

MGDA

The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Newsletter



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- CLUB NEWS
- TRAINING TIPS
- AND MUCH MORE



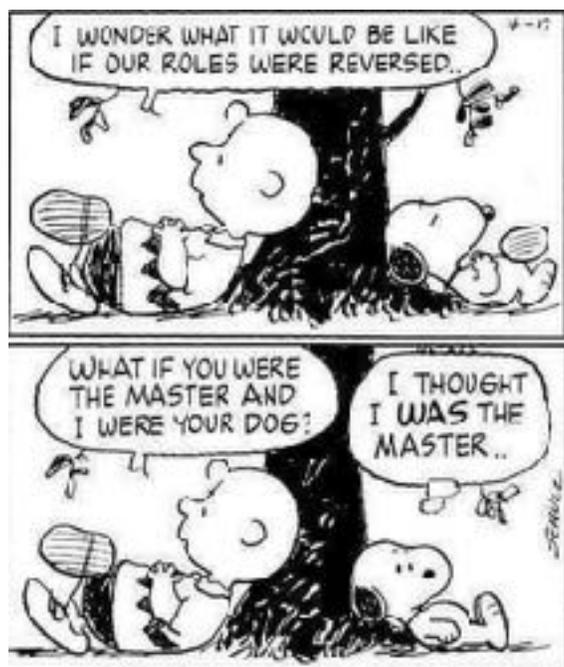
Editor's Corner

Trial/Test season is in full swing and checking the results listed below, members are doing very well, hard work and good training pay off, keep it up.

If you have any suggestions or articles to share please pass them along to either Marilyn or myself.

On the cover: "Thor and Holly", owned and handled by Carol Anderson.

Send in your pictures for the draw for the next cover.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

Marilyn Bayrak	Gail Komadoski
Bob & Mimi Chrystal	Winnipeg Free Press
Marcy Wright	Dr. Sue Taylor
University of Winnipeg	Harry Steingart

THINKING OF YOU:

- *Matt Mutcheson and Crystal Fulton*
- *Gail Komadoski*
- *Al Dutcheshen*
- *Millen Johnson*

CLUB NEWS:

The following long time club members passed away this year:

Elaine Kerr passed away in Sangu, Texas, April 27, 2017

Margaret Steven passed away early March, 2017

DID YOU KNOW?

When our club was first established, there were NO paid gunners. Members and participants enthusiastically assumed the role of gunners.

The average gunner expense for a weekend field trial is \$960.00, with the average hunt test gunner expense being \$720.00.

This means the combined annual gunner expenses for field trials and hunt tests is approximately \$3360.00.

These expenses greatly affect the club's bottom line.

Big thank you to those members and participants for volunteering to gun this year.

Gail Komadoski



**Congratulations to Bob and Mimi on their
65th wedding anniversary**

Dog shows come and go,
trophies collect dust, ribbons
get tossed to the side, but the
memories are never
forgotten, and the friendships
are never replaced.

Things Dog Handlers Say

"Fantastic News!" 2017 Master National Hunt Test

The Manitoba Gun Dog Association has been chosen to host the August 14-18th, 2017 Master National Hunt Test.

It is a terrific opportunity to see the best hunting dogs working at the top of their game.

It takes a lot of money to cover the operating expenses of our Club, and events such as this give us the opportunity to make that happen. Our Club is renowned for hosting exciting events and it is only with the help of all our members that this is possible.

