

MGDA

The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Newsletter



In this Issue:

- CLUB NEWS
- TRAINING TIPS
- AND MUCH MORE



Editor's Corner

Trial/Test season is finished for the season, hope everyone met their goals and had a fun time check the results listed below,

Hunting season is in full swing, good luck to those getting out and enjoying the hunt and the time with their four-legged partners.

If you have any suggestions or articles for the newsletter please forward them to me, I really appreciate any help I can get.

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



THINKING OF YOU:

- *the Ross family*
- *Gail Komadoski*
- *Al Dutcheshen*



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Marilyn Bayrak | Bob Norris |
| Bob & Mimi Chrystal | Matt Mutcheson |
| Marcy Wright | |
| Harry Steingart | |
| Tracy Lennartz | |

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - MATT MUTCHESON

On behalf of the 2017 executive, I just wanted to send a big thank you out to all of the hard working volunteers who put so many hours in this summer. Without your hard work we would not have been able to host 2 field trials, a hunt test, and a National Master Hunt Test. We had so many comments about how great the grounds were looking this year!

Congratulations to everyone who received a title for their dog this year – we'll be celebrating your success at our annual awards banquet later this year. Stay tuned for more details to come.

To all of the hunters out there – we hope you have a safe and abundant season. Let's hope for another long, warm fall so that we can get a lot more training time in with our retrieving buddies.

CLUB NEWS:

"Labour Day Weekend Trial"

To some it was fun to others it was a "Labour of Love". The Field Trial Committee under Gail Komadoski worked really hard and the co-operation of the contestants moved it along quite well. Thanks to a full complement of throwers and volunteers. Dogs from Alberta, Saskatchewan, B.C and Minnesota showed their abilities. The Judges worked well together and appeared to like the talent of the K9 contestants.

It was good to see our newest members step up and volunteer to do the "Entertainment - Marshall - Throwers etc. Good job and Thank You (good supper girls)

Many compliments from our visitors on the condition of our grounds, the good time they had and the new friends they met.

We think the MGDA did itself proud and we think it should be acknowledged.

Bob and Mimi

2017 CANADIAN NATIONAL MASTER HUNT TEST

The 2017 Canadian National Master Hunt Test is "in the books" and I would like to thank all the MGDA members who participated in making this event happen. The weather was perfect, the hospitality was outstanding, and everyone had a great time.

The week consisted of diverse and challenging hunting scenarios and in the end, seven dogs were left standing, having obtained the "Master National Hunter " designation.

The MGDA club grounds are some of the best in the retriever world and will only get better if we all continue to work together. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Please go to Canadiannationalmaster.com and review the week's activities including pictures and write-ups of each test.

Harry Steingart
Chairman
2017 Canadian National Master
Hunt Test

Congratulations to Harry Steingart - DANDESG SAM I AM (Sam) for Qualifying!

Applause also goes to Judy Wilson - GMH CANORO'S REDDY TO RIP WCX (RIPPLE) for making it all the way to the 5th series, Dewayne Hay - HEADS UP FOR GOLDENWORKS ROO MH QFTR WCX (ROO) for achieving passes up till the 4th series and Keith Lovelace - EKINOX BOREAL GO GET'EM CHAMP MH (CHAMP) who went out in the first series but successfully ran the remaining series as test dog.

SUPPORT OUR FUND RAISER

SELL THOSE GREY CUP TICKETS

National Master Hunt Test

A great and interesting week.

22 Master Hunt dogs

10 male

12 female

18 dogs handled by a woman

4 dogs handled by a man

16 Golden Retrievers

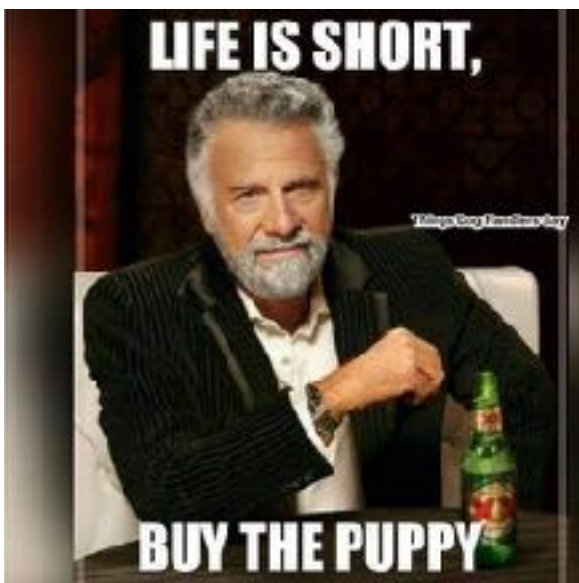
6 Labradors

Who would have "Thunk it"

