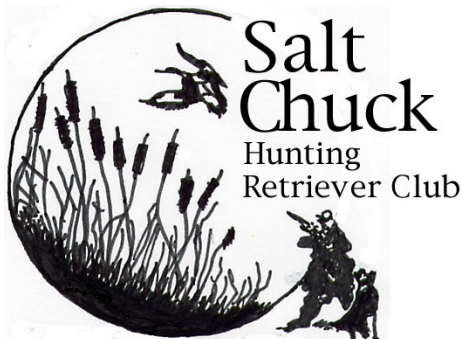


# SCHRC Newsletter



*Salt Chuck Hunting Retriever Club Conceived by hunters for hunters*

## President's Message—Ian Hay

Hi All:

Well, as you all probably know by now, I was elected into the position of President of your Club. It is with great honour that I accept the position and I can assure you, I take my responsibilities seriously and will endeavour, along with your Executive, to do everything possible to steer the Club to many prosperous and enjoyable years to come.

A little background on me, for those of you who may not know me well. I am 56 years old, an old bachelor living with his trusty Labs. I served in the Canadian Forces (Army) for 30+ years and just retired in April of last year. I have been involved with the retriever sport for approximately 28 years now. I started out many years ago as a newbie, with the Manitoba Gun Dog Association (lived in Winnipeg at that time), which was a Field Trial Club. At that time I was raising and training Golden Retrievers. We moved to Wainwright, Alberta and I joined a very active Field Trial Club - the Edmonton Sporting Dog Club and started my love with the Chesapeake Bay Retriever. I also filled in the position of Membership Chairperson with the Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club of Canada (national club).

Upon returning to the Victoria area in 1986, I became an active member of the Vancouver Island Retriever Club. For two years I conducted the training for interested members for the various levels of the CKC Working Certificate Programme.

I saw a requirement for something a little less demanding on both handler and dog, than the Field

Trials and a little something more demanding than the Working Certificate Programme. The Hunt Tests certainly filled that bill, so with the help of other retriever enthusiasts, started the Pacific Rim Hunting Retriever Club (CKC affiliated) and was the first serving President.

Next on the agenda was getting the UKC, Inc. I.HRC, Inc. started up in this area, hence the formation of the Salt Chuck HRC. I would certainly be remiss if I didn't mention my good friends Rick & Louise Roberts for their immense dedication and work attributing to the overall success of both Hunt Test Clubs. I was the first President of the Salt Chuck HRC and am now back in that position again.

I have had the pleasure of training Golden Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers over the years for both Field Trials, Hunt Tests and Working Certificate Tests. I have had the pleasure and opportunity to train and compete in Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Washington, Texas, Nebraska, Colorado and New Mexico. Have made numerous friends in those places, yet find the closest come from the HRC, Inc affiliated Clubs. I am a qualified judge at all levels of the CKC Field Trial sport (Junior, Qualifying & Open All-Age); CKC Hunt Test (Junior, Senior & Master); CKC Working Certificate Programme (WC, WCI & WCX) and with the HRC AA judge at all levels (Started, Seasoned, Finished & Upland). I still compete with my Retrievers in all aspects of this wonderful sport of ours.

Think the above will provide some background information on your new President and hopefully you will feel comfortable with myself and your Executive at the 'helm'.

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## Your New Executive

### President -

Ian Hay.....250-743-2467

### Vice President -

Brian Bancroft.....250-245-8100

### Secretary -

Linda Langford .....250-743-7263

### Hunt Test Secretary -

Cheryl Bancroft .....250-245-8100

### Treasurer -

Judy Teskey .....250-245-4314

### Region 14 PR Rep/Past President -

Anne Everett .....250-479-8942

## Executive Minutes

Place: Rick & Louise Roberts home @ 890 Sheppard Road Mill Bay

Date: January 20<sup>TH</sup> 2005

Time: 7:00 PM

Attending Members: Ian Hay, Brian & Cheryl Bancroft, Linda Langford, Rick & Louise Roberts

Opening Address: The new President elect Ian Hay Welcomes the new executive members and introduces the agenda.

Training Days: There is a need for more training days with the possibility of specializing the days i.e. started/upland training days and season/finished. The desired outcome (1) more support for new members (2) more available help from groups not training (3) Allows members to observe and meet members and their dogs from different levels. The possibility of having club fall hunts was raised by Linda. The idea being that members with no hunting experience could go on real duck hunts with experienced hunters. Training and theory can be put into real life experiences as well as adding to the clubs duck supply.

Appointments: Ian would like to create two new positions. The first one being a training coordinator who would oversee training days, create an introduction program for new members and would report to the executive board. The second position of a club historian was Brians' suggestion. The club is still young enough that documents and pictures from its conception could be gathered giving the club a written history for future posterity.