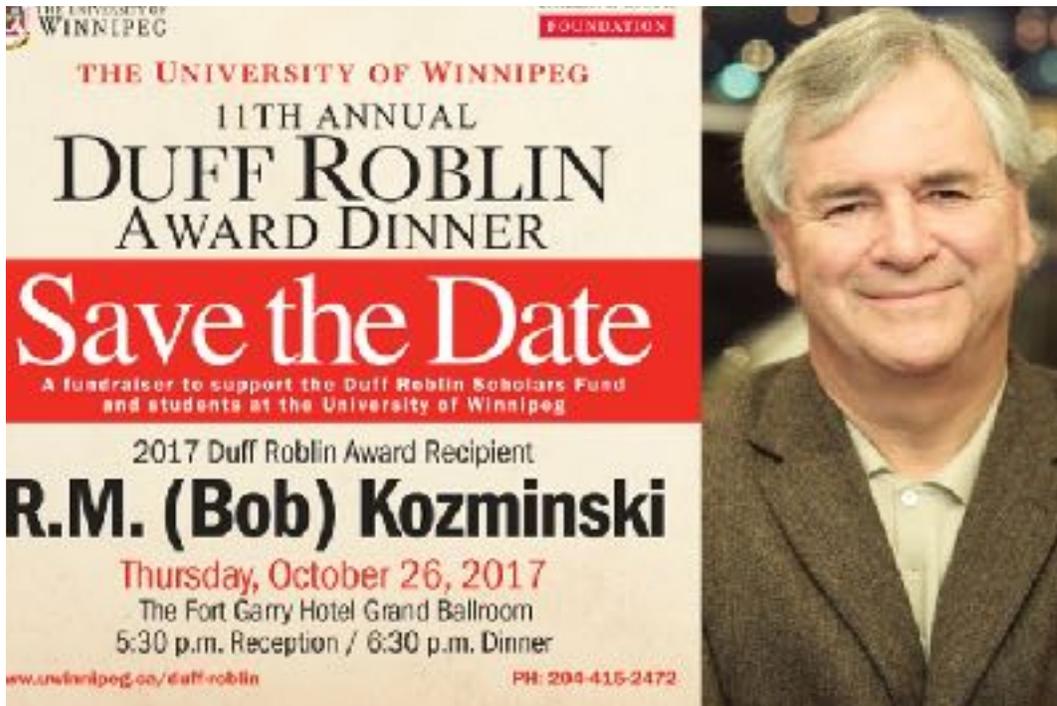
If you are able to donate some of your time to help during this outstanding event, please contact me as soon as possible.

The National Master Committee

Harry Steingart 204-479-2124

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LONG TIME CLUB MEMBER, BOB KOZMINSKI HONOURED



SUPPORTING FUNDRAISING FOR A BETTER UWINNIPEG

An alumnus of The University of Winnipeg (BA 67), Bob Kozminski is a prominent businessman and vice-chair of the UWinnipeg Foundation Board of Directors, which he has served since its inception in 2003.

Kozminski's leadership as campaign chair was integral to the success of UWinnipeg's A World of Opportunity Capital Campaign, which raised more than \$135 million and made the University's remarkable campus development possible.

Since 2007, Kozminski has led planning efforts for the annual Duff Roblin Award Dinner. Now in its 10th year, the event has raised over \$565,000 in support of the Duff Roblin Scholars Fund, Community Learning initiatives, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Scholarship Fund.

Kozminski and his wife Deirdre also generously support local charities such as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Health Science Centre, The University of Manitoba, Ducks Unlimited, The United Way and many more.

In 2012, UWinnipeg honoured Kozminski with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws for his many contributions as a business leader, dedicated community volunteer, and philanthropist.

The Art Of Running a Blind by Marcy Wright - HORSETOOTH KENNELS

While I've only been a professional trainer for about 7 years, I have run hundreds and hundreds of blinds, both in training and at competitions. In all the Field Trials I have run, I have only lined 2 or 3 blinds. Therefore, I work hard as a handler to improve my handling skills and improve the skills of the dogs we train to be proficient handling dogs. I "practice perfect" every single day that I train.

Running blinds is an art and there is no recipe on how to run one. I do have the advantage over most Amateur trainers, as they may run 5 blinds in any given week. I may run 20-30 on any given day. Running this many blinds in training and on the week-end gives me a unique perspective in how many different dogs react to many different factors. While I can't give you a step by step on how to run a blind, I will give you a few hot tips on how to improve your blinds on the week-ends.

