

Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2007



PIN OAK HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB

November Newsletter

President's Message

By: Doug Bush

Hello Everyone,

Well, the end of our Hunt Test Season is finally here and I hope all of you had a great Hunt Test Season; that everyone that needed that one pass for a Title was able to achieve that goal. If you were not so lucky just remember that we will be starting all over in just a few months and I am sure you will be ready when that time rolls around.

You know February, 23 & 24 will be here before you know it so be sure and mark your calendars for our Spring Hunt Test, we need to be looking at what each of us as club members can do to help and make this Hunt Test better than the last. Also, if you are planning on participating in the Evan Graham Seminar March, 21 & 22 you need to be getting your entries in. I have had a lot of interest from out of state trainers, I have also received several entries that have come from out of state, so if are planning on attending get your entry in soon, you do not want to miss out on this great opportunity.

With that being said it's hard to believe that opening day of the first segment of duck season is less than four days away. The calendar may say it is opening day but it feels more like Summer than Fall right now. This is the time of year we have all been waiting for, when all the hard work pays off, when your old hunting buddies who think you have been spending too much time training dogs and not enough time out on the lake with them fishing and drinking beer. But when that long bird hits the water and Bubba's throwing rocks to try and get his meat head to go get that bird he did not see land, you can say, Hey Bubba check this out and send that well trained retriever with all the confidence in the world.

I Hope the Wind is at your Back, The Mallards are Dancing in the Timber, Every Shot is Straight and True, Your Best Friend Marks and Retrieves every Bird Downed and **ALWAYS Think Safety First.**

Happy Thanksgiving
&
Best of Luck This Hunting Season

Doug

Officer Reports

Secretary Report—Sonya Bush

Please let me know if any of your contact information changes so that we can keep an up to date roster.

Treasurers Report – Dickie Edmund

The balance in the account is \$8,815.92. No outstanding debts.

Call To Order

Doug called the October 9, 2007 meeting to order at Gander Mountain , 24 members were present. Please join me in welcoming Paul Tidwell, Paul has an eight month old Boykin , "Boon"

New Business

Larry mentioned he wouldn't be available for our October training day and ask if anyone else would be able to step up. No one did, so the October training day was eliminated. Next training will be this Saturday, November 17th, unless duck season out weighs, we will decide at the Tuesday night meeting.

We discussed the new shirts and the possibility of reordering them if need be. The shirts turned out very nice and we would like to thank Ray and Doug for coordinating this.

We discussed the Spring 2008 Hunt Test and perspective locations; Larry McMurray ran into Drew and he offered The Mashburn Farms grounds once again. Another possibility is The O'Neil Farm and even the possibility of using both locations with the headquarters being at the O'Neils. We are hoping the Harold Grimmitt will be the Hunt Marshal for the 2008 Spring Hunt Test since he apprenticed under Larry this past Fall.

The Board needs to meet regarding the possible need to change our Fall 2008 Hunt Test, it falls on the same weekend as the Fall Grand and therefore will eliminate the potential of any of the Pro's.

Justin asked if there was a possibility of holding an Upland Hunt. We discussed maybe doing it in the Fall right before Pheasant Hunting and having one Flight of Finished and One Upland Hunt. Ray Akridge agreed to be over it. We think if we could get our test dates changed and actually do have an Upland that we might draw more Pros on their way to the Grand.

Old Business

Once again we discussed the desperate need to check and coordinate with Tom Jacobs regarding our holding blinds and them either being repaired or having new ones made. Dickie said he would contact Tom and make the necessary arrangements. The general consensus is that we need to evaluate our old equipment and make sure everything is up to par before the Spring Hunt.

Fall Hunt Test, October 6-7, 2007

Larry wanted to Thank each and everyone of you who helped to put this test together. Within all of you, it would not have been the success that is was. A special thanks to:

Topper and Slyvia

Dickie and the Marshals

Mike Pinkett for his help with the equipment, poppers and hotel rooms.

The Ivy's for all they did, not only pitching in with hospitality, but wherever there was a need.

Greg for his help with the birds

Ray for arranging the Port-A-Potty

Tom- game and gun steward

Dee, Greg and Doug for helping with the Food and Clean up

Marty and Vaughn for an outstanding raffle

Those two pretty blondes for selling \$1,100 worth of raffle tickets.

Upcoming Events

HUNTING SEASON!!!!!!!

THANKSGIVING

CHRISTMAS AND THE ANNUAL PIN OAK CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE DETERMINED

Doug has checked into several options that will need to be voted on at Tuesday, November 13th's meeting.

