

RCHDC NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Gordon Schlicting

Spring is just around the corner the way it feels today. It will be good to get rid of the mud. It will be good to get out and run the dogs again.

I want to thank Carol Erickson for taking over the duties of Editor for the newsletter. Thank you to Kevin for the years that he did a great job at it.

The Annual Meeting was a great success again thanks to the work of JP and Linda Martin. Thanks.

The biggest source of income for the club is the Hunt Tests that we hold each year. There are four of them. I am going to issue a challenge to every member of the club. **COME OUT AND WORK AT LEAST ONE OF THEM.** Make the test chairman's job easy and volunteer so that they don't have to call people. Thanks in advance.

Looking forward to seeing all of you this summer.

EDITOR'S NOTE

By Carol Erickson

I would like to send a big Thank You to Kevin Grondahl as former editor of the RCHDC newsletter. He has done a great job for all of us over the past few years. He has also offered and given me assistance on beginning my task as your new editor.

In order to have a newsletter that serves the entire club, I do need help from everyone. Please contact me with any information, stories, announcements or any items that would be of interest to other members. All contributions are welcome. I would also be interested in any changes or additions that you would like to see in future issues.

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Thank you in advance for your help.

RCHDC BOARD MEETING

April 18, 2007
7:00 P.m.

@ clubhouse

JP Martin continues to be on the mend following ankle repair surgery in mid-February. (Word has it that Linda threatened to send him to live with his mother if he didn't behave).

Kevin Grondahl is learning some new medical terminology after suffering a fall this winter. (He was given the same ultimatum as JP.)

Our thoughts are with them both during their recuperation - and with Linda and Margaret as they tend their patients.

2007 HUNT TESTS

Test	Date	Chair	Secretary
Pointer	May 5, 6	Gary Lee	Margie Grondahl
Spring Retriever	May 19, 20	Gordon Schlichting	Gordie Schlichting
Fall Retriever	August 11, 12	Margie Grondahl	Marlene Dingman
Spaniel	August 25, 26	Dean Bicknese	Sandy Resch

Eye CERF and Microchip Clinic

4-21-07

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(first come, first served)

Smith Veterinary Hospital
1110 Hwy 13 E
Burnsville, MN 55337

952-736-8278
www.smithveterinaryhospital.com

Eye Certification: \$20.00 per dog
Microchip: \$32.50 (half price)

Presented by: Smith Veterinary Hospital
Labrador Retriever Club of the
Twin Cities
Dr. Stephen Bistner

2006 Banquet Awards

Junior Hunter

Wrenegades White Starr JH — Gary Lee
Eastbay Wahoo JH CGC SD — Award of Excellence — Jack Davies
Rippling Rn Katrina's Quintain JH — Paul Danahy
WR SR TTF Kodiak's Tikka of Garendon — Travis Lund

Master Hunter

WR Frisbe's BeBop Bird Parker CD MH WCX — Award of Excellence 3X — Gordon Schlichting II

Rookie of the Year

Jet — Jack Davies
Casey — Gary Lee
Katie — Paul Danahy

Most Improved

Parker — Gordy Schlichting
Ghillie — Dean Bicknese

Little Shot

Casey — Gary Lee
Comet — Mark Rysavy
Jet — Jack Davies
Katie — Paul Danahy

Therapy Dog Recognition

Billie — Marlene Dingman
Cheye — Jackie Wallen
Biz — Margaret Grondahl
Kat & Secret — JP Martin

Couch Potato of the Year

For an undistinguished year of doing absolutely nothing. This award is given to the dog and handler who snoozed the summer away. We've all heard the excuses, Kevin, but the truth is that you and Katie were not exactly the Dynamic Duo this summer. So for your total lack of accomplishment this summer we give you our first annual Couch Potato Award.

That Damn Bird

This award is given annually to the dog who would have qualified or gotten a placement except for that Damn Bird. Now, while there are numerous contenders for this award such as: Rice, Pearl, Earl, Katie, Tia, Pip, Gunnar, Comet, and others too numerous to mention, this award can only go to one dog. Mainly because we can't find any more of these little dead chickens, our thanks to Byron for donating this one back. The chicken this year goes to a little dog that was done in by a bird on more than one occasion this year. Our That Damn Bird winner for 2006 is Comet.

Shortest Run of the Year

How often have we heard a handler say, "I went out on the first bird?" It makes you feel bad, but at least your dog got to see one bird. There was actually competition among two Golden's this year for this prestigious honor. However, Katie, we think Earl has you beat by the very fact that he was picked up before he even made it to the line. Our winner of the shortest run of the year this year is Earl.

Tank Job of The Year 2006

At this time of the evening we ask for your attention,
As we examine some doggie behavior that was beyond comprehension.
Our nominees this year are a precious few.
What the heck did the rest of you do?

What happened to Kevin's Katie dog?
She laid around all summer, like a bump on a log.
Everyone thought she was about to become a mother,
But boy, did she fool everyone, Oh brother!!!!

Now Mom and Dad bought a new "sleep number" bed.
"I must find my sleep number," Miss Katie said.
After months of experimenting at an answer she did arrive.
"I think my sleep number is a forty-five."

Spending the summer on the sleep number bed,
Sure beat the heck out of fetching a duck that was already dead.
So Kevin and Katie this summer did not train,
Because in their "Sleep Number" bed they did remain.