PREPARATION

To be able to run a nice, smooth blind at a competition, you and your dog must first be prepared. Blinds aren't always as fun as marks in training, but we must work on them to establish a rapport with that dog while enhancing their level of training. Are you able to run blinds 100 yards farther than you might see on the weekend? Does the dog stop nicely on the whistle and generally make a good change of direction when you cast? Does the dog get in the water and conversely, get OUT of the water when you ask? Is the dog balanced in training between drills and longer competition-type blinds? As I've discussed in previous articles, it is very difficult to advance a dog that does not have a good foundation behind him. So if you know any holes in your dog, training is always the time to work on them!

THE BLIND

When you walk up to the line to run your dog on a blind, I hope you had a chance to study it a little while the test dog was running. Always ask yourself; what is the corridor, are there any mandatory obstacles that I must hit (a patch of cover, a point in the water), where is the danger (bushes tight to line that a dog may disappear behind) and where does my dog need to be at the end of the blind?

At the end of the day, you have to look at a blind from a judge's perspective. What will the drawing look like on their page? Will the judge draw out prominent trees that you must keyhole between? Will they draw in the pothole of water that is right on line? I'm sure they will, but I do know they will not draw every blade of grass in the field, only the important points of the blind. At the end of the trial, blinds are nothing but lines on a page. Often times the judge draws the straight "line" to the blind themselves, and marks where a whistle is blown and the direction the dog takes after this whistle. For a time, until one gets very proficient at reading blinds, it wouldn't be a bad idea to judge yourself or your training buddies. Draw the blind, what you see, and how your dog did. Was the dog to one side of the blind without ever crossing the line? Were there multiple CRs (cast refusals) or WRs (whistle refusals)? Many times I see people disappointed when they are dropped on blinds

because they have no idea why they were dropped. Oftentimes we are not critical enough of ourselves to understand the blind we just ran from a judge's point of view. So the next time you go train with your friends, judge each other. It's only when we are critical enough of our own performance that our performance will start to improve.

The goal of your blinds should be:

- To be as smooth as possible with the least amount of whistles
- Hit all the mandatory obstacles and factors en route
- Stay within the corridor throughout the blind, hopefully crossing the true "line" at least once on the blind

THE START

Recently I judged an Open in Alberta and had what I thought was a nice, straight forward land blind. The initial line was across a side hill and then a big, cross wind run across a field for about 250 yards. I was shocked at how many handlers let their dogs immediately fall off the side hill without making any effort at all to stay on line.

Obviously (at least to me), I had put that side hill there for a reason and it was the only real "obstacle" on the blind. The start on this blind mattered and I dropped dogs whose handlers let them fall off the hill on the initial line, only to use 8-10 whistles to get back on line after the hill. By the time the dogs had fallen off the hill, they were what I call "behind" on the blind and needed lots of casts to catch back up again. Handlers are often too scared to use an early whistle, but one early whistle is better than 10 late ones.

WIND

Wind is one of the most important factors in running a blind. **You need to know where your wind is at all times running the blind!** Dogs love to fade with the wind and crafty judges know this and most blinds we run will be crosswind. To keep with the above theme of not "getting behind" on your blind, if you are facing a stiff cross wind, you have to work harder as a handler to keep the dog from needing any big casts into the wind.... casts that a dog are most likely to scallop. At a distance, these are very difficult casts to get, even with the greatest of blind running dogs. On blinds like these, one needs to Avoid The Danger of not letting their dog getting into this bad position of being 15 yards offline downwind.

WHEN TO BLOW THE WHISTLE

Bill Eckett told me that the two hardest things to master as a handler is knowing where a dog is looking and knowing when to blow the whistle. He was so right. Too often, when coaching our clients, we say “late!!” when they blow a whistle on a blind...either losing their dog around an obstacle (the “danger”) or getting too far off line (getting behind). Blinds are run from the edge of the corridor to the edge of the corridor. A handler is late when the dog gets outside of the corridor or when the dog gets in a position that is not easy to recover from without multiple whistles.

