

## *Rappahannock River Retriever Club, Inc.*

### *General Information*

#### ***Club Background***

Rappahannock River Retriever Club, Inc., (RRRC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-stock Virginia corporation whose roots trace back to a small group of waterfowl enthusiasts who in 1997 joined together to encourage proper dog training and conservation of game. The rapidly growing club has recently enjoyed a membership surge from both hunters eager to try hunt tests and novices eager to train their retrievers.

Members come from all over Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania as well as the District of Columbia. By a special arrangement with Shady Grove proprietor Neil Selby, the Club has headquarters and training grounds at his Shady Grove Kennel & Hunting Preserve, which is located south of Warrenton near Remington. Members generally meet the first Saturday of the month for the months of March through August, and the first Sunday in the month for the months of September through February. Realistic hunt-test scenarios are set up for dogs and handlers to practice from master level on down to puppy retrieves.

The RRRC welcomes novice and experienced hunters and hunt-test competitors alike. Any breed that will retrieve and age of dog is welcome, be it pups just starting out to Master and field trial hopefuls. Members' dogs, in addition to black, yellow and chocolate Labradors, include many Chesapeake Bay and Golden Retrievers. We also have Pointers, Boykin, Springer, and Cocker spaniels, and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retrievers. Members include both professionals--breeders and trainers--as well as serious amateurs, novices and judges. Everyone takes turns setting up and being "bird boys." Training sessions in nice weather frequently include picnic lunches. Flyers are used at most sessions, and every dog gets a chance to practice at its skill level.

Rappahannock River Retriever Club, Inc. holds hunt tests in all 3 major venues--AKC, HRC and NAHRA. While RRRC hosted NAHRA licensed field tests in March 2003 and October 2004, a double HRC hunt test was held in September 2005. Since the very successful hosting of our first AKC-licensed hunt test in April 2004 at Shady Grove, RRRC has become a major venue of retriever training and testing, hosting AKC-licensed hunting tests on a yearly basis, and hosting the 2007 Master National.

In addition to offering various hunt tests or field tests, RRRC also actively supports the education of its participants through various judges' clinics and through supporting apprentice judges at licensed events.

If you are interested in running your retriever in any of the various testing formats, or are interested in learning more about these events, volunteering is a fantastic way to see the

action first hand and to learn more about making your retriever the best that he or she can be. Our next scheduled event is but a few months away so make plans now to volunteer to help!

RRRC is indeed very excited and honored to have been selected to host 2007 Master National Retriever Trial. With such a prestigious test being so close at hand, all interested individuals are encouraged to start making plans today to attend this most special event.

### ***Training***

We will conduct training on the first Saturday of the month from March through August; and the first Sunday of the month from September through February.

- November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Sunday)
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 (Sunday)
- January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Sunday)
- February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 (Sunday)
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)
- April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)
- June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)
- August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)
- September 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 (Sunday)- No training; club work day
- October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Sunday)

Start Time: 8:00 check-in, 9:00 – 4:00 training

You must register in advance (deadline is the Wednesday before the training day) so plans can be made for training scenarios and shot flyers, etc. Please send an email to [rrrctraining@yahoo.com](mailto:rrrctraining@yahoo.com) with the following information:

- Name
- Phone Number
- Number of dogs (4 maximum)
- Level of Dog
- Number of Shot Flyers (1 per dog)

The fee for the day is \$5 per dog (6 months or older) payable upon arrival. Shot flyers will be at cost (\$11). All birds, once shot, will be kept by RRRC for the next training day. We welcome all guests to join us for a training day and evaluate our great club. Please bring your dog, a leash, water and lunch. You will be expected to "work" in the field throwing birds for other dogs. We would love to meet you!

On a typical training session, the club will offer single, double, and triple marks as well as blind retrieves that are arranged, conducted and at distances similar to what is encountered at both NAHRA field tests and AKC hunt tests. Not only are individuals encouraged to ask for set-ups that allow them to more fully test or evaluate their dog's

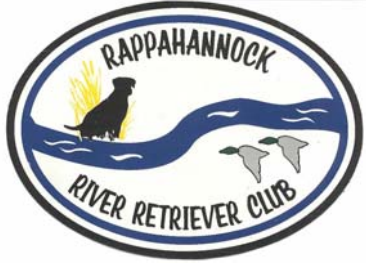
ability on certain issues or concepts, but members are also encouraged to take turns setting up a given training session so that they can tailor-make a session.