Spring Hunt April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Speaker: Hunt coordinator Rick Roberts: Rick focused on the need to keep costs down. The fees for spring trial will remain the same. Dave Stevens will continue to bring in Purina dry dog food bags as free give away to help offset fees. Free runs for Judges judging in future trials will be dropped; however, all existing free runs will be honored. The introduction of three paid gunners for trials. Their duties would include gunner and the moving and setting up of equipment. This would free up members to look after and run their dogs as well as eliminating some of the time delays. Ric motioned Ian second, motion carried 100%.

Speaker: Cheryl Bancroft: would like the advanced entry incentive to be eliminated. The hunt secretary will be given extra help with same day entries and runner duties at hunt trials. Rick and Louise have donated the use of a trailer to be used as headquarters for better protection from the weather and so that Cheryl can have the use of a laptop and printer to help facilitate her duties. Insurance to be looked into and reported back to the board at a later date. Stakes start time will be 8:00am and will be closed to further entries @ trial start time.

Birds: Rick Roberts reports that there are 150 new birds and 50 used birds which will be enough for spring trial. Birds that are not kept at end of day for club use will be offered up to anyone wanting them asking price a small club donation. Ian is to talk to Tracy regarding birds for the fall hunt.

Equipment: Position of equipment manager is still vacant; however, Ian has someone in mind and will get back to us on that. The last executive approved increasing the number of duck blinds by six short and four tall. Three small and two large will be bought for spring trial and the same amount for the fall trial. The cost being small \$65.00 each and large \$100.00 each. Brian motioned, Ian second, the motion carried 100%. Camouflage sheets with bull dog clips can be used for bush and treed areas as needed. Space has been offered for storage equipment at Brains' garage in Ladysmith; however, Brian will not be held responsible for the equipment.

Membership: Club fees are to remain the same. Focus will be on attracting new members, creating an introduction program with more structured training days.

General meetings: will take place 4 weeks after the spring and fall hunt. This will allow members to recap and critique the trial as well as bring up any new business. Motioned by Brian Rick second, motioned carried 100%.

Treasurers' Report: Treasurer Judy Teskey absent.

Appreciation to past members of the executive: Speaker Brian: Letters of appreciation to be sent out to past executive board members and the possibility of a plaque or certificate as well. This would be retroactive to the first executive committee. Pictures of past and present board members will be needed for historical documentation.

Miscellaneous business: Speaker Linda: brought up the possibility of a fundraiser for the club through Thriftys' food and Country Grocer. She will check into it further and report back to the committee. Ian will be checking into the clubs insurance coverage and what protection the executive members have against lawsuits. The possibility of having Trial entrants sign a waiver stating the risks involved and that the club would not be held responsible in the event of accidents or injury. The website should be looked at and made more interesting with such things as more pictures and trial results.

Executive meetings: Once approved the minutes are to go into the newsletter. Motioned by Ian Brian second, motion carried 100%. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the place to be announced at a future date.

Executive meeting adjournment: @9:00 p.m. motioned by Cheryl 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian passed 100%.

## Hunt Test Common Mistakes

Published with permission of "Retrievers Online"  
After James Keldsen, Lakeville Indiana, printed in "Retrievers Online"  
Sept-Oct 2004

### **Condensation by Bob and Anne Everett**

We hunt test enthusiasts seem to have to make the same mistakes and have them pointed out to us before we recognize them. So, here is an article from "Retrievers Online" (retrieveronline.com) that will point these mistakes out to you, hopefully, before you make them all J. We are taking the liberty of condensing the article but you may read it in its full form from the Sept-Oct 2004 issue of "Retrievers Online". We have put James Keldsen's words in quotes. Those words not in quotes are our own opinions. Good luck in your training!

James Keldsen ends his summary with these words of wisdom that we will move to the front:

"Let's face it: hunt tests are not simply about picking up the birds. When actually hunting, the bottom line is to pick up every bird and the degree of polish on the performance is secondary. If the dogs retrieve all the birds while hunting, we can ignore slipped whistles, poor lines, and unsteadiness. This is not so at hunting tests. Judges model hunt tests after typical hunting scenarios, but that is where the similarities end. It is a game where we try to show two judges that our dogs have skills above and beyond those of the average meat dog on the public marshes. Hunt tests are an opportunity to demonstrate to others that dog and handler function as a team in a manner that epitomizes the hunting retriever. Run the test accordingly."

Now James Keldsen goes on to outline the mistakes we all make or have made.

### **Not Hearing the Judges' Instructions**

Bottom line is you need to be there at the beginning of the test. When you cannot, due to running a dog in another stake, ask the marshal or an experienced participant, then ask the judges when you are in the last holding blind. The more people you ask, the more likely you are to get something similar to what was actually spoken. Perhaps it will make the difference of a pass or a failure. Tuum est.

### **Rushing the Dog to the Line**

A mad dash to the line, to avoid holding up the test, is suicide for most dogs and their handlers. If the situation happens, however, at least take time to calm yourself down, to avoid your dog catching on to your agitated state of mind. Remember that the blood flow to the brain is decreased when you are in a panicked state.

