



THRC Newsletter

April—May 2005

Message from the President

The 2005 Spring Hunt Test was a big success. We had a total of 368 entries with 235 dogs receiving ribbons. Thanks to all the club members who rallied together and made the event great!

This Spring I attended a number of hunt tests (close, and afar...) and I received so many compliments on THRC events and grounds. We are very lucky to have this club and our grounds. Remember when you are out training this summer take the time to pick up trash or fill in a hole so that we continue to receive such nice compliments.

The club has a number of handlers and dogs that are going to the Master National this October in Texas. If I can come out throwing a bumper or plant a blind for your dog give me a call.

Upcoming events: Judges seminar June 11th. The board is trying to find time for a workday and a fun test. We are planning a double Master, Senior and Junior weekend in the Fall so the tests will begin on Friday.

Below is an excerpt I got from the book Bits & Pieces, and I thought you all might enjoy it, since I think most of us feel similarly.

asked him the obvious question, "Why is passed by a man walking his dog and did a double take because the dog was wearing shoes! your dog wearing shoes?"

"Oh, the dog's so old that all the padding on his paws has worn off and the shoes give him the padding he needs," He said. "As a matter of fact, without the extra padding it would be like you or me walking on hot coals."

Fascinated, I asked how old his dog was.

"He's fifteen and one-half, and I've had him since he was a pup."

Totally enthused, I gushed, "That's amazing. What's your secret? You should write a book about how to take care of a dog."

"It would be a very short book because I only have one secret."

"I really love my dog."

Happy Training!
Sam

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DOG'S BEST FRIEND
(By Rob Gilbert, Editor, Bits & Pieces)

ON A FALL AFTERNOON, I was walking in a residential section of lower Manhattan. I passed by a man walking his dog and did a double take because the dog was wearing shoes!

I walked back to the man and

Keith Farmer by Kathern Spence Kelley

Many of you may have seen the recent World Retriever Championship (WRC) aired on the Outdoor Living Network. What you might not know is that the eighth place finisher was a club member by the name of Keith Farmer. I recently talked with Keith and asked him about how he got involved in retriever training, the World Retriever Championship and what advice he might give to amateur trainers.

For those that do not know him, Keith Farmer was born and raised in Waycross, Georgia. He still resides there with his wife and children and is actively involved in running a family owned business. Keith originally got involved with dog training through

bird dog trials but found himself interested in retriever training. After following through on a commitment to successfully campaign his own dogs to the field trial level, Keith became a professional, retriever trainer about five years ago. He currently trains twelve advanced and two young dogs. These dogs' accomplishments include Master Hunter titles, Master National qualifications, several Derby level placements and Qualified All Age wins.

The dog that placed in the most recent WRC is Jet. She is a two year old black Lab with back to back Qualified All Age wins. And while that fact might give you a

hint of why Jet was able to place so high in a field of one hundred dogs consisting of Qualified All Age and Master Hunter dogs, it doesn't explain how Keith Farmer was able to train such a competitive dog.

Hoping to get a glimpse into Keith's training technique; I asked him "What advice would you give someone who was just starting out training for retriever tests?" Mr. Farmer had two pieces of advice. The first piece of advice was to get involved. As Keith explained, studying the game (i.e. going to hunts and/or field trials) and learning the rules should be a first step for every-

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Jeannie's Corn Bread

- 1 Heaping cup Ballard's Cornbread Mix Or corn meal
- 1 Small carton sour cream
- 1 small can (8 1/4 oz.) cream style corn
- 2 eggs
- 1/8 tsp Salt
- 1 stick butter



Melt butter in 8x8 baking pan. Mix other ingredients in bowl. Pour over melted butter. Bake 350° for 35 minutes or until sides pull away from pan. (At the Andy Attar seminar I doubled this and used a can of cream and whole kernel corn.)

