

Volume 1, Issue 9

September 2007



PIN OAK HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB

# September Newsletter

## President's Message

By: Doug Bush

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Hello Everyone

I would like to start off by giving a big Thank You to everyone that helped out with the Mack's Fall Fest and our Fall Hunt Test, thanks to you, both events where a great success.

We had a good time working the Speed Retrieve at Mack's last month, the weather was great I believe those who participated would agree, we met a lot of dog owners and enjoyed the fellowship. We ran approximately four hundred to four hundred and fifty dogs for the weekend and it would not have been the success that it was without all of you helping out.

I want to thank everyone for your help this past weekend with our Fall Hunt Test all in all I think we had a great Hunt Test, and it could not have been done without your hard work. The dog numbers were down from previous years but for some reason from what I am hearing around the state other clubs are having the same problem. We had a good meal Saturday night along with a great raffle, Marty and Vaughn did a good job getting some nice items that were given away. Thanks also to Justin for jumping in on that endeavor. I was the lucky winner of the Goose banding trip, Bryce was the lucky winner of the Bear tagging trip and Russell Ivy won the free admission to the Evan Graham Seminar.

Sunday afternoon I heard someone say that they could not remember the last time we had as much help loading up the equipment trailers or cleaning up after a hunt test in a long time, we were finished and gone by 5:30. What a positive ending!

I would also like to encourage everyone to get out and run some of the other hunt test around the state, there are still plenty of test to run and these clubs can use our support. So if you need that one pass to get a title or maybe your just getting started and have a young dog and the both of you just need the experience. I know you will meet some nice folks that will be glad to help in anyway that they can, we all love our dogs. The fall hunt test season is also my favorite time of year to run a test and to prepare for the upcoming hunting season. It always helps on opening morning when you are in the blind with Bubba and that first shot is fired, Bubba's dog breaks and is gone with the first shot, does not have clue about the second, third or maybe fourth bird that fell and then you send your dog for that 200 yd blind that Bubba's dog has no clue about, that's when you know all the work has paid off.

Good Training

Doug

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## Officer Reports

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### 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 \$11,700.

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## Call To Order

Doug called the Sept 11, 2007 meeting to order at Gander Mountain , 29 members were present.

## New Business

Dickie Edmund presented a PowerPoint Presentation recapping the responsibilities of Hunt Site Marshals. This was very informative and necessary with the upcoming Fall Hunt Test. We all appreciate his work on this.

### Hunt Report:

Larry McMurray brought the club to date with the Fall Hunt Test. He informed us that all judges were in place and the raffle was going very nicely. In conjunction with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission we are able to offer two very exciting raffle items, never before offered. One was a Goose banding trip for two (an adult and child) and the other was a bear tagging trip for four. We also agreed to have a separate raffle for one free admission to the Evan Graham Seminar; must be present to win.

Greg Cooper and Doug will make the Sam's run. Greg and Dee are in charge of hospitality.

Bo is going to check with Larry Pruitt, President of Hurricane HRC to see if we can borrow 5 holding blinds. We need to discuss further the purchasing and/or repairing of blinds for the next hunt.

Tom Jacobs is the game steward and Ray Akridge will be getting the portable restrooms.

## Old Business

## Wags N Brags

Overdue congratulations to David Stotemyer and Tracy Rothemel for the HR Titles received in Louisiana in August.

I would love to hear from everyone and how they did at our test to share in next month's newsletter.

Please send to [sonya@piercigroup.biz](mailto:sonya@piercigroup.biz)

## Upcoming Events

### HRC

**October 12-14 Central Arkansas Retrievers Field Trail in Mayflower**

October 13-14 West Tennessee HRC, TN

October 13-14 Amite River HRC; LA

October 27-28 L'Anguille River HRC; AR

November 3-4 Hurricane Lake HRC, Searcy, AR

October 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3

## Training – September 2007

### "Is hairball ready for the hunt test?"

In my own humble opinion, this is one of the hardest decisions for new members and, usually, it is one of the first. I'm going to attempt to provide some criterion so new started and seasoned handlers can answer this question, but first I should clarify my point of view.