Sincere congratulations to Harry Steingart and his Committee "Well Done". To all the Volunteers for Colin McMichael "Good Job" To Marilyn Bayrak and her entertainment group "Yummie Food".

At the risk of offending anyone who should be recognized I'll just say to all who assisted "Thank You" "Gracious" "Merci" and God Bless.

Bob and Mimi



2017 Canadian National Master Hunt Test Participant Satisfaction Survey (conducted by Bob Norris)

The MGDA hosted the Canadian National Master Hunt Test in August and a lot of effort was put into it by numerous club members and other volunteers. In the MGDA we pride ourselves in putting on quality events and this one was no exception. But no matter how good a job we think we do there's always room for improvement and what better way to do that than to ask the competitors themselves what they thought? We can then use their input to determine which areas we could improve on at future events. The Hunt Test committee agreed on a survey of ten questions to be sent to the seventeen competitors, fourteen of them responded. The results proved that you can't please some people anytime, but overall, they were positive and most comments constructive. As much as I'd like to comment on some people's responses I leave it to you to form your own opinion. Here are the results:

Question 1: Overall, how would you rate the 2017 National Master Hunt Test?

Excellent 15% Very Good 31% Good 23% Fair 31% Poor 0%

Comments:

- The Manitoba Gun Club did an excellent job of hosting the event. The judges were extremely inconsiderate of the exhibitors and gunners.
- Time management on the judges' part brought my rating down considerably plus some very inconsistent judging.
- Delayed starts every day were a bit frustrating. (understood the fog day though!)
- The only problem I had was the constant delay in the AM on the start time. Having the caravan leave 1-2 hrs late every morning was inconsiderate of the competitors. The fog delay was understandable, the rest was inexcusable.

Question 2: Can you name 3 things you liked about the event.

Comments:

- Club members , grounds , hospitality
- great hospitality great grounds great evening meals
- The MGDA grounds, volunteers and food. The marshal was awesome and did everything he could to keep us updated of what was going on next and where to be etc, politely and calmly.
- The MGC members were exceptionally helpful and pleasant.
- Location 2. Hospitality 3. Weather

Question 3: Please suggest 3 things the MGDA could have done to improve the event.

- Start the day on time. Judges communicating to handlers when they are repeating faults - I know judges are mostly in charge but possibly committee needs a stronger influence
- start on time at least once during the event more test ground, similar to the actual test grounds
- I don't know. Everything seemed to run pretty smoothly to me. Of course everyone liked to complain about the slow start in the morning but that wasn't MGDA's fault. It was what it was and even with the late starts we were done at a reasonable time in the afternoons. So, I guess the only thing that needed changing was the attitudes of those who were complaining and there's nothing you guys can do about that. It's human nature and there are a few of those in every group of people.
- More timely advertising for the event, including having premium list published well in advance of the event. 2. Wi Fi availability on site to provide Website updates of each days tests and callbacks. 3. Candid photographs were unsatisfactory. Club needs to recruit a profession photographer who is available for the week to take candid not just souvenir photos. It is unfair to have handlers who are running in the test taking candid photos and expecting the photos to be comprehensive .

Question 4: How organized was the event?

