

The Beginning of the Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club

from Inception to NAHRA to CKC
(North American Hunting Retriever Association / Canadian Kennel Club)



Message via Sharon van der Lee (a founding member):

The Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club started out from a few members who were originally part of the Westwind Sporting Dog Club.

We wanted to form a club that was geared for just field training and putting on NAHRA events, as Westwind Sporting Dog Club did field, obedience and show events. Those of us that wanted to concentrate more on field work felt that a club needed to be formed for just that purpose. A few of us had been going to NAHRA tests in Spokane and were speaking with Gary Erickson (an executive of NAHRA) about a new club.

So, five of us sat around in our family room in the fall of 1991 to discuss forming this new club. From what I can remember from 30 years ago (my goodness!), it was John and me, Brenda Leyenaar, Graham Duff and Jennifer Scott. John was the first President and Brenda the Secretary. I was the Treasurer and Graham the Vice President. Jennifer was Test Secretary. Ten members in all came over from Westwind.

This is Brenda's submission letter in the NAHRA news, first quarter.



Dear Sirs,
Enclosed please find an application for NAHRA membership for the Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club, Calgary, Alberta Canada. This is a new club formed specifically to promote the training of hunting retrievers and to hold NAHRA hunting retriever field tests.

At present, we have seventeen members, ten of which are members or former members of the Westwind Sporting Dog Club which has been holding licensed NAHRA tests for the past four years. All members have participated in these tests, either organizing, working, competing or all of the above. Three of our members are on the NAHRA judges list. Several of our members have been actively involved with working retrievers for many years, i.e. hunting, CKC field trials and working certificate tests, as well as the NAHRA events.

At this time, we are also applying for a Licensed Hunting Retriever Field Test (application enclosed). Because of our past experience, the membership is very familiar with all aspects of organizing and conducting NAHRA tests and we are looking forward to holding an event in July, 1992.

We hope that both of our applications are acceptable. Please advise if further information is required.

Best regards
Brenda Leyenaar
Secretary
Wild Rose Hunting Retriever Club

going forward:

NAHRA events were held each and every year from 1991 until 2018. In the beginning there were two tests held, one in July and one in August of each year. Also, our sister club up in Edmonton, the Alberta Clipper Hunting Retriever Association, hosted these NAHRA events. That way people travelling from the United States would come up for a week and were able to have two weekends to run tests.

From July 2001 to March 2009, we had a quarterly newsletter that went out to members, via snail mail. It was called "The Fetching Post". Past member Mary Shillabeer looked after organizing and gathering content for this and did a wonderful job. **Please click here view one of the last newsletters.**

Another fun event we held just for club members was "A Seven Single Series" event. We had two judges that would set-up a series of seven marks. For those dogs that were entered, you were guaranteed the first three and then after that they got harder. The one left standing at the end that did all the marks the best won. And what did they win, the **coveted trophy** of course and bragging rights for a year. **Click here to see pictures of some past winners.**

Unfortunately, that event dwindle, but a new event was erected, and it was called the "Texas Triple Double". Click here to see the **event details** and some **pictures** of handlers from this event.

As time has gone on, the NAHRA events started to fade in Western Canada. In 2018 the Club decided to become a Canadian Kennel Club member so that we could run CKC Hunt Tests and Working Certificate tests. We held our first sanction test in May of 2018, and September 2018 we held our first official CKC Hunt test and were able to run an event in 2019 and was held over two days with all levels being offered. In 2020 COVID-19 put events on hold. We are keen and eager to get back into it and are planning to hold a trial in July 2021.

We at the WRHRC hope that this website will give you the information you are looking for about our Club. Should you have any questions, please contact thru the website on the "Contact Us" page.

event details (this will be posted somewhere else on the website and once clicked upon this will open)

This EVENT was comprised of 3 stations, each with a double mark over land, and a final single mark over land. ALL DOGS RUN ALL 3 STATIONS. ALL DOGS SCORED ON ALL 3 STATIONS.

DOG CLASSIFICATIONS: • MASTER DOGS: field trial trained or senior hunt test dogs • HUNTER DOGS: hunting and hunt test dogs over 20 months of age • STARTED DOGS: 20 months and younger.

AGGREGATE SCORE OF ALL 3 STATIONS COMBINED TO DETERMINE WINNERS (In case of tie aggregate scores the tiebreaker will be decided by one open hand of TEXAS HOLD'EM). Started dogs may choose to run each double as a two sequential singles but each mark will be judged out of 8.

PRIZES There will be first, second, and third prizes for all 3 classes of dogs. FINAL SINGLE will be a timed mark and will not contribute to overall score. The FINAL SINGLE will be used to determine the winner of the Calcutta. Final Single Calcutta will be a "fastest and latest" event where handlers can bet on whether their dog will have the fastest the slowest or closest to average time on the final single. The winners pot will be split 3 ways among the dogs with the 1) fastest, 2) slowest and 3) closest to average score. Betting will occur prior to the Final Single.

*GENERAL RULES: • All dogs run all tests; no dogs will be dropped • Duck calls and pistols may be used • No marks longer than 100 metres • Handler (not judge) calls for all marks • Dogs may pick up birds in any order • Dead birds will be used • Area of fall will be judged tighter on go bird than memory bird • Each mark will be scored out of 10**