

Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association 2008 March Newsletter

“Having Fun Training Retrievers”
Website: msgda.org



Letter from the MSGDA President Kody Bull

2007 was another fantastic year for MSGDA! As a recap, we held our Annual Auction, Banquet & Board Meeting at the Eagle River Lyons' Club, ran three picnic events, and three NAHRA hunt tests. All of our events were successful because of our members who volunteered their time and expertise so those who attended could feel welcome and enjoy their MSGDA experience.

Based on feedback from our membership, our Board of Directors has planned yet another busy year in 2008. Again this year we will hold three Picnic Hunt Test events starting in May. Picnic events are training days designed to simulate actual NAHRA hunt tests with land and water marks and are open to both MSGDA club members and non-members interested in training hunting retrievers. These events give new handlers opportunities to be exposed to testing scenarios using actual birds. Experienced handlers benefit by getting some additional field work and the personal reward that goes with helping new handlers. Come join us again this year for fun and food at our upcoming Picnic Hunt Test events!

Other exciting events include the 2008 Annual MSGDA Auction, Banquet & Membership Meeting, a MSGDA booth at The Great Alaska Sportsman Show, the Judge's Seminar & Handler's Clinic, three NAHRA Hunt Tests with live flyer marks, and "outside" judges. You will find more information about these upcoming

(President's Letter - Continued on page 2)

MSGDA 2008 Annual Auction & Banquet April 19, 2008

The annual MSGDA Live Auction & Banquet is designed to raise funds for MSGDA programs and events. This year's event will be held Saturday April 19 at the Eagle River's Lion Club located at 8344 Eagle River Road. The auction is a fun opportunity for guest, club members, individuals interested in training retrievers, and the general public to contribute to MSGDA while bidding for sought after items.

Festivities include prime rib and teriyaki chicken dinner, with salad, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetable dish, rolls, and great deserts. Don't miss out on the chance to win numerous rifle and shotguns, outside hunting trips, dog training certificates, hunting supplies, dog food and training supplies, artwork and framed prints, and more. Sign up now to be included in the Early Bird Raffle.

To donate items to items to the event, please contact Mike Moody at wmmoody@gci.net or 907 250-2920. To RSVP, please contact Kent Bull at kentbull@gci.net or 229-2951.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at the MSGDA 2008 Annual Auction, Banquet & Membership Meeting in April!

MSGDA 2008 Membership Levels

Individual Membership	\$25.00 (1 club vote)
Family Membership	\$35.00 (2 club votes)
Contributing Membership	\$50.00 (2 club votes)
Sponsor Membership	\$100.00 (2 club votes)

(President's Letter - Continued from page 1)

events in this newsletter, as well as at our club website (www.msgda.org).

As we go through 2008, the success of our club depends on our members voicing their thoughts and volunteering time to our club. Everyone has something to contribute; it is just a matter of what you enjoy doing and a willingness to help out. Feel free to contact any of the MSGDA Board Members if you are interested in volunteering your time or to inquire about Board/Officer positions.

Thanks again for making MSGDA a family-oriented club dedicated to hunters and their hunting retrievers and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

2008 Auction & Banquet Tickets

Tickets can be purchased early by completing the enclosed form or by contacting Kent at 229-2951. We accept cash, check or credit cards.

Auction & Banquet Tickets: \$30.00 Each
Purchase early to be eligible for the Early Bird Raffle of a CZ-USA 12 gauge Shotgun

MSGDA Officers & Board Members

- Kody Bull - President
kodyb@controlcontractors.com
- Brad Hanson - Vice President
labman@mtaonline.net
- Kent Bull - Treasurer
kentbull@gci.net
- Joanne Cobban - Secretary
aklady@yahoo.com
- Mike Moody - Member at Large
wmmoody@gci.net
- John Johnson
smokeys49@hotmail.com
- Kathleen King
kaking@alaska.com
- Kim Dial
kimdial@msgda.org
- Randy Smith
akheat@mtaonline.net
- Richard Voth
rvoth@mtaonline.net

2008 Annual Auction & Banquet Time

Time Schedule

Doors Open - Raffle Ticket Purchase & Merchandise Viewing	6:00 PM
Cocktails	6:00 - 7:00
Dinner Service Begins	7:00
Annual Membership Meeting during Dinner	7:15
Live Auction & Bonus Raffle Event	7:45
End of Evening	9:30 PM

Early Bird Shotgun Raffle!