On the reverse, some handlers have the tendency to micro manage their dogs, never allowing them to flow through the blind. A dogs needs to get offline to be able to get back online.

Think about what your tendency is as a handler and how you can make your blinds run more smoothly.

RED ZONE HANDLING

At one Canadian National, I was running 2-year-old Libby on a water blind. She got out of the water just 5 yards from the blind...and I thought I just needed a come in whistle to put her on the blind for success. Well, it all went to he** with that one whistle and I ended up picking her up. What a valuable lesson I learned that day!! Kenny talked to me about what I did wrong and I worked and worked to get better at the end of my blinds.

Too often I see handlers run a pretty blind only for it to go south at the end with an “out of control” dog. Here are some tips I’ve learned to minimize that from happening.

-Don’t put the dog to the bird...put the dog in a position to wind the bird. This is critical!! As I mentioned above, always know where the wind is when you are running a blind. My goal, as a handler, is to not put the dog “at the pin”; my goal is to put the dog into the scent cone of the bird a few feet to the left or right of the pin. A smoothly run blind does not include a “come in” whistle. I repeat, if you’ve done your job as a handler **you don’t blow the come in whistle on a blind!** This may seem crazy to some of you, but come in whistles are what many pros refer to as “The Whistle Of Death”. If you give the dog one cast at the end of the blind to put the dog in a position to wind the bird, they will smoothly pick it up making for a nice ending. We try to never take the risk of missing the bird just a foot or two upwind.

-If you do use a come in whistle, make 100% sure you are indeed deep of the blind. At times we see handlers blow a come in whistle when they are, in fact, 5 feet short of the blind. I won’t expand on the following fact, but when a come in whistle is blown, a dog will start hunting down wind 90% of the time, regardless of any cast you give with it. This can cause the dog to get further away from the blind, short of it, and make for a messy ending that can get one dropped in the callbacks.

-Practice “red zone handling”. This is the situation where you do miss the scent cone of the bird and you are required to do some handling at the end of the blind. Some days in training, we purposely miss the bird upwind to practice on our red zone handling...keeping the dog in control and minimizing the damage of missing the bird on the upwind side.

-Study the end of blinds in both training and at competitions. What are the dogs doing? Where are they winding the bird? What are the dogs’ reactions to various casts and whistles given by the handler?

SLOW DOWN

My biggest tip for you...SLOW DOWN!! If you think you are going slowly enough on your blinds, I can almost promise you that you’re not. Danny Farmer has “slow down” written on his whistle with a sharpie. You and I both know that if he has to remind himself to slow down then we all do. Imagine what it is like to the dog, at a Field Trial, to turn around and try to locate you. There are trucks, the gallery, judges, marshals, tents, etc. Give the dog a chance to locate you before you give your cast and you’ll increase your odds of getting that cast. Kenny and I use the term “alligators” to remind each other to go slow. Blow the whistle and count 1-alligator, 2-alligator, 3-alligator. If your dog is auto casting when you are counting your alligators, then your dog is telling you that you have been casting too fast!

I hope you enjoyed these HOT TIPS of blind running. I could go on and on with this subject. When to use a verbal vs. a silent cast, how to maneuver points in the water for success, etc. If Larry reminds me, I can do a Part II of this article next time. In the meantime, happy training and I wish you blind success.