Besides offering retrievers a variety of marking and handling tests, the training sessions also afford handlers and dogs alike an opportunity to become familiar with the sights, sounds, and excitement of a hunting test or field test so that they will be better able to perform at their best when the real test takes place, should one wish to show their retriever.

Training a retriever, like most things in life, does not happen all on its own- it takes an investment of effort, patience, consistency, and last but certainly not least, an investment of time. Greater levels of proficiency at retrieving understandably require different concepts to be taught, as well as more of an investment in time and effort. Individuals are encouraged have a goal of proficiency in mind that they wish their retriever to attain, to develop a training schedule that will allow for the goal to be reached, and to then train with that goal in mind. Just as people have different personalities, cognitive prowess, and physical attributes, so to do retrievers. Accordingly, one needs to remain flexible to modifying their training regimen to the particular needs of their retriever. A concept may seem to be quite simplistic to you, however, if your retriever does not understand, it really doesn't matter what you think as your retriever does not understand what is being asked. Be willing to take a step or two backwards in your training before you advance to the next phase or concept. By adapting your training regimen to the needs of your retriever, you will be better able to reach the goal together and both you and your retriever will be able to find the pleasure, if not joy, of working together as a team.

### ***Membership***

Complete our attached application for membership and bring it to one of the training days listed above. Meet our members and obtain sponsorship from two members on the form. Send the completed form together with a check for \$25 for Individual membership, or for \$35 for Family membership, made payable to RRRC, Inc., to Ms. Susan Medjo, 16606 Old Cabin Place, Accokeek, MD 20607.



*Rappahannock River Retriever Club, Inc.*

*Membership Application*

Get together with people who share common interests and wish to preserve and hone our dogs' natural retrieving instincts. We promote activities such as training sessions whereby our dogs are able to develop and refine their retrieving skills. We also conduct retriever trials wherein their skills can be formally evaluated. Rappahannock River Retriever Club (RRRC) is licensed to hold AKC and HRC Retriever Hunting Tests and NAHRA Field Tests.

You are cordially invited to join our Club, attend events and participate in all Club activities. If you wish to become a member, please complete the form below, including two nominating signatures from members in good standing, and submit the completed application, along with a check for \$25.00 for Individual Membership, or \$35 for Family membership, made payable to RRRC. Please submit the completed application to: Ms. Susan Medjo, 16606 Old Cabin Place, Accokeek, MD 20607. Please be sure to include your e-mail address so we can quickly notify you of Club events.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**I AM WILLING TO HELP WITH:**

Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Hunt Tests \_\_\_\_\_ Picnic \_\_\_\_\_ Training \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Equipment \_\_\_\_\_ Website (updating, data entry, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in Rappahannock River Retriever Club, and in so doing I agree to abide by the bylaws of Rappahannock River Retriever Club and by the rules and regulations of both the American Kennel Club and the North American Hunting Retriever Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signatures of two sponsoring RRRC members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ***AGREEMENT***

I (we) agree that Rappahannock River Retriever Club, Inc. (hereinafter RRRC) has the right to refuse any dog(s) from participation in any event for cause which the Club shall deem sufficient. In consideration of the opportunity to participate in any RRRC activity, I (we) agree to hold the RRRC, its members, directors, officers, agents, superintendents or event secretary and the owner and/or lessor of the premises and any provider of services that are necessary to hold this event and any employees or volunteers of the aforementioned parties, harmless from any claim for loss or injury which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of their dog(s) while in or about the event premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I (we) personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim; and I (we) further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss, injury or damage to their dog(s). \_\_\_\_\_ **(Initial)**

Additionally, I (we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify, defend and save the aforementioned parties harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon any of the aforementioned parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death at any time resulting there from, sustained by any person or persons, including myself (ourselves), or on account of damage to property arising out of or in consequence to my (our) participation in this event, however such injuries, death or property damage may be caused, and whether or not the same may have been caused or may be alleged to have been caused by the negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees, agents, or any other persons. \_\_\_\_\_ **(Initial)**

I (WE) AGREE THAT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION, CONTROVERSY OR CLAIM ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THE ENTRY, EXHIBITION OR ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT BETWEEN THE RRRC AND MYSELF (OURSELVES) OR AS TO THE CONSTRUCTION, INTERPRETATION AND EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE RULES AND OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO ARBITRATION ALL APPLICABLE RRRC BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURE MUST FIRST BE FOLLOWED AS SET FORTH IN THE RRRC BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**Name (printed) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Signature of individual / owner or his/her agent duly authorized to make this agreement. If the above-named individual is a minor, then the full name and signature of parent or legal guardian must appear below.***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_