

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



MAI 2021 in Emporia, VA

Entries open March 29, 2021

Entries close April 19, 2021

Annual meeting May 15, 2021

Dog to the line 8:00 am, May 16,  
2021



## 2020 Q4 Newsletter

**From the desk of the President Fred Nusbickel:** Greetings, to you all. I hope your holidays were good and you are safe. As we head into another year, we are reminded that the pandemic is still with us. The addition of vaccines is a hopeful occurrence, but still leaves many questions regarding our returning to a normal pre-Covid life (if possible). It is encouraging that hunt tests have been, and are being held, throughout the country, even if it is only approximately 40% of the normal number of tests. With time and the appropriate safety measures in place, I'm sure this percentage will increase.

Plans for the two national invitationals are ongoing and we all hope there will be no restrictions which will prohibit us from running these events. If held, there will be mandatory safety requirements, which will be posted in the premium and training guide.

I wish you success in the upcoming year and assure you the entire (volunteer) MARC board is working hard to keep us all enjoying this incredible sport.



### From the Eastern Region

The work for the fifth annual Master Amateur Invitational in Emporia is moving forward at the clip of a dog taking off for a sluiced bird! Our team still needs help in many facets of both planning and running the test. In particular we need someone to volunteer to be the pre-training property coordinator as well as someone to take on the role of gun captain for the third flight. Please reach out to me, I can offer guidance. See you all in Emporia!  
Mark Frederick, Director, Eastern Region  
Larry Blasbalg, Vice President, Eastern Region



### From the Western Region

Here in the West we are on schedule with planning for an Invitational Event in Corning, CA, this Spring. All the details are smoothly falling into place with only the freakish unknown, the state of this wonderful nation's health. We are optimistic that the vaccines, combined with good judgement, will prevail. It is comforting to speak with MARC members all over the country, who continue acquiring and training new pups and have been hunting and trialing their dogs through these tumultuous times. As we pass through the Winter Solstice, we hope the dark times leave us with the dark days. Hunt tests are being detailed and planned for the coming year. God bless you all and keep you safe. We will see you in Corning.

Ted de Looze, Director, Western Region

Laura Judd, Vice President, Western Region



### From the Central Region:

2020 has come to a close (good riddance) and winter has made its appearance with clear intentions of settling in and outstaying its welcome. For many of us in the upper Midwest, retriever training slows considerably. Some will stay busy with obedience, agility, or other canine activities, while others will take a well-deserved break. Whatever the next few months bring, I hope it finds you and your dogs doing well and staying healthy. I look forward to seeing many of you in the spring when the hunt test season resumes and at the MAI events this spring/summer. Take care!

Wilson LeJeune, Director, Central Region

Beth Gerdes, Vice President, Central Region



### From the West Central Region:

Hunt Tests are starting up and here in the West Central we are seeing many new faces as Northerners arrive from their winter homes to join with us in the warmth! While it is still hunting season in many areas, the tests aren't filling as quickly, but as soon as the hunters return, watch out! This sport is a fabulous way to spend time outdoors, meet new people, and enjoy our dogs. Don't forget to renew your membership so you and you dog are locked and loaded for the two upcoming Master National Invitationals. We want to see all of you there!

Charles Pugh, Director, Central Region

Dave Christianson, Vice President, Central Region



**We want everyone to feel safe at our Invitationals. Rest assured; we have spent many hours prepping to ensure the safety of our participants. Here are guidelines you can use as you plan to run tests in your neck of the woods:**

**AKC Published Best Practices to Follow While Hosting or Running a Hunt Test:**

**<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/15121939/FINAL-2ND-EDITION-Retriever-Hunting-Tests-Suggested-Best-Practices.pdf>**

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

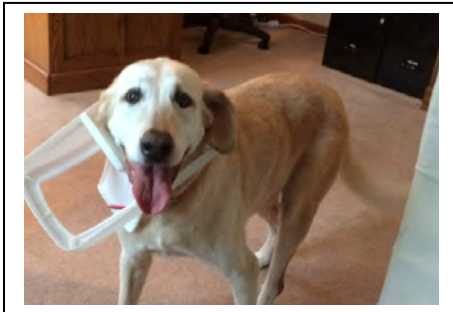
-New rule from the AKC benefitting our Amateurs: Starting in 2021, A club holding a limited entry Master test must set aside either 25% or 35% for amateur handlers. See AKC Chapter 1, Section 5, entry requirements.

-Policies and Procedures for the MARC have been completed and are now available for reading on the MARC site. Thank you Ted deLooze and Laura Judd! Anyone that's been involved in writing P&P for their own club, knows it isn't fun!

## WE'VE BEEN HELPING BEHIND THE SCENES!

-Donations to Louisiana and California to aid animal shelters struggling in each region due to flood and fire. \$250 sent to both the Calcasieu Parish Animal Services and to the NAPA community animal response team.

-Go Fund Me account to help out a Board member who lost homes in back to back years in Louisiana! This is a message from Boogie and his family: **I can't thank you guys enough. The response was beyond anything I could've imagined!**



### DON'T GET YOURSELF IN A BIND!

Join the Master Amateur Retriever Club, renewal period begins January 1, 2021 for the 2021-2022 qualification period. In order for you to run in either or both of the Invitationals in 2021 you must be a member in good standing. Log onto the MARC website and renew today! We are planning for two fabulous tests!



### Happy 2021!

**And Good riddance to 2020! Here's hoping the worst is behind us and the best is yet to come!**

**Corning will be a great tip off to the year. The team is ready with a quality test and a well-oiled machine to run it! Don't miss out! Make sure you are training hard to get your dog qualified and join the Master Amateur Retriever Club so all your passes count from day one!**

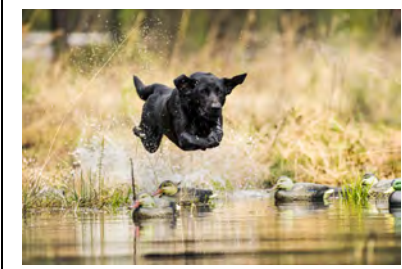
**<https://www.masteramateur.com/memberoptions20.html>**





## AWESOME!

So great to see our members showing their support! This vehicle (owned by Jason Annet) was seen at the Inland Valley Hunt Test in September at the Prado Recreation area in Southern California. Every bit of advertisement helps the club to add members, so come on people! Show your support! And when you are at your weekend club tests, talk us up! This is a great sport with great people playing it, but your friends will want to hear that from you more than they want to hear it from me!



While I have your attention, we are asking anyone with pictures from the first three MAI events to send them to either Larry Blasbalg ([lbb7393@cox.net](mailto:lbb7393@cox.net)) or Nancy Bauer ([nancy51bauer@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy51bauer@yahoo.com)). We are putting together a pictorial that will run in the background at the Opening Ceremony at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual MAI in Emporia. The pictures can be of the dogs, people in the gallery, judges, or even the grounds. Take the opportunity to show off a little!

*And now from me:*

*Thank you to everyone who has so graciously welcomed me into this organization. My favorite boss of all time once said, "Never tell me you did you best, because that might not be good enough. Tell me you are working on it, refining it, and always striving to do better. I promise to do that for you!"*

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

*Respectfully submitted  
Nancy Bauer*