Extremely 7% Very 62% Somewhat 23% Not so much 7% Not at all 0%

Comments:

- Club rocked everything from dinner ,lunches , super volunteers
- the event seemed totally unorganized in that it never started on time. We started at least 1 1/2 hrs late every day. One day was foggy and understandable. But to start over 2 hours late for the upland, run your first working dog after 11 am run 9 dogs and STOP for lunch was ridiculous. The last day Friday, the test didn't begin before 11 and didn't run a competing dog until almost noon. Competitors that had travel long distances had hoped to get a couple of hours of traveling under their belts, but they didn't do ribbons until 6 pm. I have been to other CNM where you have been able to be on the road by 2, which in this case was totally feasible if they hadn't delay in the am 2 1/2 hrs
- My concerns may have been out of the MGC members hands. 1) the first bird down NEVER happened at the designated time set by the judges/club. Each morning it was progressively later. 2) the amount of time between handlers was exceptionally and unnecessarily long as the judges chatted. This was inconsiderate to waiting exhibitors and the gunners who were out in the heat.
- Time management of this event could of been much improved, for example not one day did the tests start on time. Handlers were requested to be at the test site for a specific time, but did not caravan to the test site for at least 2 hours.
- All the working members seemed to understand what their job was. Overall the event appeared seamless
- I struggle with this answer because the club members, marshal and everyone else was super organized...the judges on the other hand took far too long to have tests set up that should have been planned days before the NM started.
- Club was organized-- getting the judges moving seemed to be the issue
- There did seem to be some disorganization behind the scenes on set up and actual test mechanics. Having run a national and been the hunt marshal I suspect it was more obvious to me then most.

Question 5: How helpful were the MGDA volunteers?

Extremely 69% Very 31% Somewhat 0% Not so much 0% Not at all 0%

Comments:

- With the exception of the volunteer Head Marshall, all other club volunteers went out of their way to be helpful. As a handler, the head Marshall was extremely abrupt, condescending and arrogant to me. He interrupted a conversation between myself and one of the judges regarding a CKC ruling. He interjected that the subject of the discussion was definitely against the CKC rules and a disqualifying fault. Upon looking up the CKC ruling in this issue it was apparent that the he was mistaken. It is not a head marshalls role to adjudicate during a test. When the CKC ruling was brought to his attention (politely) he was asked to let the judges know. It is unclear what message, if any, the head Marshall gave the judges. There was never a response provided.
- Super club members!
- All of the volunteers were willing to help when needed.

Question 6: Overall, how would you rate the tests set up by the judges?

Excellent 15% Very good 46% Good 31% Fair 8% Poor 0%

Comments:

- Some of the tests had extra things like shots on the way to marks & as dogs were coming in That was't needed most set ups had more than enough going on. The walk up to marks & to honour spot were dictated by judges as to your speed- not good. Then there was the fixation about dog on ribbons!!!!
- other than the upland the tests were extremely fair, with a fair degree of difficulty, fun. enjoyed them immensely. The upland grounds were excellent, but the hunt test counsel needs to do something about the judging of the upland to make it more similar across the country. It is difficult to go to these test, travel the distances to support them, the expense, etc to have the upland judged in such varying ways. The rule book states, if I am not mistaken, that the dog must hunt 10 -30 yards around the HANDLER. if your dog hunts at a pretty standard distance of 15 yds and not in a windshield wiper pattern it is not a fail. To my mind and the way I read the rule book, the dog should use its nose and show to be actively hunting as opposed to running willy nilly all over the field. If the dog has its nose down and working an area this is what you want. It should not be based on a preconceived pattern, you should be looking for more of a natural ability, than a robotic trained pattern.
- I just picked the middle because I haven't been to a national before to compare them to others. I thought they were fair, with enough challenge to allow the dogs to show their strengths and weaknesses but not so difficult to be overwhelming or discouraging.
- The tests, themselves were good. The judge's management of the testing was extremely and annoyingly unprofessional and poor. Particularly, considering this is the premier event of hunt tests.
- The tests were very good, except for the following: - daily delays in starting test - mechanical difficulties with wingers, far too many no birds. (one example, one handler had to wait for 3 no birds , in extreme heat, no shade, in order to honour with her dog) - ribbon placed on the ground for the dog to sit on were not appropriate, and are not a reflection of a hunting senerio. Handlers were obliged to not only handle their dogs, but had to listen to the judges telling them that their dog had to land on a specific ribbon at the line. - no communication from the judges to the handlers regarding their expectations for the tests (eg. Creep line, shot gun diversions on marks, - handlers were told by judges to hurry to the line . (according to CKC rules, handlers have up to 15 min to get to the line) Handlers were pressured to walk quickly during quarter. - no accommodation made by the judges for handlers with mobility issues, with the exception of assisting handlers out of boat in second series.
- Good tests. Challenging enough. Inconsistent judging. For example I've never seen a no bird called after the dog was out hunting in no man's land. Especially when the dog before got the exact same test and didn't get a no bird (also was out hunting in no man's land and ended up being dropped in that series) - so many no birds on the final series last bird down. Multiple dogs got to see the entire final test go down twice.
- Appropriately challenging. Only thing I really didn't like was the firing of the gun over the dog's head while the dog was en route to the first bird in the Friday test. And the nitpickiness over where dogs were standing relative to ribbons on the ground. The marks and blinds themselves were challenging and well-placed.
- The actual tests were good. Time management was terrible before and during. Dragged on far longer then was necessary