Buy your Banquet Tickets Early and be entered in the 2008 Early Bird Shotgun Raffle!

Raffle Eligibility:

- Purchase MSGDA Auction & Banquet tickets on or before April 7, 2008
- Purchase or renew MSGDA membership on or before April 7, 2008.



**CZ-USA 12 gauge O/U Shotgun
Early Bird Raffle
at the MSGDA 2007 Auction & Banquet**

MSGDA Club Membership Due

It's that time of the year again to renew your MSGDA Membership. As of April 1, 2008 all 2007 club memberships expire.

Please use the membership application form in this newsletter to renew your membership. Memberships may also be renewed at our Annual Auction & Banquet on April 19, 2008. All MSGDA club memberships run from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

Junior Handlers 50% Discount on NAHRA Licensed Hunt Tests

NAHRA Field Test Entry fees for all handlers 16 years of age and younger is reduced by 50%.

The Great Alaskan Sportsman Show April 3-6, 2008

This year MSGDA will once again be sharing a booth with The Arctic Bird Dog Association at The Great Alaskan Sportsman Show. The show will be at the Sullivan & Ben Boeke arenas, and the Denali Hall on April 3-6th. Our booth will be located in the Ben Boeke arena. Please stop by and say "hello"!

MSGDA Picnic Hunt Test & Pot Luck BBQ 2008 Schedule

This year MSGDA will be conducting three picnic hunt tests. These are mock hunt tests intended to show new members how the NAHRA Hunt Test can help improve your dog's abilities in the duck blind as well as in the pheasant field.

This is also a great time for the handler to learn some training tips, to shake off the rust of a more seasoned dog from the long winter, and to get out and socialize with friends we haven't seen since the past fall's hunting season.

Date	Location	Time	Event
May 3	Heavens Field	9:30	Land
May 17	Boyd's Farm	9:30	Land
June 8	Boyd's Farm	9:30 AM	Water

Events include land or water marks, as well as land or water blinds. This is a great time to meet our other members and develop training groups. Ducks and pigeons will be used for all events.

Junior handlers and individuals interested in training hunting retrievers are encouraged to partake in the events. Guest and non-members are welcome. All MSGDA events are family events, so we hope you will bring your family members.

MSGDA will provide hot dogs and hamburgers at all events. Please bring a side dish or desert to share.

Cost per Event: \$10.00 per dog.
Sign-up begins at 9:00 AM

Volunteers Needed for The Great Alaskan Sportsman Show

Can you volunteer a few hours during The Great Alaskan Sportsman Show to help at the MSGDA booth?

We are looking for volunteers! Please contact Brad Hanson at labman@mtaonline.net to let him know what times/dates you would be available to help out.

Get Ready for the 2008 Summer Hunt Tests!

Reminder: The Official NAHRA Hunt Test Rules, General Procedures & Judging Guidelines are posted on MSGDA website at:
http://www.msgda.org/Rules_NAHRA.pdf

Volunteers Needed for the May 3rd Picnic Hunt Test

We are looking for individuals to help with the upcoming May 3 Picnic Hunt Test in Palmer.

Volunteers are needed to help with the following:

- Tow the MSGDA equipment trailer from Eagle River to Palmer
- Pick up groceries in Anchorage and deliver to Palmer
- Tailgate BBQ Lead
- Assist with the tailgate BBQ set-up and take-down
- Help at the sign-up table prior to the start of the event
- Equipment Lead
- Assist with equipment set-up and take-down
- Bird Steward
- Man the gun stations during the event
- Bird throwers
- Help with clean-up

If you, a family member or a friend can donate time and energy to help us achieve a well-organized and successful event, please contact Kim Dial at 333-7927.