Copper Qualifies for National

We would like to congratulate Wayne Dodson and Copper (AFC Dr. Copper PHD, MH), for earning her AFC and for qualifying for the 2005 National Amateur Field Trial in Virginia, Minnesota, June 19-26. We certainly wish them the best. We will be keeping up with her progress at www.working-retriever.com.

- 26.5 Derby Points
- Qualified All Age @ 2years old
- 26 All Age Points
- AFC
- Needs win for FC
- Qualified for National Amateur 2004 went 7 series
- Qualified for National Amateur 2005
- Master Hunter
- Qualified for the 03 Master National

Keith Farmer Cont' from Page 2

one.

His second piece of advice was to train for a higher level than you intend to run your dog, be it hunt test or field trial. As Keith explained, before entering even a Junior Hunt Test (JH) it would be wise to go beyond the basic (i.e. marking) and work on line manners and handling. As he put it, your confidence level is higher and the game is more enjoyable when you are well prepared.

long this line of thought, the process of preparing for competition is something on which handlers should also be focused. To successfully compete, a dog needs to be in the best physical shape. A diet of high quality dog food and exercise is essential to combat the stress of travel and temperature extremes to which competition dogs are subjected.

And just as you can not ignore the basic physical needs of your dog, Keith added that you should not overlook the basic principles in training. Too often, handlers want to advance their dogs and get hooked on the big concept (e.g. multiple marks) while failing to insure that the dogs are covered on the linchpin principles of training such as line manners. A handler who fails to recognize that you need to constantly address the basics is not only building on shaky ground but also probably does not see his role in the unnecessary problems created. Such a handler then is more inclined to correct a dog for honest mistakes which leads to more mistakes and an over correction cycle begin.

Keith and I also talked about corrections. When to correct; when not to correct; and how to correct were just some of the topics Keith covered with me. Hopefully space permitting in a future issue of this newsletter I'll be able to more fully go into his philosophy. But



in a nutshell, I think Keith Farmer best summarized his philosophy in the following sentence. "It is all about reading the dog and maintaining attitude."

- The American Kennel Club publishes both the rules and regulations for both hunt tests and field trials in booklets that can be obtained from the AKC by phone (919) 233-9767 or through their web site: www.akc.org.

- Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club is holding a Judge's Seminar on Saturday, June 11th. AKC representatives will cover the rules, regulations and be on hand to answer question. For information on

A Friend to Remember

It is with our deep sadness to report that Dick Sauer passed away Saturday, March 12, 2005. He had been battling cancer for awhile. Dick was always with his wife Mary Ann, and her dogs, at hunt tests and other club events. Dick's passion was not for the sport but instead his passion was for supporting Mary Ann. He loved the big smile and happiness the dogs could put on her face. In return, she enjoyed going to every FSU ballgame together and supporting him and the

Seminoles from before the game started until the very end, no matter the outcome. Their families and Mary Ann hosted a beautiful celebration of life gathering on April 24, 2005. We know Dick will continue to support Mary Ann from above as she tries to win a Master Title. Dick was a wonderful husband and friend and will be deeply missed.



THRC Newsletter

1512 Valley Rd
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www.tallahasseehuntingretrieverclub.com



New Members

Bob Lampe
3031 NE 51 ST #405
Ft Lauderdale FL 33308-4551

Jack Miller
P. O. Box 404
Thomasville, GA



Rob Shave
1197 Fletcher ST
Port Charlotte FL 33952

David and Lauren Krause
496 Booster Club RD
Bainbridge, GA 39819
dkrauseiac@msn.com

AKC Judging Seminar

• AKC Hunt test rules • What judges look for • How to become a judge • And more!

Date: Saturday, June 11,
Time: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
(lunch is on your own)
Location: Holiday Inn Express
452 Liberty Street
Thomasville, GA
Cost: \$35.00

Pre-registration is required. Questions may be directed to Sam or Jeannie Ferguson at 850-877-6974 (call until 11:00PM).
Deadline for registering is June 1.

Mail registration and checks made payable to THRC to:
Jeannie McLendon Ferguson
1512 Valley Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Judging # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____