Some photos from the Trials, Hunt Tests and Work Parties



RESULTS FOR MGDA MEMBERS IN FIELD TRIALS IN MANITOBA

WINNIPEG FIED TRIAL CLUB:

OPEN May 27th

1st - Win-toba's Big Bang Theory - handler Gail Komadoski

Qualifying May 27th

2nd - Mutcheson's Belle of the Ball QFTR - handler Matt Mutcheson

3rd - Duck River Tyrannus - Handler - Kyle Cooke

Open May 28th

3rd - FTCH Pilkington's Put'n on the Ritz - handler Kevin Howarth

Qualifying May 28th

1st - Razor's up N Smoke - handler Scott Anderson

2nd - AJtop My Favourite Riesling - handler Marilyn Bayrak

BRANDON RETRIEVER CLUB

Open Jun 3rd

1st - FTCH Pilkington's Chasing Liberty QFTR - handler Gail Komadoski

3rd - NFTCH AFTCH OCG's Equalizer - handler Larry Baker

RCM - FTCH AFTCH Seaside Codigo Especial - handler Neal Armstrong

CM - FTCH Pilkington's Put'n on the Ritz - handler Kevin Howarth

Qualifying Jun 3rd

3rd - Razor's Up N Smoke - handler Scott Anderson

Open Jun 4th

1st -NFTCH AFTCH OCG's Equalizer - handler Larry Baker

2nd -FTCH Pilkington's Chasing Liberty QFTR - handler Gail Komadoski

Qualifying Jun 4th

2nd - Razor's Up N Smoke - handler Scott Anderson

3rd -AJtop My Favourite Riesling - handler Marilyn Bayrak

4th - Mutcheson's Belle of the Ball QFTR - handler Matt Mutcheson

MANITOBA GUN DOG ASSOCIATION

Open Jun 10th

1st - NFTCH AFTCH OCG's Equalizer - handler Larry Baker

3rd -FTCH AFTCH Seaside Codigo Especial - handler Neal Armstrong

Qualifying Jun 10th

2nd - Razor's Up N Smoke - handler Scott Anderson

3rd -Mutcheson's Belle of the Ball QFTR - handler Matt Mutcheson

4th -AJtop My Favourite Riesling - handler Marilyn Bayrak

Open Jun 11th

1st - NFTCH AFTCH OCG's Equalizer - handler Larry Baker

3rd -FTCH AFTCH Seaside Codigo Especial - handler Neal Armstrong

Qualifying Jun 11th

3rd - Razor's Up N Smoke - handler Scott Anderson

4th - Razor's Puddle Duck Teal - handler James Oake



JUNIOR HUNT TEST
Saturday, June 17, 2017
Judges: Ryan Trithart and Murry Milne

HEADS UP GOLDENWORKS MR PERRY

HANDLER: Dewayne Hay

RAZOR'S SKY

HANDLER: Fred Benjaminson

RAZORS YUKON GOLD

HANDLER: Jesse Yetman

PRAIRIE STORMS SUMMER SKYE

HANDLER: Geoff Plouffe

SENIOR HUNT TEST
Judges: Ryan Trithart and Trent Sproule

RAZOR'S FANNY

HANDLER: Blake Hasiuk

MASTER HUNT TEST
Judges: Keith Yetman and Percy Ruddock

DANDESG SAM I AM

HANDLER: Harry Steingart

HEADS UP FOR GOLDENWORKS ROO MH QFTR WCX

HANDLER: Dewayne Hay

JUNIOR HUNT TEST
Sunday, June 18, 2017
Judges: Larry Baker and Brian Dwyer

PRAIRIE STORMS SUMMER SKYE

HANDLER: Geoff Plouffe

RAZOR'S TOUGH ENOUGH

HANDLER: Hunter Diamond

RAZORS YUKON GOLD

HANDLER: Glynis Ericksen-Riel

SENIOR HUNT TEST
Judges: Larry Baker and Stan Scoble

MISTY MARSH'S LEAPING LIZZY

HANDLER: Trent Sproule

MASTER HUNT TEST
Judges: Charlie Ross and Fred Benjaminson

DANDESG SAM I AM

HANDLER: Harry Steingart

HEADS UP FOR GOLDENWORKS ROO MH QFTR WCX

HANDLER: Dewayne Hay

MGDA



Hunter Diamond with “Rambo” and Judges Larry Baker and Brian Dwyer



Glynis Ericksen-Riel with Yukon and the Judges



Jesse Yetman and Yukon

Somewhere behind the dog handler you've become are the hours of training you've put in, the trainers that pushed you, the conversations you've had, the money you've spent, the miles you've driven, the miles you've walked, the blood, the sweat, the tears, the blisters, the natural dog, the crazy dog and everything in between... Is the person who fell in love with the sport, the dogs, the lifestyle and never looked back