Killing your Hunting Dog with Kindness

Pet owners often make the mistake of assuming all favorite human snacks are suitable for their dogs. There are many common foods in our kitchen (and trash) that can cause severe or fatal illness in your loyal hunting companion.

The top human food culprits are:

- Alcoholic beverages - coma & death
- Avocado (fruit, leaves, seeds & bark) - difficulty breathing and fluid accumulation in abdomen and heart
- Caffeine - seizures, coma or death
- Chocolate - seizures, coma or death
- Cocoa - seizures, coma or death
- Cold Cuts - kidney damage and digestive issues due to high sodium and nitrate content
- Garlic (raw, cooked or powder) - destroy red blood cells causing anemia
- Grapes - acute renal failure
- Leeks - destroys red blood cells causing anemia
- Macadamia nuts - muscle tremor and paralysis
- Mushrooms - effect multiple systems of the body, shock & death
- Nutmeg - tremors, seizures & death
- Onions (raw, cooked or powder) - destroys red blood cells causing anemia
- Potatoes (raw, leaves & stems) - affect the digestive, nervous, and urinary systems
- Raisins - acute renal failure
- Raw Egg - food poisoning due to small intestinal tract than humans Raw eggs contain an enzyme (avidin) that can lead to skin and coat problems for a dog
- Raw Milk - dogs lack the enzyme required to break down the lactose (milk sugar) may lead to bloating, gas, diarrhea and other digestive issues
- Rhubarb (leaves & stems) - affect the digestive, nervous, and urinary systems Tomatoes (fruit & plants) - tremors & heart arrhythmias
- Walnuts - muscle tremor and paralysis
- Yeast dough - rupture of stomach or the intestines

For more information contact: The ASPCA-Animal Poison Control Center of North America toll free 24-hours a day, 365 days a year at 888-426-4435 or visit them on the web at <http://aspca.org>.

NAHRA Licensed Hunt Tests 2008 Schedule

Date	Location
June 21	Falcon Ridge - Point McKenzie
June 22	Falcon Ridge - Point McKenzie
July 19	Lyon Creek - Turnagain Pass
July 20	Lyon Creek - Turnagain Pass
August 2	Matanuska Susitna Valley
August 3	Matanuska Susitna Valley

MSGDA Club Library Training Resources Available to Members

We have our training references available for all MSGDA members to check out. We hope that members will take advantage of this great opportunity. If you are interested in checking out any book, DVD or video, please contact Kim Dial at (907) 333-7927 or email MSGDA at webmaster@msgda.org.

Titles available include but are not limited to:

- Working Retrievers: The book for the training, care & handling of retrievers for hunting and field trials by Tom Quinn.
- Problem Gun Dogs: How to identify and correct their faults by Bill Tarrant.
- Retriever Training for the Duck Hunter by Robert Milner
- Game Dog: The hunter's retriever for upland bird and waterfowl (Richard Wolters DVD)
- Water Dog: The hunter's retriever for waterfowl (Richard Wolters DVD)

Go to the MSGDA Library webpage at msgda.org/msgda_library/msgda_library.htm for the complete list of training books, DVD and videos available.

Hunt Test Terminology

- **Balk** - Dog refuses to leave handler when ordered to retrieve. Also called a "no-go".
- **Sticking** - A dog that refuses to release a bird to his handler is said to "stick" on the bird. Also called "freezing".
- **Whistle Refusal** - Failure of a dog to respond to a whistle command.

Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association 2008 NAHRA Judge's Seminar & Handler's Clinic



Saturday April 12, 2008
Time: 9:00 - 3:30 PM
Microtel Hotel - Eagle River
Lunch Provided
FREE to MSGDA Members

Stop Handicapping Your Dog

Every year dogs are penalized because their handler didn't understand the rules.

