



RCHDC Newsletter

APRIL 2008

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS _____

BY MARK MONSON



As spring slowly comes our way we, the dog lovers start thinking about the upcoming hunt test and trials season that is in front of us. With that we should make sure that our dogs are in top shape mentally and physically. If you hadn't done much training during the winter take things slow dogs are like people, if they haven't worked out they get stiff and sore and the paws need toughing so they're ready to run in the field. Take time to see the veterinarian to give your dog the once over and ensure that their shots are up to date and to get some type of tick prevention. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

On May 3rd & 4th and 17th and 18th we will be holding our Pointer and Retriever hunt tests at Rice Creek and I encourage everyone to come and see his event and even help out. If you can help out please contact me at monso020@usfamily.net and let me know. It's a great place to come and relax and meet people and a place to bring the kids and enjoy the outdoors.

One last thing please check your membership status and send us your renewal.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

BY MARGARET GRONDAHL

RCHDC Board Meeting

April 21, 2008



Present: Jack Davies, Margaret Grondahl, Kevin Grondahl, Mark Monson, and Linda Martin

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Mark arrived at 7:25pm and continued the meeting.

Secretary Report: Margaret reviewed the minutes of the January 19, 2008. RCHDC Board Meeting. Linda moved and Jack seconded to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer Report: Linda reviewed the Treasurer's report. Kevin moved and Margaret seconded to approve the report. Report approved.

Old Business:

GMHTA (Greater Minnesota Hunt Test Association) – Linda sent the check for \$50 for the mailing of the retriever hunt tests of 2008. We save about \$300 on postage by sending out a combined mailing through GMHTA.

Master National – The board reviewed that the Master National for Retrievers is to be held at MN Iron Range Retriever Club during the last week of September and that Master National puts aside funds to donate back to clubs for providing workers at the Master National. At the previous board meeting the board had approved RCHDC to volunteer 8 workers for 1 day at the Master National. Gordon. Margaret will check with Gordon II to see if he is willing to coordinate getting the volunteers for this as Gordon I was coordinating it.

Crates – Jack will look into getting crates from Stromberg's in Pine River.

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Wingers – Linda will order.

Boxes for Test: Bruce had volunteered to look into building new boxes for tents. Board tabled this until after the May hunt tests.

Spaniel Seminar – Linda reported Spaniels Seminar was held and all of RCHDC judges were recertified.

Newsletter – A newsletter has not gone out for this year. Discussion was held that it is vital to get information out to club members in order to keep the club active. Mark will contact Carol to discuss the status of the newsletter.

May Pointer Test (May 3 and May 4): Steve Krueger will be the Gun Captain replacement otherwise everything seems to be in order for the test.

May Hunt Test (May 17 and May 18): Mark has agreed to be the Test Chair; Reviewed the items still to be done for the May test – Margaret moved and Kevin seconded to dedicate the May Retriever Hunt test in memory of past president Gordon Schlichting who passed away earlier this month. Motion approved.

August Retriever Test (August 9 and August 10): Thus far we do not have a Test Chair for the August Retriever tests. Margaret agreed to be the Test Secretary. Mark will contact some members who have chaired it in the past to see if they are interested. Mark will also work to schedule the judges for the August test so that we can turn in the application by the first week in May 2008.

August Spaniel test (August 23 and August 24): Linda reported things pretty much lined up for the Spaniel test. Sandi will be the Test Secretary.

Saturday Morning/ Tuesday evening Training: There will be no Tuesday evening training until further notice as JP Martin had surgery on his shoulder and is temporarily not able to host this. Discussion was held regarding Saturday morning training. Mark will put out a request for people to lead the Saturday morning training. In addition, once he has the list a notice will be given to club members that if they wish to train on Saturday mornings they will be responsible to contact the person who is to lead that particular Saturday so that person will know if anyone is coming. The board agreed that it was not appropriate to expect a person to drive to Little Falls to lead a training (with the prices of gas) if no one was attending that day.

Revitalize the Club: The board had an extensive discussion about ways to revitalize RCHDC – concerns included declining membership, inactive members, costs of training dogs, difficulty with communication of what's happening with the club, etc. In an attempt to be more effective at this time the board has determined that each board member will make an effort to get information to Mark by the 30th of each month which can be added to the website (such as RCHDC Board minutes, what's happening around the club, etc.) and Mark will contact Travis Lund (who is managing the RCHDC web site at this time) to see how they can coordinate effectively get information on the web to update it by the 5th of each month. Also, Margaret will send out an updated membership roster to each member with a cover letter explaining this plan for improved communication.

Jack moved and Kevin seconded to adjourn RCHDC Board meeting of April 21, 2008. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Grondahl

RCHDC Secretary



Thank You to Rice Creek Hunting Dog Club for the Flowers at Gordie's Funeral.

Thank You to each of you who sent Memorials, Cards and Prayers to all of us at the time of Gordon Schlichting illness and death. You all helped brighten our days.

God Bless you all.

Lu Schlichting

Gordon Schlichting

& Marlene Dingman



Big Thank you!