Question 7: Overall, how would you rate the quality of the food?

Excellent 50% Good 42% Fair 8% Poor 0%

Comments:

- Yummy
- It is hard to feed a group when there is no running water or kitchen.
- I did not attend any of the dinners unfortunately. I stayed at a camp site 30 mins away. Planned to attend one dinner but the judges dragged out the upland to an entire day and therefore went back to the campground to relax after a long day. We could have been done by noon instead of 3:30
- The opening banquet was the best meal. The breakfast lunch service was fair, but the circumstances were trying. Manitoba night was very good, the Italian meal was O.K.
- The ice cream bar was a winner!!

Question 8: Overall, how would you rate the value for the cost of the food provided?

Excellent 33% Good 67% Fair 0% Poor 0%

Comments: None

Question 9: We appreciate your feedback. Do you have any other suggestions or comments that would help us to improve the event if run by the MGDA at a future date?

- Maybe a bigger, or third gazebo for the gallery. If that's all I can think of you must have done good:-)
- The MGDA must take an active role in overseeing not only the test setups but also ensuring that the judges selected by The National Master Hunter Club are evaluating handlers and their dogs in an unbiased and equitable manner. For example, one dog and handler were judged inappropriately and were denied qualifying at the end of day 5. Eight finalists completed the hunt test on Friday. When the qualifiers were announced, one team was omitted, the remaining 7 qualified. It was obvious to all present that denying the eighth ribbon must have been a mistake as that team was arguably the best team there. Members of the MDGA committee witnessed this, including the event and fundraising Chairs, but they chose to do nothing. At this point, the MDGA committee needed to intervene with the judges, and question their evaluation process. Everyone present expressed their consternation, but they did nothing. It is imperative that in the future MGDA support handlers and their dogs who attend their club event. It is appalling and sad that the 2017 National Master Hunt Test for the very best of the best was degraded to such a degree.
- It would have been nice if the tests would have started on time and if not why not. The low entry forced the judges to drag things out so an explanation would have been nice.
- Please have judges that respect the handlers time. We were all told to be at HQ ready to caravan out at 8:15am. That NEVER happened!! We often started around noon! Terrible, horribly disrespectful and unacceptable not only to competitors but the gunners too. To top it off the judges stopped for a lunch break after judging a handful of dogs most days. No blame to the Manitoba club. They were wonderful.
- Better access to water for training purposes would have been nice.
- More publicity in the months leading up to get more entries?
- No- you guys were awesome.
- A stronger marshal that can manage the judges better.

Question 10: Would you return to participate in another event run by the MGDA?

Would return 100% Would not return 0%

Comments:

- I would need assurances that handlers and dogs would be judged fairly.
- Absolutely
- Yes as long as time management was addressed
- Definitely.
- Most certainly
- In a heartbeat
- Absolutely!!