New Tick-Borne Virus

admin May 2, 2017

If ticks were not scary enough already, there is a new tick-borne virus on the rise this year. The Powassan virus, which is rarer than the bacterium that produces Lyme but is far more deadly, is now being spread by the deer tick. The Powassan virus causes inflammation of the brain, which leads to death or permanent disability in 60 percent of cases. So far, the CDC has reported 75 confirmed cases, but this number is predicted to rise as we enter into summer and fall when ticks are more active.

Signs and symptoms of infection can include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, confusion, seizures, and memory loss. Long-term neurologic problems may occur. As of right now there is no specific treatment, but people with severe Powassan virus illness often need to be hospitalized to receive respiratory support, intravenous fluids, or medications to reduce swelling in the brain.

Symptoms

- ♣ Many people who become infected with **Powassan (POW) virus** do not develop any symptoms.
- ♣ The incubation period (time from tick bite to onset of illness) ranges from about 1 week to 1 month.
- ♣ POW virus can infect the central nervous system and cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and meningitis (inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord).
- ♣ Symptoms can include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, confusion, loss of coordination, speech difficulties, and seizures.
- ♣ Approximately half of survivors have permanent neurological symptoms, such as recurrent headaches, muscle wasting and memory problems.

Treatment

- ♣ There are no vaccines or medications to treat or prevent POW virus infection.
- ♣ If you think you or a family member may have POW virus disease, see your health care provider for evaluation and diagnosis.
- ♣ Persons with severe POW illnesses often need to be hospitalized. Treatment may include respiratory support, intravenous fluids, and medications to reduce swelling in the brain.

The Powassan virus has actually been around since the mid-1950s, but was only carried by a tick that rarely ever bit humans. Everything changed recently though, when the Powassan virus was discovered being carried by a deer ticks. Deer ticks, unlike the tick that originally carried the virus, readily bite and infect humans.

A recent report from the Maine Medical Center Research Institute found that 7 percent of adult ticks and about 10 percent of ticks in the nymph stage carried the Powassan virus. To make matters worse, the Powassan virus can be transmitted from the tick in as little as 15 minutes. Lyme bacterium needs 24 hours to pass from a tick to a human.

To help keep yourself and family members safe, remember to follow our [tick prevention safety tips](#). Our six tips will help keep your safe and tick free. Also it is important to remember if you have pets to treat them with [Flea and Tick Prevention treatments](#) to help prevent them from carrying them into your home.

If you think you or a family member may have POW virus disease, it is important to consult your healthcare provider.

Executive Committee

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Past President Charlie Ross
1st VP Gail Komadoski
2nd VP Blake Hasiuk
Secretary Crystal Fulton
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Director Mark Hastie
Director Colin McMichael
Director Trish Hay

Submissions Welcome!

This is a publication of The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Inc. We are always looking for content. You can send us your ideas, photos or articles to larryjbaker99@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER
Fall 2016

MGDA
MANITOBA GUN DOG
ASSOCIATION



Preserving Working Retrievers Since 1935

The MGDA was originally formed in 1935 by a group of hunters and sportsmen with an interest in training retrievers for waterfowl hunting and competition. Incorporated in 1972, The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Inc. has played an important role in Canadian working retriever history. Today the MGDA has approximately 75 members. The Club hosts two Canadian Kennel Club licensed Field Trials and two CKC licensed Hunt Tests annually. In addition the club provides a number of informal Picnic Trials and Retriever Workshops each year .

<http://www.manitobagundog.com>