

Important dates to add to your calendar:

-2021 Qualifying year ends Sunday, Feb 28, 2021

-2022 Qualifying year begins Monday, March 1, 2021



-MAI (rescheduled 2020) in Corning, CA

Deadline for placing Ads in the Corning CA Training Guide:

March 1, 2021

Entries open March 8, 2021

Entries close March 22, 2021

Dog to the line 8:00 am, April 18, 2021



2020 Q3 Newsletter

From the desk of the President:

To all Master Amateur members: I hope you all are back to training and running tests. As the newly elected President, I can assure everyone that the Master Amateur Board has been hard at work planning for the upcoming Invitationals. We are making sure the two Invitationals will meet all the safety guidelines according to those set by the AKC, the National guidelines and those of the states in which they will be held. I look forward to seeing you at the events.

Fred Nusbickel



From the desk of Larry Blasbalg in the East

Our plans for the Fifth Annual Master Amateur Invitational are well under way. We have chosen the Steve Ferguson Memorial Grounds in Emporia, Virginia, to “celebrate our dogs” and make this our best Invitational yet. Many of our key chair positions have been filled with talented Amateurs like yourself, ready to step up and make this a first-class event. That said, we still need your help! We still have positions to fill and we know there are many of you out there ready to step to the plate. Please reach out to your regional Chair or Vice President and let them know – “Put me in Coach!” The Premium is up on Entry Express and watch for updates to the schedule of events on the MARC website.



From the desk of Ted de Looze in the West



Evidently coping with the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19, was not enough of a challenge. Here in the West, we’ve added devastating fires and smoke. Despite these challenges, I see my fellow dog handlers safely modifying their behavior so that we may continue this wonderful sport with our retrievers.

Hunt tests are continuing with an enthusiasm that is compelling. I see the

usual joy and anxiety on the faces of my fellow dog trainers as their dogs perform and am completely confident that we will prevail against these life challenges. The number of dogs qualifying for the MARC Invitationals continue to build. Plans for the Corning Invitational next April are proceeding smoothly. Plan on an April trip to California this Spring where we will all enjoy another world class Invitational.



From the desk of Beth Gerdes in the Central

I've accepted the position of VP of the Central region and thought you might like to know a little bit about me! I have shown in conformation and competed in obedience, hunt tests and derbies as well as several WC, WCX tests over the years. My husband and I have coordinated/chaired the Golden Retriever Club of Illinois (GRCI) hunt test since 2001, and I have been on the GRCI board on and off for many years. Prior to chairing and coordinating the hunt test, we chaired the GRCI specialty back when it was in Wheaton, IL for several years. I am currently the chair for the GRCA 2022 National Hunt Test. I have titled several dogs in hunt tests and obedience. All of my dogs have been owner trained and owner handled – no professional training. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the amateur retriever community. The camaraderie among those in the hunt test world goes unmatched. The friends and family my husband and I have gained along the way is why we stay in the game. My husband, as many of you know, comes as a packaged deal. He has supported my habit and served as my enabler for almost thirty years. Dog to the line!



From the desk of Charles Pugh in the West Central

Hello from both of us from Texas, we hope all of our MARC members are surviving the pandemic and have be able to find some kind of normal. The West Central Region has had hunt tests again from Nebraska to South Texas and we are very happy to be back on the hunt test circuit. It has been wonderful to see all our friends and their beloved dogs. David judged a Master Test and I ran my two young dogs this past weekend. We were around a lot of handlers and all the buzz was about the upcoming Master Amateur Invitational. We all want to get back to the sport we love on a consistent “normal” and I was very happy to learn I am not the only MARC Member ready to travel to our 2021 National Events. I hope hunt tests are opening in your area of the West Central Region and you're able to run your dog-s and enjoy seeing old friends you have missed, as I have. My last test was March of this year. It's been a long drought. In closing I want to wish the very best to all our fellow retriever lovers attending the Grand in Paducah, KY. very best of luck and safe travels...Remember as the saying goes, LOVE YOUR DOGS FIRST AND THE SPORT SECOND.

The Board of Directors would like to share these important dates with our members, save them!

Deadline for changes to qualifications for 2022:

[December 1, 2020](#) (or 90 days prior to the beginning of the 2022 qualifying year which begins on March 1, 2021)

Notification of annual dues no later than [January 1, 2021](#)

John Blackbird Award nominations due no later than [January 1, 2021](#).

Deadline for submittal of suggestions for election slate [February 1, 2021](#)

Notification of unpaid dues: [March 1, 2021](#)

Deadline for members to submit new business:

55 days prior to the Annual meeting ([March 27, 2021](#))

Notice to the members for the Annual meeting: 40 days prior, [April 11, 2021](#)

Changes to annual dues for 2022: No later than Annual meeting, [May 15, 2021](#)

New Officers take office: [June 14, 2021](#) (30 days post annual meeting or June 14, 2021 – whichever is later).



So, you want to know how to qualify me to enter the Master Amateur Invationals?

1-Make sure I'm an MH!

2-Only Amateur handlers can qualify me!

3-You must join the MARC before I run a test for it to count!

4-I need to pass 4 tests from March 1st of 2020 through February 28 of 2021!
THERE IS STILL TIME!!!!

CONFUSION OVER QUALIFYING?

I can't tell you how often I've been sitting in the gallery at a hunt test and hear people talking about qualifying and how they don't understand all of the requirements surrounding it. And honestly, the world we live in has driven some of the confusion. First we told you that six passes were needed from March 1st through February 28th, then we reduced that to four passes, then Covid wrecked havoc with our world and we said passes from 2019 would count towards this year. No wonder everyone is confused, even my dogs are laughing at us!



Don't let confusion keep you from one or both of the Master Amateur Invationals. Go to the Master Amateur Retriever Club website, read this link: <https://www.masteramateur.com/qualifying-standards.html>

Corning and Emporia are ready to host, now it's up to you to be ready to enter!



John O. Blackbird Award

The purpose of the John O. Blackbird Memorial Award is two-fold. First, it is to honor, celebrate and perpetuate the life lived, the accomplishments, the lasting influence and legacy of John Blackbird.

Secondly, it is to honor a recipient who has demonstrated through their own work and efforts that they, too, have made significant contributions to the retriever hunt test program through training and handling retrievers **as an amateur**. Also, working and judging local hunt tests, being a leader in local, and perhaps regional or national clubs and mentoring and supporting others in the retriever games.

The recipient will be announced at the Handler's Meeting/Opening Ceremonies in Emporia, Virginia.

Print out the form on the MARC website and mail to:

**Ed Sullivan
7213 N. Bellefontaine
Kansas City, MO 64119**

John Blackbird Award nominations due no later than **January 1, 2021.**

<https://www.masteramateur.com/john-blackbird-memorial.html>

So that's it for our first newsletter. Hope you found it fun and informative.

*"Respect the training.
Honor the Commitment.
Cherish the Results."*

- Anonymous -