To Travis Lund for all of his hard work in updating our website

Our website address is

<http://www.ricecreekhuntingdogclub.com/>

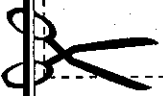
If you have photos of your dogs send them to Travis Lund at

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Club secretary, Margaret Grondahl, reminds members that it is time to renew their memberships. There is currently only one category of membership. \$35.00 includes individuals and families. Your membership must be current in order for you to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

(There is one vote per paid membership.)

Membership renewals can be sent to: Margaret Grondahl, secretary, 805 6th ST NE Staples MN 56479



RICE CREEK HUNTING DOG CLUB MEMBERSHIP, year 2008

Name _____ Renewal _____ New _____ (check one)

Address _____ Email Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Family members names (spouse and children under 18) _____

Breed of Dog/s _____

RCHDC Saturday Morning Training Coordinators

<i>We Need people to volunteer as trainers and to set up training</i>	May 3rd and 4th no training Pointer test.	May 10th and 11th
May 17th and 18th no Training—retriever test	May 24th and 25th	May 31st June 1st
June 7th and 8th	June 14th and 15th	June 21st and 22nd
June 28th and 29th	July 5th and 6th	July 12th and 13th
July 19th and 20th	July 27th and 28th	August 2nd and 3rd
August 9th and 10th No training— Retriever test	August 16th and 17th	If you can't make it on the date that you are scheduled please contact someone else on the list and trade with them.
August 23rd and 24		
No training Spaniel test		

Bring a sandwich and we'll have a picnic and social time when we're through on Saturdays.



Tuesday Night Training

Time: 6:30 pm

Meet at: Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation (Club House)

- No Training during rain or inclement weather
- These sessions are for more advanced training of Retrievers and Spaniels
- We are looking for people to host training on Tuesday nights if you can help out please us know and we will get the news.
- The grounds are always open to club members to train.

Lyme Disease In Dogs

What is Lyme Disease?

Lyme Disease (not Lyme's Disease) is caused by a spirochete called *Borrelia*. A spirochete is a type of bacterium. It is transmitted to dogs through the bite of a tick. Once in the blood stream, it is carried to many parts of the body. It is especially likely to localize in joints.

It was first thought that only a few types of ticks could transmit this disease, but now it appears that several common species may be involved.

How is a dog affected?

Many people having the disease develop a characteristic rash at the site of the bite within 3 to 30 days. For these people, the disease can be easily diagnosed at an early stage. However, symptoms of Lyme Disease are more difficult to detect in animals than in people.

This characteristic rash does not develop in dogs or cats. Because the other symptoms of the disease may be delayed or not recognized, and because the symptoms are similar to those of many other diseases, Lyme Disease in animals is often not considered until other diseases have been eliminated.

Many dogs affected with Lyme Disease are taken to a veterinarian because they seem to be experiencing generalized pain and have stopped eating. Affected dogs have been described as if they were "walking on eggshells." Often these animals have high fevers.

Dogs may also become lame because of the disease. This painful lameness often appears suddenly and may shift from one leg to another. If untreated, it may eventually disappear, only to recur weeks or months later. Some pets are affected with the Lyme Disease organism for over a year before they finally show symptoms. By this time, the disease may be quite widespread in the body.

How is Lyme Disease diagnosed?

Dogs with lameness, swollen joints, and fever are suspected of having Lyme Disease. However, other diseases may also cause these symptoms. There are two blood tests that may be used for confirmation. The first is an antibody test. This test does not detect the actual spirochete in the blood but detects the presence of antibodies created by exposure to the organism.

A test can be falsely negative if the dog is infected but has not yet formed antibodies, or if it never forms enough antibodies to cause a positive reaction. This may occur in animals with suppressed immune systems. Some dogs that have been infected for long periods of time may no longer have enough antibodies present to be detected by the test. Therefore, a positive test is meaningful, but a negative is not.

The second test is the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. This is also known as DNA testing. It is very specific and sensitive. However, not all dogs have the spirochete in their blood cells. If a blood sample is tested, a false negative may occur. The best sample for testing is the fluid from an affected joint.

How is Lyme Disease treated?

Because the Lyme spirochete is a bacterium, it can be controlled by antibiotics. However, a lengthy course of treatment is necessary to completely eradicate the organism.

The initial antibiotic selected to treat an infected pet may not be effective against the disease, especially if the infection is long-standing. In this situation, a switch to another antibiotic is often effective. Occasionally, the initial infection will recur, or the pet will become reinfected after being bitten by another infected tick.

How do I remove a tick from my dog?

Check your pet immediately after it has been in a tick-infected area. If you find a tick moving on your pet, the tick has not fed. Remove the tick promptly and place it in rubbing alcohol or crush it between two solid surfaces.

If you find a tick attached to your pet, grasp the tick with fine tweezers or your finger nails near the dog's skin and firmly pull it straight out. You may need another person to help restrain your dog. Removing the tick quickly is important since the disease is not transmitted until the tick has fed for approximately 12 hours. If you crush the tick, do not get the tick's contents, including blood, on your skin. The spirochete that causes Lyme Disease can pass through a wound or cut in your skin.

Is there a vaccine that will protect my dog from Lyme Disease?

A vaccine is now available for protecting dogs against Lyme Disease. This vaccine is initially given twice, at two week intervals. Annual revaccination is also necessary to maintain immunity. The vaccine has been shown to be safe and very effective. We recommend it for any dog that has exposure to ticks.