MGDA

THESE ARE THE NEW MEMBERS
THAT JOINED OUR CLUB IN 2017
WELCOME

Brandon Sutherland
Dan Fiedler
Darren Shipp
Derek Gunnlaugson
Dustin Dola
Grant Anderson
Ken Stefanchuk
Kerry Eccles
Kyle Cooke
Nick Hawkins
Richard Burton
Sean Diamond
Terry and Julia Walker

**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, DATE
AND LOCATION WILL BE
ANNOUNCED SHORTLY**

*ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING COMING
UP IN LATE NOVEMBER, PLEASE
ATTEND, DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED
SHORTLY*

Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com
**Not to brag or
anything, but I'm
kind of a big deal
to my dog.**
Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com



"For better digestion – I drink beer. In the case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. In the case of low blood pressure, I drink red wine. In the case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink Schnapps."
"When do you drink water?"
"I've never been that sick."

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

Part II

In the last issue I gave you some “Hot Tips” for greater success on blinds. I talked about what judges may look for, how wind affects a dog and increasing your chances for a clean ending on a blind.

This issue, I will give you some Hot Tips that we give our Amateur handlers for greater success on their blinds at Field Trials. While there are no black & white rules to dog training and handling, we have found these general rules to increase the level of success that our clients have running blinds.

SILENT VS VERBAL CASTS

Many handlers have their own rules when it comes to giving a silent cast vs. a verbal cast, but we will give you our rules based on our knowledge of our dogs and just dogs in general.

In a nutshell:

Silent – change of direction

Verbal – driving cast

When you give a silent cast to a dog, you want the dog to pay particular attention to that cast and give you a nice change of direction. When you give a verbal cast to the dog, your booming “BACK” has a big influence on the dog that can sometimes supersede the cast given. For example: You have a shoreline water blind and your dog has gotten into the water “fat”. You need to tighten up your dog to get her back online. If you give a silent cast, your dog may perceive that as direction to get out of the water since you are casting towards shore, causing you to follow up with a cast back out into the water, potentially creating a “ping pong” effect on the dog. A verbal cast here, towards shore, will provide the direction change to get closer to shore, but the driving influence to stay in the water.

Our rules:

SILENT CASTS

-into the wind

-off a point

-for a great change of direction into an obstacle – into cover, into water

-to get out of the water

VERBAL CASTS

-at or beyond a poison bird (not before!)

-at or beyond an obstacle (i.e. dry pop, old fall, bird scent)

-with the wind

-at loss of momentum on the blind, regardless of wind, water, etc...this trumps all other rules

POINTS ON A WATER BLIND

Today's water blinds often require a dog to get on and off a point crisply and obediently. It's really a sight to see, watching a dog jump back into the water on a single cast and I marvel at these great dogs every day. I'll touch on some tips for how to make these points less stressful to the dog and the handler. Getting on and off a point requires what we call a balanced dog. The dog must be disciplined enough to get in the water, get out of the water comfortably and then get back in the water when we ask them to. In training, when we see a perfectly balanced dog approaching a point, we see a dog that swimming towards the tip of the point. This dog is waiting for a signal from you whether to exit the water on the point, or continue to swim past the point. There is a reason all dog trainers train as hard as we do...looking to create the perfectly balanced dog. More often than not though, our dogs are out of balance: either too watery or too land happy. Working every day to achieve this balance is why we train, and then once we have balance, trying to maintain it. The point (excuse the pun) I'm trying to make is that if I'm running a water blind at a Field Trial and I've given the dog 15 casts to keep off the shore approaching the point then I'm not too hopeful in getting a good cast off the point.

Conversely, if I have a dog that is too watery, then I may change my game plan mid-blind to convince the dog that the point is where I want him to be. But with that aside, let's discuss just what happens as the dog approaches the point.

Shoulders Out

As the dog's shoulders are coming out of the water, I want to instantly start blowing my whistle. Timing is imperative on points, because if a handler blows a whistle too late here, they have often times made getting off the point much more difficult, either watching their dog go up and over a skinny point or getting too much land under the dogs' feet on a wide point. The goal is to cast the dog off the tip of the point, thus making the dog continuously in sight of the handler. Therefore, I inhale and start holding in my breath as the dog is very near the point. When the dog's shoulder's come out, then I start blowing. Keep in mind, that it takes time for sound to travel, so by the time the dog hears the whistle and stops, all 4 feet will be "high and dry". Keep in mind, this is for "on and off" points...wide points with lots of land are a different matter.