Judges Seminar

- Learn how the dogs are scored
- What are the judges looking for
- How is your dog's performance on each part of the hunt test actually graded
- Why are some dogs automatically disqualified
- Improve the Odds You & Your Dog will pass NAHRA Hunt Tests

Handler's Clinic

- Discuss your training questions with experienced handlers and judges
- Get help with handling problems and discipline
- Learn training techniques
- Help with the art of handling your dog
- Learn about the science of training dogs

There is so much more to know about hunt tests than just reading the rules

RSVP: webmaster@msgda.org
Additional Information: Kody @ 441-8722

Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association
P.O. Box 241291
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1291

Membership Application/Renewal
& Banquet Tickets by Mail

The Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association is dedicated to Alaska's hunters and their hunting dogs. Please fill out the information below and mail it with your check payable to the Midnight Sun Gun Dog Association. Thank you for your support!

2008 MSGDA Membership Application/Renewal		
Names of Members	Last Name:	First Name:
	Last Name	First Name:
Mailing Address:		
City, State & Zip Code:		
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:
Email:		
Type of Membership	New Membership: _____ Membership Renewal: _____	
	____ Sponsor Membership	\$100.00
	____ Contributing Membership	\$50.00
	____ Family Membership	\$35.00
	____ Individual Membership	\$25.00
Additional Contribution	_____	
Membership Total	_____	
Committees you would be willing to work on:	____ Membership ____ Newsletter ____ Publicity ____ Fund-raising ____ Education ____ Hospitality ____ Field Events	

2008 Annual Auction and Banquet Ticket Purchase Must be mailed by April 7 for Early Bird Raffle Eligibility	
Number of Banquet Tickets (\$30.00/Ticket)	_____ Tickets x 30.00 = _____
Method of Payment	____ Check ____ Credit Card
Credit Card Information:	____ Visa ____ MasterCard
	Card Number:
	Expiration Date:
	Card Holder Signature:
Total Due: Membership and/or Banquet Tickets	

MSGDA SPONSORS**Please remember to support our business sponsors****Alaska Equine & Small Animal Hospital**

21236 Birchwood Loop Road
Chugach, Alaska 99567
Phone: 907 688-9303
Email: info@aesah.com
Website: www.aesah.com

Alaska Mill Feed & Garden Center

1501 East First Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: 907 276-6016
Email: info@alaskamillandfeed.com
Website: alaskamillandfeed.com

Allied Plumbing & Heating

8340 Rainy Place
Anchorage, Alaska
Phone: 907 349-2777

Birchwood Shooting Park

20269 Birchwood Spur Road
Chugiak, Alaska
Phone: 907 688-3967

Boondocks Sporting Goods

17707 Eagle River Loop Road
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Phone: 907 694-2229

Cabela's

One Cabela Drive
Sidney, Nebraska 69160
Phone: 800 237-4444
Fax: 308 255-6680
Website: cabelas.com

Canine Caviar

3100 Airway Avenue
Costa Mesa, California 92626
Phone: 800 392-7898
Email: info@caninecaviar.com
Website: caninecaviar.com

Delta Waterfowl

P.O. Box 3128
Bismarck, ND 58502
Phone: 888 987-3695
Website: deltawaterfowl.org

Ducks Unlimited

One Waterfowl Way
Memphis, Tennessee 38120
Phone: 800 459-8257
Website: www.ducks.org

D'Vons Salon & Day Spa

11823 Old Glenn Highway
Eagle River, Alaska
Phone: 907 694-5003

Falcon Ridge Upland Game Farm

P.O. Box 877453
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
Phone: 907 376-6714
Email Contact: Gary Thompson
Website: www.angelfire.com/falcon/
falconridge/

Dr. Richard M. Farleigh, MD

Gastroenterology
4120 Laurel Street, Suite 202
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Phone: 907 561-4293

Granite Springs Hunting & Lodging

P.O. Box 5
Alexandria, South Dakota 57311
Phone: 605 940-9613
Email: reservations@granitespringssd.com
Website: granitespringssd.com

Grouse Ridge Shooting Club

Mile 1.1 TexAl Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone: 907 376-2473
Email: grouse@mtaonline.net
Website: grouseridge.com

Hagee Veterinary Services

Dr. Jim Hagee, DVM
20935 Sunset Blvd
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
Phone: 907 688-3811
Email: Hagee Veterinary Services
Website: www.hageevetservice.com