First off, most professional retriever trainers will answer this question a bit differently than I will. Although I have the utmost respect and admiration for professional trainers, I am *not* one. Most professionals will always have their canine prodigy far more prepared than the test will require. Why, you ask? Because their clients expect success every time they come to the line. Talk about pressure! Successful trainers who aspire to this truly deserve a tip of your hat. In my case testing satisfies (or aggravates) only one person, me.

I claim to be a proud member of the Old order of Fat Amateur Retriever Trainers - Old FARTs. Because of this, I look at testing differently. I believe a complete training program must include a testing component. If I am training Hairball for hunting, then I need a situation where my dog's skills can be evaluated - other than opening day of duck season. I see my dog everyday and it is easy to get tunnel vision. Judges are the second set of objective eyes I need. They have a standard and evaluate my dog against that standard. This identifies holes in my training program - before I jump in a boat on opening day.

Let's get one thing straight. I have never met a judge that wanted to fail a dog - even though I hear handlers accuse them of it. Judges set up a test and evaluate your dog. It's really the dog/handler team that fails the test. When you don't meet the standard, use that information, change your program, and train a better dog. Sure I want to pass them all, but I seem to learn more from the others.

Last, but not least, before I get to the criterion, I'd like to share some sage advice a member of Pin Oak gave me when I needed some perspective after failing a test. It stuck with me for over a decade, "You'll fail some you think you should've passed; you'll pass some you'll think you should've failed; if you stick with it, about the time you start to realize all the reasons why, it'll all work out." It did.

The rest of this is dedicated to answering the question I started out with. If you can answer 'yes' to the following questions, it indicates hairball is ready to go to the line.

#### Started:

1. Have you introduced him to real birds?
2. Have you introduced him to gun fire?
3. Is he socialized well enough that walking on lead, around people and other dogs, that he won't be aggressive toward them? (If you're not sure, a test isn't the place to find out!)
4. Will he walk on lead to the line?
5. Will he sit still, while restrained by the handler, to watch the birds thrown?
6. Will he go a short distance to a fall (maximum of 75 yards on land and 60 in the water)?
7. Will he find a bird in short cover and on open water?
8. Will hairball bring the bird back to the area of the handler (he doesn't need to deliver it into your hand at this level) wearing nothing but a pain collar?

**Seasoned:**

1. Have you introduced him to real birds and gun fire?
2. Will he walk on lead to the line?
3. Will he be steady walking beside you - off lead - when the walk-up bird is thrown, you shoot and the bird falls (you can blow the whistle to stop him when the bird is thrown)?
4. Is he steady sitting beside you while you shoot the marks - no lead or no collar?
5. Will he swing with your gun to see to marks thrown?
6. Will he go to the area of the fall and establish a hunt on marks (100 yards maximum on land and 75 in the water)?
7. Is his memory developed to the point that he can handle a double retrieve?
8. Will he go when sent on a blind?
9. Will he stop reliably on a whistle?
10. Will he cast - relatively reliably - 'back' and 'over' out to a distance of 60 yards on land and in the water?
11. Will he deliver the birds to your hand?

Every dog deserves the opportunity to reach its maximum potential through a focused, complete and positive training program. A truly complete training program includes a testing component where your dog's skills can be fairly evaluated in situations which simulate actual hunting.

# October Training Presented by Larry Wade

<b>Transition</b>
<b><u>Advancing Handling and Lining</u></b> Handling: 8-handed (Wagon Wheel) Casting Long line pattern blinds
<b><u>Lining and Casting - Land:</u></b> Wagon Wheel Lining Drill Zigzag Drills Pattern Blinds with factors Taught/Permanent Blinds Simple Cold Land Blinds
<b><u>Lining and Casting – Water:</u></b> Tune-up Drills No-no drills Chinese drills Cheating Singles Taught/Permanent Water Blinds Simple Cold Water Blinds
<b><u>Diversion Marks</u></b> Four-phase Drill Basic Diversion Mark Drill Taught Blinds with Diversion Marks
<b><u>Primary/Secondary Selection</u></b> Double Triples Quads

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CLUB**

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**Visit us On-line**  
**[www.pinoakhrc.com](http://www.pinoakhrc.com)**

## Classifieds

Ray Akridge is the Dogra Collar representative and will be happy to assist anyone in purchasing an e-collar for their training needs. Ray can be contact at the above email address or at 501-993-2083