Christmas party and the Sportsman show. This includes all groups. If you have any new hunting, field trial, training or just good photo's of your dog please e-mail me a j-peg at [al@6xoutfitters.com](mailto:al@6xoutfitters.com).



Retrievers are training. If you would like to be on the e-mail-training list please let me know. Any retrieving breed at any level and any age is welcome to train with us. Pigeons are available. Check your e-mail for time and place. Please bring a duck call, dark and a light jacket and any training equipment that you have. To train with live game birds or participate in the flushing dog Training Evaluation Days you must have a game bird permit from FWP. Copies are available on the club website [mhgdc.org](http://mhgdc.org).

**Pictures are from the MHGDC HRC Retriever Hunt Test Near Twin Bridges, MT**

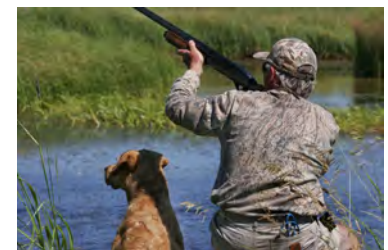
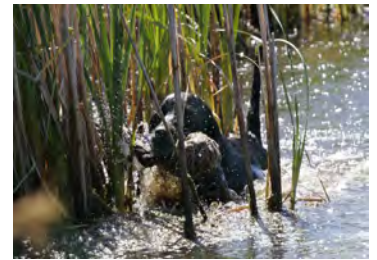
The HRC Hunt Test at Bill Totten's ranch in Twin Bridges was well attended. We would like to thank all the members that helped us out. Labradors Passing Saturday at the Started Level was Margo Ellis and Sweet Pea, Ed Zurey and Linda Kelly's Dudley. At the Seasoned Level was Randy Pierson's Spaniel Dakota, HR Zach's Pokey Dakota is the

first spaniel in Montana that is a HRC titled Hunting Retriever and can bring a muskrat to bay. Labradors passing at the Finished level was Anne Olson and Fly, Mike Heard and Dusty, Margo Ellis and Meg. Sunday passes at the Started level was Debby Gross and her golden retriever Dylan, Mike Heard and his Labrador Chase, Cheryl Dooley and her cocker Moxie, Olivia Steel-Mortimer and her three cocker Devil Dogs Cara, Spidie and Buster. Passing at the Seasoned level was Ron Liljedahl's golden Buddy. Passing at the Finished level was Mike Heard's Labrador Dusty. The following weekend in Missoula running in Seasoned Ron Liljedahl's golden retriever Buddy and David French's Labrador Dewey earned their HRC Hunting Retriever Title. Dewey also earned his AKC Senior title in Butte. Running in Finished Mike Heard and his Labrador Dusty also earned a HRCH Title.

### 2012 Events:

Our HRC Upland Hunt Test will be at Headwaters May 5-6, 2012. The HRC Hunt Test will be July 28-29 in Twin Bridges. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to help and I will put you on the list.

### Al Gadoury



## Retriever Report Continued

The future of the retriever group looks fair with a few folks continuing to be very active and willing to carry the load of the work. Unfortunately this can't continue.

2012 events we need to divide the duties to more folks so we don't burn out those members that are now overworked.

The HRC Upland Hunt test is set as far as Chairman and Secretary. We need a gun captain and live gunners and bird planters. Some of the best gunners and planters in the state reside within this club and we are again asking for your help.

The regular hunt in July we need a Chairman, someone to organize the event and someone new would be appreciated. Kerri Payne is willing to be the Secretary for the event only. After this years event we decided it's better to hire kid help to man the winger stations to take the work load off members who are running their dogs and trying to run the event. So we are looking for kids 16 years or older please for 2012's events.

Those of us who have chaired this event will help anyone new

who would like to take over this duty.

I have verbal permission from AKC to hold a retriever field trial, however, it is a monumental task to hold such an event and the one hurdle we desperately need to overcome is to locate property to hold a trial on. Grounds in the Bozeman area would be best. If anyone knows a local landowner with ponds and a good variety of different land cover please let me know. The club has plenty of equipment to hold a field trial and we have a good pool of live gunners and a good lead on paid helpers. So it is an event we can easily hold once a year IF we can find the property worthy enough in the Bozeman area.