McKinley Fence Company of Alaska

5901 Lake Otis Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Phone: 907 563-3731
Email: mckinleyfence@gci.net
Website: mckinleyfence.com

Rentschler Insurance Agency

Larry Rentschler
440 Eagle Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: 907 272-8496
Email Contact: Larry Rentschler

Rosen Kennels

Tom Rosen - Owner/Trainer
1055 West Fairview Loop, Wasilla 99687
Phone: 907 373-5614

Shooters Pheasant Hunting

P.O. Box 373
Kennebec, South Dakota 57544
Phone: 605 869-2103
Email: choal@kennebectelephone.com
Website: shooterspheasanthunting.com

Spenard Builders Supply

4412 Lois Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
Phone: 907 563-3141
Toll Free: 800 478-3141
Website: www.sbsalaska.com

Spernak Airways

1707 Merrill Field Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: 907 272-9475
Website: www.spernakair.com

Wetland Retrievers

HC 5 Box 6809A
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Phone: 907 357-LABS
Email Contact: Wetland Retrievers
Website: www.wetlandretrievers.net

Zinger Wingers

264 Bronte Street South, Unit 13
Milton, Ontario Canada
Phone: 800 351-8411
Fax: 905 876-3360
Email: sales@zingerwinger.com
Website: zingerwinger.com

Your Hunt Retriever Can Help You Live

More Americans own pets than ever, and they often consider them to be part of the family. But the benefits of pet ownership go beyond unconditional love - owning pets has been shown to improve health and help you live longer.

Researchers have discovered that pets can help peoples have lower blood pressure, triglycerides levels and cholesterol and less depression. Pet owners recover faster from illness and tend to get discharged from hospitals more quickly. One study showed that heart attacks victims were 28 percent more likely to survive if they had a pet.

Working with your pet can improve appetite, increase activity levels, and reduce heart rate and cortisol levels, a stress hormone. This is thought to be one of the reasons that pet owners live longer than non-pet owners.

Rachel Burke, R.N.

MSGDA Online Training Forum

Where people get together to train:
<http://com2.runboard.com/bmidnightsungundogassociation>

Online Training Resources

Dobbs Training Center

www.dobbsdogs.com/library/retrievers/

Ducks Unlimited Featured Training Articles

www.ducks.org/Hunting/

[RetrieverTraining/171/RetrieverHome.html](http://www.ducks.org/Hunting/RetrieverTraining/171/RetrieverHome.html)

DU 10 Pitfalls in Retriever Training - Part I

www.ducks.org/Page91.aspx

DU 10 Pitfalls in Retriever Training - Part II

www.ducks.org/Page92.aspx

Gun Dog

www.gundogmag.com/training/

Mike Lardy's Total Retriever Training Tips

<http://www.totalretriever.com/tips.htm>

Oak Hill Kennels Retriever Training

<http://www.oakhillkennel.com/main.html>

Retriever Online

www.retrieveronline.com/

2008 MSGDA Schedule of Events

April 3-6 MSGDA booth at The Great Alaska Sportsman Show

April 12 MSGDA Judge's Seminar & Handler's Clinic at Eagle River's Microtel Hotel

April 19 MSGDA Annual Auction, Banquet & Membership Meeting at Eagle River's Lion Club. Address: 18344 Eagle River Road, Eagle River

May 3 Land Picnic Hunt Test at Heaven's Field in Palmer

May 17 Land Picnic Hunt Test at Boyd's Potato Farm in Palmer

June 8 Water Picnic Hunt Test at Boyd's Potato Farm in Palmer

June 21-22 NAHRA Hunt Test at Falcon Ridge in Point McKenzie

July 19-20 NAHRA Hunt Test at Turnagain Pass in the Chugach National Forest

August 2-3 NAHRA Hunt Test at Mat Su Valley, Location TBD

Enter to win the 2008 Early Bird Shotgun Raffle!
Purchase your MSGDA Annual Auction & Banquet Tickets Early



CZ-USA 12 gauge O/U Shotgun
 Early Bird Raffle
 at the MSGDA 2007 Auction & Banquet