**Pin Oak HRC
Fall 2007 Hunt Test Balance Sheet**

Item	Received		Total
	6-Oct	7-Oct	
Entry Fees	\$	6,510.00	\$6,510.00
Puppy Event	\$	30.00	\$ 30.00
MDSE	\$	60.00	\$ 170.00
Lunch	\$	326.00	\$ 518.00
Raffle	\$	1,195.00	\$1,195.00
Ducks	\$	-	

TOTAL \$8,423.00

Item	Expenses	
Ducks	\$	1,450.00
Bird Techs	\$	1,000.00
Judges Mileage	\$	583.00
Judges Rooms	\$	470.94
Judges Gifts	\$	162.00
Raffle	\$	-
Labels / Copies/ Postage		259.25
101 Ribbons (\$5.00 each)	\$	505.00
101 Duck Bands (\$0.20)	\$	20.20
0 HRCH Plaques (\$27.00)	\$	-
Friday Night Dinner	\$	212.41
Sat Night Dinner	\$	519.61
Food / Drinks / Ice	\$	856.73
Port-a-Poties	\$	168.87
UKC - Hunt Test Fees	\$	262.50
HRC - Hunt Test Fees	\$	600.50
Returned Entry Fees	\$	-
Land Owner Gift	\$	-
(2 cases Fiocchi Poppers	\$	235.54
MISC	\$	10.77
	\$	7,317.32

NET \$1,105.68

Training by Larry Wade, Training Coordinator

Focus on the Standard

Duck season is here and you are itching to take your latest prodigy to the blind. If your dog is young and still gaining experience there are few things you should consider to prevent problems and still have a great day in the field. For the newsletter I'll just cover one issue, we'll discuss the rest at the meeting.

Breaking / Creeping

If you haven't said these things you've probably heard them: "I haven't steadied him yet so I just let him break." or "If it's a cripple, he's more likely to get it if he breaks."

Well it's opening day. He breaks on the fall of the duck just about the time it splashes in the water. The next day he figures out when those guns go off, he needs to get out there. Before long he's diving in when anybody stands up or blows a call. (You could make the same analogy with creeping which is just another manifestation of the same concept that sometimes leads to breaking. Either of these, if overlooked, will get out of control.) Nothing good comes from this. It simply isn't safe and starts bad habits.

If he's not reliably steady in training, he isn't going to be in the field. That doesn't mean he has stay home. Take the started dog to the field once they have been introduced to gun fire and they can complete simple retrieves; just bring a leash.

Tie him off to a spot where he'll have a good view of the falls and where he won't flair ducks. It is also very important to put him even with or behind the gun. Don't put him in the bottom of a pit or inside the blind where he can't see. Find a tree if you are going to the woods or bring your own stake.

Lastly, take your time after a bird is down; don't just unsnap the leash and let Hairball fly out as soon as the tension is released. Take him by the collar, unsnap the leash, make sure he's lined up on the bird, and wait for him to settle down prior to releasing him. If you are consistent, he'll get the idea pretty quick.

Given the right circumstances even the some of best dogs will give into the temptation to break. Try looking at it this way. You're driving a car on a late evening without any traffic in sight. On your right a stop sign appears, you've got a couple options and a decision to make. Now let me change the conditions by simply putting a police car in a parking lot nearby. Stopping at the sign is far less optional because of the consequences. That's the message you have to communicate to your four-legged friend; steadiness isn't optional.

Reinforce the steadiness by using the verbal commands prior to pulling the trigger. Add in a tap of a stick, a nick, or a hand slap on his hindquarters and you remind him of the consequences. A simple ounce of prevention can go a long way.

I wish all of you a safe and productive season. Keep it simple for the young dogs until they get a season or two under their collar. Just remember that the conditions may have changed but you owe it to your hunting partner to keep the standards the same.

Tuesday night we'll take this discussion a bit further. We'll address some things you might run across during your pups first season: hard-mouth, whining, blinking, and lock-jaw. Don't forget that the floor is always open to whatever questions you may have. I may not have the answer, but I bet someone in the room will. See you there.

**PIN OAK HUNTING RETRIEVER
CLUB**

President: Doug Bush
Doug.Bush@ar.usda.gov

Vice President: Tracy Rothermel
Rmellaw@aol.com

Secretary: Sonya Bush
sbush35@msn.com

Treasurer: Dickie Edmund
Richard.M.Edmund@usa.dupont.com

New Members: Ray Akridge
Gooddogkennels@yahoo.com

Training: Larry Wade
Larry.wade@pec.ngb.army.mil

Visit us On-line
www.pinoakhrc.com

Classifieds