That golden Billie, always good for our story,
Moved into a brand new category.
She traded a summer of hunt test fun,
For a job that brought smiles to everyone.

Now Billie spends her time as a therapy dog,
As she and Marlene sign into the hospital log.
So there will be no chuckles at Billie's expense.
Let's examine another young golden's offense.

Danahy has a new dog, Katie by name,
Who was brand new to this hunt test game.
She looked like through Junior she would sail.
But, Paul's plan for four straight she did derail.

Her first two ribbons she collected without a hitch,
But then she hit a rather nasty little glitch.
Her undoing came the second day at Blackhawk.
When Katie decided she'd go on a little nature walk.

Her retrieve required going out through a ditch,
No problem, coming back and delivering that was the hitch.
Suffice it to say there was no ribbon that day,
And the very next test was just an instant replay.

In the next two tests she finished the job.

Her naughty exploits just a note in the hunt test log.
Now on to a springer, also new to the hunt test game.
Is this Comet's chance for Tank Job Fame?

In the field she was flawless, a site to behold.
Little did Mark guess what horrors, at the water, would unfold.
The bird went up and landed with a splash,
But into the water little Comet did not dash.

She sat there calmly on the shore and surveyed the scene.
It was apparent that on going in that dirty water, she was not very keen.
She forced herself to give it a try.
Because she did not wish, her Dad, to mortify.

But alas and alack it was not to be,
For our littlest Tank Job nominee.
That evening she swam through muck and through mud.
The next day she would be ready when that duck landed in the crud.

On Sunday, in the field, she was brilliant and bold.
Mark was sure that ribbon was as good as gold.
But rule number one of any hunt test,
Is never count your orange ribbon until clutching it to your chest.

The duck looked interesting, but what could she say,
She just did not feel like retrieving it that day.
After fall days spent at the North Dakota duck shack,
Next year Comet will be back to give it another whack.

Our next nominee from our memory will not fade.
Her family history is the stuff of which legends are made.
Tank and Gypsy, are both immortal in Tank Job lore.
Could it be that their daughter Tia is ready to win once more?

Last year she was the hands down winner.
For the second year in a row would she be the biggest sinner?
Uncle Winger, the only dog to ever accomplish this feat,
With him, for this honor, could she even hope to compete?

The family honor was clearly at stake.
Would Tia allow someone else this tankard to take?
Off to Bismarck for the very first test.
At the end of the day would she stand with the best?

But once again it was not to be.
As the bird went up she went absentee.
Day number two she'd do better, Yes, she should.
She started off and was really looking good.

The day was warm and the wind it was blowin.'
In front of little Tia the birds were a goin.'

Just one more bird was all she would need.
And please try to stay put, poor Byron did plead.

But luck did not shine down on Tia from up above.
When what should she flush, but a stinkin' little dove.
Now Tia was shocked by the appearance of this bird.
"I'll just go get that Dad," was all Byron heard.

A long trip to the land of North Dakota,
And she had not filled her orange ribbon quota.
On to Rice Creek for the very next test.
Hopefully, Byron would not be overstressed.

Day number one, just more of the same.
Was Tia trying a second Tank Job to claim?
Day number two, our very last chance.
With the beauty of her blind the judges she did entrance.

Only the field work was left to go.
Tia was brilliant, really putting on a show.
Her bird got up, and she waited to be sent.
She could make this retrieve, on that you could bet the rent.

But once again the dog gods did not smile.
If only things would go my way once in a while!!!
On her way to the retrieve another bird got up.
And poor Miss Tia just forgot to hup.

After blowing five tests in a row,
Byron said, "Enough, now a hunting we will go."
Is that our last nominee?
Oh no, there's another golden I see.

Enough with the flushers, a retriever is what we need.
And Earl was very naughty, Yes indeed!!!!
This thing in Senior of walking at heel,
Earl could not understand why running ahead was such a big deal.

Arriving a little before Gordon would not have been such a big deal.
But three times out and back to the judges was totally unreal.
There would be no ribbon for Earl that fateful day.
Off to Rice Creek to put on an amazing display.

Success at last!! Gordon was now in control.
Off to Minot! Earl was ready to rock and roll.
But wait, what was this? He did not want to go to the line.
What had gotten into this golden canine?

Picked up by his handler, before he even got a bird.
It was enough to make Gordon utter a four letter word.
The summer produced a total ribbon drought.

He needed to return to Rice Creek, of that there was no doubt.

Earl really loves his home ground.
In August at Rice Creek he did rebound.
Two qualifying scores, both scored at home,
Now off to Blackhawk he was forced to roam.

Things were going well, just an honor away.
Would he snatch a third ribbon on this beautiful fall day?
But once again the fates did intervene.
The bird went up and a golden streak was all that was seen.

Oh well, may as well give it up.
We'll just go a huntin' in Gordon's pickup truck.
So let's review who is a serious contender.
There's Comet and Tia, the title defender.

Two goldens are still in the running I see.
Will Katie or Earl the winner be?
Comet and Katie can be forgiven for the folly of youth.
Tia and Earl are left to face the moment of truth.

Will Tia uphold the family pride,
And for the second year in a row win by a landslide?
Or will Earl follow in his family tradition,
And win the latest Tank Job edition?

After long and careful deliberation,
We are now ready to make the big presentation.
After looking at who was the biggest sinner,
We have to say **"Hey, Earl you're the winner."**