Sweating

Now your dog is on the point, this is when we "sweat" the dog. Sweating a dog means we do nothing...sometimes for what feels like minutes, but it's usually only 6 or 7 Alligators. Kenny tells me that when I start getting nervous sweating a dog, then the dog is most likely getting nervous too...or at least we hope he is. Our dogs know, and are trained, that a cast follows long sweats on the point into the water.

The Cast

Now, this cast matters. You have to cast like your life depends on it sometimes. The cast needs to be aggressive and needs to mean something to the dog. There are some dogs that a flip of your wrist will cause the dog to get back in the water, but most dogs are mere mortals around the water and this cast, especially at great distances, needs to make an impression. A sharp and brisk angle cast is what we give. GET INTO THE WATER is what we are TELLING the dog, and not asking. Keep in mind, that it is better to come off a point too hard and need to tighten the dog back up on line, then to not come off the point at all.

TRAINING TIPS

-before you start to work on going on and off points, your dog should be really good at going by points.

-we like to train multiple blinds. We very rarely do single blinds. Find the concept you want to work on and repeat that concept. 3 blinds past the point from different angles better than one blind past the point.

SUPER GOOSE RECIPE (obtained years ago from Gladys Gillespie)

1 1/2 lbs goose breast, cut into strips	2 tbsp oil
2 tbsp cornstarch	1/4 c water
1/2 tsp salt	1/4 c brown sugar
1/3 c vinegar	1 c pineapple juice
1 tbsp soya sauce	3/4 c green pepper, cut into thin strips
1/4 c chopped onions	1 c pineapple chunks

Brown goose in oil. Add water and cover. Simmer 1 hour.

Combine cornstarch, salt, brown sugar, vinegar, pineapple juice and soya sauce.. Cook. Stir constantly till thickened. Pour sauce over goose. Let stand 10 minutes. Add peppers, onions and pineapple. Cook 5 minutes. Enjoy. Goes well with rice.

RESULTS FOR MGDA MEMBERS IN FIELD TRIALS IN MANITOBA

FOR COMPLETE RESULTS PLEASE GO TO NRCC WEBSITE

DELTA MARSH RETRIEVER CLUB:

OPEN Aug 19th

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

2nd - FTCH Pilkington's Put'n on the Ritz - handler Kevin Howarth

CM - NFTCH AFTCH OCG's Equalizer - handler Larry Baker

CM - Win-toba's Big Bang Theory - handler Gail Komadoski

CM - FTCH Runnun's Lady Known as Lou

CM - NFTCH Battle River Perro

Qualifying Aug 20th

3rd - Delta Marsh Black Angus - handler Ross Peden

Open May 28th

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

BRANDON RETRIEVER CLUB

Open Aug 26th

2nd - NFTCH Battle River Perro

CM - NFTCH AFTCH OCG's Equalizer - handler Larry Baker

MANITOBA GUN DOG ASSOCIATION

Open Sept 2nd

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

CM -FTCH AFTCH Seaside Codigo Especial - handler Neal Armstrong

Qualifying Sept 2nd

2nd - Shady Nooke's Black Camo - handler Mimi Chrystal

3rd - Razor's Puddle Duck Teal - owner James Oake, handler Gail Komadoski

4th - Trailrunner's Pathfinder - Handler Tracy Lennartz

CM -Mutcheson's Belle of the Ball QFTR - handler Matt Mutcheson

CM - Ajtop My Favourite Riesling - handler Marilyn Bayrak

Junior Sept 2nd

3rd - Woodlake's Blackwater Lilly - handler Neal Armstrong

4th - Razor's MM and All That Jazz - handler Matt Mutcheson

Qualifying Sept 3rd

CM - Ekinox Boreal Go Get'em Champ SH - handler Keith Lovelace



Kevin's 85th Birthday

Some photos from the Trials, Hunt Tests and Work Parties





Executive Committee

President Matt Mutcheson
Past President Charlie Ross
1st VP Gail Komadoski
2nd VP Blake Hasiuk
Secretary Crystal Fulton
Treasurer Marilyn Bayrak
Director Keith Yetman
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>