### **Rushing on the Line**

Take time to get comfortable. Allow the dog time. "The rules state that you cannot point out the gun stations but you can allow the dog to look out into the field on its own. Heel the dog on a line that allows it to survey the field on approach, sit it, look into the field to review the stations yourself, make certain the dog is looking in the correct area of the field, take a deep breath, then signal for the birds."

### **Not using the Line to Advantage**

"At many tests, the handler has a wide area available at the line to place his dog." Pick one that gives the best-unobstructed view for the dog. "Be at the test for the judges' instructions and ask to view the test from the line after the test dog has run. Most judges will be happy to allow

this. Go to the line get down on your knees and look over the test from the dog's point of view."

### **Running the Diversion Bird as a Mark**

"The diversion bird is not a mark." You know this from having attended an HRC Judges' and Handlers' seminar [The next one is just before Whistling Wings Hunt Test April 23, 24, 2005]. Also, the CKC rules effective January 1, 2005, state on page 36, for Senior Hunt Tests, "The diversion bird is not a mark...." Also note the rules for Master have changed to allow a diversion bird to be thrown on the way to or from a blind, as well as returning from a mark. Bottom line, check your rulebook before training for the test to ensure you are training for the test correctly.

James Keldsen states, "I cringe every time I watch a handler allow his dog to run past the diversion and stand there as the dog hunts all over for it. A quick whistle and a handle when the dog was by the bird would have minimized the diversion's effect on the marks." "A diversion does not affect the marking category."

### **Losing Control While Handling**

"Handling ... is an exercise in control. If handling on a mark, the judges already know that your dog blew the mark, now you can only show that you can handle all the way back to the bird. Don't allow the dog to hunt on its own after giving a cast or blowing the whistle. It is not unusual to see handlers that never gain control of their dogs on blinds, but the dogs still manage to arrive downwind of the bird and retrieve it. The handler's lack of control drops the dogs and it makes for confused and unhappy handlers at the end of the test." Of course, the handler contributed tremendously to failing the test but often they don't recognize their part in the failure. 'Stumble on bird' or 'SOB' is what the judge records as they check off 'Failed' on the sheet. SOB means the dog found the bird by hunting, not by handler control.

"The dog's ability to hunt will be evaluated elsewhere, not in a situation that requires handling."

"Handlers that spare the whistle...and allow their dogs to carry poor lines, avoid en route hazards and hunt are setting their dogs up for failure."

"When it comes to blowing the whistle, blow it hard and long. A technique that works for me is to blow the whistle and not let up until I see a change in direction from my dog that tells me it is stopping. Some handlers blow it short and then wait [and pray] to see if their dog turns. That can, particularly in high winds or running water, lead to missed whistles or whistle refusals in the judges' books."

### **Not Challenging the Blind**

"The point of a blind is to send the dog from the line with the dog taking the straightest possible line directly to the bird. If there is cover in between, the dog should go through it. If there is a point of land, the dog should cross it. If there is an old fall on the line, the dog should not break down. Get from the line to the bird, while maintaining a straight line and you have run a good blind. Avoid cover, deviate left or right of the line, or allow the dog to break down [hunt] and your score drops appreciably...if a hazard is on the line, take it."

So, hunting and hunt tests are similar yet different games with different rules. Make sure you and your dog are playing by the right set of rules when you play a game.

## SCHRC Training Day—Sunday March, 20

*Walter and Mary Brown's, 13490 Michael Rd., Yellow Point*

TIME	SUBJECT	SPONSOR	REMARKS
1000	Meet at Walter & Mary's	Ian Hay	See everyone knows each other and set up for the day's events
1030	Gun Safety	Ian Hay	As per the HRC Rules & Regulations and Common Sense. Anyone with a pump, single or double- barrelled shotgun, please bring them. We will conduct a round robin program with the shotgun being shown the working parts, how to load & unload, shouldering it, dry firing, primer shells & popper loads. It shall be slow and progressive, so please do not have any apprehensions regarding the use of the shotgun at our Hunts.
1130	Started Dogs	Tracey Griffin: Advanced Handlers assisting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A short lecture as to what the rules entail for this level.</li> <li>2. Introduction to birds.</li> <li>3. A short demonstration on a Started level Hunt.</li> <li>4. Followed by each dog in that level being run on that exact set-up with Tracey walking\alking each handler\dog combination through. It is hoped that both land &amp; water can be done.</li> </ol>
1300	Lunch	All	Please bring your own lunch and lawn-chairs. Remember to leave the grounds the way we found them - <b>CLEAN</b>
1400	Seasoned Dogs	Judy Teskey: Started Handlers As-sisting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A short lecture as to what the rules entail for this level.</li> <li>2. A short demo on a Seasoned level Hunt.</li> <li>3. Followed by each dog in that level being run on that exact set-up with Tracey walking\alking each handler\dog combination through. It is hoped that both land &amp; water can be done.</li> </ol>
1500	Discussion	All	Any points concerning the training as well as any points anyone has concerning the Rules & Regulations as it pertains to them. Dress will be one point for this time.
1600	Depart for Home	All	