Lastly, the summer months have been hot and retriever training has been very slow because we don't have good water to train on. Next year I hope we can find appropriate water for training, if so, we will have more organized training sessions worthy enough to train dogs for HRC, AKC hunt tests and field trials. So your help is needed to

ensure the retriever group thrives in the Bozeman area.

I am hopeful also that MHGDC and other clubs within the state will work closer together.

More on that later.

Eastern Idaho Retriever Club is planning an AKC retriever hunt test in late June in the Island Park, ID area. More details on this very close event in the future.

Have a good hunting season.

Mike Heard



## Retriever Group Equipment Storage Change

The board of directors approved to purchase an equipment trailer for all the retriever gear.

The old storage trailer is no longer a viable solution as mice invaded the unit and destroyed some of our gear, (big holes in our new holding blinds, nests in several field chairs and quite the mess of fecal matter etc.).

We have a lead on a new trail-

er, similar to the one the club owns now and one worthy enough to toe to event locations.

If anyone knows of a storage trailer for sale please notify the board.





## Dog Mourns at Casket of Fallen Navy SEAL

Navy SEAL Jon Tumilson lay in a coffin, draped in an American flag, in front of a tearful audience mourning his death in Afghanistan. Soon an old friend appeared, and like a fellow soldier on a battlefield, his loyal dog refused to leave him behind.

Tumilson's Labrador retriever, Hawkeye, was photographed lying by Tumilson's casket in a heart-wrenching image taken at the funeral service in Tumilson's hometown of Rockford, Iowa, earlier this week. Hawkeye walked up to the casket at the beginning of the service and then dropped down with a heaving sigh as about 1,500 mourners witnessed a dog accompanying his master until the end.

The photo was snapped by Tumilson's cousin, Lisa Pembleton, and posted on her Facebook page in memory of the San Diego resident. Tumilson, 35, was one of 30 American troops, including 22 Navy SEALs, who was killed when a Taliban insurgent shot down a Chinook helicopter with a rocket-propelled grenade on Aug. 6.

"I felt compelled to take one photo to share with family members that couldn't make it or couldn't see what I could from the aisle," Pembleton wrote on her Facebook page. "To say that he was an amazing man doesn't do him justice. The loss of Jon to his family, military family and friends is immeasurable."

Hawkeye was such a huge part of Tumilson's life that Tumilson's family followed the dog down the aisle as they entered the service in front of a capacity crowd in the gymnasium at the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock Community School. Hawkeye then followed Tumilson's good friend, Scott Nichols, as Nichols approached the stage to give a speech. As Nichols prepared to memorialize his friend, Hawkeye dutifully laid down near the casket.

The youngest of three children, Tumilson had wanted to be a Navy SEAL since he was a teenager. Friends and his two older sisters remembered a fearless soldier, and a Power Point presentation was shown that illustrated Tumilson's active life outside of the military, which included scuba diving, martial arts, and triathlons.

"If J.T. had known he was going to be shot down when going to the aid of others, he would have went anyway," friend Boe Nankivel said at the service.

"Your dreams were big and seemed impossible to nearly everyone on the outside," his sister, Kristie Pohlman, said at the service. "I always knew you'd somehow do what you wanted."

As for Hawkeye, the loyal Labrador will now be owned by Nichols, Tumilson's friend.

## Pointer Group Report

Pointing Dog Evaluation Results 8/20/11

Our last Pointing Dog Evaluation was a great success. We had 16 braces which made for a very full day. The dog work was quite exceptional. We had many great points, some excellent retrieves, and many dogs honored.

We have had an excellent season because of all the help running these events. We were able to start on time because Al and JoAnn were out at Randy's catching birds at 6:00 a. m. Diane was out helping load the truck at the same time. George helped catch birds then he fed and watered the remaining birds. We had a great fried chicken lunch which was provided by Darlene. Glen, Wil, Jim, Sam, Priscilla, Mark, Darlene, Tom, Jan, George, JoAnn, Sarah, and Matt all helped set up, plant birds fill bird bags, take down etc. Thank you to everyone who pitched in because we can not run these activities without the support of our members.

