



Greetings to all MARC members. I hope that you all had a good holiday season.

This past year we held a very successful Invitational in Sedalia, Missouri. I want to thank Beth Gerdes for all of her hard work in making it come together. I also appreciate each of you who participated and helped us accomplish this memorable event.

At this Invitational, we used paid workers for the first time, and whereas it made our event run smoothly, it also significantly reduced our monetary bottom line. I want to thank Mark Frederick for arranging for these workers from various clubs and organizations in the Sedalia area. It remains to be seen if we will continue this practice, because it is important that every Invitational is financially successful.

I want to thank each of you who have recently joined our organization, as well as Lifetime, Charter, Associate and yearly club members. I encourage all yearly members to keep your membership active, even if you have no plans to participate in the upcoming events. Please remember that our yearly membership begins March first.

The MARC Board of Directors (BOD) is working very hard to accomplish an accurate, up-to-date membership list. This past year, we established a family membership for \$55.00/year. This permits us to recognize spouses (etc), who may or may not handle dogs, to be included on our master membership list. It allows these members to not only have separate votes, but also to give their opinions on the surveys we send out. Thank you all who have taken advantage of this. Last year the BOD unanimously voted to return to requiring 6 qualifications to participate in the yearly invitational. However, after our last survey, of which we had over 60% participation, more than 75% of the responses indicated that we return to 4 qualifications. Therefore, the Board readdressed this issue and voted to keep it at 4. The survey also revealed that 55% of those responding agree with combining the two western regions. It was an even split on holding the Invitational later in the year. The latter survey item helps northern handlers get training in before the annual event. I thank each of you who participated in this survey. Your feedback gives us on the Board information on the direction you want us to take in future.

This upcoming year, the MARC Invitational will be held in Giddings, TX. You have until the last day of February to qualify your dog. I want to thank Dave Christianson for working hard to make this a great Invitational. It will begin on April 23, 2023 and I encourage each you to try to attend this event.

Master Amateur Retriever Club

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Finally, the MARC is going to re-establish a Communications Director position. This will help keep all members up to date with what is happening in our organization. Anyone with IT experience, who would be interested, please contact your regional officers.

Thank you all for being a part of the Master Amateur organization. We on the Board appreciate your feedback to help guide us toward making this club run smoothly. I encourage you to consider joining us on the BOD, in that positions open yearly.

I also want to thank each BOD member, officio and exofficio, for all their hard work and dedication to the MARC. Whereas we might not always agree on each issue, we are all volunteers dedicated toward the success of the Master Amateur Retriever Club.

Good luck to everyone with their dogs in 2023!

Fred Nusbickel, President

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