Glen Johnson and Trutz	43	Al Gadoury and Elle	13
Peter Bakun and Madi	20	George Stewart and Reno	5
Jim Lovell and Ruby	25	Sam Robinson and Feather	0
JoAnn Kish and Lucy	20	Al Gadoury and Lady Bug	40
Glen Johnson and Asta	20	Peter Bakun and Gallatin	26
Wil Avril and Annie	23	JoAnn Kish and Maggie	33
Diane Bakun and Jeffe	20	Priscilla Robinson and Cayenne	20
Mark Donovan and Tyke	20	JoAnn Kish and Adie	30
Al Gadoury and Panda	10	Jim Booth and Piper	15
Tom Curtis and Birdie	30	Rupert Colmore and Dolly	10
JoAnn Kish and Emma	33	Al Gadoury and Seabiscuit	10
Mark Donovan and Louie	26	Tom Curtis and Lulu	13
Matt Carr and Jake	15	Rupert Colmore and Rose	10
Mark Donovan and Rusty	40	Jo Colmore and Cracker	19
Tom Robinson and Terra	8	Sarah Davies and Chace	43
Tom Curtis and Chica	50	Jo Colmore and Max	33

**1st Tom Curtis and Chica**

**2nd Glen Johnston and Trutz Sarah Davies and Chace**

**3rd Al Gadoury and Lady bug Mark Donovan and Rusty**

## Spaniel Report

### **AUGUST FLUSHING DOG EVALUTION DAY**

The last TED of the year was held on August 13 at the training grounds. The weather started out perfect but did get a little warm at the end of the day. We had eleven dogs entered in the evaluation.

The quarry was two chuckars and one pigeon. The pigeon certainly provided some challenging shooting opportunities. The course was along the creek requiring some of the dogs to make water retrieves.

Lunch was truly outstanding. Susan Woods volunteered to make lunch. We had a great homemade chicken salad, potato salad, fresh lettuce and tomatoes served on a white tablecloth. Dessert was homemade brownies. Just in case that was not enough, Kerri Payne made a sensational strawberry rhubarb pie. The crust was to die for.

Oh yeah, we did actually evaluate the dogs. Judge Greg Johnson did a great job and kept the event moving. He volunteered to write up his thoughts on each dog; which follows below.

A great day was had by all.

Respectfully

Jack

### **Evaluations and Placements for the August 13 Flushing Dog Training Evaluation Day**

The dog that made the best 200 yard retrieve that was actually only about 70 yards goes to Spot. Spot sort of blew by the mark, got a little exercise and then came right back to the fall, picked it up and hand delivered to Jack.

The best 40 yard find and flush goes to Bella. We had a moment when the light and variable wind changed to a headwind and Bella caught the scent cone and away she went. This dog also made the ground tremble at the start of the course.

The retrieve of the day goes to Bennie. The bird was flushed in the cattails, flew over the creek and was dropped at 60 yards (nice shot Randy). Bennie, down in the cattails keyed on the flight of the bird and buttoned the retrieve.

The best dog on saving ammo goes to Chase. She trapped 3 of 4 birds. Good thing because Kyle only had two shells. She also had excellent ground coverage, finding birds when scenting conditions were almost non-existent.

The most persistent find goes to Gillie. The second bird had moved into the vegetation along the creek and Gillie never gave up until the bird was flushed. Dead-eye Benowitz rode it out to about 20 yards (or was that 70, I had trouble reading my notes) before cleanly killing it with one shot!

The best young prospect goes to Maggie. She enthusiastically flushed birds, made a nice retrieve and trapped a bird, bringing both to hand. Ed and Maggie made a nice team and we're looking forward to some great hunting stories from the two of them.

The best dog and handler duo went to Felix and Tom Clark. Very quiet handling, Felix frequently checked in and made a nice retrieve to hand.

The best finds and flushes were made by Dakota when scenting conditions were marginal at best. Dakota thoroughly covered the ground and maintained good range providing Randy P. with some good shots.

The best new handler in TED's goes to Dennis and Kerri. Dennis made two nice retrieves and did an excellent job on the blind. Kerri did an exceptional job of handling Dennis on the blind.

The Blue Ribbon performance by a senior dog goes to Dottie. She made excellent finds and did the best of all dogs on the blind retrieve. Kudos to Jack for holding it together when the pressure was on!!

The Blue Ribbon performance for the final TED for 2011 goes to Shooter and Randy. Shooter had long, challenging retrieves, maintained good range, very positive finds, and rock steady to flush and shot. Shooter had a great run!!

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